

WEDNESDAY

December 26, 2001

WEATHER

Tonight:



PARTLY CLOUDY

TONIGHT 33°-36° TOMORROW 54°-56°

Chamber banquet tickets to go on sale

Tickets for the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce annual Banquet are expected to go on sale Jan. 2

Talents of the community and area involvement will be the focus for the banquet, set for Jan. 15 at Dorothy Garret Coliseum. Chamber officials opted to feature the talents of local youths from the Big Spring, Coahoma and Forsan high school bands for the evening.

Outgoing and incoming members of the board of directors are recognized during the event and the highlight of the evening is the announcement of the Man and Woman of the Year.

Tickets can be purchased at the Chamber of Commerce located at 215 West Third. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$3 for children age 11 or younger.

WHAT'S UP...

THURSDAY

□ Gideons International, Big Spring Camp 442160 meets at Herman's Restaurant at 7 a.m.

□ Senior Citizens Center art classes, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. for people 55 and over.

□ Coffee Club meets at 10 a.m. at Gale's Sweet Shoppe.

□ Masonic Lodge 598 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 219 Main.

FRIDAY

□ AMBUCS meets at noon at I a Posada.

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

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

SATURDAY

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

□ The Potton House, 200 Gregg, a restored historic home, is open from 1 to 5 p.m. A one-time admission fee of \$2 for adults and \$1 for children and senior citizens are encouraged.

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

UBS schedules two blood drives in Big Spring this week

HERALD Staff Report

Many people may be enjoying the last day in 2001 with family, friends or going to parties, and United Blood Services reminds the community that New Year's Eve also could be a potential time for the need of blood transfusions.

"Blood donations are down because of the holidays," said Sherry Morton, UBS community relations

representative. "We really need people to donate because of the New Year's Eve holiday has the potential to be a high need time for us."

UBS will be in Howard County twice this week to accept donations for the community.

Rip Griffin's Truck/Travel Center will hold a blood drive from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday. Lisa Hernandez is coordinating the drive and can be reached at 264-4444.

BLOOD DRIVES

Friday: 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Rip Griffin's

Saturday: noon-5 p.m., Big Spring Mall

On Saturday, UBS will return, bringing the bloodmobile to the Big Spring Mall from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.

"Of all the gifts you give this year, the gift of life is the most precious," said

Johnna Pevey, UBS community relations representative. "Please take time to donate."

UBS asks potential donors to carry proof of identification containing their name and one of the following: date of birth, Social Security number, UBS assigned donor number or photo identification.

In order to supply the 12 area hospitals, the organization must collect more than 300 units of blood each

week. Blood products have a shelf life of five to 42 days. Blood donations take 48 to 72 hours to process after the initial collection.

Although an appointment is not necessary to donate blood, UBS encourages calling ahead to decrease waiting time. Appointments can also be made by calling the local blood drive coordinator or UBS at 1-800-756-0024.

Donors must be 17 years

See DRIVES, Page 2

Potton House turns 100

Century-old home built by former BSISD trustee

By LYNDEL MOODY

Staff Writer

The historic Potton House has been located in the 200 block of Gregg for the past 100 years and Heritage Museum board members celebrated the anniversary Saturday by planting a tree in the backyard.

"It's historic and it's our background," said Jane Jones of the Heritage Museum board. "Small towns cherish their background maybe a little bit more than bigger cities."

"This is important to preserve for future generations to see the ways that are gone, the ways the original settlers lived," Jones said.

The structure was built in 1901 by Joseph Potton who was a master mechanic for Division Headquarters of the Texas and Pacific Railroad at Big Spring.

Joseph and his wife Mary moved to Big Spring from England.

The home is an example of Victorian architecture and its solid construction includes 14-inch-thick walls and an 18-inch foundation that was unusual in Big Spring at the time.

The outdoor decor includes zinc decorations of the Texas star, a steep Victorian roof, fish scale shingles, a wind arrow and lighting on the iron fence. Above the front pediment window is the date of the construction of the home.

Joseph served on the board of an institution that also turned 100 this year — the Big Spring Independent School board — and was the



Heritage Museum employees Tammy Schrecengost, left, and Nancy Raney visit in the Parlor Room of the Potton House while Raney holds her newborn, Samantha. The historic home located in the 200 block of Gregg turned 100 years old this year.

first board president of the district. Joseph also served as county commissioner.

The house was purchased in 1970s through funds from the Dora Roberts Foundation and Tourists Development Council of the city of Big Spring and in the 1990s the Heritage Museum began to oversee its operation.

Members of the Heritage Museum board plant a tree for the 100th Anniversary of the Potton House.

Pictured are Katie Grimes, left, Carol Scott, Jane Jones, Janice Bond and Janell Davis.

HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody



Vandals hit park lights, residence nearby, too

By ROGER CLINE

Staff Writer

Vandals spread their own brand of Grinchy holiday humbugs again this year,

wreaking hundreds of dollars worth of damage Christmas night on the Comanche Trail Park Festival of Lights and the spectacular home display created by the Partee family on Belvedere Road.

"They turned the booth over, our greeter's booth," said Pat Simmons, organizer of the Festival of Lights. "They knocked down the four angels and damaged the point of a big gold star."

Simmons said the vandals also tore down all the center lines dividing the driving lanes and ripped strands of blue lights from some rocks.

"This is worse than it has been before, but it's just confined to one area," Simmons said. "Thank goodness they didn't get down by the spring."

Simmons said the festival will remain open this evening.

"This area probably won't be up to what it was before," she said. "And I have not checked any of the lights."

Sue Partee said the vandals struck the north side of her family's home in the 700 block of Belvedere.

"On the north side of our house they took a reindeer

See VANDALS, Page 2

Choices helps individuals become self-sufficient

By LYNDEL MOODY

Staff Writer

Staff members of the Texas Workforce Network Choices program were wrapping something special for their clients Tuesday — alarm clocks, but these gifts are in step with the purpose of the program.

"Choices is a federally funded program to help those become self-sufficient and not rely on welfare," said Carla Gross, Choices supervisor.

The program is available for those that qualify for the Temporary Assistance to the Needy Family (TANF) program and offers help in child care, transportation and providing work-related needs such as clothing.

"We cover issues that help get a person to work," said Gross. "We want to resolve those issues so a person can get a job and then stay in that job."

According to Gross, federal guidelines only allow each person five years of welfare assistance in their life.

Through the program, a client has the opportunity

MORE INFO

For more information call the Texas Workforce Network at 263-8373 and ask for a Choices staff person.

to receive counseling from Choice's counselor Sylvia Miramontez. Miramontez offers help from financial to personal problems.

All the services are free for those who qualify.

Clients are required to work a minimum number of hours each week. The "work" may include job searching, unpaid work experience, classes or workshops.

"The program has a 40 hour a week requirement," said Danelle Castillo, workforce development specialists.

"Just like a real job," Gross added.

The program has been formerly called WINGS and JOBS.

For more information about the Choices program, call the Texas Workforce Network at 263-8373 and ask for a Choices staff person.



Lydia Perez, Texas Workforce Network of Big Spring assistant manger, serves punch to Cecilia Martinez, left, and Oscar Lopez, right, while Patrick Wilbert, TWN employee looks on. The TWN held an open house last week for the community.

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Celebrate with savings at



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**Moët & Chandon
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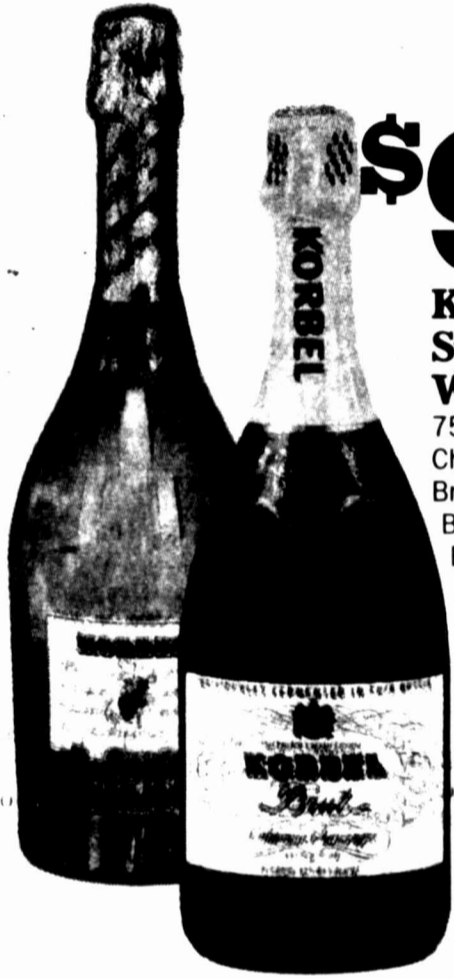
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**Freixenet
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Sparkling
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\$14⁹⁹ ea.
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\$12⁹⁹ ea.
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Brut**
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**Korbel
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Brut, Extra Dry,
Brut Rose or
Blanc de Noir



\$8⁹⁹ ea.
**Chandon
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750 ml. btl.,
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Brut Fresco



\$8⁹⁹ ea.
**Tosti Asti
Spumante**
750 ml. btl.
or **Domaine
Ste. Michelle**
750 ml. btl.,
assorted varieties



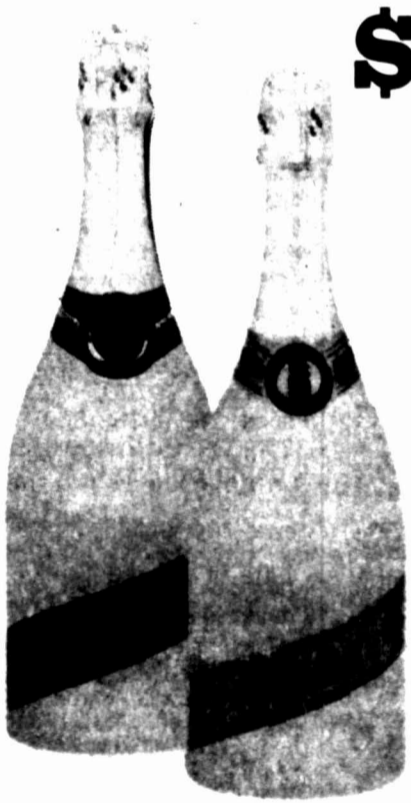
2\$9
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Mimosa, Spumante
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\$5⁹⁹ ea.
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1.5 L. btl.,
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Spumante or Merlot



Mini
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Cordon
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**Segura
Viudas
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Ruby Spumante



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Chenin Blanc or White Merlot
or **Ernest &
Julio Gallo
Twin Valley Wine**
750 ml. btl., Cabernet Sauvignon,
Merlot or Chardonnay



Mini
Sparkling Taster
3\$6⁹⁹ for
**Martini & Rossi
Asti Spumante**
187 ml. btl.



\$6⁸⁷ ea.
Vendange Wine
1.5 L. btl.
Cabernet Sauvignon,
Merlot, Pinot Noir,
Chardonnay, Syrah,
Malbec or White Merlot

other holiday favorites

| | |
|--|---|
| Ste. Genevieve Wine 1.5 L. btl., Red, White or Blush, \$5.29 ea. | Cavit Wine 1.5 L. btl., assorted varieties, \$8.99 ea. |
| Rainie Wine 1.5 L. btl., Lambrusco, White Lambrusco, Blanche, D'Or, Strawberry, Cherry Blush or Peach, \$5.99 ea. | Almaden Wine 5 L. box, Almaden Red, Blush Chablis, Almaden Chablis, Gold Chablis, Mountain Rhine or White Grenache, \$7.99 ea. |
| Ernest & Julio Gallo Twin Valley White Zinfandel Wine 1.5 L. btl., \$5.49 ea. | Franzia Wine 8 L. box, Merlot, Chardonnay or White Zinfandel, \$10.99 ea. |

Things to know about champagne and sparkling wine

Motif - If you like Arbor Mist and Wild Vines you will love the fresh bubbly taste of Motif.

Sparkling Celebrations is a light and fruity non-alcoholic beverage perfect for all ages.

Brut - Very dry champagne with little residual sugar. Freixenet Brut from Spain is crisp and refreshing. Look for the black bottle.

Extra Dry - Dry champagne with some residual sugar. Korbel Extra Dry Champagne - not too sweet, not too dry.

Blanc de Blanc - Translates white wine made from white grapes. This champagne is made exclusively from Chardonnay grapes.

Blanc de Noir - Translates white wine (pale pink) made from black grapes. Try Piper Sonoma Blanc de Noir with appetizers or hors d'oeuvres.

Cremant - A creamy style champagne with typically less atmosphere (bubbles).

Sec - Slightly sweet champagne with 17-35 grams per liter of residual sugar.

Demi Sec - Sweet champagne with 33-50 grams per liter of residual sugar.

Asti - Made from Muscato grapes grown in the Asti region of Italy. Martini & Rossi Asti is the sweetest of all champagnes and sparkling wines.

Spumante - Made from Muscato grapes and tastes just like Asti. Ballatore Gran Spumante is the best setting and best value Spumante.

Cuvée - A blend of sparkling wines to make up specific champagne. Try Mumm's Napa Cuvée.

Cuvée de Prestige - A champagne producer's top "luxury" champagne, i.e. Veuve Clicquot Grand Dame.

Non Vintage - The blend of current and reserve sparkling wines prepared each year to be consistent with the champagne. The most recognized Non-Vintage champagnes are Moët Chandon White Star and Veuve Clicquot.

Vintage - The wine or champagne of a single year's harvest, as in Dom Pérignon 1983.

Dosage - Sugar added to (most) champagnes to attain the required sweetness or roundness.

Residual Sugar - The sugar in the wine after the addition of the dosage.

Prices Good Wednesday, December 26, 2001 thru Tuesday, January 1, 2002 at your Neighborhood H-E-B Stores. Including H-E-B Marketplace. Offers not valid at Broadway Central Market. Due to the popularity of our low prices every day, we reserve the right to limit quantities. Some items may not be available in all stores. ©2001 H-E-B Food Stores, 02 0177



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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Ken Dulaney
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Bill McClellan
News Editor

OTHER VIEWS

John Walker not worth fuming over

To hear some people tell it, John Walker is no better than Benedict Arnold. The American turned Taliban fighter turned wartime detainee, they believe, deserves a similar fate as that of the Revolutionary traitor: permanent banishment from the homeland.

Or worse. As much as we despise Walker's choice to stand on the enemy's side, he shouldn't necessarily be condemned for his actions, no matter how disturbing they might have been.

John Walkers can be found all over America at our Army posts, Navy and Air Force bases and Marine Corps camps. They don the uniforms of the armed forces, vowing to fight to protect the freedom of the United States against any and all enemies, even if the enemy is their native countrymen.

To ostracize, prosecute or execute Walker would be nothing more than an act of hypocrisy. Get what we need from him, and let him go. Let the world deal with him as they will the rest of the defeated Taliban.

Certainly, Americans' ill feelings toward Walker are understandable.

Walker, captured late last month after Taliban and al-Qaida fighters surrendered near the Afghan city of Kunduz, didn't just break bread with the enemy, he was the enemy.

But in the end, what damage has he done? None. He's small potatoes on a terrorism smorgasbord.

Spit him out. The main course, Osama bin Laden, will be served soon.

THE NEWS-ENTERPRISE, ELIZABETHTOWN, KY.

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 Scoury St.
- By telephone at 263-7331
- By fax at 264-7205
- By e-mail at johnmoseley@bigspringherald.com.
- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor. Please:

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

Christmas is not just a single day

The lights swinging from the wisteria arbor give my little house a honky-tonk glow. I'm reminded of some Paul Newman movie — Was it "Sweet Bird of Youth"? — with a happening beer garden and twinkling lights. Nobody really sees this place but close family and Carolyn the mail carrier. But the very idea of an isolated cabin shining its heart out in the middle of nowhere makes me happy.

If a Christmas tree fell in the woods, would anybody hear? I would.

Christmas is difficult for those of us used to operating on a deadline. I'll be digging out some kind of old tacky decoration mid-night Christmas Eve, trying to position the plywood snowman out of the wind, hanging yet another bubbling bulb from a branch, cursing the soul who invented orange extension

cords.

Some would say I've overdone it this year. That the reindeer finger puppets are over the top.

I don't care. I'm home in Mississippi, first year in many, and I mean to make the holiday festive. I have my traditions, and if I have to shoehorn them in with a calendar I intend to observe every last one. I always bake Lera Johnson's oatmeal cookies, wondering all the while how she managed to keep some ready all year long. I never once found her cookie jar empty.

Already I've made the cheese sandwiches from the old Blue Moon Inn in Montgomery, Ala. They have olives and pecans and a Worcestershire bite. Artist Nina Bagley introduced me to those one Christmas Eve when I was blue.

I went tromping through my own woods for a cedar this year instead of buying a cut tree at the store. It was nice to have an indigenous tree again, airy and good-smelling and threatening to topple from heavy wind and ornaments. I put it on the front porch and loaded it down with decorations that tell a hundred stories.

My sweet friend Bobbie Williams and I went to lunch in Tupelo, and I took along two English Christmas crackers I'd bought years ago in London. I'm not above borrowing traditions from other lands when I think they are dandy ideas. Christmas crackers are like individual pinatas, with a crown and a prize and the noisemaker that inspired the name.

"These things are so old they probably won't pop," I said, pulling at the popper anyhow.

Poppppppp! Everyone in the restaurant jumped, then pivoted and stared to see who'd been shot. Bobbie suggested everyone's a lot more nervous since Sept. 11.

There's still a lot left to do before I can call it a season. I need to make pictures of the tree, which, of course, I'll forget to date. Then I'll spend the rest of my life speculating which year the tree listed starboard and sat on the front porch with Sam Blankenbaker's genuine toboggan next to it.

I tried to take a photograph of my new puppy, Mabel, but she thought the Santa hat was a silly idea.

I've yet to crank up the stereo with Mahalia Jackson singing carols, and Willie's only crooned "Pretty Paper" once while I was driving around.

I haven't even slept under the Christmas tree yet; its porch location presents a logistical problem.

I haven't even found a moment to read Bess Streeter Aldrich's "Star Across the Tracks" or Phil Williams' "The Silent Stars Go By."

But I will. I will.

For Christmas is not a single day, or even a month. It's the combined experience of many years and many good moments, of everyone you've ever loved or missed or meant to hug one more time.

Christmas is a lovely indulgence to sentiment and song and stories nobody understands but one other person in the whole, wide world.

Christmas is whatever you make it, wherever you are, a do-it-yourself creation that can't be printed by number or recited by rote. It is the same, and different, every year.

Most of all it is a longing for a lovely peace we can feel but cannot grasp. Christmas is hope.



RHETA GRIMSLEY JOHNSON

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Stranger is back in town

Roylene Chandler is a deputy county tax collector in the Upton county town of McCamey. She works

with car titles and license plates. She stays in her office after regular office hours just because she likes her work. People are always knocking on her door, looking for a justice of the peace or the sheriff or probation officer or somebody. Roylene always lets them in.

Two years ago she was checking up, counting her money. Her cash drawer was on the table. Someone knocked on the door and she got up to answer it.

A tall man was standing there and wanted to see Malcolm Rymers, a retired deputy sheriff.

The man at the door said he was Malcolm's friend. Roylene told the man Malcolm had retired, but since he was a friend, she would be glad to get

Malcolm on the phone. She knew Malcolm wouldn't want to miss a chance to speak to a friend.

The man said, "OK" and followed Roylene down the hall into the office. Just as they entered her office, the man asked her how long she had lived in McCamey. She told him since 1950. The man said "If you've lived here that long, then what I'm gonna tell Malcolm will probably blow your mind."

He said, "I'm the fool that robbed the Security State Bank here in 1974."

Roylene said, "Oh." She didn't know what to do. She saw her money out there in the open and here was this ex bank robber.

"Like an idiot I took a newspaper and nonchalantly tried to cover up the money. As if he hadn't seen it. He could have already had me knocked in the head, taken my money and left."

She was nervous, but managed to get Malcolm on the phone. While the men talked, she took the money and put it in a vault and opened the back door just in case she had to make a run for it. She sat and listened to the man talk to Malcolm on the

phone. "I found it fascinating because here was an ex-convict and bank robber talking to the man who arrested him. They talked like they were old friends."

Roylene heard the man tell Malcolm they never had a gun during the holdup. She didn't hear Malcolm's response.

The man said to Malcolm: "I'll tell you what. I remember the time we were in the Pecos County jail and they beat the living daylights out of us. We were so happy when you and Sheriff Langford came and brought us back to Upton county because Upton county had the best jail we were ever in in."

The man left shortly after the telephone conversation. "He was real nice," says Roylene.

"He lived out in California and he said his bank robbing days were over and he had cleaned up his act and was too old for that kind of stuff, anyway." Roylene learned a lesson. "That taught me to make sure and know who was on the other side of the door when I was counting my money."



Library

For all you big who received cash for Christmas, I know exactly what you can spend it on. BOOKS!!!

The Library has received several new books on T that I know that want to have in a sonal library. You can find them either online at zon.com, www.b noble.com or at store. What's that old "If you don't lik weather, stick a few minutes; it's change"? Johnr Boggs formerly a per journalist be Dallas and Ft. W before moving (Santa Fe, NM ha a book on Texas weather. True-life storie: vival against hu especially in nat strophes, hold a tion for all of us That Terrible T Weather puts th in the eye of the the crest of the d the heat of the d This book is a c of newspaper rej eyewitness acco victims caught u of Texas' most d weather events. The book is ent "That Terrible T Weather: Tales c Drought, Destru Perseverance" a found on the Ne Shelf. John Kelso has "Texas Curiosi Characters, Roa Oddities & Othe Stuff". Every state has ties, but since Texas think we have n our fair share. Kelso, an awar humor columni Austin America Statesman will i you to more tha the wildest and people, places a that Texas has t You will meet a hammers nails w nose (ouch), a w dresses her car (moo) and a fam champion bubb Just think, you your summer va take in the gato Study Butte (the miles from the swamp); the Roy Museum in Wir the "Really Big Groom (located Amarillo, off I-4

Ladies

Fall & Ho Coordin

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Great Sele Selecti

Store Op 8 AM Wedne Un 6

Library recommends spending Christmas cash on books

For all you big spenders who received cash for Christmas, I know exactly what you can spend it on. BOOKS!!!



HOLLIS McCRIGHT

The Library has received several new books on Texas topics that I know that you will want to have in your personal library.

You can find these books either online at www.amazon.com, www.barnesandnoble.com or at any bookstore.

What's that old saying, "If you don't like Texas weather, stick around a few minutes; it's bound to change"? Johnny D. Boggs formerly a newspaper journalist based in Dallas and Ft. Worth before moving (gasp) to Santa Fe, NM has written a book on Texas weather.

True-life stories of survival against huge odds, especially in natural catastrophes, hold a fascination for all of us.

That Terrible Texas Weather puts the reader in the eye of the storm, the crest of the flood and the heat of the drought.

This book is a collection of newspaper reports and eyewitness accounts of victims caught up in some of Texas' most devastating weather events.

The book is entitled "That Terrible Texas Weather: Tales of Storms, Drought, Destruction, and Perseverance" and may be found on the New Book Shelf.

John Kelso has written "Texas Curiosities: Quirky Characters, Roadside Oddities & Other Offbeat Stuff".

Every state has its oddities, but since Texas is so big, I think we have more than our fair share.

Kelso, an award winning humor columnist for the Austin American-Statesman will introduce you to more than 225 of the wildest and wackiest people, places and things that Texas has to offer.

You will meet a man who hammers nails up his nose (ouch), a woman who dresses her car like a cow (moo) and a family of champion bubble blowers.

Just think, you can plan your summer vacation to take in the gator farm in Study Butte (thousands of miles from the nearest swamp); the Roy Orbison Museum in Wink, and see the "Really Big Cross" in Groom (located west of Amarillo, off I-40 in the

Panhandle). And don't forget to see the World's Largest Killer Bee located in Hidalgo, Hidalgo, located in the Rio Grande Valley was the first town to be visited by the killer bees as they migrated north.

Wallace O. Chariton, a fifth generation Texan, has devoted most of his life to the study of Texas. He has written numerous books on Texas (the Library has most of them) and along with Charlie Eckhardt and Kevin R. Young, they have written "Unsolved Texas Mysteries".

This book explores the burning questions such as: "What happened to the documents captured in the Alamo?"

Does a real ghost haunt the state capitol in Austin? Was John Wilkes Booth killed after assassinating President Lincoln or did he escape to Central Texas and die there?

You certainly won't find any of this in your 7th grade Texas history books! This is a very interesting book on little known or really forgotten stories of Texas.

"Texas Heroes: A Dynasty of Courage" is a collection of stories of men who stayed when others ran, fought against incredible odds, and somewhere along the way, became heroes.

Heroes range from Lois de St. Denis, Quanah Parker, Audie Murphy Santos Benavides - all played a tremendous part in Texas' history.

Author Mona Sizer recounts the lives of a dozen gallant - some you know and others you will meet for the first time - all of which will inspire you to read more about the heroes of Texas.

When new books on Texas arrive, they are being marked with a "Texas" label so that they are easier to find on the shelf. As time permits, other books on Texas will be re-labeled for ease in your search for books on Texas.

Howard County Library is open from 9 to 6, Monday to Friday, and from 10 to 5 on Saturdays. We will be closed on New Year's Day.

Story-time will resume on Wednesday, Jan. 9th. We are located at 500 Main St., our phone number is 264-2260.

You may call and renew books by phone; check with Vera if you need to request a book via Interlibrary Loan.

Hollis McCright writes a regular column for the Herald.

NORTH VANCOUVER, Canada (AP) — Clint Eastwood's 8-year-old daughter and his former girlfriend escaped a Christmas morning house fire.

Francesca Eastwood, who crawled out her bedroom window onto the garage roof of the burning home and jumped into the arms of a neighbor, was not serious injured.

Her mother, actress Frances Fisher, in Vancouver to film a TV series, was treated at Vancouver General Hospital for burns to her hands.

Constable Christy Veenstra of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police called Eastwood on Tuesday to tell him what had happened.

His reaction was "like any father would be who gets a call on Christmas Day about a fire," said Veenstra. "Shock. Very somber. Asked how they were doing. His immediate reaction was to get to his daughter."

Fisher appeared in Eastwood's Oscar-winning western Unforgiven and as Rose's mother in the movie Titanic.

The cause of the fire wasn't immediately known, but there was significant damage, said North Vancouver assistant fire chief Steve Atkinson.

"They're very, very fortunate to have escaped alive," Atkinson said.

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Five days after undergoing a liver transplant, AIDS activist and author Larry Kramer was listed in serious condition but was expected to be moved out of intensive care.

A nurse supervisor at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center said late Tuesday that Kramer was expected to be moved to a private room on Wednesday. His doctors have said his condition was progressing as expected.

Kramer, 66, spent seven months on waiting list. He moved to Pittsburgh in early November to wait for an organ to become avail-

able. While many transplant centers oppose the surgery for HIV-positive patients, UPMC's Thomas E. Starzl Transplantation Institute has performed 10 liver transplants on HIV-positive patients since 1997. Eight of the patients have survived. Kramer's HIV has been relatively well controlled, but he suffered from end-stage liver failure caused by hepatitis B.

Kramer is the author of the plays "The Normal Heart" and "The Destiny of Me," and books about the front line of AIDS and gay activism. His screenplay for the film "Women in Love" was nominated for an Academy Award.

He also helped found Gay Men's Health Crisis, a provider of services to those with AIDS, and later helped created ACT UP, an AIDS advocacy group.

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Director Baz Luhrmann says that as an artist, he feels a special obligation in the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

"I think we storytelling folk, we have a lot to do. We have big job, and we better get on it. We need to be reminding human beings of humanity."

Luhrmann told the Los Angeles Times. "At times like this storytelling has many functions, and we need to get on and do that work."

Luhrmann also discussed being in Japan to promote his latest film, "Moulin Rouge," when the attacks occurred. He had a press appointment scheduled right afterward, he said.

"There was the question of whether I could face 200 Japanese journalists about a cancan film. What could I do? The show must go on. That's the underlying message of 'Moulin Rouge,'" Luhrmann said. "I went down and what was really interesting ... it was like therapy. We all started sharing in a really open way, about life and what was the meaning of it."

PEOPLE

BOCA GRANDE, Fla. (AP) — When the Bush family comes to town, everyone knows.

"We get really, really busy," said Lucy Gaudioso, assistant manager of Bike & Beach Rentals & Sales of Boca Grande. "Christmas week is the busiest week of the year, anyway."

When they've been here, it makes things crazy. We rent out all of our golf carts."

The president and first lady won't be joining the family this year, but former President Bush, his wife, Barbara, Gov. Jeb Bush and other family members were

due to begin arriving Wednesday for vacation in the tiny community of about 3,000 on Gasparilla Island.

With the economic downturn, residents aren't complaining about the increasing traffic from security and gawkers this year. Island businesses say they expect to keep busy with the Bushs in town.

"Everybody is aware that the Bush family is coming," said Gary Dutery, owner of the Anchor Inn.

"They kind of just make their way around the village."

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Fire causes about \$100,000 damage at Alamodome

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A three-alarm fire that caused an estimated \$100,000 damage at the Alamodome forced the San Antonio Spurs to move their practice Tuesday to Trinity University.

Alamodome officials said the Spurs' Wednesday night game with the Dallas Mavericks would not be affected by the fire nor will Saturday's Alamo Bowl between Texas Tech and Iowa.

Smoke poured from vents on the east side of the dome as fire officials searched for almost an hour for the source of the fire. It was traced to a storage room where the old HemisFair Arena basketball court floor, was smoldering.

"They suspect this thing was smoldering awhile before it ignited into flame," fire spokesman Tommy Thompson said. Acting Assistant Fire Chief Paul Villarreal said little burned.

"The fire fight itself wasn't a big event."

Investigators believe a light bulb broke above the court and heated a plastic tarp covering the disassembled wooden floor, last used for the NCAA Midwest Regionals in San Antonio in March.

Smoke and water damage was reported inside the storage room with minor damage to nearby meeting rooms.

"It was a little scary when I pulled up," Spur player Malik Rose said in a story in Wednesday's San Antonio Express-News. "There were ten, eleven fire trucks out there and police officers everywhere. But from what I saw, they had it under control. I don't think it was anything too major."

Operation Manager Jim Mery said it was too early to see what kind of damage was done, "but if there's any damage, it's smoke."

LAKERS

Continued from Page 6

their 15 turnovers in the fourth quarter. "Defense was the key," Lakers coach Phil Jackson said. "We had a 33-point second half after giving up 49 in the first half."

Dikembe Mutombo had 12 points and 13 rebounds, and Derrick Coleman added 12 points and 10 rebounds for the 76ers (11-16).

Lakers physician Dr. Steve Lombardo didn't guess when O'Neal would return. The 29-year-old center is eligible to play again Jan. 4 when the Lakers play host to Phoenix.

"He's had arthritis in his big toe for a long time," Lombardo said. "It just recently flared up, an occupational hazard. With this kind of sport — running, jumping, pushing off — it's more likely to flare up."

Defense dominates in Blue's 28-10 whipping of Gray

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) — Forget the quarterbacks.

It was the defensive players who dictated play in the Blue's 28-10 victory at the Blue-Gray All-Star Classic on Tuesday.

Northwestern linebacker Kevin Bentley set up a touchdown with a first-quarter interception for the Blue and had 16 tackles. Algie Atkinson of Kansas returned a late fumble 11 yards for a score.

For the Gray, the star was Mississippi State defensive back Shawn Byrdson, who batted down seven passes and had an interception.

On the other side of the ball, the short practice schedule clearly wasn't enough for the offenses to click.

"Offense takes a little time to get used to," said Gray running back Tyree Foreman of Virginia. "You've got to come together and have a little continuity."

"A week's not enough time to get that. Some teams work all year and don't get that."

The Gray squad turned the ball over five times, and none of the quarterbacks on either team reached 100 yards passing.

The defenses had no such trouble, with Bentley and Byrdson earning MVP honors. "We jelled as the week went on, almost as if we had

been a team for a while here," Bentley said.

Byrdson got a confidence boost early in his switch from safety to cornerback.

"The first play of the game they ran a hitch on me and I was on it," he said. "I knew then it was going to be a pretty good day."

The Gray managed just one first down in its first three fourth-quarter possessions before Atkinson's score off Byrdson's fumbled punt.

Bowl glance

Bowl Glance
By The Associated Press

Tuesday, Dec. 18
New Orleans Bowl
\$750,000
Colorado State 45, North Texas 20

Wednesday, Dec. 19
GMAC Bowl
Mobile, Ala.
\$750,000
Marshall 64, East Carolina 61, 20T

Thursday, Dec. 20
Tangerine Bowl
At Orlando, Fla.
\$750,000
Pittsburgh 34, N.C. State 19

Tuesday, Dec. 25
Blue-Gray Classic
At Montgomery, Ala.
Blue 28, Gray 10
Las Vegas Bowl
At Las Vegas
\$800,000
Utah 10, Southern California 6

Thursday, Dec. 27
Seattle Bowl
\$750,000
Georgia Tech (7-5) vs. Stanford (9-2), 3 p.m. (ESPN)
Independence Bowl
At Shreveport, La.
\$1 million
Iowa State (7-4) vs. Alabama (6-5), 6:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Friday, Dec. 28
Gator Bowl
At Houston
\$750,000
Texas A&M (7-4) vs. TCU (6-5), 12:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Holiday Bowl
At San Diego

\$2 million
Texas (10-2) vs. Washington (8-3), 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Saturday, Dec. 29
Motor City Bowl
At Pontiac, Mich.
\$750,000
Toledo (9-2) vs. Cincinnati (7-4), 11 a.m. (ESPN)

Alamo Bowl
At San Antonio
\$1.2 million
Texas Tech (7-4) vs. Iowa (6-5), 2:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Insight.com Bowl
At Phoenix
\$750,000
Kansas State (6-5) vs. Syracuse (9-3), 4:30 p.m. (ESPN2)

Monday, Dec. 31
Humanitarian Bowl
At Boise, Idaho
\$750,000
Louisiana Tech (7-4) vs. Clemson (6-5), 11:30 a.m. (ESPN)

Sun Bowl
At El Paso, Texas
\$1 million
Washington State (9-2) vs. Purdue (6-5), 1:15 p.m. (CBS)

Silicon Valley Classic
At San Jose, Calif.
\$750,000
Fresno State (11-2) vs. Michigan State (6-5), 2 p.m. (FOXSN)

Liberty Bowl
At Memphis, Tenn.
\$1.3 million
Brigham Young (12-1) vs. Louisville (10-2), 3 p.m. (ESPN)

Peach Bowl
At Atlanta
\$1.8 million
North Carolina (7-5) vs. Auburn (7-4), 6:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Tuesday, Jan. 1
Outback Bowl
At Tampa, Fla.
\$2.2 million
Ohio State (7-4) vs. South Carolina (8-3), 10

a.m. (ESPN)

Cotton Bowl
At Dallas
\$2 million
Arkansas (7-4) vs. Oklahoma (10-2), 10 a.m. (FOX)

Gator Bowl
At Jacksonville, Fla.
\$1.4 million
Virginia Tech (8-3) vs. Florida State (7-4), 11:30 a.m. (NBC)

Citrus Bowl
At Orlando, Fla.
\$4.25 million
Michigan (8-3) vs. Tennessee (10-2), noon. (ABC)

Fiesta Bowl
At Tempe, Ariz.
\$13.13 million

Colorado (10-2) vs. Oregon (10-1), 3:30 p.m. (ABC)

Sugar Bowl
At New Orleans
\$13.13 million
Illinois (10-1) vs. Louisiana State (9-3), 7:30 p.m. (ABC)

Wednesday, Jan. 2
Orange Bowl
At Miami
\$13.13 million
Maryland (10-1) vs. Florida (9-2), 7 p.m. (ABC)

Thursday, Jan. 3
Rose Bowl
At Pasadena, Calif.
\$13.13 million
Miami (11-0) vs. Nebraska (11-1), 7 p.m. (ABC)

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|-------|----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|---------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| 6:PM | News Fortune | King of the Hill Raymond | Wishbone Zoboombaloo | Step by Step Wonder Years | News Ent. Tonight | News (CC) Fortune | News Seinfeld (CC) | Friends (CC) | Intruse | Movie: Motocrossed | Mad TV (CC) Mad TV (CC) | Feeling Movie: New | Freshman (CC) | ii (CC) | Liberty John Hages | Law & Order (CC) | Free Willy-Kelko's | Pretender (CC) | Superleahs: Son of Sam |
| 7:PM | My Wife-Kids According-Jim | 70s Show Grounded-Life | Championship Skating | Movie: The Reluctant Astronaut | 60 Minutes II (CC) | My Wife-Kids According-Jim | Ed (CC) | Ripley's Believe It or Not | Amigas y Novales (SS) | (CC) Movie: Star Trek: Next Gener. | York Cop | Movie: Scream 3 | Movie: Good Advice | Update With Richard Fives | Biography (CC) | New Detectives (CC) | NBA Basketball | Robotica | |
| 8:PM | Drew Carey Whose Line? | Bernie Mac Grounded-Life | Great Performances | Kennedy Center Honors: A | 20/20 (CC) | Drew Carey Whose Line? | West Wing (CC) | Movie: Grease | Derecho de Nacer (SS) | Wish Upon a Star (CC) | Movie: Missing in | Inspectors 2: Shred | Greenlight | Light of the Southwest | American Justice (CC) | New Detectives | Wizards at Hornets | Junkyard Wars | |
| 9:PM | 20/20 (CC) | Cops (CC) Blind Date | ances | Wonder Years | Celebration of Arts | 20/20 (CC) | Law & Order (CC) | Don Francisco Presenta | (25) A Kid in | Action 2: The Beginning | Movie: (45) Movie: Soul Food (CC) | (05) Str Feet Under (CC) | Oz (CC) | Hour of Healing | Law & Order (CC) | New Detectives | Inside NBA | Ultimate Ten Biggest | |
| 10:PM | News Nightline | Jerry Springer (CC) | News-Lehrer | 700 Club (CC) | News (35) Late | News (CC) Nightline | News (35) Tonight | Ripley's Believe It or Not | P. Impacto Noticiero Univ. | Aladdin's Palace (CC) | Star Trek: Next Gener. | Primary Suspect (CC) | Resurrection (45) Movie: Ruthless People | Def Poetry Church | Update With Biography (CC) | New Detectives (CC) | Minnesota (CC) | Junkyard Wars | |
| 11:PM | Politically Inc. Cheers | Suddenly, Spin City (CC) | Nature (CC) | Who's Boss? Who's Boss? | Show (CC) (37) Late Late | Ent. Tonight Politically Inc. | Show (CC) (37) Late | Movie: Grease | El Gran Blablazo | So Weird (CC) Jett Jackson | Mad TV (CC) Mad TV (CC) | The Auteur | Ruthless People | Def Poetry Church | Update With Biography (CC) | New Detectives (CC) | Minnesota (CC) | Junkyard Wars | |
| 12:AM | AM Paid Program | Attorney Divorce Court | Nature (CC) (DVS) | Paid Program | Show (CC) Street Smarts | (12:05) Oprah Winfrey (CC) | Night (CC) Frasier | Movie: Grease | Maria la del Barrio | Zoro (CC) Mickey Mouse | Baywatch (CC) | Theory (40) Movie: Movie: Sour | Features (CC) | Faith Pleases God | American Justice (CC) | New Detectives | Movie: 48 HRS. | Ultimate Ten Biggest | |

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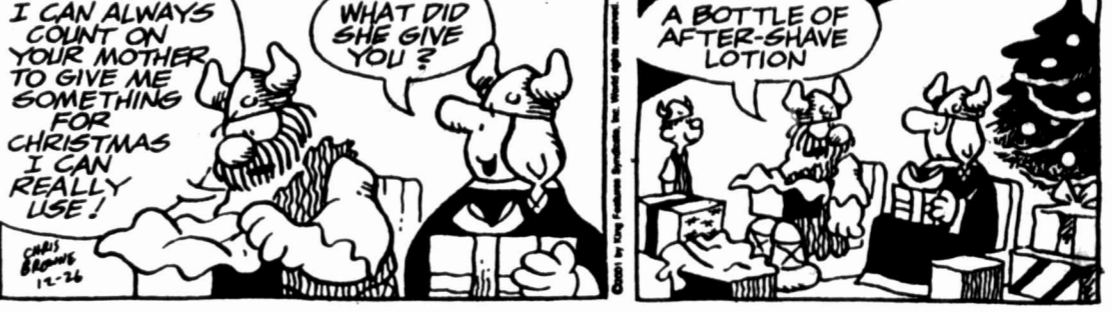
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"Something I asked for I didn't get. Does Santa have a customer service number?"

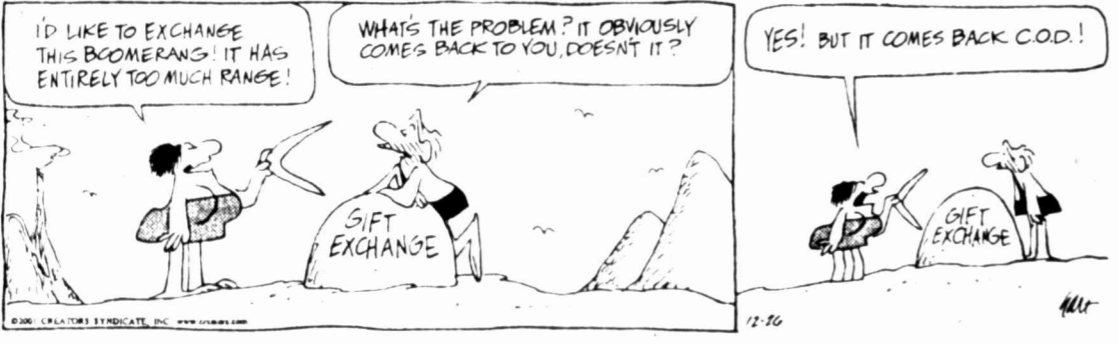
HAGAR



BLONDIE



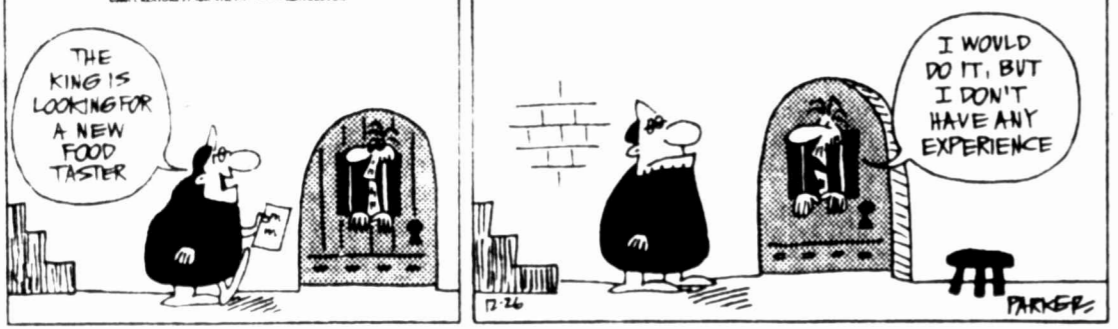
B.C.



GEECH



WIZARD OF ID



HI AND LOIS



GASOLINE ALLEY



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILY



THIS DATE IN HISTORY

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

Today is Wednesday, December 26th, the 360th day of 2001. There are five days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On December 26th, 1776, the British suffered a major defeat in the Battle of Trenton during the Revolutionary War.

On this date: In 1799, former President George Washington was eulogized by Colonel Henry Lee as "first in war, first in peace and first in the hearts of his countrymen."

In 1893, Chinese leader Mao Tse-tung was born in Hunan province.

In 1917, during World War One, the U-S government took over operation of the nation's railroads.

In 1931, the Pulitzer Prize-winning musical play "Of Thee I Sing" opened on Broadway.

In 1941, Winston Churchill became the first British prime minister to address a joint meeting of the U-S Congress.

In 1944, in the World War Two Battle of the Bulge, the embattled U-S 101st Airborne Division was relieved by units of the Fourth Armored Division.

In 1944, Tennessee Williams' play "The Glass Menagerie" was first performed publicly, at the Civic Theatre in Chicago.

In 1972, the 33rd president of the United States, Harry S. Truman, died in Kansas City, Missouri.

In 1974, comedian Jack Benny died in Los Angeles at age 80.

In 1975, the Soviet Union inaugurated the world's first supersonic transport service with a flight of its Tupolev-144 airliner from Moscow to Alma-Ata (AHL'-muh AH'-tah).

Ten years ago: On Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average rose to a then-record high of three-thousand-82-point-96.

President Bush nominated businesswoman Barbara Franklin to be commerce secretary. Sikh (seek) separatists killed about 50 train passengers in Punjab, most of them Hindus.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Richard Widmark is 87. Comedian Alan King is 74. Actor Donald Moffat is 71. Rhythm-and-blues singer Abdul "Duke" Fakir (The Four Tops) is 66. Record producer Phil Spector is 61. "America's Most Wanted" host John Walsh is 56. Baseball Hall of Fame catcher Carlton Fisk is 54. Former baseball player Chris Chambliss is 53.

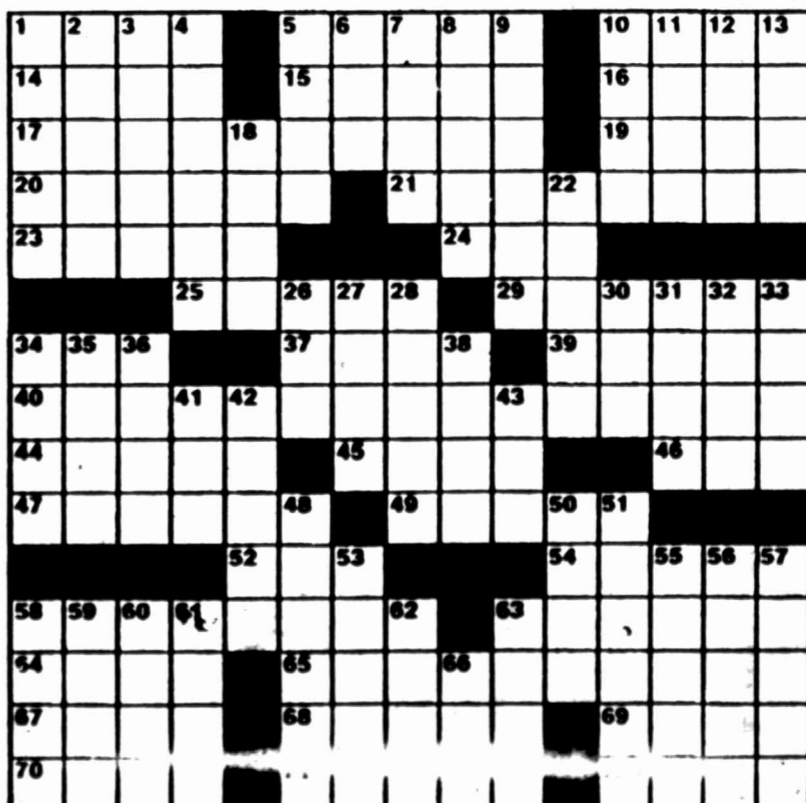
Answer to previous puzzle

| | | |
|----------|----------|-------|
| PALS | OLDAS | OSLO |
| EXIT | NEIGH | UTAH |
| WERE | CASEY | TRIM |
| SLAPDASH | SPINY | |
| SOLE | SHOOK | |
| UPHILL | TASSELS | |
| MAINE | MEAT | TOUT |
| ANT | STOOGES | UNO |
| SITS | HONE | LETGO |
| SCHOLAR | SENSED | |
| ELITE | BEER | |
| ACRID | SOCKAWAY | |
| WOOD | APART | GALA |
| OPAL | RHINO | EVEN |
| LADY | CIDER | DECK |

Newsday Crossword

NO BARRAIN by Fred Escop
Edited by Stanley Newman

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| ACROSS | 70 Jack Benny catchword | 13 Sponge opening | 48 Earth-moving machine |
| 1 Trudge (along) | 71 Exam part, often | 18 Clinton cabinet member | 50 Explorer Tasman |
| 5 Plant firmly | 72 Fam. members | 22 Beer holder | 51 Owner |
| 10 Toss with a spatula | | 26 Once named | 53 Fields of expertise |
| 14 Imported auto | | 27 Coffeeshop containers | 55 Move like a crab |
| 15 Alfa's hearthrob | DOWN | 28 Put forward | 56 Coil-shelled mollusk |
| 16 Plumb | 1 Out of style | 30 Fiddle stick | 57 Dangerous mosquito |
| 17 Mountain road sign | 2 Pear-shaped instruments | 31 Foot or pound | 58 Like a 56 Down |
| 19 Frankenstein's aide | 3 Golden Boy playwright | 32 Milan money | 59 It springs eternal |
| 20 Soft seat | 4 Weight watcher | 33 Got 100 on | 60 Wicked |
| 21 Aquamarine or turquoise | 5 Advantage | 34 "Memories Are Made of" | 61 Do KP work |
| 23 Ruhr city | 6 Scratch up | 35 End of Caesar's boast | 62 Roaster's spot |
| 24 Twaddle | 7 Toot one's own horn | 36 Not "fer" | 63 Like Santa's cheeks |
| 25 Accumulated, as debts | 8 Church officer | 38 "Chinese" word form | 66 Genetic letters |
| 29 Interstellar cloud | 9 Evil spirit | 41 Bray beginning | |
| 34 New Deal agcy. | 10 Move like a butterfly | 42 Dumpster filler | |
| 37 Cupid alias | 11 Corporate identifier | 43 Anthem contraction | |
| 39 Style of column | 12 Pictograph | | |
| 40 Electrical conduit | | | |
| 44 Less congenial | | | |
| 45 Trig ratio | | | |
| 46 Tiny amount | | | |
| 47 Singer O'Connor | | | |
| 49 Scroll in an ark | | | |
| 52 Monterey Mrs. | | | |
| 54 nova | | | |
| 58 Crook carrier | | | |
| 63 Fix, as brakes | | | |
| 64 Zero, to Sampras | | | |
| 65 Whom the girl married, in an old song | | | |
| 67 Bee's nephew | | | |
| 68 Acquires | | | |
| 69 Nobel winner | | | |



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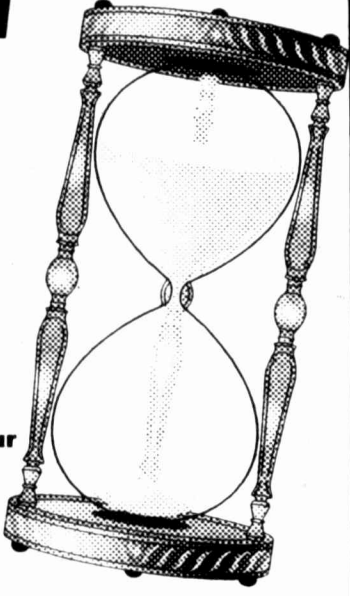
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Mitchell County Hospital District/Ware Medical Unit is looking for LVN correctional nurse for the 3 pm to 11 pm shift. For more information contact Ms. Cogburn, R.N. D.O.N. At (915) 728-2162 ext 1236.

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