

BIG SPRING HERALD

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

FRIDAY

December 28, 2001

WEATHER

Tonight:



CLOUDY

TONIGHT 30°-35° TOMORROW 46°-49°

Chamber set to put banquet tickets 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 which is set for Jan. 15 at the Dorothy Garret Coliseum.

Chamber officials opted not to bring in a guest speaker this year and instead will 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.

To reserve tickets or for more information, call the Chamber at 263-7641.

WEEKEND TICKET

TODAY
 □ 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.
 □ UBS blood drive, noon until 5 p.m., Big Spring Mall. Call 1-800-756-0024 for reservations.
 □ Dance at the Eagles Lodge, 8:30 p.m. 704 West Third. Everyone welcome.

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'Tis the season for county youth livestock shows

By ROGER CLINE

Staff Writer

It's time once again to get the New Year off with a bang...or a moo, grunt, or baa.

Glasscock, Howard and Martin counties are all gearing up for their annual livestock shows, and they'll be here before you know it.

The Glasscock County show is the first of the three, kicking off less than a week from now at the coun-

ty's new Community Center. The show will take place Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Jan. 3 through 5.

The Howard County Junior Livestock Show comes next, Jan. 9 through 12 at the Howard County Fairgrounds.

The show will feature judging of five types of animals: barrows, rabbits, lambs, goats and steers/heifers.

Lambs and goats must arrive at the fairgrounds by

10 a.m. Jan. 9. Lambs weigh in and show at 3 p.m. that day, while goats weigh in and show at 4 p.m. The entry fee for both lambs and goats is \$5.

Steers and heifers must arrive at the grounds by 9 a.m. Jan. 10. They will be weighed in and shown at 3 p.m. Jan. 11, with steers following heifers. Entry fees for steers and heifers is \$10.

Rabbits should arrive by 4 p.m. Jan. 10 and will be weighed and shown at 6

p.m. that day. Entry fees for rabbits is \$4.

Barrows should arrive at the grounds by 6 p.m. Jan. 10 and will be weighed and shown at 8:30 a.m. Jan. 11. Entry fee for barrows is \$5.

A barbecue for buyers will be held at noon Jan. 12 and the awards program will be at 1 p.m. that day. The sale will follow the the awards show.

The Martin County

See SHOWS, Page 2A

STOCK SHOWS

Glasscock County: Jan. 3-5, Glasscock County Community Center.

Howard County: Jan. 9-12, Howard County Fair Barns.

Martin County: Jan. 17-19, Martin County Community Center.



United Blood Services phlebotomist Howard Volght prepares to draw a unit of blood from Kathy Sigmon of Big Spring this morning at the Rip Griffin blood drive. A representative of Rip Griffin's said donations were steady all morning. UBS will be at the Big Spring Mall Saturday from noon until 5 p.m. to take more donations.

RSVP, Bilbrey Tours scheduling trips across the nation, around the world

By LYNDEL MOODY

Staff Writer

The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program of Big Spring, along with Bilbrey Tours, is offering trips around the world while a percentage of the profit returns to the community.

"This is our biggest year ever," said Nancy Jones of RSVP. "Last year we had 23 trips planned, this year we have 32."

The Big Spring RSVP Travelers and Bilbrey Tours will host a travel showcase at 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 6, at the Dora Roberts Civic Center to unveil the 2002 tours.

"We provide safe and com-

fortable travel for the customer," Jones said. "They don't have to fight traffic or even drive."

Every trip is escorted by an employee of Bilbrey Tours Inc.

"There is an itinerary. Everything is planned," Jones said. "There is free time scheduled during the trip."

Every seat booked at the Big Spring RSVP brings some profit to the community, Jones said.

"We make a percentage off the trip that helps us provide services to the community," she said. "It helps us be self-supporting."

The trips are for adults from the young to the elderly, Jones said.

"Last year, for our Mediterranean trip, three generations went on the cruise, including a mother, daughter and granddaugh-

ter," she said.

Some of the more popular trips returning this year include the New England Fall Foliage, a eight-day, seven-night stay; Christmas in Nashville, Tenn., the Stampede at Calgary, Canada; and several trips to Branson, Mo.

Others include a cruise to Alaska and one to San Francisco.

Several one-day trips are offered during the year, including ones to the Bass Performance Hall in Fort Worth. Jones said last year these trips to Fort Worth cost about \$75 to \$100 for tickets and transportation and the only added cost was the meal.

The biggest trip of the year is already booked but RSVP will be taking stand-by reservations in case of a

See TOURS, Page 2A

Coahoma fifth-graders complete semester-long drug awareness program

By LYNDEL MOODY

Staff Writer

COAHOMA — Coahoma Elementary School and the Howard County Sheriff's Office celebrated their first Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) graduation in December.

About 70 fifth-graders completed the 17-week course which was taught by sheriff's deputy Juan C. Parra, a certified DARE instructor.

The program teaches students about the dangerous effects of drugs, self-esteem building and handling peer pressure.

Parra said the course tries to relate the importance of good decision-making in practical situations by using instruction, class activities and role playing.

"The program targets fifth-graders," Parra said. "By the time students get to junior high they are already experimenting with drugs. We target fifth-graders so when they get to that level they have already dealt with these situations."

Through the sclasses, children work directly with a representative of law enforcement.

"This helps to breach that barrier between officers and children," Parra said. "Many times the only time the children see us is when something bad has happened."

"You build a positive relationship with these kids," he said. "They feel like they can come and talk to you if they have problems. You build relations not only with the students, but with the teachers and administrators."

As part of completing the course, each student wrote

an essay stating what they have learned from the DARE program. Awards were given to the best.

"It was a tough choice but four essays were chosen," Parra said.

First place went to Michael Ried, second place was written by Danja Gonzales, third place was earned by Aricka Hart and the fourth place essay was written by Heather Scoggins.

"I was very pleased with the effort put into the essays by each student," Parra said.

Parra is set to teach a course at Elbow Elementary next semester.

Coahoma students making the personal commitment to avoid the pressures to use drugs and to be violence free are Issac Arguello, Tia Bailey, Jared Blythe, Harrison Chevalier, April Choate, Lauren Dees, Kolby Fields, Erica Gonzalez, James Harris, Camryn Herrera, Kayla Holleman, Paige Jackson, Ashley Martin, Michael McNew, Michael Ried, Ashlie Richter, Alexis Ruiz and Katelyn Wilson.

Also, Damian Bailey, Steven Boren, Kyle Brownfield, Megan Conley, P.J. Daylong, Mel Dickerson, Nathan Gomez, Danja Gonzales, Aricka Hart, Arthur Hilario, Bobby Hodges-kandel, Haylea Hodnett, Shelby Rose, Heather Scoggins, Cody Sheppard, William Smith, Nina Tascano and Hilari White.

Others were Devin Adamson, Jacob Alcantar, Matthew Brown, Joaquina Cantu, Chase Clanton, Brandon Griffin, Keagan Hunt, Berkeley Iden, Kelly Lee, Alexandra Moore, Jovi Paniagua, Brendan Payte, Kristian Schlipf, Laci Sterling, Erika Stiller, Sean Thomason, Esmeralda Urias and Brandy Winters.

See DARE, Page 2A

Festival of Lights display will end Monday evening

HERALD Staff Report

Monday is the last night to see the Comanche Trail Park spring and lake area lit for the holidays as the Festival of Lights is set to close on New Year's Eve.

This year's festival has attracted more than 15,000 people, a total larger than last year's month-long event which drew about 14,000, said Pat Simmons of the Festival of Lights committee.

So far, visitors from 26 states and seven countries have driven or walked the roadsand trails of the park to view the illuminating displays.

"I am just pleased over the turnout," said Simmons. "We have had just a tremendous response."

The festival drew nearly 2,000 visitors on Christmas Eve and more than 1,000 on Christmas Day.

Simmons said she believes the new additions of poinsettias and Christmas cards have brought more visitors to the park.

Vandals that knocked down four angel displays, damaged the point of a big gold star, turned over the greeter's booth and tore or ripped up lights have not dampened the holiday spirit for Simmons, as most of the damage has been repaired.

More than a quarter of a million lights illuminate the natural landscape of the spring and lake area of the park nightly from 6 to 10.

Holiday displays including a nativity scene, crosses, angels, deer, western sculptures and more enhance the display that is free for viewing by the public. Festival officials recommend those planning

See LIGHTS, Page 2A



Big Spring Herald employees Juanita Valdez and Ann Briscoe load sacks of dog and cat food on a truck to deliver to the Howard County Humane Society this morning. Many community residents recently donated food to the Humane Society as part of its annual Animal Food Drive, sponsored by the Herald and KBST.

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Insurers warn consumers will pay for Texas law on payments

HOUSTON (AP) — Consumers can expect higher premiums for health care coverage in Texas, Humana officials caution, as the insurer complies with a state statute mandating prompt payments to doctors and hospitals.

Three of Humana's subsidiaries have paid \$2.1 million in what the company calls "overpayments" above their legally contracted rates to the providers serving plan members, as well as \$1.25 million in administrative penalties to the Texas Department of Insurance.

The move follows a \$9.25 million settlement this summer between the insurance department and 17 health plans, which agreed to pay restitution and fines to providers dating to Aug. 1 last year.

Insurance Commissioner Jose Montemayor said the penalties were justified because his agency received

Insurance commissioner urges review of homeowner policies

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas Insurance Commissioner Jose Montemayor is reminding homeowners to carefully review their homeowners insurance policies considering several changes related to mold coverage.

Montemayor on Thursday also encouraged consumers to shop around for insurance because of rising rates.

"We know that consumers who shop around for their insurance coverage can save money. The educated insur-

ance shopper also knows what discounts are out there. It's all on our Web site," Montemayor said.

Jerry Johns, president of industry group Southwest Insurance Information Service, agreed with Montemayor that consumers should carefully examine policies, but said insurance agents are the best source for information.

"We fully recognize that insurance customers will have questions about new homeowners insurance cover-

ages and every company doing business in this state is poised to answer those inquiries," Johns said.

Last week, Allstate Texas Lloyds announced it does not plan to offer comprehensive insurance coverage to customers who renew their policies beginning in March.

The company will offer a new, expanded basic coverage called HO-A-Plus, which includes a \$5,000 limit on remediation of mold resulting from covered water damage.

million, Hancher said.

From the insurers' perspective, penalties are hardly the answer. The money has to come from somewhere, they say, so employers and consumers may end up shouldering the burden.

"Any time you have an increase in expenses, insurance rates do increase," said Tania Graves, a Phoenix-based spokeswoman for Cigna HealthCare Corp. "It affects the cost of doing business."

To date, Cigna has paid about \$2.3 million in late fees in Texas for being unable to abide by the 45-day guidelines for clean claims.

Humana put part of the blame back on doctors.

"The physicians continue their overreliance on submitting paper claims," said Ross McLerran, Humana's spokesman for Texas. "That prevents claims from being paid with optimum speed and efficiency."

complaints about thousands of claims that were paid late. House Bill 610, the "prompt-pay" law approved by the Legislature in 1999, calls for insurers to pay claims within 45 days.

"We thought we were pretty good about paying claims — over 96 percent accuracy following the newly enacted House Bill 610," Dr. Gary Goldstein, chief executive officer of Humana's Central Texas Region, said in

Friday's editions of the Houston Chronicle. "We've been working diligently changing systems and doing everything possible to comply."

That's not how the insurance department and health care providers see it.

"Physicians and providers who had not been paid for their services would disagree with the characterization that honoring the contract penalty and statutory

requirements is an 'overpayment' and a 'windfall' to the medical profession," Montemayor said in a statement released Thursday.

"Had Humana paid claims timely and fully implemented the prompt-pay statutory requirement, it would not have been subject to an administrative penalty and restitution," he added.

The Texas Medical Association maintains that by postponing payments,

insurers add to their bottom line.

"If they delayed just one day beyond the state-mandated 45 days, they earn themselves \$87,000," Dr. Tom B. Hancher, the association's president, said of Humana.

That calculation is based on the delay to pay contracted rates to physicians throughout the state. In 15 days, it's estimated that Humana would pocket \$1.3

Former teacher of year charged with indecency

PLANO (AP) — A school administrator who in 1985 was named Plano's teacher of the year has been charged with felony child indecency based upon a former student's allegations the man fondled him more than a decade ago.

Joe Wayne Cates, 44, coordinator of the Plano Independent School District's after-school programs, turned himself Dec. 21 at the Collin County Jail and was released shortly after posting \$25,000 bail on second-degree felony charges. The Dallas Morning News reported in

its Friday editions.

Neither Cates nor his attorney could be reached for comment Thursday, the newspaper said.

The charges came three weeks after a Collin County sheriff's deputy found Cates inside his car on a rural county road with a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head, officials said. That incident took place two weeks after Plano police began investigating the former student's complaints.

According to an affidavit prepared by Plano police to secure an arrest warrant, the investigation began in

October when Plano Independent School District officials received an e-mail from a man who said he was a student at Hendrick Middle School from 1987 to 1988 and had been sexually abused by Cates in the summer of 1989, records show.

The man told district officials that he was coming forward because he wanted to make sure Cates was no longer working with children, according to the affidavit.

The man, now 26, told police investigators that the abuse took place at Cates' home in east Plano the

night before his former teacher was scheduled to take him on a trip with a church youth group, the police affidavit states. Investigators said in the affidavit that the man told them Cates fondled him while he slept in Cates' bed. Cates served as director of the youth program at the Reformed Church in Plano for 16 years before resigning the position voluntarily in early November.

As youth leader, Cates wrote children's plays and led youth trips across the Southwest, church officials said.

Miller likely headed back to prison on parole violation

FORT WORTH (AP) — Wesley Wayne Miller apparently will be returned to prison, less than three months after being paroled again on a 1982 conviction for killing high school cheerleader Retha Stratton, who was raped and stabbed in 1982.

Miller's attorney, Jeff Gooch, did not attend a parole hearing on Thursday and Miller said he wanted to waive the hearing.

Miller, 39, was returned to the Tarrant County Jail in October after he made parole for the third time. He was placed in solitary confinement and ordered to remain for at least 30 days or until parole officials determined that he was ready to leave, under law enforcement escort, to look for work.

Officials said he violated parole by refusing to participate in sex offender counseling, putting the name of his teen-age niece on his visitor's list and visiting with her.

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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Ken Dulaney
Publisher

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Salutes:

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

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

This week we salute:

- **GOLIAD CAVALIERS AND CLASSICS** which raised more than 1,300 cans of food for the Salvation Army.
- **THE COSSACKS MOTORCYCLE CLUB**, which delivered food and toys to 30 families, including 64 children.
- **THE BIG SPRING INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT AND THE POTTON HOUSE**, which celebrated 100th anniversaries.
- **BIG SPRING AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE** on a successful holiday lighting contest, and all of the winners.
- **THE TEXAS WORKFORCE NETWORK CHOICES** program, which helps individuals become self-sufficient.

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

YOUR VIEWS

TO THE EDITOR,
I am addressing this to the vandals that saw fit to destroy some of the Festival of Lights display and the beautiful works of the Partee family. I hope this topped off your Christmas.

You destroyed what some of us had worked weeks on, for the public. It will also lessen the beauty for a lot of people, including the veterans hospital and the veterans retirement home.

Maybe your sense of patriotism had led you to do this.

I am hoping that enough concerned citizens will start a reward fund to try to find you. Some of your acquaintances that you might have bragged to can surely use this reward.

If you are made a public example of, I hope it embarrasses you enough in front of parents or relatives to the point that you will change your ways. If not, we will know to watch you in the future.

REV. JOEL MILLER
CTFL MEMBER
AND WORKER

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.

Remembering the 45th day of December

By DOUGLAS COHN
Guest Columnist

We had been out for 45 days; 45 days in the jungle; 45 days on the Cambodian border. We had not been alone. Awaiting us were tiny vicious bees; red ants mean enough to attack burning cigarette tips; swarms of sanity-destroying mosquitoes; aggressive, oversized spiders; strangling, slithering snakes of all sorts; and of course, the North Vietnamese Army. It was December 1969, and it was dripping with heat.

We knew that others were suffering more than we; at least we assumed such, though there was no comfort in such thoughts. There was only the knowledge that such ordeals were within the realm of human tolerance. So we turned to gallows humor for comfort, and we laughed often. It was the season to be jolly.

At night we lay on the ground in the open, though not under the stars. The jungle canopy concealed them. We listened to lizards. In croaking sounds resembling expletive English, they seemed to be telling us what to do, but by then the jungle was ours as much as theirs. So, one

of my sergeants, adept at animal imitations, answered them in kind. Within minutes, the jungle echoed in a macabre chorus of profanity. Only we knew that man had joined beast in the choir. It was hilarious good cheer.

One morning I was awakened by an army of termites beneath my poncho, but I could see them only with one eye. The other one was swollen shut. It hadn't been a bad dream after all, just another bad reality.

During the night my face had been a grazing ground for a spider. Under the circumstances, it was nice to know that we never spent two nights in the same place. On the other hand, it was a dangerous season for traveling. I smiled at my misery and at Robert Frost's words: "The woods are lovely, dark and deep. / But I have promises to keep, / And miles to go before I sleep." Once again, machetes in hand, we cut a new swath in search of those who were in search of us.

The jungle thickened with every step. Vines defended by spike-like thorns twisted and tangled

around us until every human action invoked nature's reaction. A "spike" struck deep into my leg. Four years later, my wife would remove it.

We discovered a trail, and whether friends or foes, we knew trails were dangerous — but so were vines. The trail led us through the thick vegetation, down a slight bank, across a narrow stream, and up the opposite side. A rookie was on point. He crossed, climbed, then stopped. I was behind him, but the enemy was before him, frozen and staring at him, as he was at them. I fired. Men followed. The enemy fired and fled for their bunkers. Bullets split the air like high-speed trains. Men scrambled, shoved, charged, raced, and fell.

Civilization was merely a memory. The jungle and its laws were reality. Then, on the 45th day, it ended — even if only momentarily. We were brought in for the holidays.

Tay Ninh, a medium-sized city on the Cambodian border, meant shelter, hot food, recreation, and relative safety, but mostly, it meant a respite. Life was once again

precious. And, while there was certainly no peace on that portion of earth, there was an abundance of goodwill even for the foe. It would have been difficult to hate those who endured such similar sufferings, though there was no such difficulty where their leaders were concerned; those men from whom aggression and atrocity emanated.

That December we must have seemed a piratical looking bunch: Tressemer with his shaved head, a 1st Cav. patch on his baldness, and a machine gun on his shoulder; mustachioed Dodge with his turned-up hat was a cavalryman from another age. My own hat, also turned up, bore a lieutenant's bar and the black-and-yellow division patch. The men had meant it as a gift.

It later proved to be a target.

Some among us would soon die. Some of us would be maimed. But we understood the meaning of the holidays in 1969. We were soldiers celebrating life. We understood then more than we understand now.

Douglas Cohn led a recon platoon in Vietnam.



OTHER VIEWS

Given the fact that the United States is sooner than later going to get into another shooting match with Saddam Hussein, we ought to be planning right now for what we're going to do when oil prices go through the ceiling.

It's hard to imagine that happening right now, because prices are low, as reflected in low pump prices for gasoline, which is the only gauge followed by many Americans.

But, happen it will. Some of President Bush's advisers are already telling him to hit Saddam next when we're finished mopping up the Taliban in Afghanistan. We might go after terrorists in Somalia next, or it might be the Philippines, but on down the line pretty soon now it's gonna be Baghdad's turn.

That will not sit well with the Saudis and others in the Arab world, and we will have to play our cards very, very well to keep them on an even temper. Maybe Russia and some of the former Soviet states will increase production enough to offset a reduction in quantity from the Middle East, maybe not. And maybe the Saudis won't cut at all, but will take out their anger and fear some other way, although it's hard to think of what that might be.

Just considering the complexities that our dependence

on imported oil has created — as cited in the paragraph above — makes the head hurt.

How much simpler things might be today had we stopped long enough back in the oil-embargo days of the '70s to plan for a time when that temporarily and politically imposed shortage would become permanent — meaning pretty soon.

We're talking about developing alternatives.

Just now are automakers seriously marketing little cars that run on either thimbleful of gasoline or on other kinds of energy and that actually might compete with traditional internal combustion-driven vehicles.

And it will be in what we put on the road that makes the biggest difference in our dependency and what we pay for fuel and what we put into the air.

But, we're not really even to that point in development of alternatives that would have an impact outside of what's driven.

Development of solar and wind power has been slow, and Washington commitment has been hot and cold.

"With the appropriate commitment of resources to wind energy R&D and efforts to get technologies out of the labs and into the marketplace, wind resources could generate power equivalent to the

electric energy needs of as many as 10 million homes by the year 2010," Jaime Steve, legislative director of the American Wind Energy Association, told Congress in recent testimony.

The operative phrase there is "appropriate commitment of resources."

Depending on who's in power, wind energy research gets a little bit of funding and sometimes it gets less. It's yet to be appropriate, given the problems that surround continued near-total dependence on fossil fuels.

Funding needs to be "appropriate," too, for R&D on solar energy technologies that will spread the use of solar cells to more homes. Only .04 percent of worldwide power generation is due to solar cells right now, according to Peter Fairley's article on the subject in the latest issue of MIT's Technology Review, and that's because of cost.

Development of plastic solar cells promises to drop the price, but, again, R&D funds are needed to encourage and sustain this development.

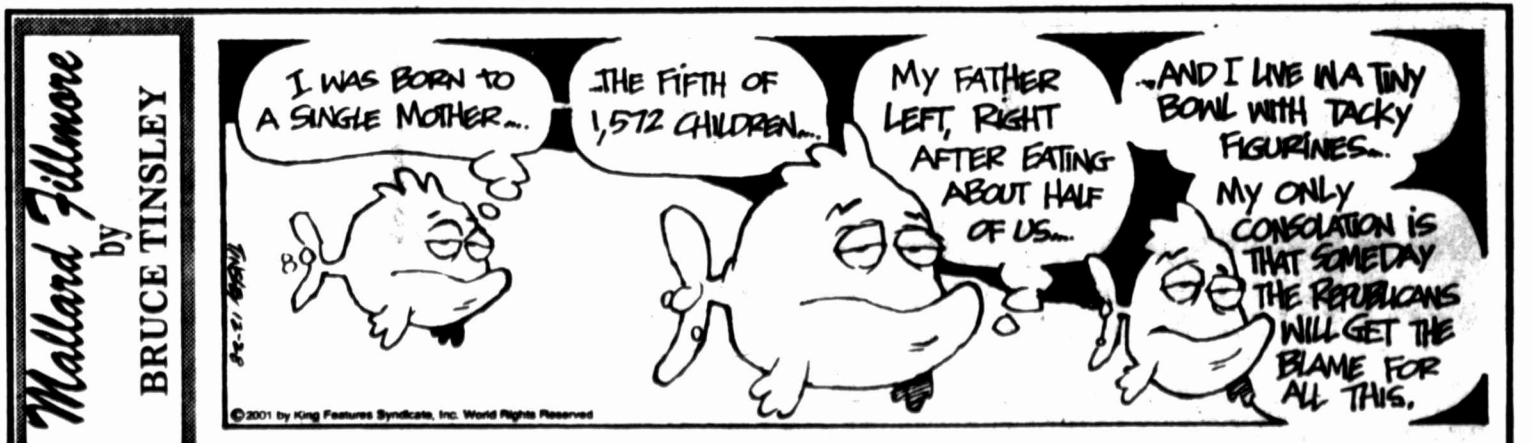
Money spent now will pay off in the not-too-distant future, perhaps even before we are forced to fight again for enough oil to keep us going and growing.

WICHITA FALLS
TIMES RECORD NEWS

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HURRY!
AFTER
SALE

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President grants permanent normal trade relations to China

WASHINGTON (AP) — The ailing U.S. business sector hailed President Bush's decision to grant normal trade status to China, saying it will take the gamble out of dealing with the communist nation and emerging economic powerhouse.

Boeing Co., which ventured into China on the heels of President Nixon's historic 1972 visit, took the news as a bright spot in an otherwise dreary time.

"It means that everyone can have confidence that tomorrow, next week or five years from now, we can all do fair business with

China," said Fred Kelley, a spokesman for the Chicago-based aircraft maker.

The new trade status takes effect Jan. 1, Bush said Thursday in the announcement released in Crawford, Texas, where he is vacationing at his ranch.

The United States has struggled over China's trade status for almost a quarter-century, with factions of both political parties arguing that the Beijing needed to improve its human rights record before normal trade was considered. But supporters argued that China would be better influenced

by an influx of American business brought on by normal trade relations.

That, and the acknowledgment that China could soon have a production ability that rivals the United States, brought the issue to the fore.

Congress last year granted the permanent status to China contingent upon its entry into the World Trade Organization. China's application was accepted formally at the WTO's annual meeting last month in the United Arab Emirates.

"We desperately need to bring China into the fold

and stop having silly spats that keep our relationship off track," said Richard Daisly, a professor of foreign trade and economics at Vanderbilt University and an adviser for AOL Time Warner.

"Every step China has ever made toward opening up its society has come because it has sought economic benefits for its people. We must continue to show them that opening up to the world has benefit," Daisly said.

Bush called the trade proclamation the "final step in normalizing U.S.-China

trade relations" and said it would open up the vast Chinese markets to billions of dollars in American goods.

Kelley said China's status was a thorn in Boeing's side for years.

"Stability is key in our business," he said. "We must look 18 to 24 months ahead in terms of building parts, planes and servicing them. It has been difficult for China to make such agreements when they don't know if they would have an export license the following year or whether the United States would allow the

planes to be delivered."

Some economists said the decision reflects a need to repair the country's relationship with China, after the incident earlier this year when the crew of a crashed U.S. spy plane was held for a short time in China.

"We may not like China and Bush may like communism even less, but the day is coming when any product will be manufactured in China more cheaply than anywhere else," said Chalmers Johnson, a former professor of economics at the University of California.

Man accused in shoe bomb case headed to federal court in Boston for bail hearing

BOSTON (AP) — Government officials say the explosives-laden sneakers an airline passenger allegedly tried to ignite appear to have no metal in them, which may have helped foil a suspected bombing attempt.

Testing showed indications of PETN, a material used to make the explosive Semtex, the same material used by Libyan terrorists to down Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, the officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

They said a nonmetal fuse in the shoes could have picked up enough moisture to make the explosives difficult to light.

Authorities have been retracing suspect Richard C. Reid's travels across

Europe and the Middle East and tracking his recent purchases in search of possible ties to terrorists. They said they haven't drawn any conclusions about whether Reid had accomplices. Reid's court-appointed lawyer said she knew of no evidence connecting him to terrorism.

Reid, 28, allegedly tried to detonate explosives on an American Airlines flight from Paris to Miami on Saturday. He was overpowered by flight attendants and passengers and the plane was diverted to Boston.

Reid was charged with intimidation or assault of a flight crew, which carries a maximum 20-year sentence, but the FBI has indicated additional counts are likely.

Prosecutors in Boston planned to ask a judge Friday to order Reid held without bail as he awaits trial. They were expected to argue at the bail hearing that he poses a danger to society and would likely flee the country if released.

Some officials who have been briefed on the investigation said the information being gathered about Reid suggests he may have had help. They specifically cited the construction of the bombs in his shoes.

"I would doubt very seriously he did it by himself," said Rep. John Mica, R-Fla., chairman of the House aviation subcommittee.

But assistant federal public defender Tamar R. Birkhead, one of Reid's court-appointed lawyers,

said she was unaware of any evidence linking Reid to terrorists.

"We urge the press and the public to maintain open minds as the criminal justice system proceeds," she said.

Reid's mother, Lesley Hughes, of Frome, in southwest England, released a statement through a law firm Thursday saying "she has no knowledge of this matter" other than what she has heard and read in the news media.

U.S. officials are trying to corroborate claims from some low-level al-Qaida prisoners that Reid trained with them at Osama bin Laden's terrorist camps in Afghanistan. They warned that the prisoners could be wrong, or lying.

Search on for man whose wife, children were found dead in bay

NEWPORT, Ore. (AP) — A nationwide alert was issued for a man whose wife and three children were found dead in a coastal inlet along the central Oregon coast.

The "attempt to locate" bulletin is being circulated among law enforcement agencies across the country in an effort to find Christian Longo, said Bernice Barnett, Lincoln County's district attorney.

No warrant has been issued for his arrest.

The bodies of Longo's wife, Mary Jane Longo, 35, and 2-year-old daughter, Madison, were discovered Thursday by divers in Yaquina Bay.

Authorities began searching the bay after the father's other two children, Zachary Michael Longo, 5, and Sadie Ann Longo, 3,

were found dead last week in the same inlet, 14 miles south of Newport. Their deaths have been declared homicides by the state medical examiner's office.

At a news conference Thursday prior to the discovery of the mother and child, county Sheriff John O'Brien said there was nothing to justify naming anyone as a homicide suspect.

The police are also looking for the family's green Dodge Durango with Michigan license plates.

Barnett said a place where the family had been staying in Newport was searched Wednesday and material taken from the residence is being processed by the Oregon State Police Crime Lab.

Barnett did not disclose the address.

Missing toddler found in West Virginia after being kidnapped on Christmas Eve

CHICAGO (AP) — A Christmas nightmare finally ended for a mother when her 16-month-old daughter was found in West Virginia, days after being snatched from a Chicago bus station by a stranger.

Jasmine Anderson was found Thursday after a nationwide search that led authorities to a home in Williamson, W.Va., where the kidnapping suspect allegedly took the toddler after the

Christmas Eve abduction, said Thomas J. Kneir, special agent in charge of the FBI's Chicago office.

The child was apparently in good health and in the custody of West Virginia authorities until she could be reunited with her parents.

Police arrested Sheila Matthews, 33, who has been charged with one count of federal kidnapping. She was taken into custody and was scheduled to appear in court in

West Virginia on Friday.

A tip from a relative of Matthews' boyfriend led to the arrest.

"We're really grateful to everyone who helped," said the child's mother, Marcella Anderson, fighting back tears. "Especially the family members who were brave enough to come forward and had really good hearts, and God bless everyone."

Police say Matthews took the

child to cover up a lie she made to her boyfriend. Matthews told him she had a baby while he was in a California prison, and when the man was released, she told him her mother was caring for the baby in Chicago, police said.

"When she went to the Greyhound station that night, she was looking to abduct a baby," said Philip Cline, chief of detectives for the Chicago Police Department. A woman also named

Sheila Matthews pleaded guilty in 1988 to a kidnapping charge in Washington. That woman abducted a 2 1/2-year-old girl from her parents in Seattle in 1987. Nancy Matthews, the alleged abductor's grandmother, said it was not the first time her granddaughter had been accused of taking someone's child.

"Throw the book at her," Nancy Matthews said. "She has done this two more times."

child to cover up a lie she made to her boyfriend. Matthews told him she had a baby while he was in a California prison, and when the man was released, she told him her mother was caring for the baby in Chicago, police said.

"When she went to the Greyhound station that night, she was looking to abduct a baby," said Philip Cline, chief of detectives for the Chicago Police Department. A woman also named

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D E C 2 8 2 0 0 1

Two San Antonio residents celebrate 212 years of life

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Amelia McDaniel and Julia Hoyle-Gayden have a few things in common. Both live in San Antonio, both have strong beliefs, and both celebrated birthdays Wednesday.

McDaniel, 105, is the young one. Hoyle-Gayden is 107.

"It's unbelievable," said Dr. Thomas T. Perls, a geriatrician at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston, Mass., and an assistant professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School.

"There are about 50,000 centenarians living in the United States but having two celebrating their birthdays on the same day in the same city — San Antonio is truly lucky," Perls told the San Antonio Express-News.

"The average age of death in the United States is 77," said Perls, who runs a longevity study with two Boston hospitals.

"Why some are living beyond that can be attributed to anything from environment to good genes."

McDaniel attributes her longevity to three things: "It's good to listen," she said. "And it's important to be good. One other thing, it's good to know there's a God somewhere."

Several blocks away, Hoyle-Gayden also credits God for her long life.

She agrees that good genes also are a factor, as is crystal-clean living.

The women, who don't know each other, are both sound of mind.

And neither lets age affect her eating habits.

McDaniel loves fried chicken and shrimp gumbo. Hoyle-Gayden's not shy about adding hot sauce to her enchiladas, beans, ham and turkey, which were among the dishes at her birthday celebration Wednesday.

For her birthday, McDaniel celebrated with a cupcake.

She was also presented with gifts from her friends and workers at Alta Vista Nursing Home, where she lives.

"There's going to be a

bigger celebration for her on Sunday at her church," said Rosie Flores, activities director at Mount Olive Baptist Church.

McDaniel said she loves praying and enjoys visiting sick friends at Alta Vista. She uses a walker, but is still very mobile.

"I enjoy seeing people," she said. "I like to keep doing things."

She moved to San Antonio in the 1940s and soon after met her husband, Tommy McDaniel.

They were married for more than 40 years and had two children, but she outlived them all. She has one stepgrandson, Ernest Collins.

A member of Mount Olive Baptist Church for more than 60 years, McDaniel enjoys getting dressed to attend Sunday services.

According to Flores, McDaniel attends church at least twice a month.

God is important to Hoyle-Gayden, too.

Wednesday morning, her pastor, the Rev. Sarah Davis, called to wish her a happy birthday and pray with her over the phone.

Miss Julia, as she's known to family and friends, treated her 107th birthday like a New Year's Eve celebration, staying awake until midnight to ring it in.

Around 3 p.m., nearly 30 relatives from Arlington and Houston arrived for her birthday party.

It's been a tradition since she turned 100.

Miss Julia, a retired teacher, has been a stalwart supporter of women's and civil rights, an active member of the NAACP until she could no longer drive.

She also likes to tell stories.

Relative howled and winked as she recited all of the Great Lakes and shrugged off light teasing about returning from a solo trip to Kansas in June 1976 with a special souvenir — her third husband.

As for her 108th celebration, she said she'll be here.

"Unless I'm called to the kingdom," she said.

From macaroni to lip balm, gifts flood into New York City

NEW YORK (AP) — Love came to New York City in boxes of grapefruit, heaps of homemade quilts and 17 tons of macaroni and cheese.

Supporters have donated hundreds of millions of dollars since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. But when a check didn't quite express the right sentiment, they sent, well, just about everything else.

The city has received three firetrucks, including the 29-foot, 42,000-pound pumper sent from Louisiana last week to replace some of the 35 trucks lost in the attacks.

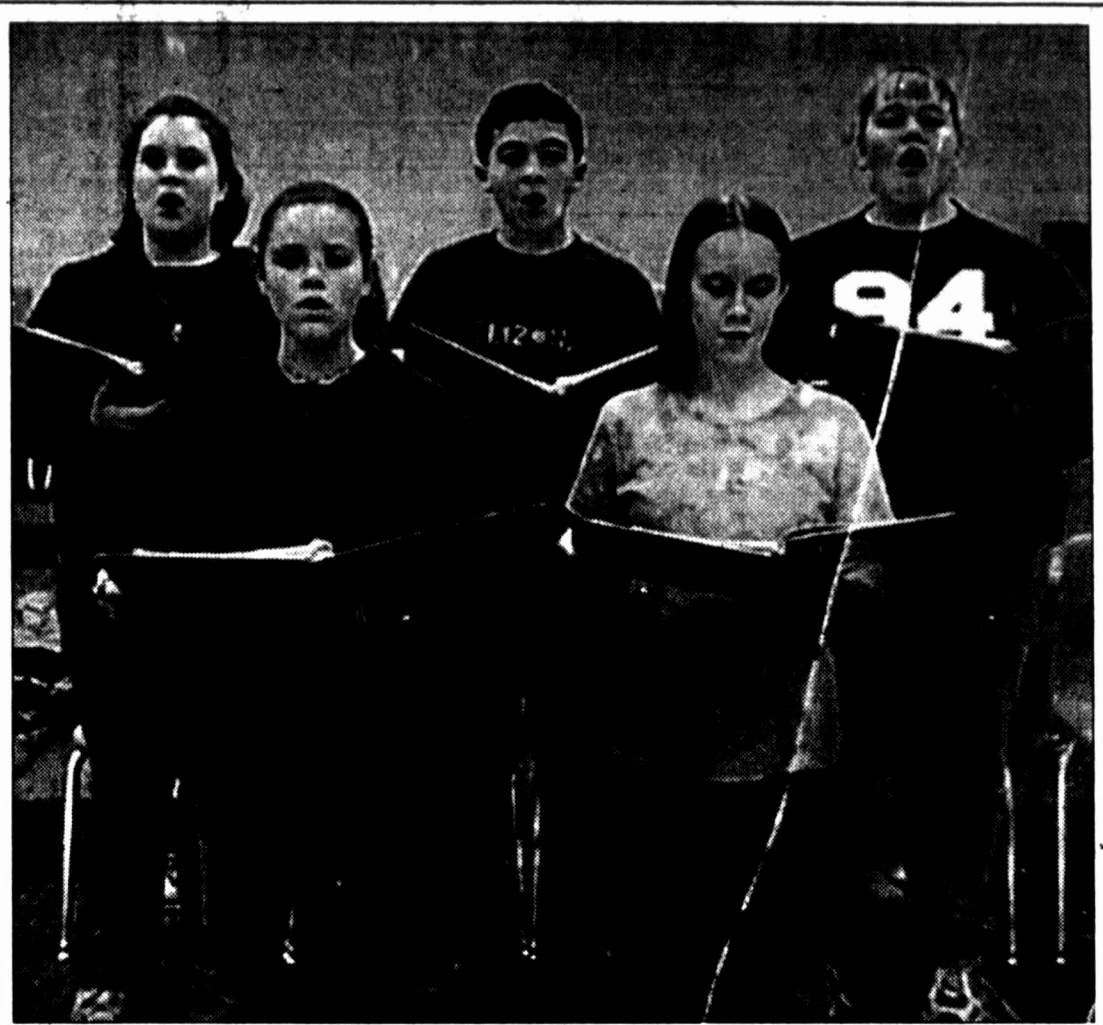
Many gave practical items, like the Kansas elementary school students who brought work socks and lip balm for rescue workers this week. A group of lowans sent 1,500 quilts. Florida schoolchildren collected mittens.

High school students from North Dakota brought 229,320 servings of macaroni and cheese.

"We were going to send money, but then we thought North Dakota is famous for its pasta, so why don't we send something that really shows what we do and where we're from," said Morgan Greaves, 15.

She and eight other students delivered the 17 tons of macaroni to City Harvest, a New York organization that feeds the needy and provides meals to workers at the World Trade Center site.

The thoughts, the gifts, the prayers, the well-wishing have all been an important aspect of the healing."



Courtesy photo

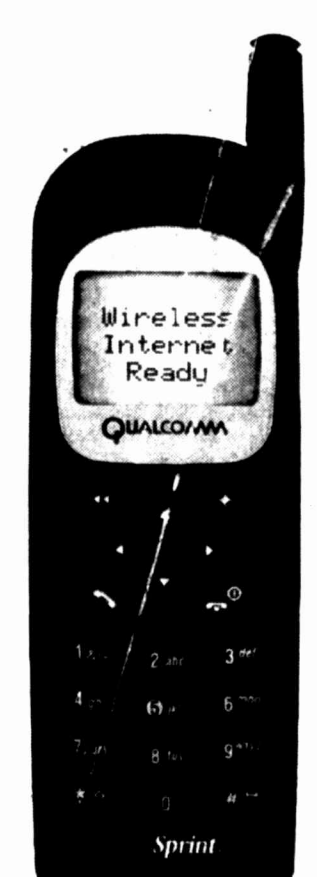
These Coahoma seventh and ninth graders were chosen to be part of the Region II Junior High All-Region Choir and performed in concert in Abilene on Nov. 17. They competed against students from Wichita Falls to San Angelo and including the Abilene area. Front row — Kayla Hogan and Callie Paige. Back Row — Chelsea Griffin, Tyler Tucker and Callie Price. Chelsea Griffin and Callie Price are second year members of the Region Choir.

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SCHOOL NEWS

At pre-area competition on Nov. 30 in Odessa, four of six Big Spring High School qualified choir students cleared the second of three hurdles in their attempts to be selected for All-State Choir.

The four competed against other members of the All-Region Choir to earn one of the five slots per section in the area

competition to be held in January.

Kimberly Jumper attained fourth chair as an Alto 2.

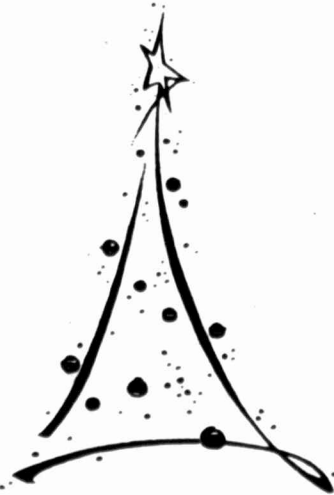
Alex Edgemon achieved the first chair slot as a tenor 2.

Andrew Campbell was selected fifth chair as Bass 1 and Brian Wingert won third chair in the Bass 2 section.

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First United

Pastor David present a message entitled, "Let's Grow Up!" by scripture text 52. Youth for junior and combined will meet at the Parlee building.

On Monday baby-sit from 8 a.m. for those who wish to go on Year's Eve.

Interested parties contact Youth Courtney Johnson at the church of their information.

On New Year's Senior Adult FUMC will hold a year 2002 w Year's brunch at 9:30 a.m. in

The Singles M hold a New Year party at the home of Henry.

On Wednesday Choir party was the home Minister Jim V

On Thursday Link group will church library.

There will be programs offered.

New Year's we ther information the program.

United Methodist please call 267-

We wish a happy and b

Year 2002.

Coahoma Unit Methodist

We have Christmas, and would like to i

join us in some that might help to usher in the

Sunday, Fifth special worship service regular service a.m. New Cover leading us with music.

Monday, Water celebrate the co new year.

We will me church at 6:30 lowship and a n chili, cornbread and all the little desserts.

This will be fo devotional, th want to stay games we will time of fellowship Plan to join u

cial evening.



CHURCH NEWS

First United Methodist
Pastor Dave Ring will present a message Sunday entitled, "Let the Baby Grow Up!" based on the scripture text of Luke 2:39-52. Youth fellowships - junior and senior high combined this Sunday - will meet at 5 p.m. in the Partee building.

On Monday Youth will baby-sit from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. for those parents who wish to go out on New Year's Eve.

Interested parties should contact Youth Minister Courtney Johnson through the church office for further information.

On New Year's Day the Senior Adult Ministry of FUMC will kick off the year 2002 with a New Year's brunch, beginning at 9:30 a.m. in Garrett Hall. The Singles Ministry will hold a New Year's evening party at the home of Jackie Henry.

On Wednesday a Chancel Choir party will be held at the home of Music Minister Jim Wright.

On Thursday the Golden Link group will meet in the church library at 10 a.m.

There will be no other programs offered during New Year's week. For further information on any of the programs of First United Methodist Church please call 267-6394.

We wish everyone a happy and blessed New Year 2002.

Coahoma United Methodist

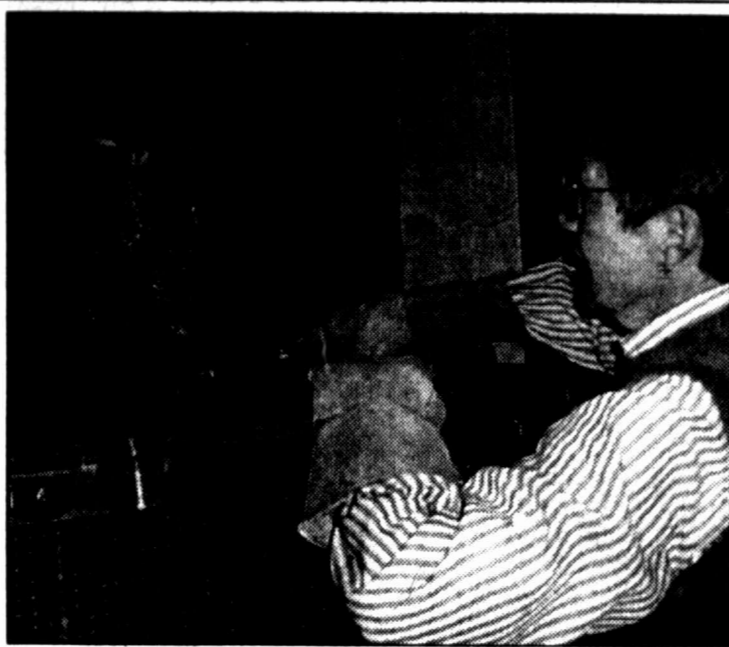
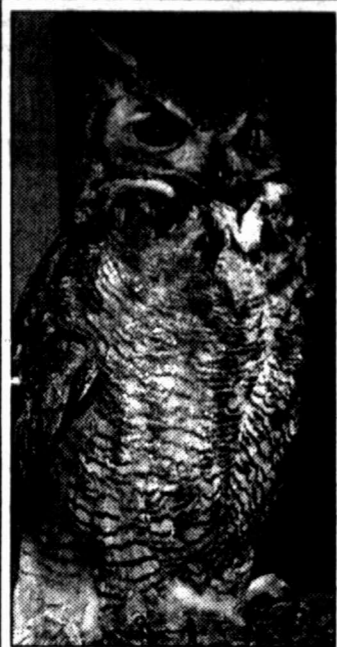
We have celebrated Christmas, and now we would like to invite you to join us in some activities that might help us prepare to usher in the new year - Sunday, Fifth Sunday special worship service at our regular service time at 11 a.m. New Covenant will be leading us with praise and music.

Monday, Watch Night to celebrate the coming of the new year.

We will meet at the church at 6:30 p.m. for fellowship and a meal of stew, chili, cornbread, crackers, and all the little extras, and desserts.

This will be followed by a devotional, then if any want to stay and play games we will have that time of fellowship.

Plan to join us for a special evening.



HERALD photo/Andrea Medlin
This great horned owl was discovered sitting by the road on Interstate Highway 20 and was brought to Bebe McCasland, wildlife preservist. The owl suffered a head injury and will be transferred to the Lubbock sanctuary upon its recovery.

Actor Cheech Marin promotes vision of artists

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Cheech Marin made a name portraying a hapless pot-head from the Hispanic barrios, and now he's using the fruits of that celebrity to promote the visions of Mexican-American artists.

Marin is the driving force behind "Chicano Visions: American Painters on the Verge," which opened this month at the San Antonio Museum of Art.

He says Chicanos have long contributed quietly to America's cultural identity, and the evidence of that is becoming more obvious through the work of its artists.

"It's like you put fingerprint powder on it," said Marin. "Before it was invisible, but now it's glowing in the dark."

Marin rose to fame in the late 1970s and early 1980s alongside longtime partner Tommy Chong in several film comedies about their characters' pot-smoking exploits. He went on to star in the hit CBS series "Nash Bridges," while pursuing an extensive art collection. He provided many of the paintings on display.

The 60 works by more than two dozen artists date back to the early 1970s and cover a range of styles and influences — some are crudely primitive, others sparsely abstract, and still more employ an almost photographic realism.

But common themes from Chicano life are found in many of the paintings: explosions of vivid, sometimes-clashing colors; the powerful grip of religion as expressed through the use of icons and imagery; human violence and brutal-

ity; and politics as seen from the vantage point of an American underclass.

"My argument has long been that these Chicano painters are forming a 'school' — that they are about something," said Marin, who was in San Antonio for the show's opening. "Every piece shows you another piece of the culture."

In a piece titled "The Virgin of Guadalupe and Other Baggage," painter Rupert Garcia created a pastel triptych with the virgin Mary as the center image, flanked by a bright red poppy on one side and a shirt riddled with bloody bullet holes on the other.

Garcia, 60, said the virgin — the patron saint of Mexico — has been a central image in his life since his childhood in California farm country.

"I've been moved more by her than by Jesus," he said from his home in Oakland, Calif. "I haven't figured out why."

Garcia called the exhibit "a

whirlwind" composed of varied viewpoints, feelings and experiences, some then not exclusively Chicano. His second work on display, "Homage to Tanya and the Soviet Defeat," was done after he watched a TV documentary on the Battle of Stalingrad in World War II. "When I saw it, I couldn't believe this heroic battle. I was moved to make a series of paintings about it," said Garcia, a Vietnam veteran who later protested that war.

But even that work takes on Chicano highlights, as Garcia rains brightly colored confetti from a children's fiesta game on the Soviet defenders.

Vincent Valdez, a 24-year-old painter from San Antonio, says older artists like Garcia have influenced his work. He said he's thrilled to be in the same room with them.

"This show posits that the influence of Latino culture is not a sidelight — it's one that's a main thread in our (national) fabric," he said.

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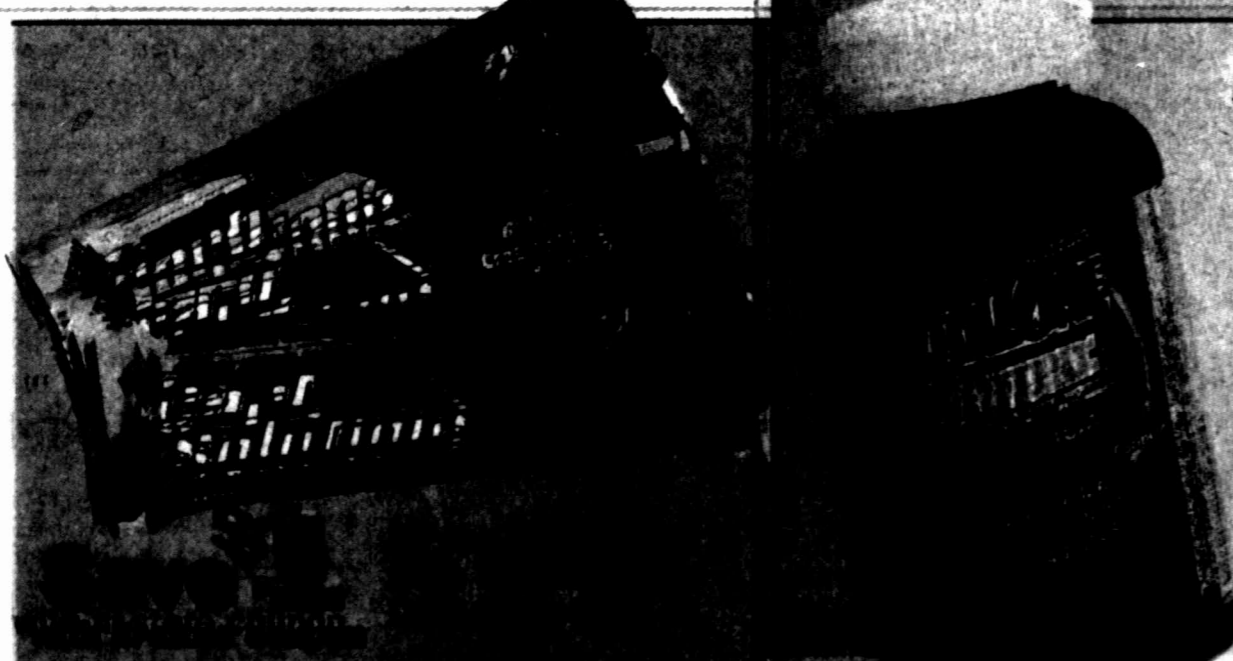
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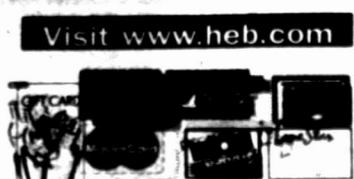
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**Prices Good Friday, December 28, 2001 thru Tuesday, January 1, 2002
At your Neighborhood H-E-B Store.**

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. Some items may not be available at the following stores: Brownsville 1-001, Laredo 1-002, San Antonio 4-043, 6-047, 31-148, 7-211, 14-178, 28-133 & 3-466, Killeen 1-072, Waco 3-087, Del Rio 1-088, Sinton 1-15, Carrizo Springs 1-41, Crystal City 1-17, Kingsland 1-54, Kenedy 1-55, Pearsall 1-58, Ingleside 1-71, Fallurus 2-00 and Marlin 1-04 ©2001 H-E-B Food Stores 02-0380



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H-E-B Celebrate the new year!



18 pack longnecks, **\$8.99** ea.

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3 L btl., regular or diet

Coca-Cola Classic, Diet Coke or Sprite, 12 pk., 12 oz cans, regular or diet, \$2.98 ea.

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While Supplies Last!

H-E-B Spiral Sliced Bone-In Ham

\$10 off coupon on package



\$14.99 ea.

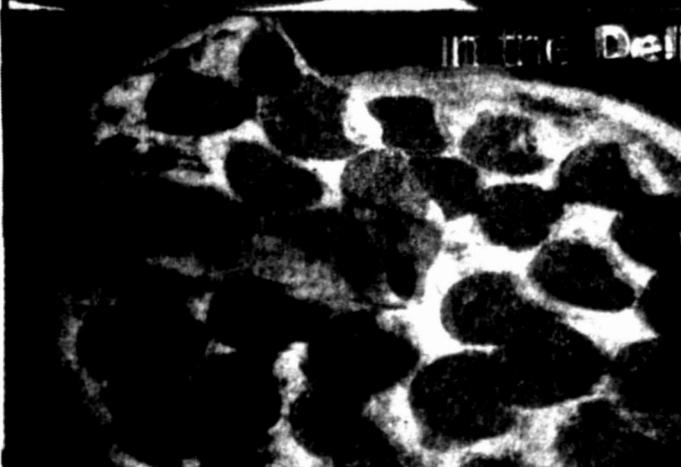
H-E-B Single Shrimp Platter with Sauce

H-E-B Double Shrimp Platter with Sauce, \$24.99 ea.



\$1.99 lb. **Hill Country Fare Seasoned Beef for Fajitas**

value pack, limit-2



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2 \$3 for **H-E-B Thin Potato Chips** 12.25 oz. bag assorted varieties

Try our NEW Flavors in Jalapeño & Cheese, Jalapeño or Lemon!



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great for dips! Fresh Spinach Dip Kit, 10 ea. pkg., \$2.99 ea.

Prices Good Friday, December 28, 2001 thru Tuesday, January 1, 2002 at your Big Spring and Odessa H-E-B Stores.

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

We Accept



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IN B

Coahoma te wins at tou

Coahoma's B opened play round of the Tatum Tournament win over Mer Yellowjackets Crystal Atk the Bulldoget points, wh Sterling had Lauren Nic Kynzi Robert the game y points apiece. The Bulldo improved to year, were sl the winner of County-Midla at 6:30 tonight Coahoma's were even mo ful, as they boys' divisio Reagan Cou with a 72-23 Reagan Cour varsity. Chase Ward Bulldogs with while Randal Travis Hipp points apiece. The win in Bulldogs' rec going into tod game against

Bufs chalk in tourney o

Forsan's opened play Sterling City Basketball T on Thursday win over Mile Josh Helm the way for scoring a ga points, wh Johnson adde West Longorl ished in dou with 10 points The win Forsan's reco the season. The Bufs v uled to Westbrook, a ner of Sterling squad, in se action today.

Bass Club a honors to m

Marty Wh Glenda Gillih top awards w Spring Bass C annual Dece quet. Whetsel w male angler while Gilliha only named fe of the year, b the award for catching the the year. The male caught the big the year McMahon, Stokes was n angler of the The club w first meeting on Tuesday, J Best Western

Youth bask sign-ups un

Registration newly-formed Youth Basket for the 14-and division h extended unt at the Big Sp YMCA, 801 O

ON TH

Radio COLLEGE FOOT 6:30 p.m. — Bowl, Texas Lo Washington Hu AM 1490.

Television COLLEGE FOOT 4 p.m. — Mus Boston College ESPN, Ch. 30. 7:30 p.m. — Bowl, Texas vs. ESPN, Ch. 30.

SPORTS EXTRA

AP TOP 25

The Top Twenty Five teams in The Associated Press college football poll, with first place votes in parentheses and records through Dec. 8:

Record table with columns for rank, team, and record. Top teams include Miami (72), Oregon, Colorado, Nebraska, Florida, Maryland, Illinois, Tennessee, Texas, Oklahoma, Stanford, LSU, Washington St., South Carolina, Virginia Tech, Georgia, Syracuse, BYU, Fresno St., Washington, Ohio St., Louisville, Florida St., Toledo.

BOWL SCHEDULE

Friday, Dec. 28: Gallery Furniture.com Bowl at Houston \$750,000; Texas A&M (7-4) vs. TCU (6-5), 12:30 p.m. (ESPN); Music City Bowl at Nashville, Tenn. \$750,000; Boston College (7-4) vs. Georgia (8-3), 4 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. (ESPN); Monday, Dec. 31: Sun Bowl at El Paso, Texas \$1 million; Washington State (9-2) vs. Purdue (6-5), 11 a.m. (CBS); Humanitarian Bowl at Boise, Idaho \$750,000; Louisiana Tech (7-4) vs. Clemson (6-5), 11:30 p.m. (ESPN); Silicon Valley Classic at San Jose, Calif. \$750,000; Fresno State (11-2) vs. Michigan State (6-5), 2 p.m. (FOX); 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. \$11.13 million; Colorado (10-2) vs. Oregon (10-1), 3:30 p.m. (ABC); Sugar Bowl at New Orleans \$11.13 million; Illinois (10-1) vs. Louisiana State (9-3), 7:30 p.m. (ABC); Wednesday, Jan. 2: Orange Bowl at Miami \$11.13 million; Maryland (10-1) vs. Florida (9-2), 7 p.m. (ABC); Thursday, Jan. 3: Rose Bowl at Pasadena, Calif. \$11.13 million; Miami (11-0) vs. Nebraska (11-1), 7 p.m.

Ward \$10,000 for launching Baltimore Ravens S Rod Woodson in a game on Dec. 11. CLEVELAND BROWNS—Placed HB Aaron Shea on injured reserve. Signed DE Derrick Horn from the practice squad. GREEN BAY PACKERS—Signed LB Paris Lenon from practice squad. Released CB Hurley Tarver. TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS—Signed K Doug Brann to a one-year contract. Placed S Eric Vance on injured reserve.

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE East table with columns for team, W, L, T, Pct, PF, PA. Teams include x-New England, Miami, N.Y. Jets, Indianapolis, Buffalo, Cincinnati, Pittsburgh, Baltimore, Tennessee, Cleveland, Jacksonville, Cincinnati.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE East table with columns for team, W, L, T, Pct, PF, PA. Teams include Philadelphia, N.Y. Giants, Arizona, Washington, Dallas, Chicago, x-Chicago, x-Green Bay, Tampa Bay, Minnesota, Detroit, x-St. Louis, x-San Francisco, Atlanta, New Orleans, Carolina, x-Cincinnati, x-Cleveland, x-Denver, x-New England.

Saturday's Games, Sunday's Games, Monday's Games, Tuesday's Games, Wednesday's Games, Thursday's Games. Lists matchups and times for various NFL games.

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE Atlantic Division table with columns for team, W, L, Pct, GB. Teams include New Jersey, Boston, Washington, New York, Orlando, Philadelphia, Miami. Also includes Western Conference and Pacific Division tables.

Thursday's Games, Today's Games, Saturday's Games. Lists matchups and times for various NBA games.

San Antonio at Milwaukee, 7:30 p.m. Philadelphia at Utah, 8 p.m. Denver at Phoenix, 8 p.m. Toronto at Seattle, 9 p.m. Sunday's Games: Miami at Detroit, 5 p.m. San Antonio at Memphis, 6 p.m. Orlando at New York, 6 p.m. Houston at Sacramento, 8 p.m. Boston at L.A. Lakers, 8:30 p.m. Minnesota at Portland, 9 p.m.

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE Atlantic Division table with columns for team, W, L, T, Pct, Pts, GF, GA. Teams include N.Y. Rangers, Philadelphia, N.Y. Islanders, New Jersey, Pittsburgh, Toronto, Boston, Ottawa, Montreal, Buffalo, Carolina, Tampa Bay, Washington, Florida, Atlanta.

Thursday's Games, Today's Games, Saturday's Games. Lists matchups and times for various NHL games.

TRANSACTIONS

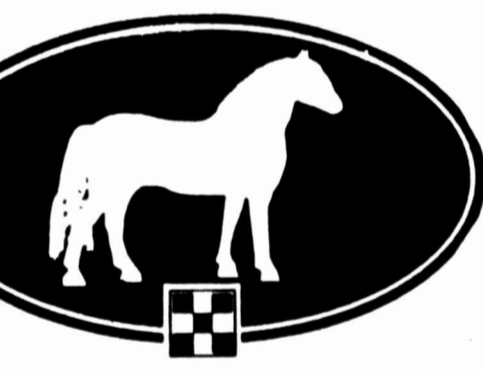
WESTERN CONFERENCE Central Division table with columns for team, W, L, T, Pct, Pts, GF, GA. Teams include Detroit, Chicago, St. Louis, Nashville, Columbus, Colorado, Edmonton, Tampa, Minnesota, Vancouver, San Jose, Dallas, Phoenix, Anaheim, Los Angeles, Phoenix. Also includes Women's Games section.

FISHING REPORT

Here is the weekly fishing report as compiled for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for Dec. 26. (Report also available on Web at www.tfw.org.) CENTRAL BROWNWOOD: Water stained. Black bass are good on chum. Carp are good on chum. Striped bass are good on shad. White bass are slow on minnows and jigs. Crappie are slow on minnows and jigs. Catfish are slow on minnows and jigs. Yellow perch are slow on minnows and jigs. Sunfish are slow on minnows and jigs. Bluegill are slow on minnows and jigs. Bass are slow on minnows and jigs. Trout are slow on minnows and jigs. Pike are slow on minnows and jigs. Walleye are slow on minnows and jigs. Rock bass are slow on minnows and jigs. Spottail shiner are slow on minnows and jigs. Golden shiner are slow on minnows and jigs. White sucker are slow on minnows and jigs. Yellow perch are slow on minnows and jigs. Striped bass are slow on minnows and jigs. White bass are slow on minnows and jigs. Crappie are slow on minnows and jigs. Catfish are slow on minnows and jigs. Yellow perch are slow on minnows and jigs. Sunfish are slow on minnows and jigs. Bluegill are slow on minnows and jigs. Bass are slow on minnows and jigs. Trout are slow on minnows and jigs. Pike are slow on minnows and jigs. Walleye are slow on minnows and jigs. Rock bass are slow on minnows and jigs. Spottail shiner are slow on minnows and jigs. Golden shiner are slow on minnows and jigs. White sucker are slow on minnows and jigs.

Huskies, 'Horns try to get it right at Holiday Bowl!

SAN DIEGO (AP) — There's no shortage of motivation for the No. 9 Texas and No. 21 Washington in the Holiday Bowl. Both teams are coming off devastating losses, and the Longhorns have the added burden of having lost last year's Holiday Bowl. Going into Friday night's game, some Longhorns admit they're still down about their 39-37 loss to Colorado in the Big 12 championship game on Dec. 1 that cost them a shot at playing Miami in the Rose Bowl. "It was hard, but if you're going to be at Texas and play for championships, you're not going to win them all, and if you don't win one, I'm glad they're down," coach Mack Brown said. "If you ever get so losing's not important to you and it doesn't hurt you, then you shouldn't be playing this game." "Last year in this Oregon game, they were crushed. And I think that's brought back some memories. We don't want to leave here feeling like we did last year." Texas lost 35-30 to Oregon in last year's Holiday Bowl. Despite throwing four interceptions, Chris Simms still moved the Longhorns into position to win in the closing minutes, only to watch his receivers drop two passes in the end zone and another pass that might have been a touchdown. Even though the Holiday Bowl might have the feel of a consolation prize, the Longhorns (10-2) can become just the fifth team in school history to win 11 games if they beat the Huskies (9-3). Washington is trying to get over the sting of a 65-7 loss at No. 1 Miami on Nov. 24. Major Applewhite, Texas' career passing leader who's backed up Simms all season, will start his final college game. He earned it after replacing the turnover-plagued Simms in the Colorado game and leading a rally that fell just short. "We're just trying to treat it like any other position — the guy that gives us the best chance to win at that time, we put in the game, and our guys understand that," Brown said. Washington coach Rick Neuheisel, a former quarterback, knows what Applewhite brings. "It is obvious when Major Applewhite goes in the game, the team lifts," Neuheisel said. "That's not a knock on Chris Simms; I think Chris Simms is going to play for a long time." "The point of the matter is, Major Applewhite knows how to play the position, he knows how to shoulder the blame associated with the position, he knows how to deflect the credit — he deflects it to his teammates. That's why teammates obviously love playing for him." Washington has an interesting situation at quarterback, where sophomore Cody Pickett has played most of the season with a separated throwing shoulder. Despite the injury, he set a school record with 455 yards passing against Arizona on Oct. 20, and scored the winning touchdown on a 3-yard run with 17 seconds left. Pickett's toughness shouldn't come as a surprise. He's the son of former rodeo star Dee Pickett and was a rodeo cowboy himself growing up in Idaho. "As his dad says, he just rubs a little dirt on it," Neuheisel said. "I'm amazed. I've had that injury and I know how painful it is. He's been remarkable in his ability to just do it."



Old Friends.

Advertisement for EQUINE SENIOR horse feed. Text includes: "Nutritionally advanced Equine Senior Feed is exclusively formulated with added nutrients for the special needs of an older horse's less efficient metabolic system." "Unique patented feed form is easy to chew and digest." "Highly palatable; helps horses stay on feed." "Improves skin and hair coat." Includes image of the feed bag and contact information for Howard County Feed & Supply.

Advertisement for INTOUCH TELECOM. Text includes: "Everyone Approved! Heard this before? We Mean It... Why wait? With free phones and rate plans as little as \$19, there's never been a better time to be 'mobile'. For a limited time, we'll even throw in a free leather case, free car charger, and free hands free kit." Includes image of a mobile phone and contact information.

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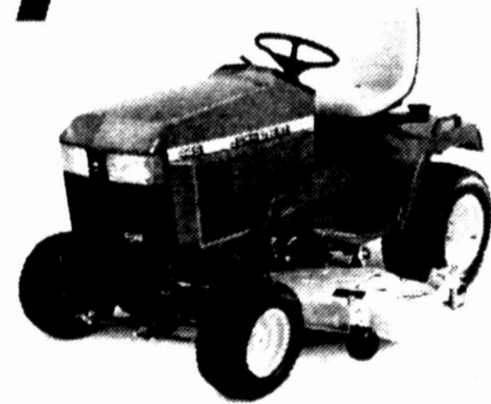
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HELP WANTED

Big Spring State Hospital is hiring for a Human Resources Benefits Coordinator Salary: \$1,812.00 - \$1,912.00 DOE Shift: 8:00 - 5:00 Monday - Friday This position requires someone with experience in coordinating insurance programs (familiarity with FMLA needed), secretary duties, and time-keeping duties. Also prefer someone with experience purchasing departmental supplies, typing correspondence, maintaining a file system, and providing general administrative support. Must be a highly energetic, motivated, and a team player.

Big Spring State Hospital is a great place to work, offering an excellent benefits package, and is a Certified Mother Friendly Workplace. Please apply in person at 1907 North Hwy 87, Big Spring, TX 79720 Equal Opportunity Employer (915) 268-7256

Comanche Trail Nursing Center has an opening for a certified food service supervisor: * Good Supervisory skills needed * Long term care experience * Computer skills * Benefit Package Send resume to 3200 Parkway, Big Spring, TX 79720 or fax to 915-263-4067

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Mountain View Lodge is in need of Asst. D.O.N./MDS Coordinator 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

Mountain View Lodge is now hiring a Charge nurse, 2/10 & 10/6 shifts, part-time/full-time. Excellent Benefits. Apply in person at 2009 Virginia

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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

HELP WANTED

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

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APPLIANCE REPAIR: A-Z Service washers & dryers, ranges, refrigerators, microwaves, Service Heating Units. Call 393-5217 for appointment 25 Years Exp. CHIMNEY CLEANING: Safety Inspection, Chimney caps, Masonry repairs, Fireplace accessories. CLINE BUILDING MAINT. 263-0999. HOME IMPROVEMENT: B&M FENCE CO. All Types of Fences - Repair Free Estimates... Phone 263-1613 MEMBER BBB. E'S REMODELING Kitchen, bath specializing in Ceramic tile, countertops, showers, floors. 816-8732 12 yrs. Exp. HOME REPAIRS: RS HOME REPAIR Remodel, Carpenter, Painting/Plumbing, Minor Electrical. FREE ESTIMATES Deadbolts Installed. 915-816-3030. CLEANING CREW: Honest, hardworking, dependable. Low rates, excellent references. For House Cleaning call 264-7802 or 756-3134 or cell 238-0478 Ask for Suzanne or Angie. HOUSE LEVELLING: House Levelling by David Lee & Co. Floor Bracing, Slab Pier & Beam, Insurance Claims. Free Estimates. References. "No payment until work is satisfactorily completed." 915-263-2355 www.davidleeco.com

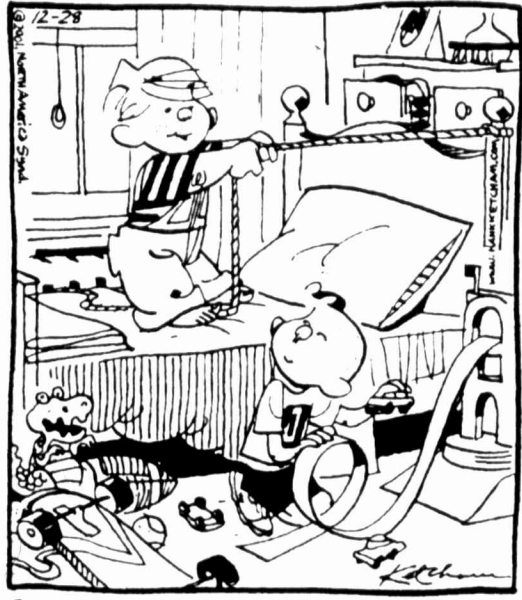
BIG SPRING HERALD Friday, December 28, 2001 LOANS MIDWEST FINANCE Loans \$100-\$430 Open M-F 9-6pm. 612 Gregg 263-1353. Phone appointments welcome. See Habi Espanol. GRAIN, HAY OR FEED Hay grazer round bales 4X5 Good quality From Lomax area. Call Steve Fryar @ 270-3545 or 315513. Do PETS. 4 - AKC Registered Chirs. Pugs, Blacks, Fawn. \$250 each. Call 267-3478. Free to good home male & female wolver must go as a pair 267-3478. GARAGE SALES Garage Sale, Sat. 8-12, 2611 Crestline. Old coke machine, furn. Garage sale, Sat. 8-12, 3610 Calvin. Seg Nintendo 64, birdcage, all size clothes, furniture, TV, VCR more. Garage sale, Sat. 8-12, Main Fri. & Sat. 10 Year End Clearance Furniture, TV's, Household items, Mattresses. Everything at cheap prices. FOUND / LOST PETS Lost in Silver Hills, white Germa Sheppard. Reward Belongs to 5 yr. old. Cd 267-6525 or 268-9649 MISCELLANEOUS YANMAR YM 150 Tractor, diesel, 3 point hitch, \$2,150. Also, ne 41 finish mower, still crate, \$850. Shovel available. Located ju outside Huntsville, (256) 776-9434 www.maynardequipm nt.com Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays From Big Spring Driver Education Register Jan 3rd & 4th - 5pm Class starts January Call 268-1023 457-2340 or 270-4611 Lic #1200 Satellite TV Lowest Prices Call 1-800-568-7652 ACREAGE FOR SALE 14 acres 10 miles Ea of Big Spring on I-20. 13 acres including bri office bldg, mobi home, storage ar garage. North of town 87. Call 267-3261 MARTIN COUNTY 10.351 Acres North West Stanton on 2330 E. Interest reduc to 8.5% \$113/m Owner Finance. Fore agent 800-275-7376 BUILDINGS FOR RENT Warehouse with overhead doors ar small office. 510 E. 1: \$300/mo. \$150/de Call 263-5000 HOUSES FOR SALE 1307 Virginia For Sale By Owner Extremely nice large brnck home with covered parking, privacy fence, CHA new carpet, ceramic tile, A MUST SEE! \$37,000 263-1792 or 264-6006 2413 Morrison For Sale By Owner 3/2 CHA, carpet, ceramic tile, carport, large sunroom. \$36,000 263-0604 For Sale, 2/1 w/garag CH, fenced yar. Assumable loan qualified buye \$295/mn - low dov 830-285-4129 OWNER FINANCE Low Down, Ea Quality, No Glosi Cost. 3/1 new paint a flooring through o 1103 Sycamor 915-352-7778 BEAUTIFUL GARDEN COURTYARD Swimming Pool Private Patios Carports Appliances Most Utilities Paid Senior Citizens Discount 1 - 1 & 2 Bedroom Unfurnished PARKHILL TERRACE APARTMENTS 800 W. Marey Drive 263-5555 263-5500 Let Classifi Call 263

FRIDAY

DEC. 28

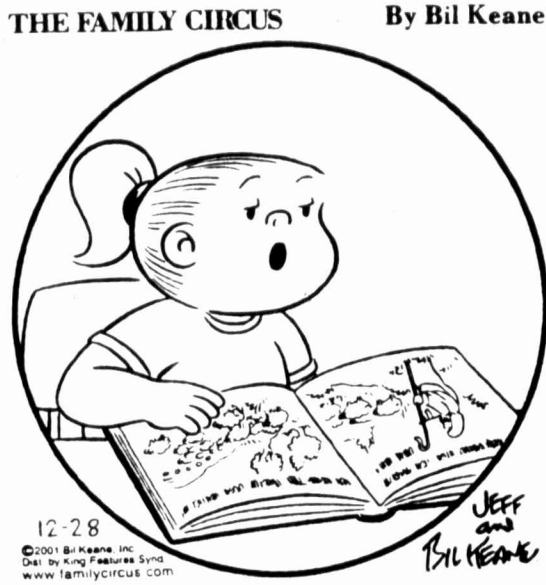
	KMID (2)	KPEJ (3)	KERA (5)	FAM (6)	KOSA (7)	WFAA (8)	KWES (9)	WTBS (11)	UNI (13)	DISN (14)	NASH (15)	TMC (16)	SHOW (20)	HBO (22)	KMLM (24)	A&E (25)	DISC (28)	TNT (28)	TLC (41)
6 PM	News Fortune	King of the Hill Raymond	Wishbone Zoboaloo	Step by Step Wonder Years	News Ent. Tonight	News (CC) Fortune	News Serinfeld (CC)	Friends (CC) Fresh Prince	Intrusa	Proud Family Lizzie	Mad TV (CC) Mad TV (CC)	Movie: Where the Money Is (CC)	Guy (CC)	Inside the NFL (CC)	Church John Hagee	Law & Order (CC)	Extreme Hawaii	Pretender (CC)	Secrets of Forensic Science
7 PM	Funnest Home Videos	Movie: Big Wash. Week Wall St. Week	Movie: Casper	Meets Wendy (CC)	Yes, Dear Ellen (CC)	Funnest Home Videos	Providence (CC)	Movie: Thunderheart	Amigas y Rivaldes (SS)	Movie: Zeron: Girl of the 21st Century (CC)	Star Trek: Next Gener.	Movie: The Color of Money	Book of Shadows: Blair Witch 2 (CC)	Majestic-Look Movie: Heat (CC)	Update With Faye Hardin	Biography (CC)	Behind the Terror	Movie: The Mask (CC)	Protect and Serve
8 PM	Domino Day (CC)	...	Mystery! (CC) (DVS)	Wander Years 700 Club (CC)	That's Life (CC)	Domino Day (CC)	DateLine (CC)	...	Derecho de Nacer (SS)	(8:50) Movie: The Other Me (CC)	Star Trek: Next Gener.	Money	Stargate SG-1 (45) Going to California (CC)	...	...	Pride and Prejudice (CC)	Weapons of the New War	...	Hunt for Amazing Treasures
9 PM	Why Don't the Kids	Cops (CC) Blind Date	Mystery! (CC) (DVS)	Wander Years 700 Club (CC)	48 Hours (CC)	Why Don't the Kids	Law & Order	...	Disenador Humor Es	(8:50) Movie: The Other Me (CC)	Star Trek: Next Gener.	Money	Stargate SG-1 (45) Going to California (CC)	...	...	Pride and Prejudice (CC)	Weapons of the New War	Movie: Crocodile Dundee	Treasures
10 PM	News Nightline	Jerry Springer (CC)	News-Lehrer	Wander Years 700 Club (CC)	News (35) Late	News (CC) Tonight	News (35) Tonight	...	P. Impacto Noticias Univ. Bienvenidos	(CC) Bug Juice 3!	Star Trek: Next Gener.	Money	Stargate SG-1 (45) Going to California (CC)	Greenlight	Hour of Healing	Law & Order (CC)	Justice Files	Dundee	Protect and Serve
11 PM	Final Score Politically Inc.	Suddenly Spin City (CC)	The Industry Red Green	Who's Boss? Who's Boss?	Show (CC) (37) Late	Ent. Tonight Politically Inc.	Show (CC) (37) Late	...	...	So Weird (CC) In a Heartbeat	Star Trek: Next Gener.	Single Sex Movie: Essex	Love Street Red Shoe	Def Poets Movie: Proof of Life (CC)	Update With Church	Biography (CC)	Behind the Terror	Movie: Conan the Barbarian	Hunt for Amazing Treasures
12 AM	Cheers Maximum	Attorney Divorce Court	Doctor Who Doctor Who	Paid Program Paid Program	Show (CC) Street Smarts	(12:05) Oprah Winfrey (CC)	Night (CC) Frasier	...	Maria la del Barrio	Zorro (CC) Mickey Mouse	Ultimate Pngg Small Shots	Boys (CC)	Movie: Fatal Attraction	of Life (CC)	Faith Pleases God	Pride and Prejudice	Weapons of the New War	...	Treasures

DENNIS THE MENACE



"I GUESS WE CAN GO BACK TO BEING NAUGHTY, 'CAUSE SANTA WON'T BE MAKING NEXT YEAR'S LIST FOR A WHILE."

FAMILY CIRCUS



"If a shepherd counts his sheep, wouldn't he fall asleep?"

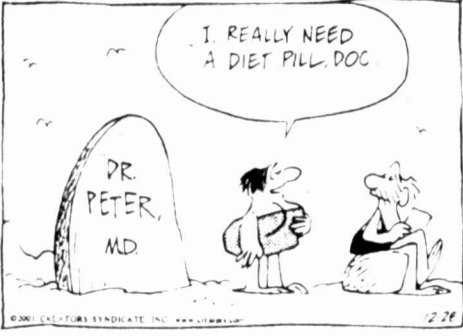
HAGAR



BLONDIE



B.C.



GEECH



WIZARD OF ID



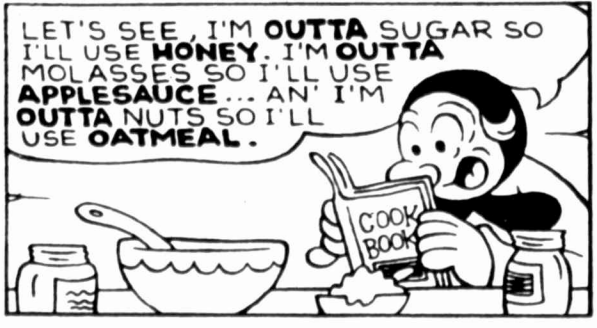
HI AND LOIS



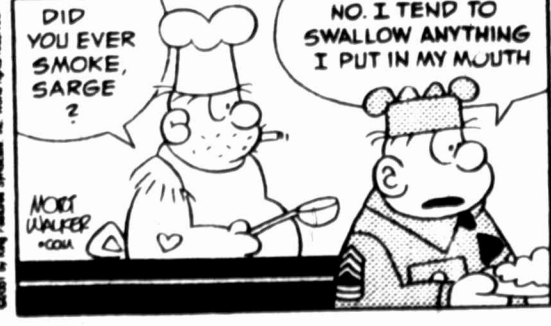
GASOLINE ALLEY



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILY



THIS DATE IN HISTORY

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

Today is Friday, December 28th, the 362nd day of 2001. There are three days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On December 28th, 1945, Congress officially recognized the "Pledge of Allegiance."

In 1694, Queen Mary the Second of England died after five years of joint rule with her husband, King William the Third.

In 1832, John C. Calhoun became the first vice president of the United States to resign, stepping down over differences with President Jackson.

In 1846, Iowa became the 29th state to be admitted to the Union.

In 1856, the 28th president of the United States, Thomas Woodrow Wilson,

was born in Staunton, Virginia.

In 1897, the play "Cyrano de Bergerac," by Edmond Rostand, premiered in Paris.

In 1917, the New York Evening Mail published a facetious - as well as fictitious - essay by H.L. Mencken on the history of bathtubs in America.

In 1937, composer Maurice Ravel died in Paris.

In 1944, the musical "On the Town" opened on Broadway.

In 1973, Alexander Solzhenitsyn published "Gulag Archipelago," an expose (eks-poh-SAY) of the Soviet prison system.

In 1981, Elizabeth Jordan became the first American "test-tube" baby, was born in Norfolk, Virginia.

Ten years ago: Nine people died in a crash to get into a rap basketball game at City College in New York.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin ordered state land privatized as he pushed ahead with his reforms.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Lou Jacobi is 88.

Bandleader Johnny Otis is 80. Former United Auto Workers union president Owen Bieber (BEE'-buhr) is 72.

Actress Dame Maggie Smith is 67. Rock singer-musician Charles Neville is 63.

Rock singer-musician Edgar Winter is 55. Rock singer-musician Alex Chilton (The Box Tops; Big Star) is 51.

Actor Denzel Washington is 47. Country singer Joe Diffie is 43.

Country musician Mike McGuire (Shenandoah) is 43.

Actor Chad McQueen is 41.

Answer to previous puzzle

SIC	ATION	USING
AF	MARIA	FISHING
WEST	POINT	INJURE
EGUL	SKIP	VERE
BETH	VISITOR	
WALK	ASPECTS	
EGO	APES	CROWDS
BROADWAY	JOURNAL	
BARUA	CALM	BRO
BATCH	HO	BANG
CANTIER	TREE	
OMAR	MAGE	DARTS
RAMIS	BALTI	MORE
ATRAY	BOUP	TEA
LIONS	ELROY	HEM

Newsday Crossword

DROP-OFF by Daniel R. Stark
Edited by Stanley Newman

- ACROSS
- 1 Miser's exclamation
- 5 Split apart
- 9 Percentage
- 13 Saint's picture
- 14 Magna
- 15 Waikiki's island
- 16 Is prosperous
- 19 Mesa Verde attraction
- 20 Islet
- 21 Turns, in a way
- 24 Unearth
- 28 Roofed-in gallery
- 29 Louisiana birds
- 32 Ivan's denial
- 33 Sorkin of The West Wing
- 34 French monarch
- 35 Russian dish
- 39 Miney follower
- 41 Locales
- 42 Jazzy Horne
- 45 Greek or Italian
- 47 Started to droop
- 49 Scrupulous accuracy
- 50 Regains consciousness
- 51 Be deceptive
- 53 Panoply
- 54 Speaks indiscreetly
- 61 Game piece
- 62 Olympia painter
- 63 Off-Broadway prize
- 64 "Break" (show-biz phrase)
- 65 Supplemented, with "out"
- 66 Berth place
- DOWN
- 1 Wire measure
- 2 Here, in Paris
- 3 Guy Fawkes Day mo.
- 4 Tucker out
- 5 Pours
- 6 Units of energy
- 7 Unspecified degree
- 8 Dossier contents
- 9 license
- 10 Ooh's partner
- 11 Pi follower
- 12 Harbor craft
- 14 Easter Island owner
- 17 Took to court
- 18 Covering up
- 21 Nagano honorific
- 22 Droll
- 23 Shipping hazard
- 25 Red gems
- 26 Half of due
- 27 " Love You" (Beatles tune)
- 29 Church plate
- 30 Does it wrong
- 31 Card game
- 33 Tinseltown terrier
- 36 de corps
- 37 Medieval interjection
- 38 Comics caveman
- 39 Debussy inspiration
- 40 Si, at Orly
- 43 What's left
- 44 Hoo-ha
- 46 Kind of tea
- 47 Most faulty
- 48 Moslem title
- 50 Nicene, for one
- 52 Salinger title character
- 53 Heche or Hathaway
- 54 Exercise center
- 55 Actor Linden
- 56 Be indebted to
- 57 Squirrel hangout
- 58 Caesar's "Where?"
- 59 Cause of extra innings
- 60 That yacht