



Sports

Bowl a winner for TCU

The Horned Frogs beat No. 20 East Carolina in the inaugural Mobile Alabama Bowl, but it won't be until 2001 that they join the Conference USA/1C

8

countdown to 2000

Today in 1999, the Reporter-Telegram asked, "What happens if the current session of Congress fails to reach a vote on a compromise solution to the budget?"



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Last-minute shopping rush is on for many

For some workers, holiday means business as usual

By Jennifer Cherry
Staff Writer

Most Midlanders are looking forward to the long weekend Christmas will bring this year. But for some, it will be business as usual. Letter carriers will pick up and deliver as normal on Friday, Christmas Eve. But according to Allen Brock, manager of customer services for the U.S. Postal Service, windows in the actual post offices will close at noon, as well as the administration, passports and bulk mail offices. "There's not going to be much business that afternoon," Brock said. But on Monday, mail will be delivered as usual. That same schedule, he added, will be followed on New Year's weekend. "We're about 10 percent over what we did last year," Brock said, attributing the increase in mail to more shoppers buying online. "We've been fortunate to deliver a lot of that," he said. The County Courthouse will be closed at 3 p.m. Dec. 23 and reopen Tuesday, Dec. 28. City Hall is closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. The Midland County Library will be closed at 3 p.m. Dec. 23 and open its doors again Tuesday, Dec. 28 at 10 a.m. at the Centennial Library.

Please see BUSINESS/4A



Brian Adamcik/Reporter-Telegram
Pat Barr, store manager at James Avery Craftsman Inc., helps 8-year-old Kaleigh Rogers try on a ring Wednesday. Kaleigh was helping to size a ring that will be given to her 18-month-old brother.

By Jennifer Cherry
Staff Writer

Two days are left until Christmas. One would think that by this time, most would be preparing hams and fruitcakes, however, that is not the case with many Midlanders this year. Many have left shopping for the last minute because of the state of the oil economy, Pat Barr, manager at James Avery Craftsman Inc., speculated. Although it has come later, she added that business is the best she has seen in her nine years with the company. A lot more people are coming from surrounding towns such as Odessa, Seminole and Fort Stockton, she said. Barr added that her customers from Odessa have increased threefold this year. Dennis Clayton, economic development manager at the Midland Chamber of Commerce, said one thing that might be a factor in customers coming from other cities is that the chamber sees Midland as a regional center for health care, shopping and services. "It has just been busy all day," Barr said. "Some people call on their cell phones and tell workers what they want and ask that it be

wrapped and ready when they arrive." Barr said she has hired double the employees from Christmases past in order to handle the 400-plus sales the store has averaged each day for the last week. Sometimes the wait in line has even reached 30 minutes. "Usually, two days before Christmas is always our busiest day," Barr said. The long lines and crowded stores have left shoppers surprisingly happy. Jan Crow of Midland said she "does not like to shop." She said the mall has been "horrible." However, she has not experienced any rudeness. "It was so refreshing. This year, everyone has been so nice," Mrs. Crow added. Tanya Bishop, Kay Bee Toy store manager, shared the same observation. "Traffic is much more peaceful. This year, customers seem more calm," she said. "Last year, they seemed mad when they came in the store." Her store has also experienced a heavier volume of people than usual. Mrs. Bishop said the store is the most empty she has ever seen it.

Please see SHOPPING/4A

Christmas: German style

Holidays are more low-key in his country, exchange student says

Editor's note: This is the third in a multi-part series looking at the differences of holiday celebrations around the world.

By Jeff Stevens
Staff Writer

If there is any significant difference that German exchange student Fritz Pomorski sees between local Christmas celebrations and those at home, it's the scale on which they're celebrated. "We just don't celebrate it that big," said Fritz. His host mother Janice Renfro said she had gotten that impression, as well. "I don't think they go all out," Ms. Renfro said. "For me, Christmas is the biggest thing in our household the whole year." She said that Fritz's family only sent him some small presents and chocolate. However, when the student celebrated his 18th birthday, his parents sent \$400 cash and made quite a fuss about the event. "To them, that was a really big deal," said Ms. Renfro, adding that it appears to have been a bigger event than Christmas. Despite the differences in emphasis, there are similarities. Germans do believe in a traditionally attired Santa Claus, complete with the white beard, red suit and black boots. He's also fabled to pilot a sleigh pulled by eight shiny reindeer. In fact, one of Fritz's most memorable Christmases involves Santa Claus, known as Weihnachtsmann in Germany. Loosely translated, "Weihnachtsmann" means "Christmas man." "When I was five years old it was the first time somebody dressed up as Santa Claus and came to our house. I was so excited and waited the whole day until six or seven. The bell rang and I opened the door and Santa Claus was standing in front of my door," Fritz said. Santa put the boy on his lap and asked if he'd been good, which met with the same response any child provides when asked the question. Santa then rewarded his good behavior with presents. "Then he left and I wanted to see his sleigh and reindeer so bad," Fritz said. His parents explained that he couldn't see them because it wasn't allowed.

Please see HOLIDAYS/4A



U. Frank Williams Jr./Reporter-Telegram

German exchange student Fritz Pomorski lights a candle in the home of his host family, the Renfros. He says in Germany, "We just don't celebrate it (Christmas) that big." But despite the differences in emphasis, there are similarities in the traditions, such as Santa Claus and his eight reindeer.

Wurtz considering run for council

From Staff Reports

The at-large field in the upcoming Midland City Council race has drawn its fifth unofficial candidate. Charlene Romero Wurtz, who serves as president of the Midland College Board, confirmed Wednesday that she is considering a run for the council seat being vacated by Jose Cuevas. There are two at-large seats up for grabs in the May election. Incumbent Dale Brown's seat, in addition to the Cuevas seat, will be determined in the May balloting. Thus far, the at-large contest has drawn five possible contenders: • Brown has been sending signals that he will run for another term. • Jerry Morales, a local restaurant owner and past president of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, has suggested that he might run because he is unhappy with the way in which the City Council handled the exodus of City Manager Mike McGregor who resigned his post last week.

• Former Mayor J.D. Faircloth has indicated he wants to run for the council and has been critical of the \$35 million stadium project as well as the McGregor situation. • Bill Dingus, who recently served as campaign chairman for United Way fund drive, has said he might run for the at-large seat. • Wurtz, who said she has had "positive feedback" from close associates with whom she has discussed a possible City Council candidacy. If there were five candidates for the two at-large seats, the two highest vote-getters would take office. Wurtz, who serves as a partnership specialist with the U.S. Census, said she got interested in running for City Council because she is concerned that Hispanics will lose a voice in city affairs when Cuevas steps down. The next census will probably indicate that Midland has a population that is 40 percent Hispanic, she said. Although Wurtz said she was unhappy with the way McGregor was treated in the weeks leading up to his forced resignation, she said that is not the issue that has been driving her

desire to run. "I am concerned about Midland's future. We need to diversify the economy. We need to capitalize on opportunities the new stadium will bring. We need to address the changing population and what they will mean to our city," Wurtz said. If she was elected to the City Council, Wurtz said she would give up her post with Midland College. She was originally appointed to the Midland College Board 10 years ago and was elected in her own right in 1992. Her current term would expire in May. Wurtz also has been involved in United Way, Hispanic Cultural Center and Community and Senior Services. Four City Council seats will be up for election in May — Cuevas' seat, Brown's seat, the

Please see COUNCIL/4A



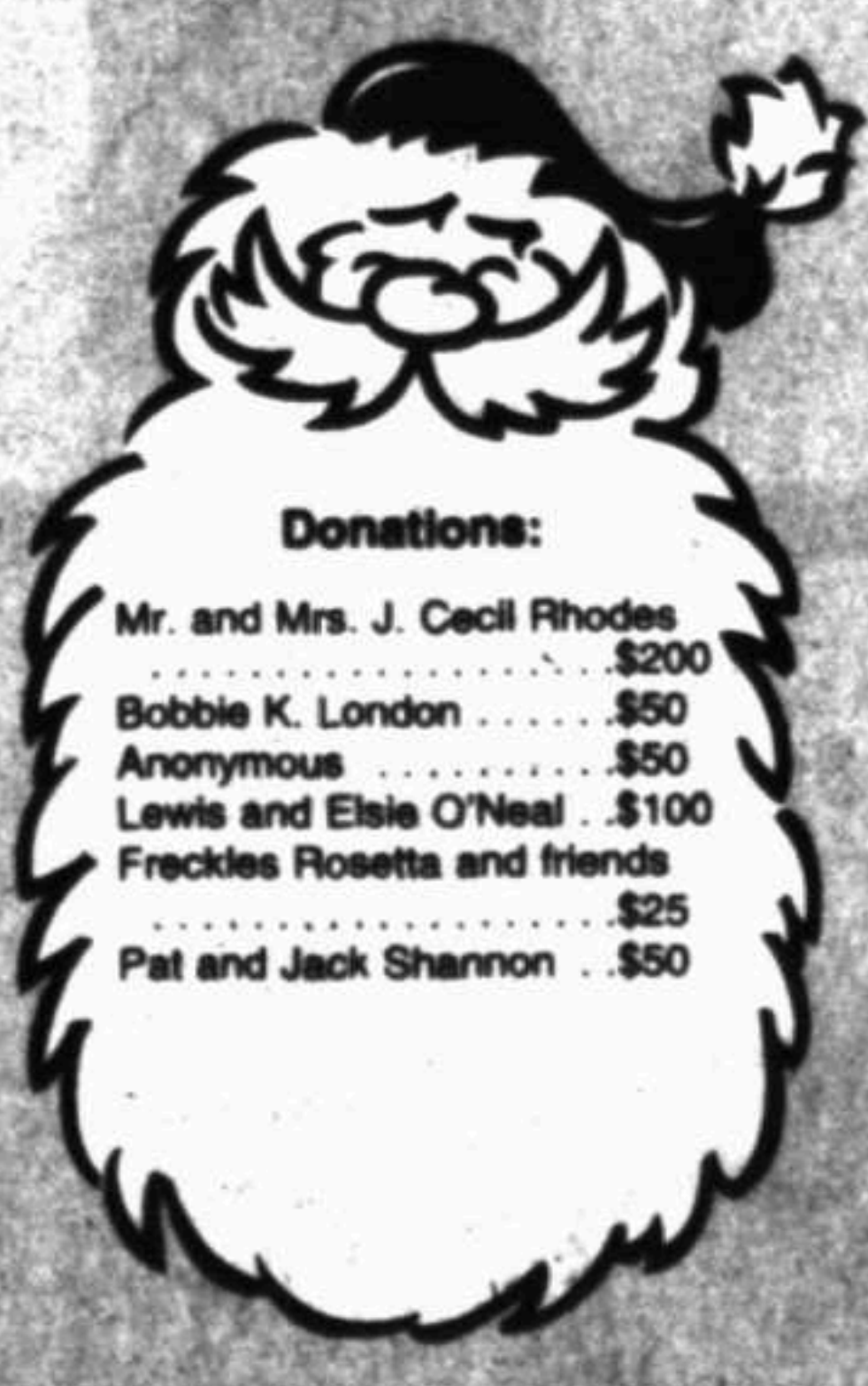
Wurtz

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DECEMBER 23 1999

Chechens claim to encircle Russian paratroopers in mountain battle

By Yuri Bagrov
Associated Press

DUBA-YURT, Russia — Russian forces trying to wipe out rebels entrenched in the ruins of the Chechen capital Grozny intensely bombarded the smoke-shrouded city on Wednesday.

The rebels, firing from trenches and the hulks of buildings, fought back against heavily armored troops encircling the city.

Meanwhile, a pro-Moscow Chechen militia of about 1,500 fighters has entered Grozny, said a spokeswoman for militia commander Bislan Gantamirov.

"Within seven days, Grozny will come under our control," the spokeswoman, Aizan Sultanova, was quoted as saying by the Interfax news agency.

She claimed that the militia

entered the capital alongside federal troops, but Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin denied on Wednesday that there was any fighting inside the city.

Rebels battled Russian paratroopers trying to cut their supply routes south of the capital, in the rugged fogbound mountains bordering Georgia, and claimed to have inflicted heavy losses.

Despite the Russian forces surrounding Grozny, the rebels claim they have always been able to get supplies into the city. Russia's desire to cut those supply routes has prompted the military to send troops into the mountains, even though they are more vulnerable to the Chechens' guerrilla skills there than on flatter terrain.

Russia has taken control of most of Chechnya since sending in ground troops in September to

wipe out Islamic militants blamed for bomb blasts across Russia that killed 300 people. But the rebels are strong in Grozny and the mountains — both areas where they severely bloodied Russian forces in the 1994-96 separatist war.

Hoping to avoid a similar debacle, Russia has battered Grozny by warplane and artillery for weeks but has held back from storming the city. The barrage was stepped up on Wednesday.

"Shells were exploding in practically the entire city" during the pre-dawn hours, said Mayor Lecha Dudaev.

Chechen commander Adam Baibulatov said Wednesday that about 1,000 Russian paratroopers had landed three miles from the southern border with Georgia a week ago and were surrounded by

rebel forces, taking heavy losses. "Chechen fighters have established a tight noose" around the paratroopers, Baibulatov said in Doha-Yurt, 20 miles south of Grozny in the mountains' foothills.

Russia has acknowledged dropping paratroopers in the southern mountains, but a Defense Ministry spokesman denied Wednesday that they had been surrounded.

Russian forces also traded fire with rebels Wednesday in the villages of Stare Atari, Atagi and Serzhen-Yurt, the Interfax news agency reported.

Refugees said fighting continued near Alkhan-Yurt, southwest of Grozny, even though Russia claimed control of the city earlier this month. Yesita Jabrila, who fled to the neighboring Russian republic of Ingushetia, said that on

the outskirts of Alkhan-Yurt "they were shooting over us. Sometimes they'd take a short break and start again."

Jabrila also said Russian soldiers were pillaging the town. A top Russian commander, Col. Gen. Leonid Ivashov, said Russia has not confirmed reports that soldiers

massacred 40 civilians there this month, Interfax reported.

There are still an estimated 8,000 to 35,000 civilians inside Grozny. Many do not want to flee for fear of Russian troops shelling the roads out of town, despite the military's pledge that there would be a safe passage.

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747 cargo plane crashes near London

GREAT HALLINGBURY, England (AP) — A Korean Air 747 cargo plane crashed shortly after takeoff Wednesday from an airport near London, narrowly missing several homes before bursting into a fireball and apparently killing all four people aboard.

The plane just missed houses in the village of Great Hallingbury, three miles south of Stansted Airport, as it slammed into open ground in the latest in a series of recent Korean Air accidents.

One body and some body parts had been recovered, said Charles Clark, assistant chief constable of Essex County police, backtracking on an earlier police report that two bodies had been found. All four people aboard were believed to have died in the crash.

Gary Dan, 39, a village resident, said he was in his upstairs bedroom when he heard a groaning sound. He ran to the window in time to see the jumbo jet, already on fire, flying over the top of his house.

"It just missed us by feet," he said. "It was just groaning. I tracked it as it went to the field in back of us and hit the ground and was a big fireball. My brother and I ran down there to see if we could find survivors and there was a crater 30-feet-by-60 feet."

Dan said the heat of the fireball could be felt in his house.

Stewart Thomson of the Essex County Fire Brigade said firefighters had the blaze under control.

The plane apparently hit power lines, as the whole village was

without electricity.

The cause of the crash was unclear but the cockpit voice recorder had been recovered, Britain's the Air Accident Investigations Branch confirmed.

Penny Pfaelz, Korean Air's U.S. spokeswoman said she did not know whether the cockpit crew had tried to contact controllers or otherwise report anything wrong.

Clark told an airport news conference that reports of toxic fumes at the crash site were unfounded. He said reporters were being kept back from the scene as a precaution because the nature of the cargo hadn't been determined. The plane was carrying 64 tons of cargo.

There were no details on the nationality of the crew, who were bound for Malpensa Airport in Milan, Italy, when the plane went down minutes after takeoff at 6:40 p.m. local time (1:40 p.m. EST).

Boeing Co. spokesman Gary Lesser, at the Everett, Wash., plant where the 747 was built, said he had no immediate information about the crash.

All flights in and out of Stansted were suspended Wednesday night as area residents expressed shock at the crash.

"The noise was incredible," said Annette Brooke-Taylor, who had stopped at a service station near the airport as the plane came down.

"There was a little girl nearby and it really frightened her. There were lots of flaming particles in the sky and then it went very quiet and

then we realized something terrible had happened," Mrs. Brooke-Taylor said.

Korean Air, the world's 13th-largest airline, has suffered a series of accidents at home and abroad in recent years. The South Korean government has forced the airliner to change its management and has issued other penalties, including cuts in its domestic and overseas flights.

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Four reported dead, dozens hurt in Indonesian earthquake

KARYASARI, Indonesia (AP) — Frightened residents of Indonesia's main island moved their beds out onto the street Wednesday, planning to spend the night outdoors after an earthquake killed four people.

The magnitude-6.4 quake, which hit the island of Java on Tuesday night, also injured about 200 people and severely damaged hundreds of homes. Many villagers spent Wednesday searching for anything that could be salvaged.

One person was killed in Karyasari village in Pagelaran district, 75 miles southwest of Jakarta. The hamlet of 4,000 people was one of the hardest-hit areas, with 100 houses collapsed or damaged.

Others died in Sumur, Panimbang and Cibaliung districts, said Muhtadi, a local government official in Pandeglang district who, like many Indonesians, uses one name. The death toll was not likely to rise.

Fearing another tremor, some residents moved their beds outside. One woman said she would spend the night in a neighbor's garden.

"I was shocked. My kids were screaming," said Eroh Rohtafia. "We ran straight out of the house. We turned around and saw our home fall down."

Several government buildings and schools were badly damaged. Heavy terracotta roofs on houses had fallen in, and large cracks appeared in walls. Prayer towers at some mosques had collapsed.

"Everyone panicked," said Amad, the chief of nearby Kerta Mukti village.

Indonesia's Geophysics Agency said the tremor was centered beneath the Indian Ocean, about 145 miles southwest of the capital, Jakarta. It was felt in Jakarta, but there were no reports of damage in the city.

There have been three major quakes on the nearby island of Sumatra since Sept. 18, each with a magnitude of at least 5. Those quakes happened in remote areas, and no casualties were reported.

The area affected by Tuesday's quake lies near Krakatau, an offshore volcano on the Sunda Strait between Java and Sumatra. Krakatau blew up in 1883 in one of the biggest eruptions in recorded history. About 36,000 people died.

Indonesia is prone to earthquakes because of its location on the Pacific "Ring of Fire," a line of volcanically active areas stretching from the western coast of the Americas across to Japan, Southeast Asia and the South Pacific.

Y2K disruptions could hobble Asian manufacturers

By Yuri Kageyama
Associated Press

TOKYO — Leading manufacturers in Asia express confidence they are prepared for the Year 2000 computer problem. But when asked about their suppliers, they are far less certain.

Corporations otherwise amply prepared could be crippled by Y2K disruptions of their suppliers. It's an unsettling scenario for such technology-dependent nations as Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Singapore — and the United States.

For big industries like auto and consumer electronics makers, falling just one part short could shut down entire assembly lines. Especially susceptible are companies with "just-in-time manufacturing" systems, a technique pioneered by the Japanese — and widely used by Detroit — in which parts are obtained only as needed to keep inventories low and profit margins high.

Mindful of Y2K's potential for disruption, many big manufacturers have broken the mold for this one-time event, stockpiling anywhere from a few days to a few weeks' supplies prior to Dec. 31.

But many smaller manufacturers have not.

That means any Y2K problems upstream in the supply chain might not be felt for weeks — but could then cause assembly lines from Osaka to Detroit to grind to a halt.

Worldwide, only 26 percent of all companies have arranged alternate supply or distribution channels. Companies with more than 500 employees are doing somewhat better, with 45 percent having alternate suppliers, according to the Massachusetts-based technology research group International Data Corporation.

The research group forecasts \$22.8 billion in losses to businesses

worldwide from Y2K-related failures and predicts a ripple effect: for every dollar lost by one company, business partners will suffer 70 cents in losses.

Reflecting a global trend, larger Japanese corporations are better prepared than smaller ones for Y2K, the legacy of a programming flaw in which years were expressed with just two digits, meaning 2000 could be misread as 1900, causing crashes and scrambled data in computers and the microchips prevalent in so many assembly lines.

At the end of October, only 75 percent of small- and medium-sized companies in Japan had completed Y2K repairs — far lower than the nearly 100 percent for banks and 92 percent for companies in general, government studies show.

Kazuo Sato, a Tokyo city official who counsels small and medium-sized companies on Y2K, says many smaller companies couldn't afford to invest in remedies even if they wanted to.

"I'm worried," Sato said. "Fixing a Y2K problem isn't an investment that a business sees as returning a profit anytime soon."

Dennis Grabow, an investment banker with Millennium Investment Corp. in Chicago believes supply-chain disruptions are likely — and capable of setting off recessions in some nations. Suppliers in industries like aviation or computers can't be replaced easily — and stocking up is unrealistic for industries that require thousands of parts, he said in a telephone interview.

The danger could hit practically anywhere.

A power failure could stymie a supplier, even if it had fixed its computers. Or a ship transporting parts could be disabled by Y2K troubles and prevented from making a delivery.

And some suppliers are in nations like Indonesia and China, where the millennium bug is expected to cause at least moderate though unpredictable disruptions.

"There are potential problems at the supply chain that we cannot possibly control," said Peng Natchueh, spokesman for Gigabyte Technology, a major Taiwanese maker of motherboards, the main

circuit board on computers.

Peng, whose company's clients include Compaq and Fujitsu, says it is impossible to monitor all the company's more than 100 suppliers.

Some parts are already in short supply in Taiwan because of booming electronics sales and the Sept. 21 earthquake that damaged some plants.

Japanese government officials insist plants will be humming along, more or less just-in-time, with no major trouble after New Year's.

Yet the government has not independently checked the private sector's Y2K readiness, and millennium bug analysts are skeptical.

Kosovo children trade in war toys at holiday event

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia (AP) — Hundreds of ethnic Albanian children traded war toys for teddy bears, cars and dolls on Wednesday in a pre-Christmas giveaway intended to promote peace in Kosovo.

About 300 children handed in the plastic rifles, guns and knives long popular in Kosovo. In exchange, the Save the Children charity handed out toys intended to promote peace — or at least more innocent play.

"Our children have to learn that the war is over," said Nerimane Kamberi, 32, accompanied by his 4-year-old son, Bind. "As the adults have given up their weapons, they have to give them, too."

Bind Kamberi turned over four plastic pistols, one play rifle and a huge toy knife before happily trotting away with a bag laden

with little cars, a small basketball, a toy piano and books.

Not all the children brought toy weapons. One boy brought rifle and pistol bullets while another brought a real pistol that works with dummy cartridges.

NATO peacekeepers, who entered Kosovo in June after a 78-day air war, supervising the delivery. They said they were not shocked that children showed up with deadly weapons.

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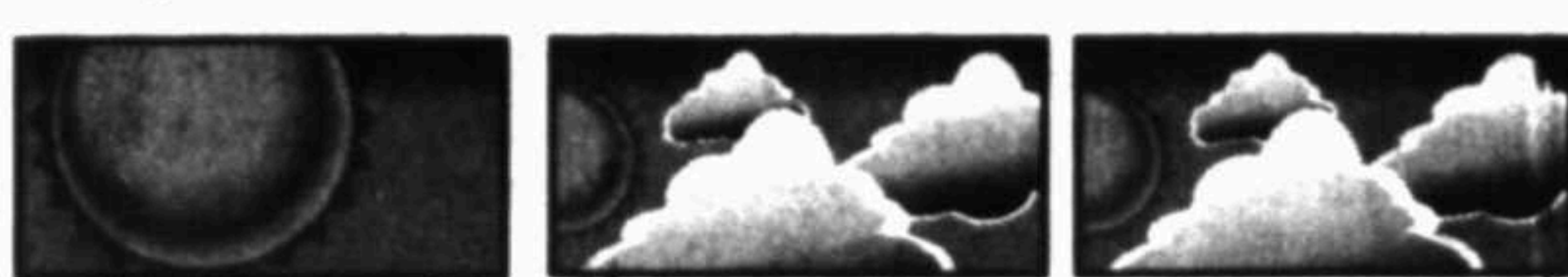
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WEATHER

Midland forecast

3-day forecast



Today	Christmas Eve	Christmas
Mostly sunny	Partly cloudy	Partly cloudy
High 49	High 50	High 56
Low 26	Low 29	Low 31

Today's forecast calls for mostly cloudy skies in the morning... otherwise, it will be mostly sunny. The high will be around 50. Winds will be from the northeast at 10-15 mph. Tonight's forecast is partly cloudy with a low in the mid-20s. Friday will be partly cloudy with a high around 50. Christmas Eve will be partly cloudy with a low around 30. Christmas Day will be partly cloudy with a high in the mid-50s. Sunday and Monday will be partly cloudy with lows in the low 30s and highs in the upper 50s.

After an overnight low of 20, Tuesday's high was 44, compared to the record high for that date of 79, set in 1933. The record low of 4 was set in 1989.

Yesterday's precipitation

Rainfall Wednesday	0.00 in.
Rainfall Tuesday	0.00 in.
Total for month	Trace
Total for year	7.60 in.
Normal total (year to date)	14.80 in.

Yesterday's temperatures

High	44
Low	20
Normal high	57
Normal low	30

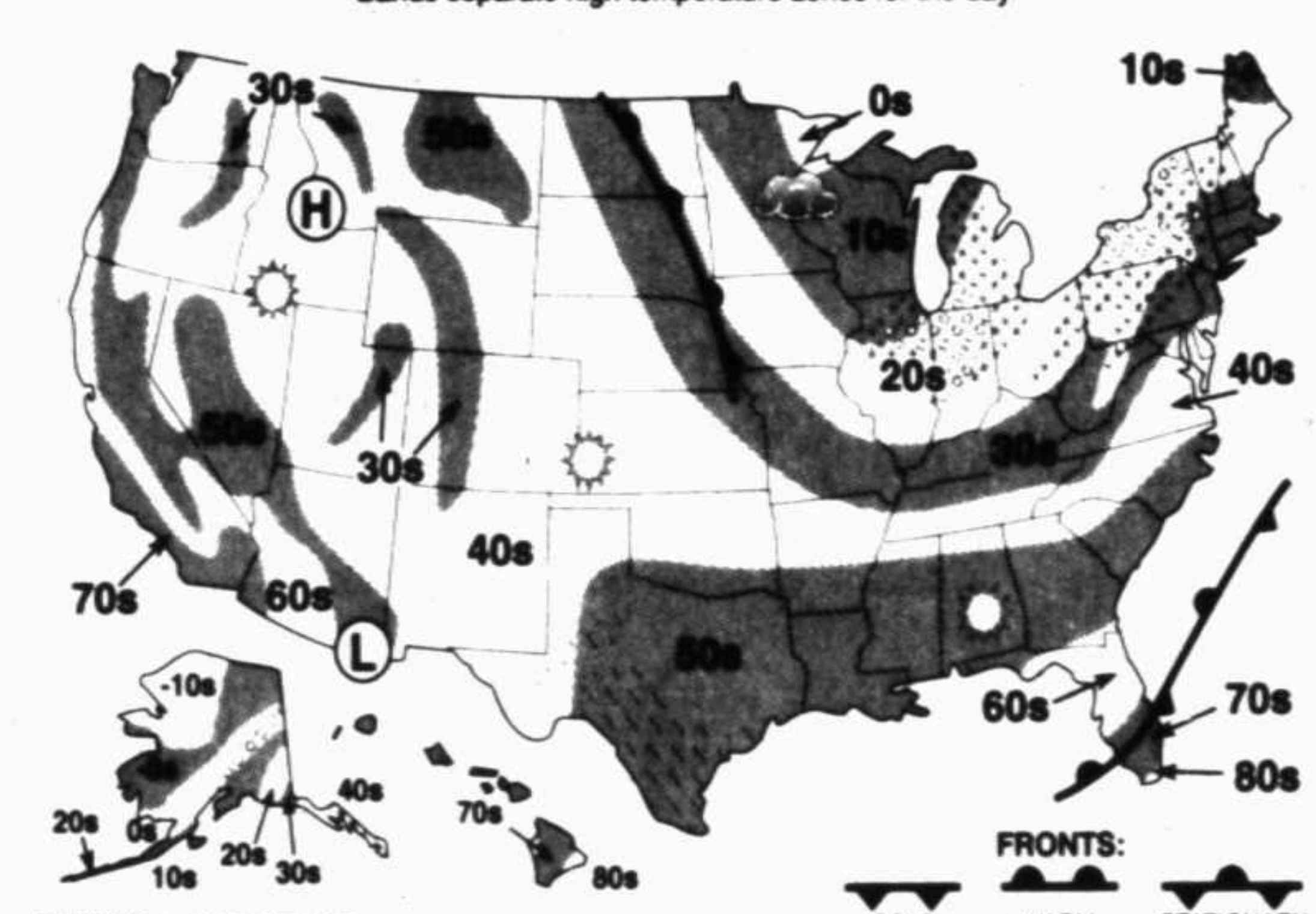
Pollen count

Trees: NA	Weeds: NA
Grass: NA	Molds: NA
Dust: NA	

Courtesy: John D. Bray, MD.

National forecast

Bands separate high temperature zones for the day.



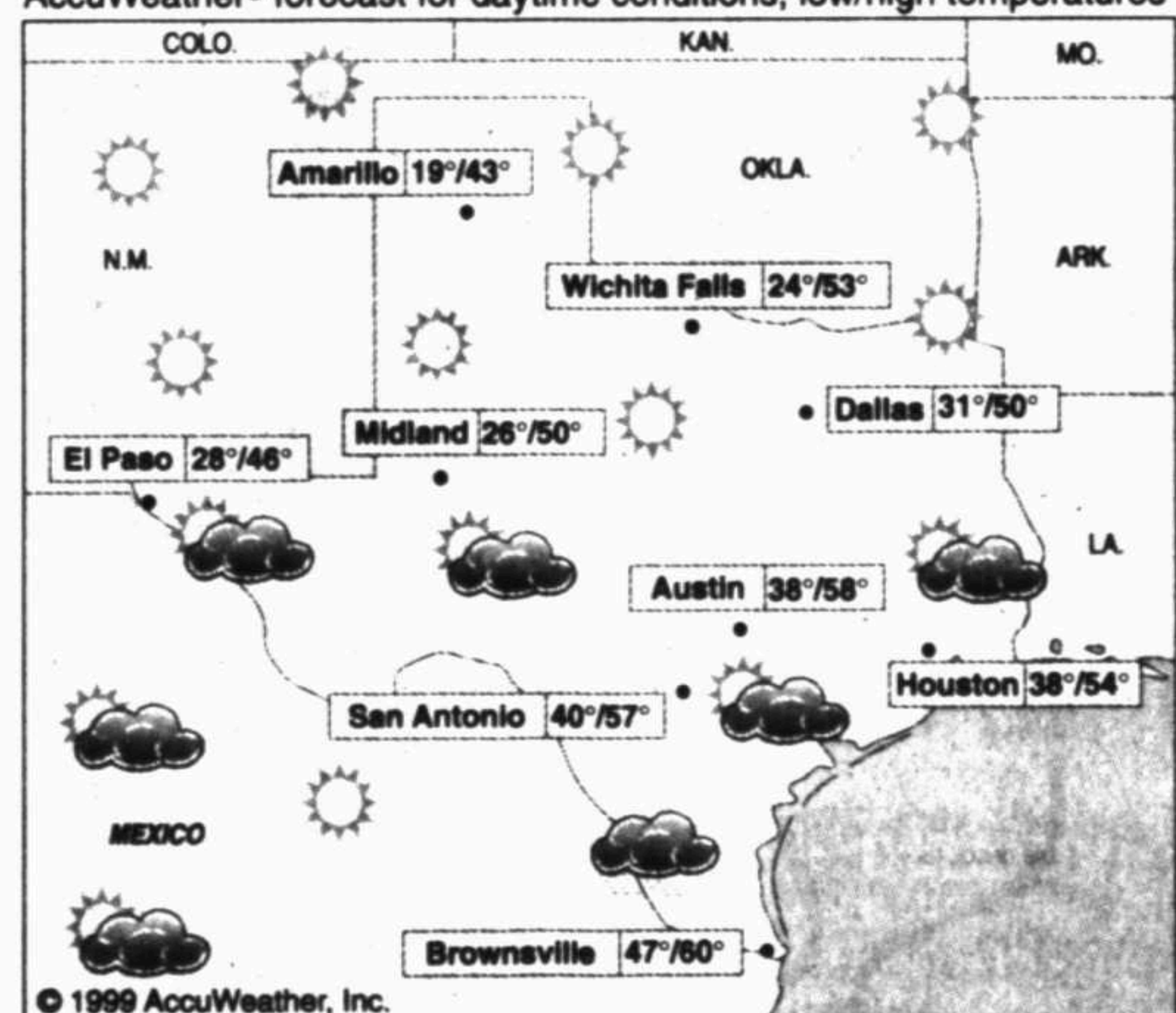
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Via Associated Press

United States temperatures

Temperatures indicate Tuesday's high and overnight low to 8 p.m. Eastern Time.			
City	Hi	Lo	Prc
Albany, N.Y.	33	28	cdy
Albuquerque	40	21	cdy
Anchorage	45	33	24
Atlanta	50	36	cdy
Atlantic City	41	33	04
Baltimore	41	30	04
Billings	46	28	cdy
Birmingham	50	28	cdy
Bismarck	15	-8	cdy
Boise	43	25	cdy
Boston	36	34	cdy
Buffalo	25	17	sno
Burlington, Vt.	31	26	sno
Casper	35	4	cdy
Charleston, S.C.	56	52	10
Charlotte, N.C.	54	46	02
Cheyenne	33	10	cdy
Chicago	17	7	sno
Cincinnati	33	9	cdy
Cleveland	25	13	sno
Columbus, Ohio	30	14	cdy
Concord, N.H.	34	30	cdy
Dayton	29	10	cdy
Denver	37	10	cdy
Des Moines	11	6	01
Detroit	24	12	cdy
Duluth	3	-12	cdy
Evansville	39	13	cdy
Fairbanks	45	11	04
Fargo	6	-15	cdy
Flagstaff	34	21	cdy
Grand Rapids	19	10	01
Great Falls	48	33	cdy
Greensboro, N.C.	46	42	02
Hartford Spfld.	36	31	cdy
Helena	41	25	cdy
Honolulu	76	75	34
Indianapolis	29	10	cdy
Jacksonville	60	56	01
Juneau	46	44	08
Kansas City	22	18	cdy
Las Vegas	59	47	cdy
Little Rock	49	21	cdy
Los Angeles	73	50	cdy
Louisville	38	18	cdy
Memphis	48	25	cdy
Miami Beach	81	68	11
Milwaukee	16	7	cdy
Minneapolis	7	-5	cdy
Nashville	42	20	cdy
New Orleans	58	41	cdy
New York City	40	35	cdy
North Platte	37	13	04
Oklahoma City	45	27	cdy
Omaha	13	0	03
Orlando	79	60	cdy
Pasadena	30	25	cdy
Philadelphia	40	32	cdy
Phoenix	66	53	cdy
Pittsburgh	29	18	sno
Portland, Ore.	50	35	cdy
Providence	37	33	cdy
Raleigh-Durham	41	41	04
Rapid City	33	7	11
Reno	50	22	cdy
Richmond	42	33	04
St. Louis	37	15	cdy
Salt Lake City	41	27	cdy
San Diego	74	53	cdy
San Francisco	66	53	cdy
San Jose	3	3	cdy
Seattle	40	37	cdy
Shreveport	51	24	cdy
Sioux Falls	12	-11	cdy
Spokane	37	31	cdy
Syracuse	29	25	cdy
Tampa-St. Petersburg	75	67	05
Topeka	25	20	cdy
Tucson	60	34	cdy
Tulsa	46	28	cdy
Washington, D.C.	41	32	04

State forecast

AccuWeather® forecast for daytime conditions, low/high temperatures



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Via Associated Press

Texas temperatures

Highest temperature last 12 hours, lowest past 18 hours and precipitation for 24 hours at 6 p.m.			
City	High	Low	Pcp.
Abilene	46	22	
Amarillo	30	24	
Arlington	47	26	
Austin	47	28	
Beaumont	61	34	
Brownsville	52	45	
Burnet	44	29	
College Station	50	29	
Corpus Christi	47	40	
Corpus Christi	47	40	
Cotulla	48	29	
Cotulla	47	41	
Dallas	48	29	
Del Rio	48	26	
El Paso	48	29	
Fort Stockton	47	24	
Fort Worth	47	20	
Galveston	51	39	
Georgetown	45	28	
Hartgen	52	45	
Hondo	47	30	0.04
Houston	50	37	
Junction	44	22	
Kingsville	50	44	
Laredo	48	36	
Longview	49	25	
Lubbock	34	26	
Marfa	45	18	
McAllen	50	43	
New Braunfels	46	31	0.01
Palacios	49	37	
Rockport	48	27	
San Antonio	50	40	
San Angelo	46	22	0.09
San Marcos	45	30	
Terrell	48	24	
Tyler	49	28	
Victoria	48	34	
Waco	47	31	
Wichita Falls	45	28	
Wink	44	23	

SHOPPING: Many Midlanders are still hitting stores

(From 1A)

"We are running out of stuff," she said. "I really don't know why we are so busy."

Sales this year at Kay Bee Toys have skyrocketed while video sales have slipped, Mrs. Bishop said.

With friendly customers and great sales, Mrs. Bishop said this has been an "easy Christmas."

For some, "easy" does not describe their shopping tasks. Mrs. Crow said she was shopping

for the most difficult on her list; her brother-in-law and his family.

"We are taking wild guesses," Mrs. Crow said.

In the worst-case scenario, she said she would resort to baking some goodies and putting them in a tin.

Merchandise that is definitely cooking this Christmas is Pokemon, according to Mrs. Bishop.

She added that while the entire line of toys is hot, there is a certain grouping of the Pokemon

that is the most popular. Also, Mrs. Bishop said that ever since the movie premiere of "Toy Story 2," Woody and his gang of toy friends have been popular items among the younger shoppers.

Veteran shopper Del Bowie, of Midland, was finishing the last of her Christmas shopping. The hardest items to find, she said, are Pokemon and color Gameboys.

"We started early and we are still trying to find items," she said.

Mrs. Bowie said that she usu-

ally starts shopping in January in order to catch all of the after-Christmas sales. She really starts purchasing toys for her grandchildren and the Toys for Tots campaign in the summer. Bowie said she buys so much that she has to store them in her attic.

On last-minute shopping, Mrs. Bowie gave some advice that she admitted she has also given to her husband, "Don't be discouraged if you don't find what you want at this late a date."

BUSINESS: Some have to work on Christmas Eve, Day

(From 1A)

nial Branch and 9 a.m. at the main library. Midland Animal Control will close for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day; however, an officer will remain on duty throughout the holiday.

Most banks will close early on Dec. 24 and remain closed until Monday, Dec. 27. Bank United, First National Bank of Midland, Norwest Bank and Western National Bank will close at noon on Christmas Eve. Community National Bank will close at 1 p.m. at all locations. Bank of America and Bank One will close their doors at 2 p.m. Chase and First American Bank will remain open until 3 p.m. Dec. 24.

"We will probably be in the office until 4:30 or 5 p.m.," Adam White, banking service representative at Chase, said, "but we will be trying to get workers out and home."

Some businesses are remaining open throughout the weekend.

John Taylor, a Kent Kwik store

manager, said that all Kent Kwiks would be open for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

"It's surprising sometimes," he said, noting that business usually remains steady on Christmas Day.

And at Town and Country, it also will be business as usual, a spokesman said.

Most 7-Eleven stores will be open for business 24 hours. However, Tammy Thiesfeld, manager, said that some 18-hour stores will be closed at 10 p.m. instead of 11 p.m.

Most will have to get their supplies for Christmas goodies early. HEB, Albertson's, Furr's and Fiesta Foods will be closed on Christmas Day. Bill Higginbotham, store director of Albertson's, said the store will close its doors at 9 p.m. Christmas Eve. The Wal-Mart Super Center also will be closed for Christmas. Joe Rael, assistant manager said this is the only holiday on which the Super Center closes its doors.

Most restaurants will be closed on Christmas Day, with a few exceptions. Carrow's Restaurant will be open until 10 p.m. Christmas Day. The restaurant will then reopen around 6 a.m. Sunday morning. The International House of Pancakes will be closed from 2 p.m. Christmas Day until 6 a.m. the next morning, manager Becky Click said.

"We usually have a lot of people come out after Christmas dinner," she added.

On Christmas Eve, Outback will be open as usual, but Abuelo's will be closed. Cattleman's will close at 2 p.m. and Chili's at 3 p.m. The Black-Eyed Pea and Cheddar's will stay open until 8 p.m.

Christmas Eve and the evening hours of Christmas Day are some of the busier times for the Denny's on Loop 250, manager John Watkins said.

"It's really a pretty big day," he said.

Those that do not make it to the grocery store may choose to eat

pizza on Christmas. Pinocchio's will deliver pizza until 10 p.m. Dec. 24 and 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. Christmas Day.

According to Andy Hernandez, manager at Pizza Hut, those businesses will be open until 7 p.m. Christmas Eve and closed Christmas Day.

Other workers won't get much of a break. Home-health care nurses will continue to visit their patients, Renee Batula, executive secretary at Infusion Plus said.

"Home health does not stop," she said, "Sometimes a lot of the people that have home health do not have a family or the family doesn't care."

Sheila Holt, case manager and one of the owners of Seelin Home Care, said nurses are willing to work. In most cases, she added, nurses help their patients get dressed and ready to visit relatives. Hospice nurses also will visit their patients and nursing homes, Amy Stipovich, Hospice medical records clerk said.

Clinton visits soup kitchen, urges people not to waste food

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Clinton administration has some advice for people who find themselves with too much holiday food to eat themselves: donate it, don't dump it.

In a visit to a soup kitchen and in guidelines the Agriculture Department plans to issue today, President Clinton is urging Americans to stop the "appalling" habit of throwing out 96 billion pounds of food each year — more than enough to feed all of the nation's hungry people.

"In every community, civic minded people ought to take an inventory of how much food is being wasted, where it is, how to gather it up, how to give it to the churches, the synagogues, the mosques, whoever else has a homeless mission that will take care of that food and get it out," Clinton said Wednesday during a visit to the D.C. Central Kitchen.

The president said wasted food ranges from slightly bruised fruit

to uneaten trays of lasagna at restaurants. In 1996, he signed a law that gives some legal protection to companies, individuals

today is expected to announce a three-part program to help people and restaurants get into the habit of donating, instead of dumping,

'In every community, civic minded people ought to take an inventory of how much food is being wasted, where it is, how to gather it up, how to give it to the churches, synagogues, mosques, whoever else has a homeless mission that will take care of that food and get it out.'

— President Clinton, while visiting a soup kitchen

and shelters that donate and redistribute surplus food.

Still, Americans continue to trash a quarter of their food supply every day, which also needlessly adds to environmental waste, Clinton and other administration officials say.

The Agriculture Department

extra food, according to an administration official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

As part of the Community Food Security Initiative that Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman launched earlier this year, his department plans to:

■ Seek 2,000 commitments

Ferry with more than 600 on board sinks in Philippines

CEBU, Philippines (AP) — A ferry carrying more than 600 passengers and crew sank off the central Philippines and only about 180 people had been rescued by dawn today, officials said.

The ship, MV Asia South Korea, left central Cebu City for Iloilo City and went down about 11 p.m. Wednesday near Bantayan island, about 300 miles southeast of Manila, said Defense Secretary Orlando Mercado.

A passing ship rescued about 180 people but there was no immediate word on the fate of the others, according to air force Capt. Enrico Canaya in Cebu City.

HOLIDAYS: Student finds Midland lights 'so cool'

(From 1A)

"Then I was sad the rest of Christmas because I couldn't see the sleigh. Because, of course, there was no sleigh."

This all took place on Christmas Eve, which is the traditional day to celebrate the holiday in Germany. According to Fritz, the family spends Christmas Eve together then dines at about 4 or 5 p.m. Once the meal is complete, which is similar to an American Christmas feast with ham and turkey, the family opens gifts.

The gift unwrapping is an event that takes as long as three hours, Fritz said, because each family member opens one gift at a time.

"In my family, somebody starts and opens one present.

Everybody doesn't open their presents at the same time. Everybody is watching when the other person is opening the presents."

Fritz pointed out that those presents sit under a real Christmas tree, not the plastic version popular in some Midland homes. The tree also has real candles adorning it, instead of strands of lights. Fritz also said that there are fewer ornaments on the tree than in Midland and that outside decorations are not quite as common.

"When we went uptown, the lights on the streets were so impressive to him," said Mrs. Renfro. "He kept saying, 'This is so cool.'"

Another interesting aspect of the German holiday occurs on

Dec. 6 with the visit of Saint Nicholas. On that day, Saint Nicholas visits German children awarding them with candy and small gifts.

"You put your shoes outside the door and Saint Nicholas comes at night and puts candy in your shoes," said Fritz, adding that the most important aspect of that tradition is to clean your shoes before placing them outside.

Of course, the biggest holiday difference Fritz will experience in Midland is the absence of his family.

"I'm kind of sad because the time I've been here, family is getting real important for me now. It's kind of a sad feeling."

COUNCIL: Wurtz would make 5th candidate for seat

(From 1A)

District 1 seat held by Don Washburn who has not committed to running another term and the District 2 seat being vacated by Julius Brooks, who is going to run for Midland county commissioner.

District 1 resident Luann Morgan, formerly an executive with TXU Electric, has said she is interested in running for the District 1 seat.

Filing of election applications for the city race will be in January.

So far, Robbyne Hocker

Fuller is the only one who has expressed an interest in filling the council seat vacated by Brooks.

Pick 3 Texas

AUSTIN (AP) — The Pick 3 winning numbers drawn Wednesday by the Texas Lottery, in order: 8-4-1

Lotto Texas

AUSTIN (AP) — The Lotto Texas winning numbers drawn Wednesday by the Texas Lottery, in order: 8-13-26-37-39-49

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Readers' guide

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Wealthy, poor brought together by relief effort for Venezuelan floods

By Steven Gutkin
Associated Press

MACUTO, Venezuela — Wealthy young Venezuelan men rode their motorcycles to coastal slums Wednesday to whisk away survivors of their country's worst natural disaster this century, while middle-class matrons streamed into shelters seeking to help.

Just days ago, a bitter campaign over a new constitution pitted rich against poor in this South American nation. But the tragedy that killed thousands has pulled together people of all classes.

"There are no social divisions or any other kind of divisions. This is just about helping people," said Venancio Rincon, a 40-year-old physician volunteering in the relief effort.

Scores of survivors waited in long lines Wednesday for drinking water on the beach in the Caribbean coastal town of Macuto, many covering their faces to keep out the stench of rotting corpses. Townspeople also burned trash and branches to help block out the smell.

The survivors ran for cover when a helicopter landed, its blades spewing torrents of sand and dust. Several dozen soldiers and relief workers from the Dominican Republic descended from the aircraft with a Rotweiler trained to find cadavers.

Their mission, they said, was to search house-to-house for any survivors and for the bodies of the dead.

Two other helicopters taking part in the relief mission crashed Wednesday, killing at least four people. Officials temporarily suspended flights in the area, fearing pilots may be exhausted from days of intense rescue work.

It may never be known how many people died when avalanches of mud and boulders were unleashed by torrential rains on Dec. 15, crashing down the mountain that separates the capital of Caracas from the Caribbean Sea. But officials say the number is in the thousands, ranging anywhere from 5,000 to 30,000.

Relief workers at the scene

Wednesday said international aid, including nine helicopters and more than 100 servicemen from the United States, was beginning to have an impact and that there was less disorganization than in previous days.

Workers at the Southern General Cemetery in Caracas buried flood victims Wednesday and issued a plea for foreign coffin donations. Venezuela also has asked the United States for 10,000 body bags.

Authorities warned of possible epidemics of hepatitis and cholera and urged hundreds of residents who have stayed behind to evacuate.

Venezuela has been engaged in what many consider to be class warfare for much of the past year, ever since a leftist former coup leader, Hugo Chavez, became

president promising to crush what he called a corrupt oligarchy and lift the poor out of their misery.

When the mudslides hit, Venezuelans had just approved a new constitution that is a pillar of Chavez's governing agenda. During the campaign, Chavez fiercely attacked businessmen, the church and traditional politicians, comparing his opponents to "squealing pigs."

But in the days since the tragedy, Chavez has repeatedly praised the private sector for putting their helicopters, airplanes, food, money and other resources at the service of the victims.

Corro was one of scores of men who rode motorcycles into the hardest-hit coastal areas Wednesday, bringing in drinking water and riding out with survivors.

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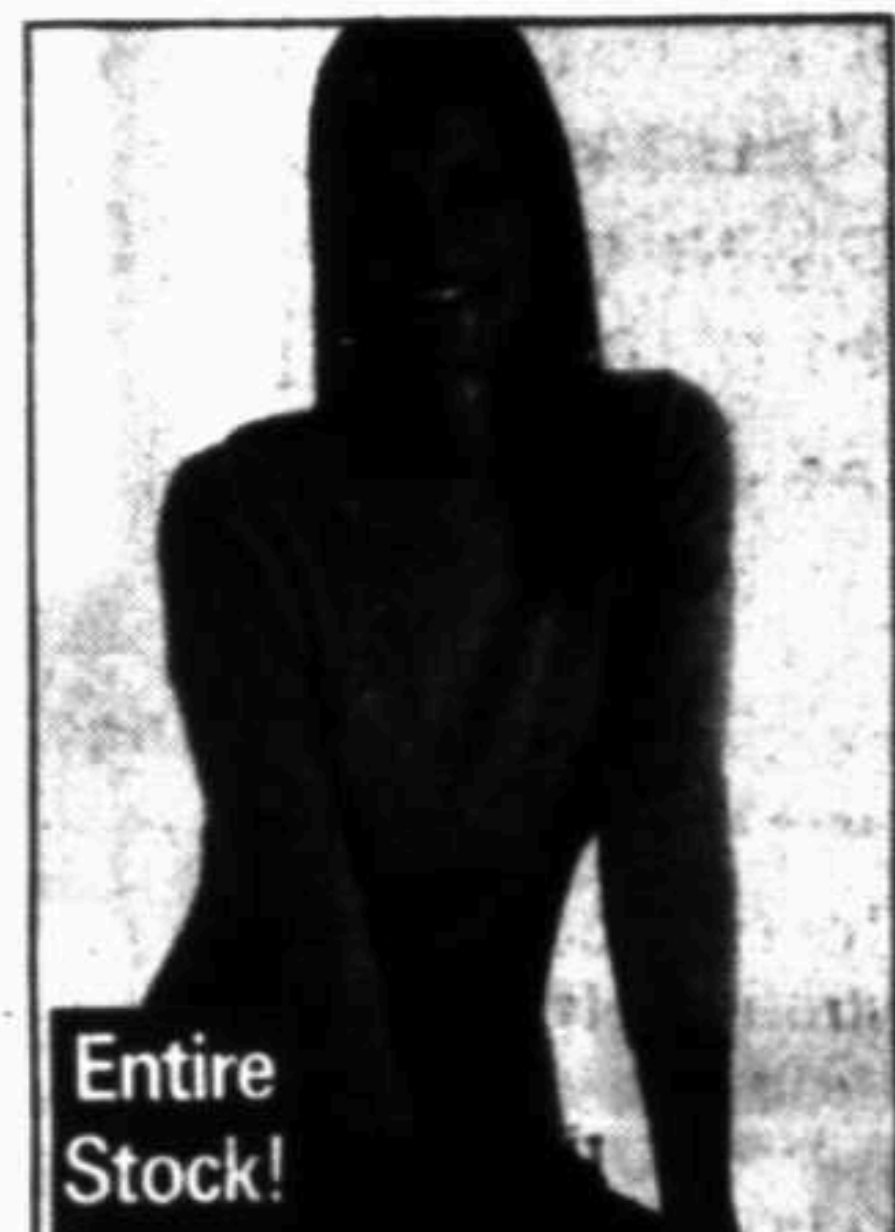
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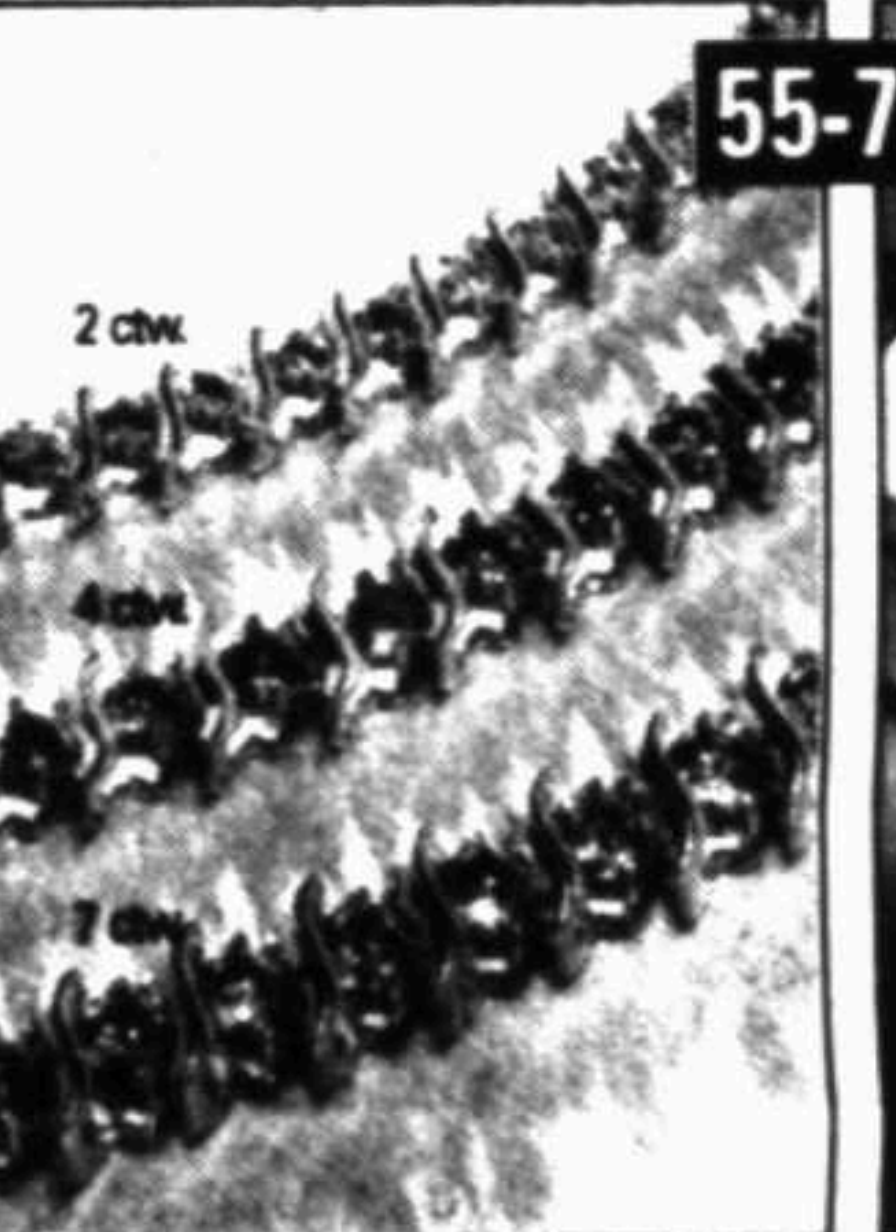
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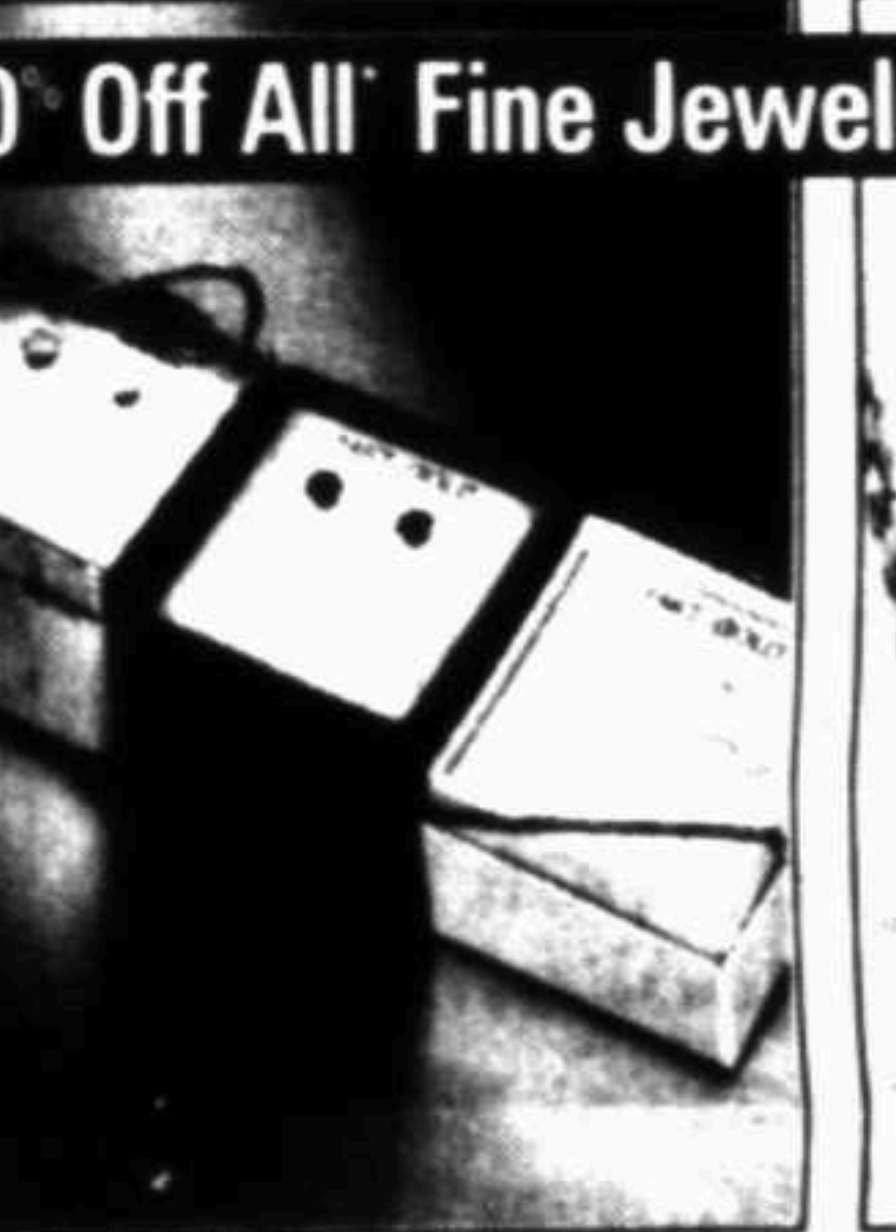
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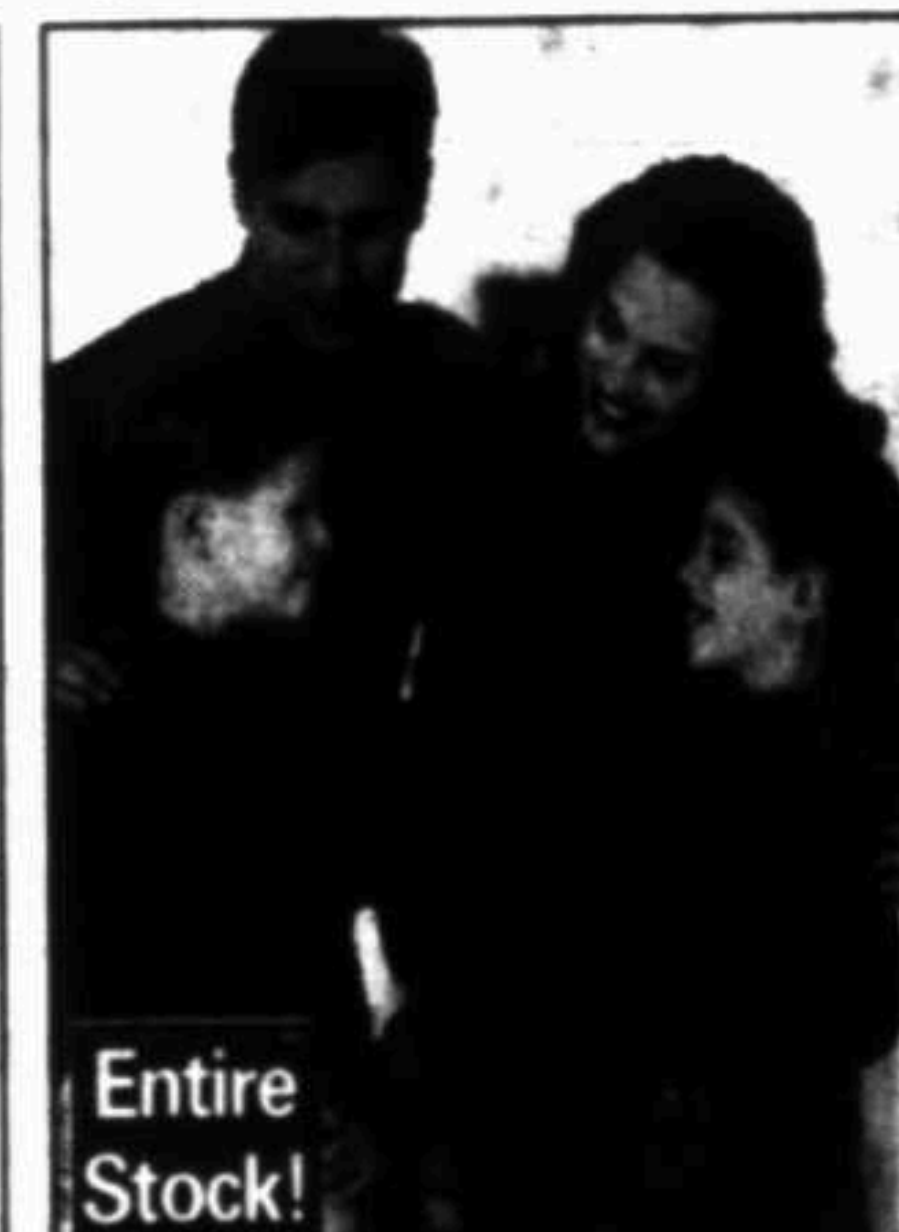
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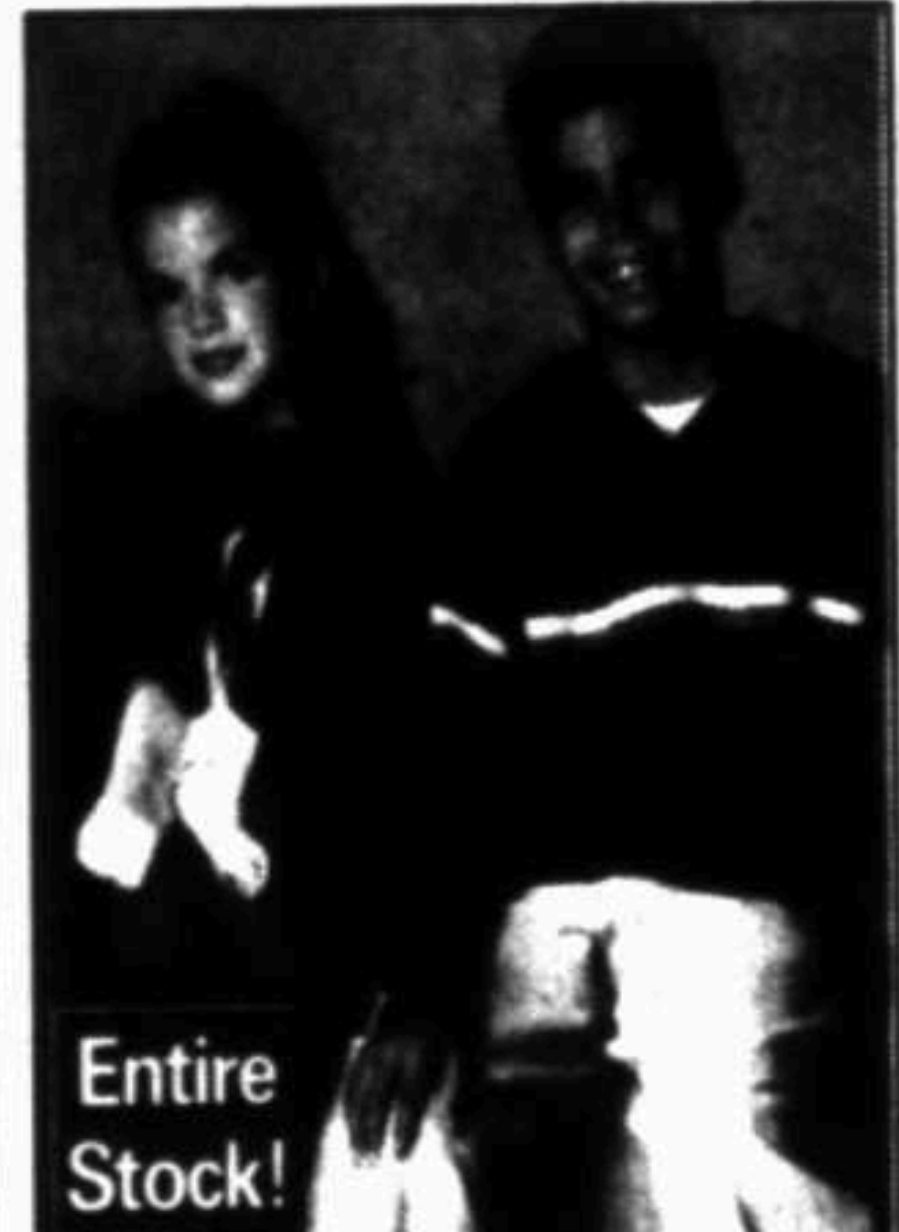
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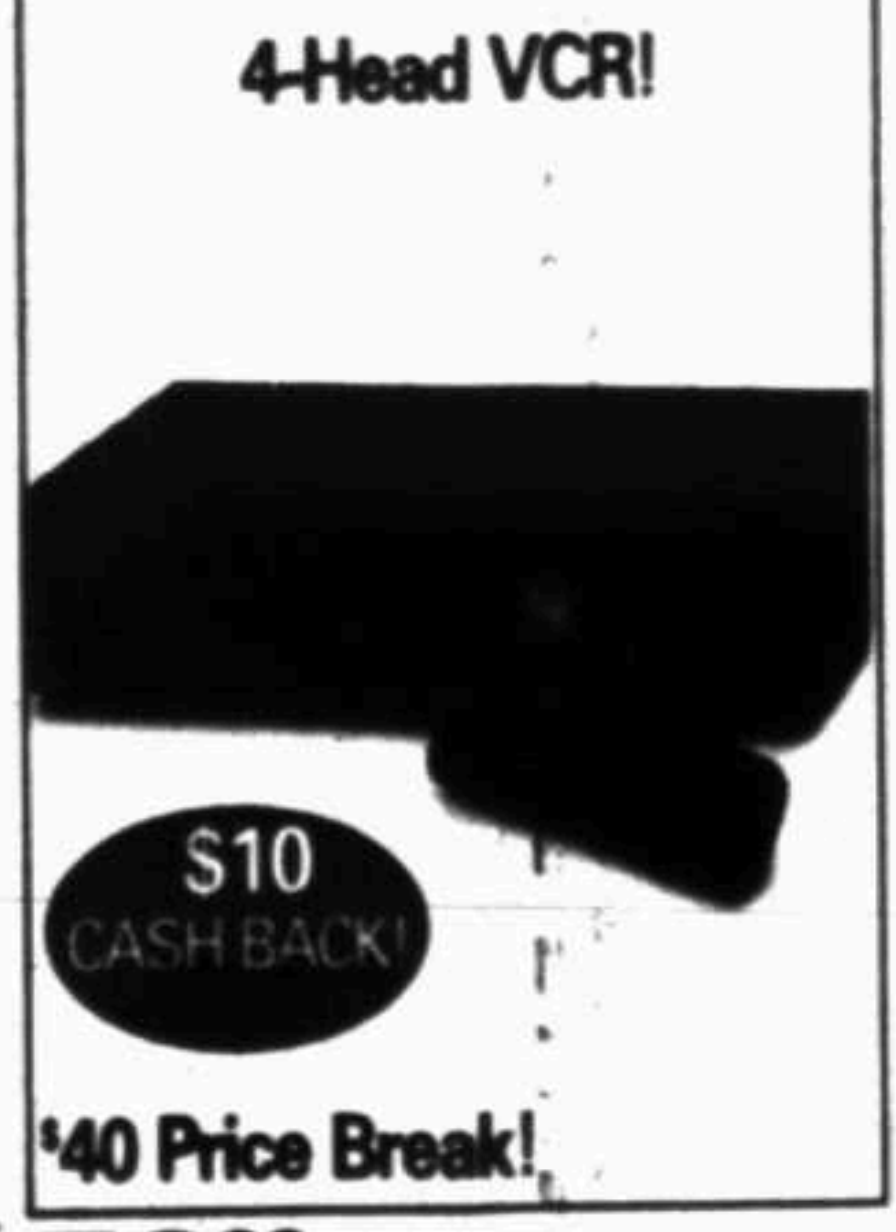
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Drinking episode resurrects debate on zero tolerance policy

A recent drinking episode during finals week at Midland High School has resurrected the debate over Midland Independent School District's zero tolerance policy.

Midland Independent School District's student handbook states that the "district enforces a zero tolerance on all its policies that deal with alcohol, marijuana, controlled substances, inhalants and prohibited weapons at school or any school sponsored activity or event. Consequences for violations shall result in expulsion from school."

In the Dec. 13 drinking episode that involved numerous MHS students, part of the debate has centered around the fact that at least one student was immediately handed the 18-week suspension, the penalty laid out in the school rulebook, while MHS officials waffled on punishment for the other alleged offenders.

The reason? Some were athletes. Some were "good kids." At least that is the suspicion in the community.

School officials should understand that zero tolerance means zero tolerance for all offenders, regardless of their background.

If MHS officials want a zero tolerance policy, school officials must be willing to adhere to it each and every time.

However, it was a divided school board that initially passed zero tolerance, and the matter doesn't seem to have been settled in the minds of some school board members.

The recent episode at Midland High School may mean that zero tolerance will land on the school board's agenda yet again.

If so, we would want to offer the following points to ponder to school board members as they consider this important question.

First of all, in the years that zero tolerance has been in place, has alcohol use among our students declined?

Do we have referral, counseling and treatment programs in place that would help students recognize and remedy problems, rather than simply punish and expel students?

If we are going to have a zero tolerance policy, it must be enforced fairly.

But if the school board is ready to re-examine the issue, we would encourage the trustees to look at cold hard facts and make a decision based on the best interests of every child.

If MHS officials want a zero tolerance policy, school officials must be willing to adhere to it each and every time.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Thursday, Dec. 23, the 357th day of 1999. There are eight days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 23, 1893, the Engelbert Humperdinck opera "Hänsel und Gretel" was first performed, in Weimar, Germany.

On this date:

In 1783, George Washington resigned as commander in chief of the Army and retired to his home at Mount Vernon, Va.

In 1823, the poem "A Visit from St. Nicholas" by Clement C. Moore was published in the Troy (N.Y.) Sentinel.

In 1928, the National Broadcasting Co. set up a permanent, coast-to-coast network.

In 1941, during World War II, American forces on Wake Island surrendered to the Japanese.

In 1948, former Japanese premier Hideki Tojo and six other Japanese war leaders were executed in Tokyo.

In 1968, 82 crew members of the U.S. intelligence ship Pueblo were released by North Korea, 11 months after their capture.

In 1980, a state funeral was held in Moscow for former Premier Alexei N. Kosygin, who had died Dec. 18 at age 76.

In 1986, the experimental airplane Voyager, piloted by Dick Rutan and Jeana Yeager, completed the first nonstop, round-the-world flight without refueling as it landed safely at Edwards Air Force Base in California.

In 1995, a fire in Dabwali, India, killed 540 people, including 170 children, during a year-end party near the children's school.

In 1997, a jury in Denver convicted Terry Nichols of involuntary manslaughter and conspiracy for his role in the Oklahoma City bombing, declining to find him guilty of murder.

Ten years ago: Ousted Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu and his wife, Elena, were captured as they were attempting to flee their country.

GEORGE WILL

Drama in Bronx keeps Fordham teacher spry

THE BRONX, N.Y.—Fordham University, a Jesuit institution, looks appropriately gothic in a December gloaming, and especially so as a backdrop for its most eminent teacher, all of whose 6-foot-2-inch frame beneath his black beret is clothed in black against the night chill. Avery Dulles, 81, distinguished son of a famous father, remembers the letter he sent to his parents 59 years ago, announcing his first steps on the Catholic path of service to the faith whose founder's birth is celebrated this season.



Will

"Something of a shock" was, he says, the initial reaction of his father, John Foster Dulles, a flinty Presbyterian, who as a Princeton undergraduate had studied under an especially austere Presbyterian—professor Woodrow Wilson. However, in the 1950s Secretary of State Dulles found that having a Jesuit son gave him special stature with American Catholics, gave him a shared experience with Germany's Chancellor Konrad Adenauer, whose son was a priest, and helped him with Catholic politicians in France and Italy.

Avery Dulles, a son of the establishment (his father, the grandson of a secretary of state, was a Sullivan and Cromwell lawyer and a colleague of Bernard Baruch during World War I), was at Choate and Harvard with John F. Kennedy. The great Catholic Medievalist Etienne Gilson had recently been at Harvard and his teachings lingered. And it was from Harvard in autumn 1940 that Dulles wrote home to say he was converting to Catholicism. After one year at Harvard Law School and four years in the Navy he decid-

ed on the priesthood.

From the vantage of his ninth decade, Dulles is not greatly impressed by this year's big news in Christianity, the joint declaration of Lutherans and Catholics in Augsburg, Germany, in October. It stated that "a consensus on basic truths of the doctrine of justification exists between Lutherans and Catholics."

Some press reports suggested that the purported consensus proves that the Reformation, which made the 16th century the incubator of modernity, was, it turns out, about an arcane misunderstanding. Other reports suggested that the Catholic church has surrendered on the subject at the heart of Luther's theology—"justification by faith alone."

Salvation, that is, by faith rather than good works. In the 16th and 17th centuries much ink, and not a little blood, was shed over whether faith is the unmerited gift of God's grace, or whether free will, manifested in deeds, participates in earning salvation.

Over a plateful of veal in a restaurant in Little Italy near the campus, Dulles delicately suggests that real differences still divide Lutherans and Catholics concerning the acquisition of faith, the interior renewal wrought by faith, and manifestations of this renewal. The fact that Luther and the Council of Trent are dinner-time topics in the Bronx pleases people who believe that history is dignified by its serious quarrels. And that fact satisfies those Christians who regard the continuing vitality of Christianity's divisions as evidence of spiritual vigor: You cannot split rotten wood.

But there is a common Christian sensibility, elegantly expressed by a priest who lived just slightly more than half as long as Dulles has lived, Gerard Manley Hopkins (1844-89):

"Time has three dimensions and one positive

pitch or direction. It is therefore not so much like any river or any sea as like the Sea of Galilee, which has the Jordan running through it and giving a current to the whole."

That may strike the secular-minded as optimistic, but for Dulles, optimism about the long run is not optional. It is a vocational imperative. "The long run," he says dryly, "includes the eschaton."

That is, "the fullness of time," meaning the Second Coming and the Kingdom of God. Meanwhile, Dulles' time is full of writing. The manuscript of his 21st book has just gone to the printer, and the list of his publications during the last 15 months includes two new books, the reissue of a third, and 39 shorter pieces in books and periodicals.

Among sociologists and other advanced thinkers it has long been, so to speak, an article of faith that modernity is inimical to religious faith. Which makes them regard America with scandalized disbelief—America, the most modern of nations, and one planted thick with people who feel, as Hopkins put it in a poem, a religious "ah!" about the presence of the divine:

... the Holy Ghost over the bent
 World broods with warm breast and with ah!
 bright wings.

That is how the Bronx, and everything contiguous thereto—the world—seems to Dulles, a place constantly burdened by sin but unceasingly solicited by grace. Quite a drama. It keeps him spry.

George Will's column is distributed by Washington Post Writers Group.

CAL THOMAS

True meaning of Christmas edited out of our culture

I enter the word "Christmas" and search the Internet. There are 21,050 sites. Most are about cards and gifts, poems and recipes. If I didn't know the definition of Christmas, I would find it difficult to sort out in this electronic cacophony.

In fact, the noise and the spectacle have overwhelmed the purpose of this unique observance. And politicians don't help. There was Vice President Al Gore on "Nightline" last week equating all faiths as having been created equal, including no faith. Why bother with any of them then?

U.S. District Judge Susan Dlott delivered the culture's verdict on Christmas when she ruled earlier this month that church-state separation is not violated when people are let off work because: "The celebration of Christmas as a national holiday cannot be viewed by any reasonable person as an endorsement of religion. The holiday itself is so imbued with secular connotations that, indeed, its religious origins are lost on many."

There are many reasons for this, but none more profound than the failure of those who believe in the real Christmas to act as if they mean it. Not as the worshippers of conspicuous consumption act, but perhaps as those ancient men from the East behaved. They didn't give each other gifts. They brought their gifts and themselves to the infant and presented both to Him in a symbolic and tangible demonstration of worship.

I've been reading a compilation of what some wonderful writers said about Christmas, not the holiday but the "reason for the season," as some say. It's called "Gospel: The Life of Jesus as Told by the World's Great Writers" (Word Books). The compilers are Constance and Daniel Pollock (she is the editor of this column). What surprised me about this work is that as an English literature major in college, I recall reading none of it. The textbooks had been selectively edited to exclude most of what these classic writers thought about Jesus.

A contemporary poem arrived in a Christmas card: "From strength to weakness; riches to poverty; lion to lamb; Heaven to Earth; God to Man: Jesus!"

Two thousand years later, His is still the most revered, reviled and debated name in history. Some people hear His voice. Others try to ignore Him, but can't, any more than Lewis Carroll could when he wrote:

"The wisest of the land
 Had gathered there, three solemn
 trysting-days,
 'For high debate: men stood on either
 hand
 'To listen and to gaze.

"The aged brows were bent,
 'Bent to a frown, half thought, and half
 annoy,
 'That all their stores of subtlest argu-
 ment
 'Were baffled by a boy..."

Cal Thomas' column is distributed by the Los Angeles Times Syndicate.



ART BUCHWALD

Celebrity tape cleaner sells for \$98,000

It appears that movie stars are selling all their personal belongings at fancy auctions. Barbra Streisand just had a garage sale at Christie's and unloaded everything from three pairs of sunglasses for \$5,500 to an everyday doormat with dust balls and dog hair for \$380.

Barbra wound up with a \$900,000 profit, and everyone in Hollywood is taking notice. Agents would rather book their clients at Sotheby's or Christie's than close a deal for a film at Paramount or Twentieth Century-Fox.

I attended an auction other day for the possessions of movie star Rock Hunter. The auctioneer started it off simply. "Our first item is a toothpick used by Rock Hunter while having lunch with Marlon Brando. It is in sterling condition and was used only once after Rock finished his corn on the cob."

The pick went for \$6,800, much higher than anyone thought it would.

"Here is a rare item," the auctioneer said. "Rock Hunter's shoeshine kit. It contains brushes that were used to shine his shoes when he attended an Academy Awards dinner in 1984."

The bidding started at \$3,000, and the final offer was \$15,000, made by a Japanese textile magnate by phone from Tokyo.

Two auction attendants brought out a rubber automobile tire.



Buchwald

"This tire once floated on Rock's swimming pool. It was used by Joan Crawford, Ava Gardner, Greta Garbo and Orson Welles. Rock told us he had more fun in this rubber tire than he did at Hugh Hefner's Playboy mansion. Am I bid \$10,000 for this rare and beautiful item?"

The bidding went up to \$60,000, and a collector who up till then had purchased only souvenirs from the Titanic bought the tire.

One of the big-ticket items was a VHS tape cleaner. People at the auction said they would wait all night for a chance to bid on it. The final contestants were a Saudi Arabian prince and Bill Gates. The prince won when he bid \$98,000.

Rock Hunter did not show for the auction, as he was too embarrassed to be there when they sold his possessions.

He told reporters who interviewed him at home that his favorite things were a hairbrush, a dog leash given to him by Barbra Streisand, the World Almanac for 1967 and an unsigned photograph of Warren Beatty.

The reporter asked Rock why he was selling all the items.

He replied, "They've been a part of me for so long I felt it was time to share myself with my fans."

Then he broke up and began to cry as he did in his latest movie, "Going, Going, Gone."

Art Buchwald's column is distributed by the Los Angeles Times Syndicate.

DOONESBURY



Spacewalking astronauts repair Hubble, replace broken parts

SPACE CENTER, Houston (AP) — Working more than 370 miles above Earth with ratchet tools, two spacewalking astronauts Wednesday fitted the Hubble Space Telescope with new instruments needed to restore its unparalleled view of the cosmos.

It was the first of three spacewalks to be conducted over three days on the \$3 billion observatory and, by far, the most important. The Hubble has been out of service since mid-November.

Keenly aware of the magnitude of the job, Steven Smith and John Grunsfeld floated out of space shuttle Discovery's hatch almost an hour early and quickly began organizing their tools in the cargo bay, where the Hubble was latched down.

"You ready to go?" Smith asked Grunsfeld. "Hubble needs us."

Four hours later, the men had replaced all six of the Hubble's gyroscopes. The work was made more difficult by stubborn bolts and storage-bin lids that wouldn't close.

A quick electronic check of the new gyroscopes showed they all worked. Additional testing was needed, though, before NASA could declare 100 percent success. In any event, it will be a few weeks before the Hubble resumes making observations.

Also on the evening's agenda: equipping each of the telescope's six batteries with a voltage regulator to prevent overheating. The spacewalk was expected to last six or seven hours.

The Hubble, which was plucked from space with Discovery's robot arm on Tuesday, has been useless to astronomers since a fourth gyroscope failed on Nov.

13. A minimum of three are needed to keep the 43-foot, 25,000-pound telescope steady as it aims at stars, galaxies and other celestial targets.

NASA believes the failures were the result of corroded wires. To avoid a repeat of the problem, engineers used pressurized nitrogen rather than air to force fluid into the new gyroscopes. The oxygen in the air was thought to have caused the corrosion.

The new gyroscopes, which come in 24-pound packs of two, cost \$8 million in all.

Smith and Grunsfeld took turns working inside the tight cavity that houses the gyroscopes. They had only a few inches of clearance; one wrong move and they could bump critical instruments and leave the telescope in even worse shape than it was.

Smith worked on the Hubble during NASA's last service call, in 1997. This time, he was

assigned the task of replacing the two side sets of gyroscopes because of his long arms; he is 6-foot-3 1/2.

On Thursday, astronauts Michael Foale and Claude Nicollier will replace the telescope's outdated computer and put in a new fine guidance sensor, part of the pointing system.

Smith and Grunsfeld will go back out Friday to install a new radio transmitter and data recorder, as well as steel covers to protect the telescope from damaging solar rays.

If they have time, the spacewalkers will also do some of the minor tasks that had been scheduled for a fourth spacewalk,

which was canceled after Discovery lifted off several days late on Sunday. NASA wants the shuttle back on Earth on Monday,

well before New Year's Eve, to avoid Y2K computer problems. This is the third service call to the Hubble. In December 1993,

astronauts fitted the telescope with corrective optics because of a defective mirror. The Hubble got a tuneup in February 1997.

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DECEMBER 23 1999

Security enhanced; Clinton assures 'we are doing everything we can'

WASHINGTON (AP) — Persistent fears that terrorists may strike are impelling federal authorities to enhance security even while urging Americans not to panic. "We are doing everything we possibly can," President Clinton told an anxious nation Wednesday.

Federal buildings are getting extra protection and security at airports is being tightened as investigators seek links between an Algerian arrested last week in Washington State to the loosely knit terrorism operation headed by Osama bin Laden in Afghanistan.

The Algerian, 32-year-old Ahmed Ressam, intercepted Dec. 14 in Port Angeles, Wash., after crossing the Canadian border, was indicted Wednesday by a federal grand jury in Seattle. He was charged last week with using false identification at a border crossing in addition to smuggling nitroglycerin in his car.

FBI counterterrorism chief Dale Watson said U.S. authorities were aware that bin Laden had issued Islamic calls to action — called fatwas in Arabic — against the United States. Bin Laden is a Saudi exile alleged by U.S. officials to have masterminded the bombing of two U.S. embassies in Africa last year.

And terrorism suspects arrested in Jordan have been linked to bin Laden's network, but U.S. authorities have not yet made such a connection to Ressam, a senior administration official said

Wednesday.

"We are taking extraordinary efforts in the government to act based on the incident out in the Pacific Northwest," Clinton said during a visit to a Washington soup kitchen.

He advised Americans to "go about their holidays and enjoy themselves and make the most of it," but at the same time "to just be aware of their circumstances, and if they see anything suspicious to report it immediately."

Officials throughout the government took the cue.

"Panic is not in our vocabulary," said State Department deputy spokesman James B. Foley even as he again cautioned Americans abroad to be vigilant and avoid crowds and said, "We have information that leads us to conclude that terrorists may be planning attacks around the world."

Pressed on whether this meant Americans should call off Christmas, New Year's and millennial celebrations, Foley said the warnings were "a cautionary light, not a red light."

Twice this month, U.S. citizens worldwide, including diplomats and guards at all American embassies and consulates, were advised to be on the alert.

Michael Sheehan, coordinator of the State Department's office on counterterrorism, said the government was balancing two competing requirements.

"One is to share information we

The Federal Aviation Administration said travelers at U.S. airports should expect tightened security precautions, including stricter enforcement of parking regulations.

have regarding threats in a prudent manner, and the other is not to be overly alarmist so as to unnecessarily frighten the American people, especially those who are traveling abroad," Sheehan told The Associated Press.

Defense Secretary William Cohen said U.S. intelligence agencies were cooperating with their counterparts around the globe.

"There is a sharing of intelligence to make sure that we have the latest possible information to make sure that we can deter and detect and discourage any attempts on American lives anywhere in the world," Cohen said on ABC's "Good Morning America" in an interview from Bosnia.

He warned that "there are some groups out there that seem determined to ruin the holiday if they can and to kill Americans and others if they can."

Deputy Attorney General Eric

Holder said the government had no specific information of U.S. sites being targeted. "We're doing everything in our power to prevent any attacks from occurring and to bring to justice those people responsible for planning any such attacks," Holder said.

One example of the heightened security occurred in the Bahamas, where U.S. Customs officials detained an American citizen trying to board a Miami-bound plane because the individual acted suspiciously and was found to be carrying wires, magnet coils and other items, Foley said. However, a thorough search turned up nothing suspicious, he said.

And in the nation's capital, police and federal authorities searched for a blue van with Texas license plates that a citizen reported was acting suspiciously, Watson said.

Manhunts are under way for up

to three people suspected of ties to Ressam and for a California man said to have ties to bin Laden.

Meanwhile, a U.S. official said the U.S. Embassy in Ecuador, closed last Friday after outsiders were detected doing surveillance, is reopening, with improvements being made in cooperation with Ecuadorian authorities. However, the U.S. consulate in Guayaquil remained closed for security improvements.

At the U.S. Embassy in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, services were reduced and visa operations were suspended, but the embassy remained open.

The Commerce Department

posted signs on its door stating there was heightened security at its buildings in downtown Washington.

The Federal Aviation Administration said travelers at U.S. airports should expect tightened security precautions, including stricter enforcement of parking regulations.

"We have no evidence of specific threats at this time," Transportation Secretary Rodney Slater said. "Again, we continue to monitor the situation as we would in any instance and we're going to do whatever we can to ensure the safety and security of the traveling public."

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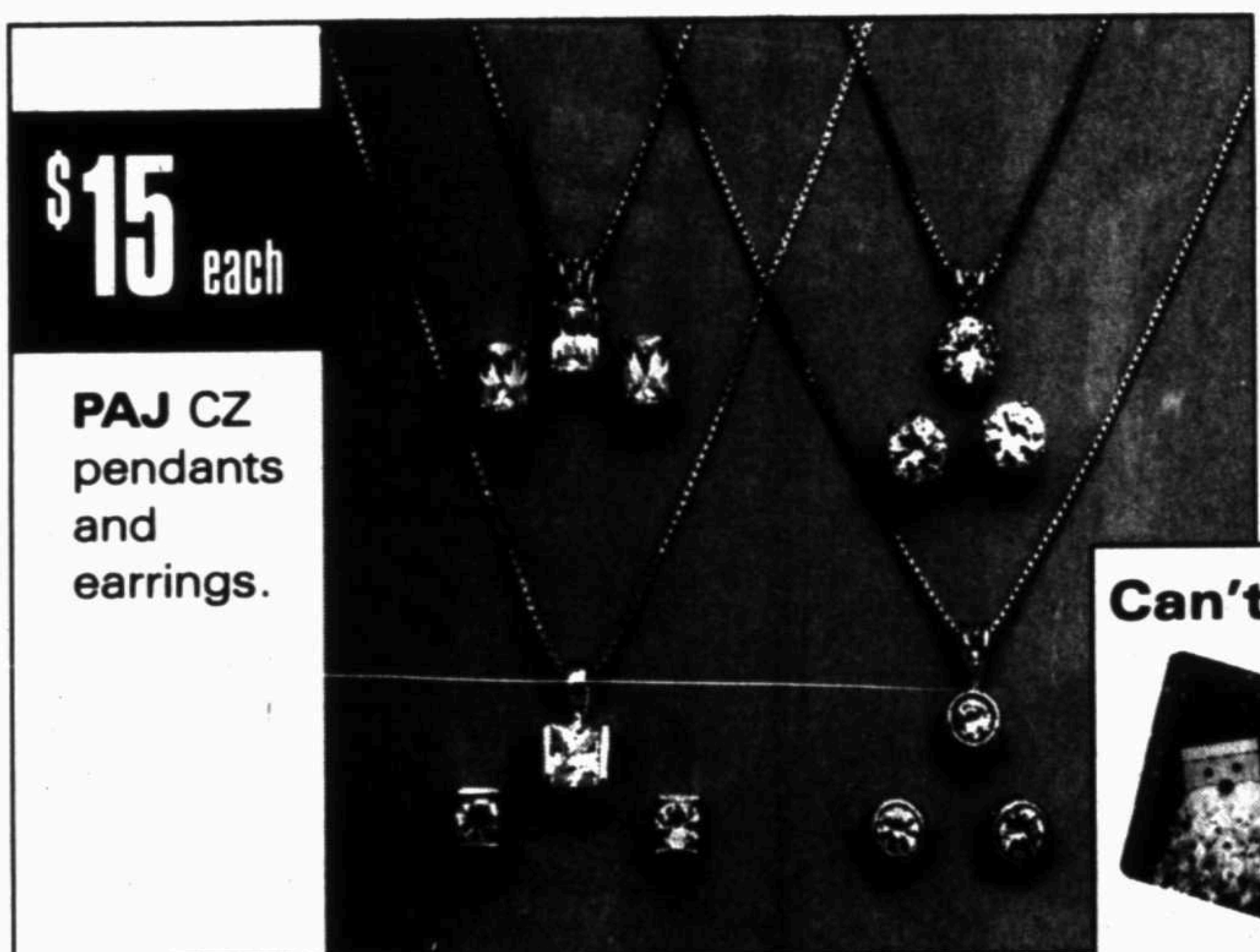
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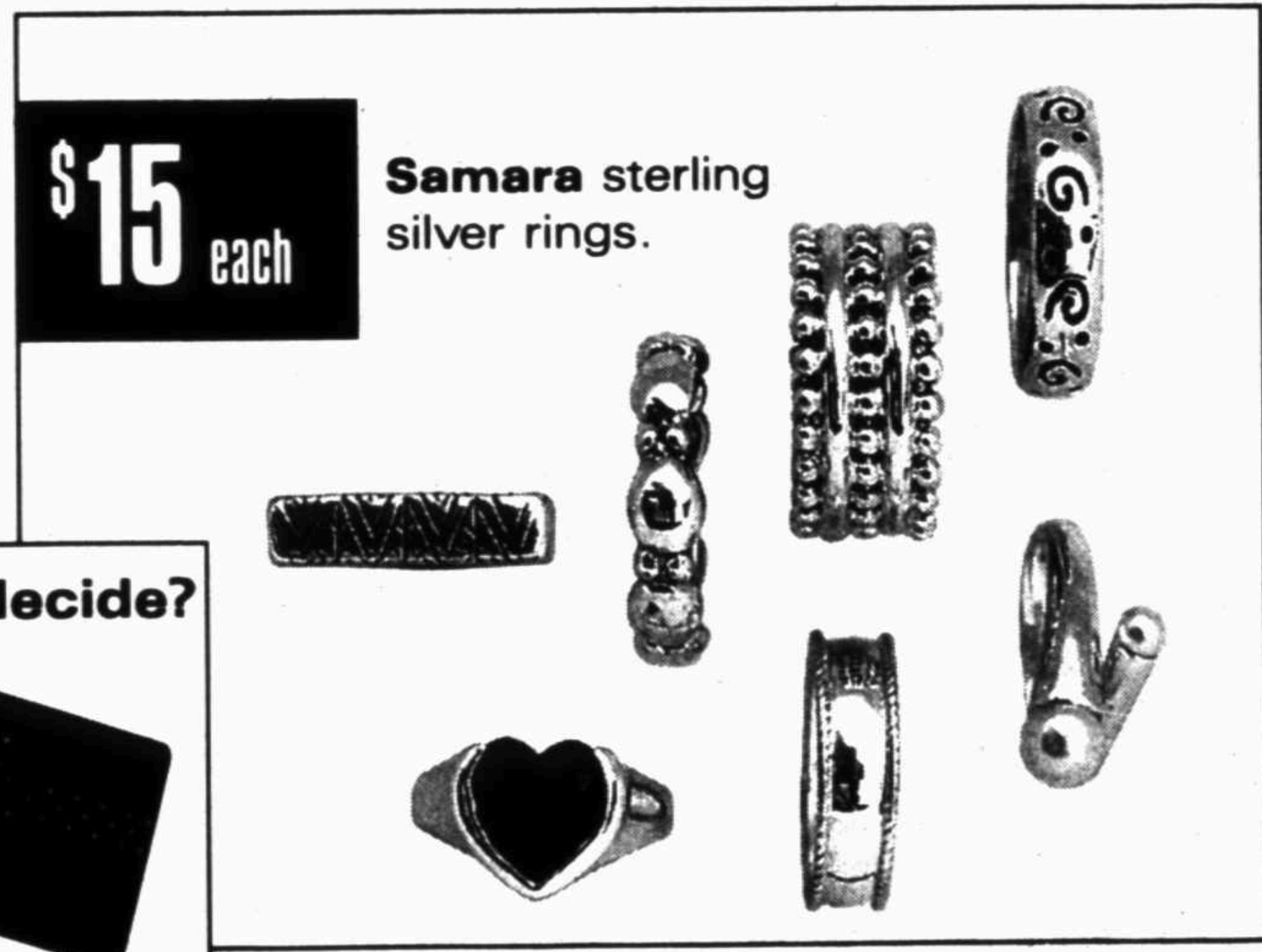
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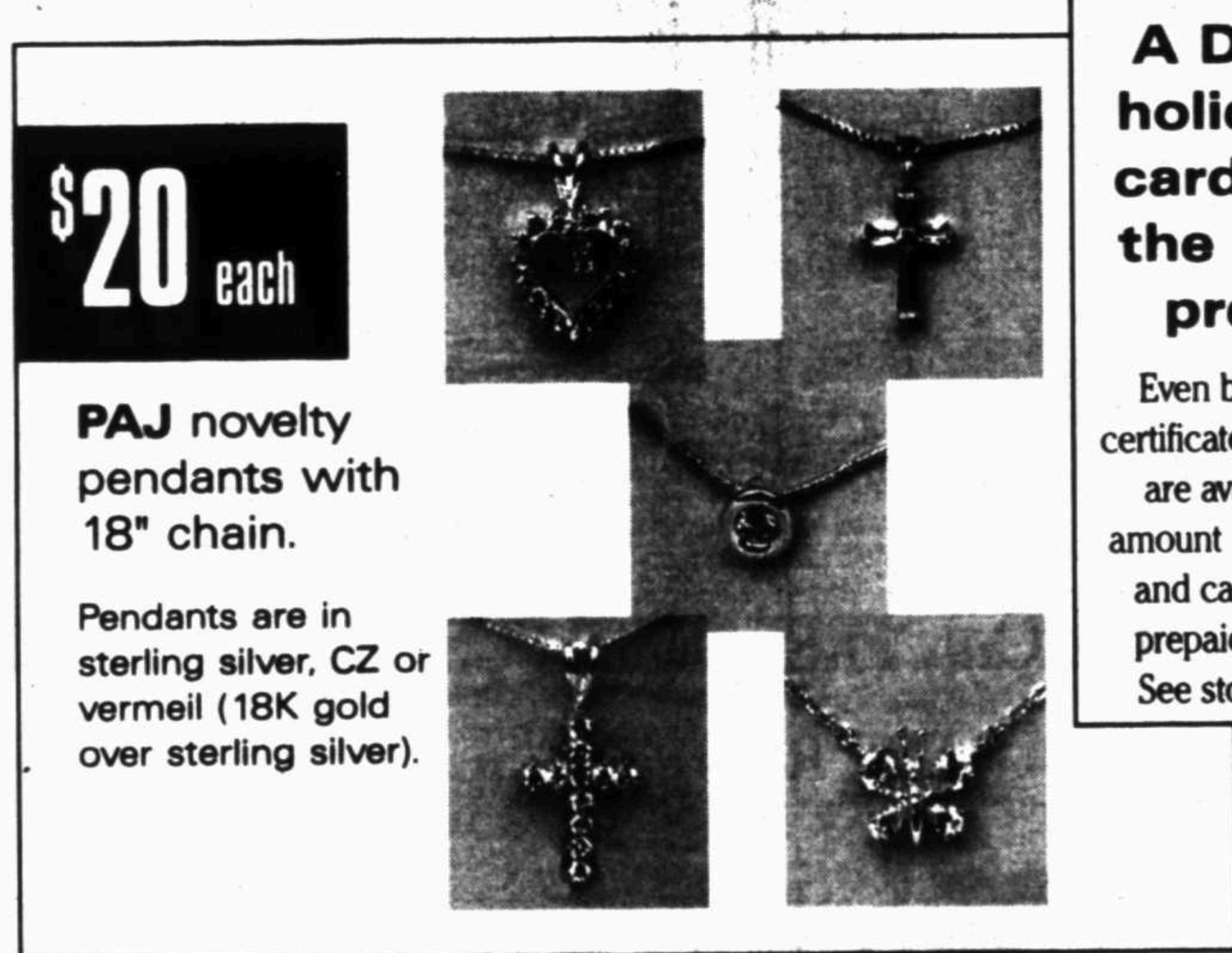
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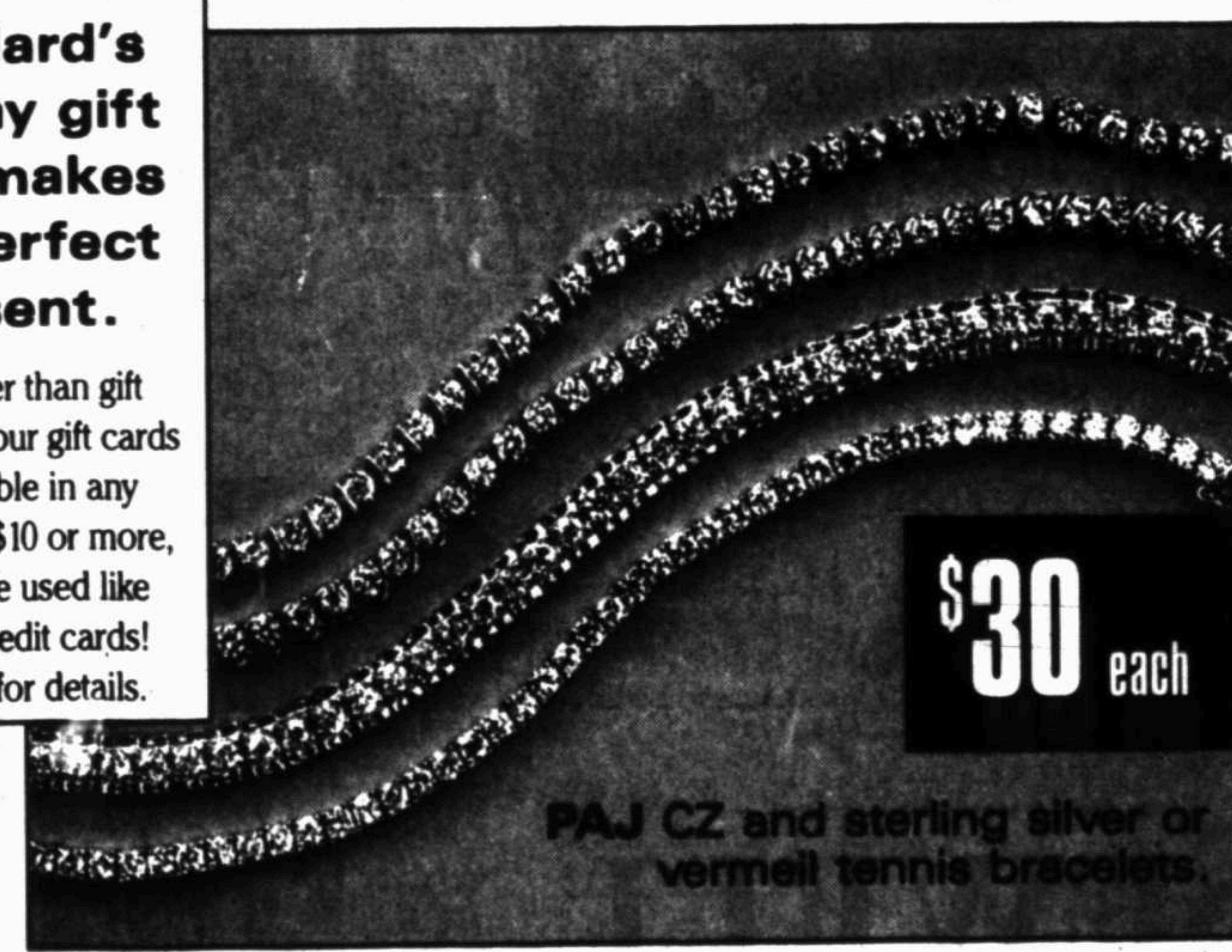
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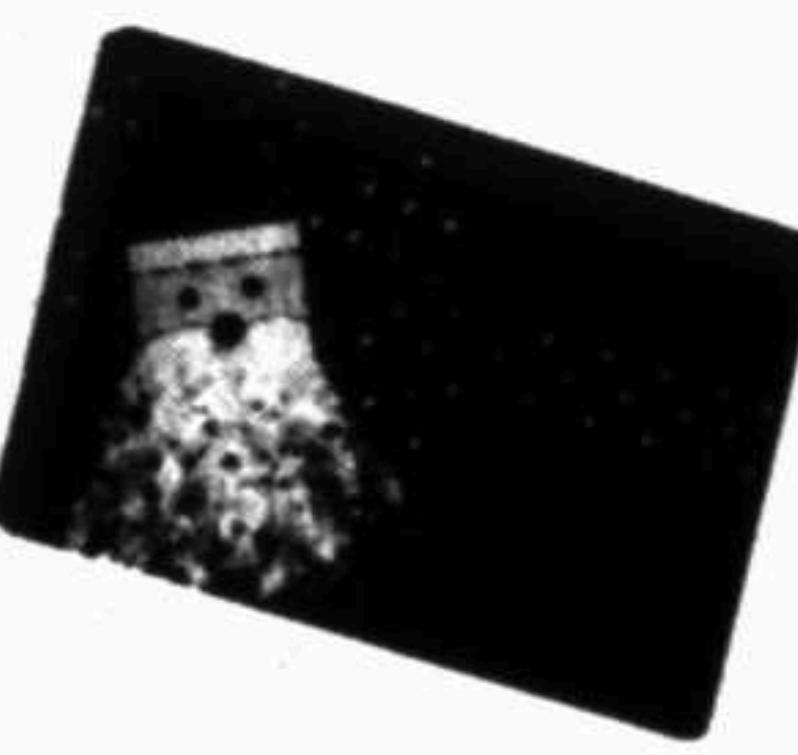
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Dillard's

Section I
Midland
Thursday

Mid

By Ian Heald
Staff Writer

After nearly a year of preparation, the city finally unveiled the Community Center. The community center, known as the "New Center," was purchased for \$195,000, remodeled the pet and erected on it. At first, the city would open the inside with organizations expected, said the director of community development. Camp fire moved out of the center and will be a city center to

Midland

Ortega lo

Salv

By Matt
Staff Writer

Midland there was despite the ed would "I was the economic state the giving whelmed even better Yvet the Salv The or toys resu in over 3 "The to

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By Mella
Staff Writer

County committees Wednesday sioner's Co Commis of a Texas Program pl committee neering firm Commis explained a planning project in south of In developme "We've planning, ments like

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By R. Er

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Midland Community Center to open on Jan. 3

By Ian Heald
Staff Writer

After nearly six months of negotiations and preparation, the city of Midland will finally unveil the newly restored Midland Community Center on Jan. 3, 2000.

The community center, formerly known as the Northeastern YMCA, was purchased by the city in late August for \$195,000. Since then the city has remodeled the interior, put in new carpet and erected a sign with the new name on it. At first, city officials said the center would open on Oct. 1, but remodeling the inside and scheduling programs with organizations took longer than expected, said Monette Burke, assistant director of community services.

Camp fire Boys and Girls has been moved out of the Midland Business Center and will be housed in the community center to run various youth pro-

grams. Executive Director Denise Malm said the organization would be implementing after-school programs, a computer lab, homework help, resources for parents and programs for seniors. "There are numerous kids that need and use the program," said Ms. Malm, who expects about 75 young people, ages 3 to 21, to use the programs offered by Camp fire through the community center.

Ms. Malm said those young people will have to pay a \$10 annual fee to participate in any of the programs run through the center.

COM Aquatics will be offering the following aquatic programs:

■ Water walking — Monday-Friday, 7:15-9:15 a.m., \$40/month per person, \$60/month per couple.

■ Seniors water aerobics — Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m., \$40/month per person, \$60/month per couple.

■ Adult lap swim — Monday-Friday, 11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m. and 5:30-6:30

p.m., \$30/month per person and \$40/month per couple.

Through the community center program agreement, COM will receive \$7,200 to run the pool and Camp fire will be paid nothing.

To assist in their program funding, Camp fire Boys and Girls received donations from Abell Hanger Foundation and the Permian Basin Foundation.

Jack Swallow, executive director of the Permian Basin Foundation, said the grant given by the group amounts to \$4,200. Swallow said 13 of the 24 organizations that applied for grants were awarded. He said Camp fire was awarded the money because the community center will benefit the children in the neighborhood.

"This grant is going to take care of small capital needs such as equipment, furniture, landscaping and (programming) start-up costs for child care and

Please see CENTER/3B



Shareen Caudle, development coordinator with Camp Fire Boys and Girls, plugs in her computer in the new Camp Fire office at the Midland Community Center.

Tim Fischer
Reporter-Telegram

Toys for Tots



Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Midland firefighters Bill Walker (l to r), Mike Turner and Jerry Klein, help Salvation Army volunteer Dephanie Ortega load some of the Toys-for-Tots presents left at Fire Station 8 over the weekend.

Salvation Army puts cheer under 350 trees

By Matt Josefy
Staff Writer

Midlanders did their part to make sure there was a present under every tree, despite the economy that some expected would dampen the Christmas spirit.

"I was a little hesitant this year with the economic downsizing, but the economic status didn't reflect anything on the giving. It even surprised and overwhelmed me that it was as good or even better than last year," said Captain Yvette Villafuerte, corps officer for the Salvation Army.

The organization's annual drive for toys resulted in 825 kids being helped in over 350 area families.

"The toys are a big drop in the buck-

et that helps them concentrate on meeting other needs like clothing and food," Ms. Villafuerte said.

Individuals and corporations alike chipped in to aid the community-wide effort.

"This is my 29th year at the Fire Department and we've helped as far back as I can remember. We used to do repairs on old toys. The way it is now it's very nice and neat; we don't mind at all. It shows the Christmas spirit because it is several organizations coming together for the common good of their community. I can't think of any higher thing to do than that," explained Assistant Fire Chief Eddie Klatt.

In addition to the Midland Fire Department, area businesses Expressions, Best Buy and Select Comfort served as drop-off points. Their cus-

tomers were then able to place new toys in the collection box.

"We just had a big box at front of the building and all of our employees wore buttons advertising the program. We collected for about three weeks. The box was overflowing with new toys. It was really nice to have bags from Target, Toys R Us and everywhere else. It was a total team effort by the community," said David Weeks, general manager of Best Buy.

Sandra Green, owner of Expressions, agreed, "It's our way of giving back to the community. We have a wonderful customer base who are willing to give. We had two full boxes of toys and we're going to start even earlier next year to

Please see TOYS/3B

Government presses on with drug suspects

By Rick McLaughlin
Staff Writer

The aftermath of the federal drug roundup that swept through Midland and other cities Dec. 9, resulting in warrants for 31 suspects and the arrest of 23, continued in Midland federal District Court Tuesday with hearings for 11 of the suspects.

They appeared before federal Magistrate Judge L. Stuart Platt for initial arraignments and detention hearings on a total of 16 counts of conspiracy to import narcotics, conspiracy to distribute narcotics and possession of narcotics for distribution, along with one gun-related charge.

Though some of the suspects were arrested on cocaine-related charges, the operation was more heavily involved in the marijuana trade, Texas Department of Public Safety Narcotics Lt. Robert Ralls said Tuesday.

Those appearing for hearings Tuesday included: Elizardo Aranda, 32, one of the alleged ring leaders; his wife, Sara Aran-

da, 34; Felipe Zamora, 25; Sergio Juarez, 51; Rafael Ronquillo, 29; Jose Falcon, 25; and Elizabeth Falcon, 26. Also appearing was Octavio Herrera, 37, of Ruidoso, N.M., who is a brother of Midland attorney Jesse Herrera. His appearance was continued until today at 10 a.m. in federal District Court.

All pleaded not guilty, except Octavio Herrera.

Testimony during Tuesday's hearings, and previous testimony and documents, revealed several new angles in the government's allegations that former and current employees of the Herrera law firm and some Herrera family members operated an illegal drug operation. Much of the alleged operation was run out of the firm's offices in Midland, Odessa, Amarillo, Las Cruces, N.M., and Hobbs, N.M. The Amarillo and Hobbs offices are now closed. Jesse Herrera has not been charged with anything.

The hearings presented government evidence and testimony that Elizardo

Please see TRIAL/2B

Gas fireplace sparks morning fire



Brian Adamcik/Reporter-Telegram

Midland firefighters battle a blaze that damaged a house in the Green Tree addition on Wednesday. A gas-operated fireplace was blamed for a chimney and attic fire Tuesday about 11:15 a.m. in a two-story house at 5494 Cypress Court, according to Midland Fire Department Fire Inspector Stuart A. Sherman. He said the owner of the house was at home and had been using the fireplace but turned it off. Later, smoke was detected and seen coming from the roof. Damage was limited to heat, smoke and water damage, the preliminary investigation indicated. No damage estimate was available, said Sherman. Eleven units of the MFD responded, he noted.

Commissioners fulfill project grant requirement

By Mella McEwen
Staff Writer

County commissioners formed two committees to oversee projects during Wednesday's meeting of the Commissioner's Court.

Commissioners fulfilled a requirement of a Texas Community Development Program planning grant by appointing a committee to review and select an engineering firm.

Commissioner Louisa Valencia explained that the county had applied for a planning grant for a water and sewer project in an area of Rankin Highway south of Interstate 20 up to the Westgate development.

"We've been awarded \$60,000 for planning, but we have to meet requirements like getting an aerial photo and hir-

ing an engineering firm to do a study," she said. "We have problems with sewer and Rankin Highway and Cotton Flat, and severe water problems at Westgate."

Previous grants have been received under the TCDP program and Ms. Valencia said that could fund 100 percent of the project.

"The money is there," she said. She noted that it is a big area and could take several years to complete the water and sewer project after the study is completed. Since she is not running for reelection, she urged her fellow commissioners to see the project to completion.

Ms. Valencia and Commissioner Mike Bradford joined a six-member committee to review proposals for engineering service to place the building and address drainage issues, and to select a vendor

to perform improvements to the Midland County Exhibit Building.

"This started out as a volunteer project with donated materials, but state regulations blew it into a major project," said Bradford of the plan to build a barn on the exhibit building grounds to provide shelter for 4-H students to hold their shows.

In other news:
■ Commissioners will meet December 29 with insurance companies submitting bids to provide liability insurance to the county in order to clarify their proposals.

■ Approved a new contract negotiated by the County Purchasing Agent for vehicle maintenance, a contract commissioners said offered substantial cost savings and more accurate information on actual maintenance costs for each department.

ERIC SETZLER

Mystery student provides 12 days of Christmas gifts and surprises

By R. Eric Setzler

Christmas can be an extraordinary time of year because it provides the setting for so many wonderful experiences. Being around young people in a school environment only enhances the holiday atmosphere.

Last year, I received an exceptional holiday gift from one of my students and her family when they included me in their yearly Christmas custom. As part of their tradition, Ashley "Jones" family delivers 12 small seasonal tokens to the home of the recipients along with a brief note of encouragement or explanation. (Obviously, their names have been changed to

protect their identity. Knowing the "Joneses," they have chosen another

lucky family this year, and I don't want to ruin their surprise.) Ashley was an enthusiastic and gifted student. Apparently, her parents had placed a strong emphasis on character education in the home as well as academics. Their efforts showed in the classroom because she demonstrated a strong concern for the well-being of her



Setzler

fellow students.

Consequently, about two weeks before Christmas, I was surprised to find a beautiful poinsettia on my front porch with a nice note stating:

First day: Poinsettia
It's the first day of Christmas! So for the next 12 days you will receive small gifts from us. Please don't try to find out who we are, but let us enjoy this season for giving by surprising you each day. Don't forget to check the porch!! A poinsettia plant is a true symbol of the holidays! Enjoy this one and each time you see it, please know you are appreciated!
I knew that one of my students was

responsible for providing my family and I with this series of thoughtful gifts because I'm blessed with terrific students. On each of the next eleven days, my family and I waited with great anticipation for kind notes and generous gifts. We were not disappointed.

Second Day: Popcorn tin
Things can really get "popping" this time of year! Enjoy this tin of popcorn with your family — and remember that someone is thinking of you today.

Third Day: Candy canes
Attached to the gift was a touching story about how the inventor of the Christmas candy cane incorporated several symbols for the birth, ministry, and death

of Jesus Christ.

Fourth Day: Candles
Light this candle and let it warm your heart and spirit for this beautiful season of the year!

Fifth Day: Reindeer stuff
Attached to a baggie full of Butterfinger BBs was this humorous poem.

You've been naughty
Here's the scoop
All you get for Christmas
Is reindeer poop!
Sixth Day: Fruit basket
We hope this fruit basket reminds you of the abundant blessings in your life. Eat

Please see 12 DAYS/3B

Today's Agenda

For information on checking out books, library hours and how to get a library card, call the **Midland County Library** at 688-8991.

The **Permian Basin Stamp Club** will meet at the General Mail Facility, Midland International Airport, 7:30 p.m. The public is welcome. For more information, call Mike Cherrington at 699-0202.

Flatlanders Toastmasters Club, Chevron Bldg., 15 Smith Rd., 11:30-12:30 p.m., 987-7286.

Post traumatic stress disorder support group for women, 6 p.m., Community National Bank, 601 E. Florida Ave., 570-9412.

Optimist Club of Midland, noon, Best Western Sidewalk Cafe.

TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) No. Tx139, 7 p.m., 1007 Austin St., 694-8643.

Project ADAM, (Alternatives to Domestic Assault for Men), 570-0467.

Midland Gem and Mineral Society, 7 p.m., Sibley Center by SE entrance of Hogan Park. Call 686-7442.

Permian Toastmasters, noon, Permian Basin Graduate Center, 684-0044.

Parents Anonymous, 7 p.m., for location and other information, 570-1084.

Survivors of Homicide Support Group, 7:30 p.m., second-floor classroom at law-enforcement building, 400 S. Main St., 688-8909.

Northside Lions Club, 7:30 a.m., Plaza Club at ClayDesa, 694-5624.

National Association of Retired Federal Employees, 6 p.m., Mr. Gatti's.

Overeaters Anonymous, 6:30 p.m., Midland Memorial Hospital, Room E-12.

Compulsive Eaters Anonymous, noon, First United Methodist Church, 694-2860.

Palmer Drug Abuse Program Parent Group, 7 p.m., second floor First Baptist Church, 685-3645.

Woman reunited with toddler after smuggler's blackmail attempt fails

HOUSTON (AP) — A toddler from Honduras who was smuggled across the Rio Grande and held for ransom has been returned to his mother.

Eymy Flores Gomes, 28, and her 2 1/2-year-old son were among a group of people sneaking into the United States on the Brownsville-Matamoros, Mexico border earlier this month.

Ms. Flores grew tired of carrying her child and handed him off to another person in the group. A short time later, the Border Patrol found the group. Everyone scattered. Ms. Flores was among those who were captured while her son was with the group that fled.

The alleged immigrant smug-

gler who was sneaking Ms. Flores and her son into the country contacted her relatives in Houston and demanded about \$1,200 for the return of the child, according to the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

INS in Houston was contacted Tuesday about the extortion attempt. They recovered the boy and arrested two people on charges of alien smuggling and conspiracy Tuesday afternoon.

Ms. Flores was flown to Houston Wednesday and reunited with her son.

INS released her on her own recognition and allowed her to fly to Los Angeles where she will stay with family members while awaiting a hearing in immigration court.

OBITUARIES



Riley Pape

Riley Elliott Pape was born February 24, 1943 in Austin, Texas to Nathaniel A. and Margarette Hugh (Campbell) Pape. He was reared and educated in Midland, graduating from Midland High School in 1961. While serving with the Navy, he was in the marching band and was sent to Cuba during the Bay of Pigs. Following his discharge, he joined IBM in 1964, retiring in 1994 as district manager. He joined Technology Service Solutions, where he worked until 1996 when he retired. Mr. Pape was a member of the Loyal Order of Moose, the Motorcycle Club-Brotherhood of 74, and the Prop Busters of Odessa.

Mr. Pape died at a local hospital

Monday, December 20, 1999.

He is survived by his daughter, Margaret E. Pape of Florida; his mother, Margarette H. Pape of Midland; his father, Nathaniel A. Pape of San Antonio; his companion, Linda Beaver of Odessa; his brother, C. Glenn Pape of Midland; and 4 cousins.

Funeral services have been scheduled for 1:00 p.m. today, Dec. 23, at Ellis Funeral Home Chapel with Reverend Jeff Fouts officiating.

The family requests memorials be directed to Hospice of Midland, P. O. Box 2621, Midland, Texas 79702.



Dorothy Littlefield

Dorothy Mae Littlefield was born December 28, 1928 in

Obituary & Death Notice policy

There is no charge for death notices of residents or former residents of Midland or for those who have Midland relatives. We also publish death notices for residents of the surrounding West Texas area.

Free death notices include date and place of death, service and burial information, funeral home handling arrangements, date and place of birth, brief biography, survivors and memorials. A longer, more detailed obituary is available for a charge. It may include tributes, expanded biography, organizational associations, notes of appreciation, pallbearers, honorary pallbearers and a photo.

Deadline for both free death notices and paid obituaries is 3:30 p.m. and information must be either received from or verified by a funeral home.

Cloudcroft, New Mexico to James Alexander and Minnie Mae (Sewell) Buie. She married Hayden Dee Littlefield and they have made their home in Midland for the past 30 years. She had worked in the family business, Littlefield Automotive, for many years.

Mrs. Littlefield died at a local hospital Tuesday, December 21, 1999.

She is survived by her husband, Hayden Dee Littlefield, Sr. of Midland; her sons, Ronald Dee Littlefield of Midland and Hayden Dee Littlefield, Jr. of Houston; her daughter, Judy Ashley of Perryburg, Ohio; her brothers, Johnny Buie of Alamogordo, NM, Marvin Buie and H. W. Buie, both of Caballo, NM; her

sisters, Jesse Lewis of Susanville, CA and Julia Robinson of Philomoth, OR; 7 grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Funeral services have been scheduled for 10:00 a.m. today, Dec. 23, at Ellis Chapel with Reverend Bob Porterfield officiating. Interment will follow in Resthaven Memorial Park under the direction of Ellis Funeral Home.

Serving as pallbearers will be Casey Littlefield, Toby Littlefield, Clay Beardemphl, Gary Buie, Bryan Buie, Jake T. Buie, Mike Buie, Kevin Buie, and Bruce Stewart.

The family requests memorials be directed to the American Cancer Society, 2304 Wadley, Midland, Texas 79705.

DEATH NOTICES

Tom Merrill

VANCOUVER, Wash. — Former Midlander Tom L. Merrill, 32, died Saturday, Dec. 18, at a Portland, Ore. hospital following a routine surgery.

At his request, there will be no services. Arrangements were under the direction of Evergreen-Staples Funeral Chapel in Vancouver.

He was born Jan. 5, 1967 in Coronado Island, Calif.

He was maintenance foreman for Tube Forgings of America, a division of Zidell Corporation, where he worked the past five years.

Survivors include his wife, Carrie Merrill of Vancouver; his

parents, Tom and Essie Merrill of Midland; a grandmother, Zell Stone of Melrose, N.M.; a brother, Byron Merrill of Franklin, Mass.; a niece and nephew.

Charles Crawford

HOBBS, N.M. — Former Midlander Charles E. Crawford, 75, died Tuesday, Dec. 21, at his home.

Services will be 10 a.m. today, Dec. 23, at Taylor Memorial Baptist Church with the Rev. Dr. Dean Mathis officiating. Burial will be at Prairie Haven Memorial Park under the direction of Griffin Funeral Home, Inc. Visitation was 3-8 p.m. Wednesday and will be 8-9 a.m. today at the funeral home.

He was born May 22, 1924 in Texas.

He was founder and owner of Crawford Well Service. He lived in Hobbs for 18 years. He was a member of Taylor Memorial Baptist Church.

Survivors include his wife, Dorothy Crawford; two sons, Larry Crawford and Dwight Crawford; a daughter, Carolyn Olson; two step-sons, Brad Burgess and Ron Burgess; a brother, J. T. Crawford; a sister, Olena Smalley; 11 grandchildren, and a great-grandson.

Memorials may be made to Vista Care Family Hospice, 1515 Calle Sur, Hobbs, N.M. 88240.

Plumer Hudspeth

Plumer W. Hudspeth, 81, died Tuesday, Dec. 21, at a Midland hospital.

Services are pending with Reyes-Garcia Funeral Home.

Ora Grimes

Services for Mrs. Ora Grimes are pending with Ellis Funeral Home.

Mrs. Grimes died Wednesday, Dec. 22, in Bryan.

TRIAL: Octavio Herrera is the brother of Midland attorney Jesse Herrera

(From 1B)

Aranda and fugitive Louis Renteria were major "cell" leaders in the operation and that the others were dealers, suppliers and runners in the operation.

The government said that Renteria is a fugitive and "is almost certainly in Mexico."

Elizardo and Sara Aranda

Aranda, an alleged ring leader, was in court Tuesday with his wife, Sara Ronquillo Aranda, and her brother, Rafael Ronquillo. Aranda waived his detention hearing rights to allow the court to let Sara out on bond so she could go home to their children.

Bond was set at \$50,000 with some of the heaviest requirements for electronic monitoring and restrictions on travel the court can impose. Family members were required to sign for the surety bonds. Sara Aranda will be required to wear a 24-hour electronic monitoring device and her travel will be limited.

The June 18 shooting deaths of two Big Spring men has also been linked to Elizardo Aranda, who was charged with "conspiracy to use and carry a firearm in commission of a drug felony" in connection with the alleged botched drug hit in Big Spring.

Elizardo, also known as "The Lizard," was presented as a serious flight risk by the government and bond was denied

marijuana distribution enterprise."

Ralls testified that government wiretaps linked Zamora to Renteria and numerous meetings of the organization at Felipe's Studio. Ralls' testimony also indicated that one of Zamora's duties was conducting counter-surveillance efforts for the ring.

At one point, Zamora is recorded warning Renteria to "throw away your cell phone" and warned Renteria that he was being followed. "You've got some narcs," he was quoted as saying.

Other evidence against him in the detention hearing included the seizure of a Russian-made AK-47 assault rifle, a 9 mm TEC-9 machine pistol and a 9 mm Ruger pistol. He was also found with a copy of "Drug Lord," a biography of the late Mexican drug lord Pablo Acosta, Ralls said. Zamora was also said to have a scrapbook about other drug gangs' activities.

The court acknowledged Zamora has past weapons violation convictions.

Zamora was denied bond, partly on inconsistencies in information gathered by pretrial services, and he was held for trial on charges of conspiracy and pos-

session in the narcotics trade.

Elizabeth and Jose Falcon Elizabeth and Jose Falcon were arraigned on similar conspiracy, distribution and possession for distribution charges. They were in court last week and had already been bonded out. They were there to enter a plea of not guilty to the charges.

Octavio Herrera

Among those appearing Tuesday was Octavio Herrera, 37, of Ruidoso, N.M. and formerly of Odessa. He is Midland attorney Jesse Herrera's brother. Herrera's hearing was postponed until today at 10 p.m. in part due to his paperwork not arriving from New Mexico.

Richard Aranda

Aranda, a former employee of the Herrera law firm was represented by Brian Chavez, son of former attorney Tony Chavez, who was arrested and convicted

on drug charges last year. The younger Chavez has not been implicated in the Tony Chavez case. Klassen, speaking for the government, was concerned about the possible conflict of interest in that still another Chavez son, Adrian, is representing another defendant in the case.

Aranda, who is from Hobbs, N.M., was granted bond of \$20,000 with travel restricted to Lea County, N.M. except for court appearances.

Patricio Martinez III

Martinez, 24, of Big Spring, turned himself in to U.S. marshals Tuesday morning. He is from Big Spring and was granted \$20,000 bond with travel restricted to Howard County except for court appearances.

Rick Jones

Rick Jones was accused of being part of the distribution ring and charged with similar con-

spiracy and distribution charges as the others. Jones, of Hobbs, N.M. had a prior history for drug arrests, the court acknowledged.

Sergio Franco Juarez

Juarez was accused of similar conspiracy and distribution charges. Testimony said that during the investigation, wiretaps showed cocaine purchases by Octavio Herrera and a government source, and Jesus Raymond Lucero and a government source, were often made separately, but delivery took place at Juarez' home. Juarez is accused of being responsible for the dis-

tribution of at least 3/4 of a pound of cocaine, worth more than \$12,000, during the course of several buys. Juarez is accused of having gotten 3 ounces of cocaine at a time, on two different occasions, for government agents, with a street value of more than \$2,500 each, testimony indicated.

Steven Lopez

Others with hearings included Steven Lopez, 22, of Big Spring. He was granted bond of \$20,000. He was charged with conspiracy to distribute and possession to distribute narcotics.

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Beacon Light Outreach would like to help you. Contact Pastor C.E. Hunter Sr. (915) 685-0183 or 683-7655 for further information

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Ex-e

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Ex-employees of AIDS center found guilty on more than 70 charges

LUBBOCK — A federal jury found a man and his seven-year life partner guilty of more than 70 charges against each of them Wednesday, including charging patients rent while receiving money for them to reside at an AIDS center and redistributing dead clients' medications.

David Crader, former South Plains AIDS Resource Center executive director, and Gerald Eckert, a former care coordinator at the facility, will be sentenced in about six weeks.

Crader was found guilty of 72 of the 76 counts against him, with four counts dropped before the case went to the jury. Eckert was convicted of 71 of 76 original charges. Five of the counts against Eckert were dropped prior to jury deliberations.

Both men face up to 1,000 years in prison and a \$32 million fine, based on the convictions.

A third man was also charged in the same crimes. Jeff Echols died Dec. 1 prior to the trial.

Defense attorneys Chuck Lane-

hart and Daniel Hurley told jurors during the 10-day trial that Crader and Eckert only did what was necessary to help those in their care.

Lanehart told jurors that Crader was being punished for performing good deeds and not following the law exactly.

"The t's weren't crossed and the i's weren't dotted, and the bureaucrats didn't like the way David Crader did things," he said.

Crader founded the center in 1988 from his living room. He originally provided AIDS infor-

mation to those in need and supplied a food pantry.

"I would do it again, if it saved a life," Crader said last week as he testified in his own defense. "I regret that it's against the law, but I would do it again."

Among the allegations against the pair is that they defrauded the Social Security Administration by paying salaries to "phantom employees" instead of actual ones in an effort to prevent them from losing disability benefits.

Four former employees testi-

fied that the center's checks were paid to their friends and family members. Two of the employees testified that they could have lost their disability benefits if their work was reported.

Assistant U.S. Attorney William Mateja said during closing arguments that unlike the defense attorneys would like the jurors to believe, the defendants were not taking from the rich and giving to the poor.

"This is not a Robin Hood situation," Mateja said. "What the

defendants were doing was stealing from the poor and taking this money and doing whatever they wanted to do."

Mateja told jurors if Crader and Eckert were working for the best interest of those in their care, they would have told them about federal housing money which would have dropped their rent payments.

Instead, the pair defrauded the Social Security Administration, blamed Echols for housing discrepancies and accused their lawyer of giving them bad advice.

12 DAYS: Ashley, her family showed a unique way to give for the holidays

(From 1B)

it and share it with others.

Seventh Day: Cookies
Please accept this plate of Christmas cookies. Baking for loved ones is a special part of the holidays. Share these with your family and friends. We hope they bring joy and pleasure to everyone who eats them — just as you have brought joy and pleasure to others.

Eighth day: Angel pin
On the first day of Christmas, angels brought the good news of the Savior's birth. We hope this brings you an important message, too — that you are appreciated!!

Ninth Day: Gift box
This is a very special gift for you, which you can never open — that you can never see.

The reason it's so special is it's just for you from me. Whenever you are lonely or even feeling blue, You only have to hold this gift and know we think of you. You never can unwrap it, please leave the ribbon tied. Just hold the box close to your heart, it's filled with love inside.

Tenth Day: Tree ornament
Hang this ornament on your tree to add to your fabulous collection! May it remind you year after year of your special twelve days of Christmas surprises!

Eleventh Day: Bread
Nothing smells quite like freshly baked bread! It's an aroma that means "home" to everyone! Enjoy this loaf made just for you.

Twelfth Day: Hot Chocolate

and Mugs
Take some time to enjoy this together!

On the evening of the Twelfth Day, there was a knock on the door from our mystery providers. Together, the Jones and Setzler families enjoyed a half-hour of conversation, drinking hot chocolate and celebrating this wonderful tradition. Afterwards, the Christmas holiday seemed brighter and renewed.

Through their kindness, Ashley and her family showed a unique and creative way to show an important part of the Christmas spirit — giving to others. It was also an extraordinary way to show a teacher that they are special. From the bottom of my heart, I'm thankful for people like the Joneses.

Judges could remain confidential under abortion notification rules

AUSTIN (AP) — The names of judges deciding whether or not to undergird, unmarried girls could skip telling a parent before getting an abortion would remain secret, under rules issued Wednesday by the Texas Supreme Court.

The state's new parental notification requirements for minor, unmarried girls seeking an abortion take effect Jan. 1.

The Legislature required the court to determine rules as to how a girl could seek an exemption to the law.

A girl could ask a judge to determine that she is mature enough to make the decision without telling a parent.

The law makes it harder on girls who worry they could be in danger if they tell their parents they are pregnant or thinking of having an abortion, said Kae McLaughlin, executive director of Texas Abortion Rights and Reproductive Rights Action League.

"Kids need to know they can still go to a clinic to get help and information without telling their parents," Ms. McLaughlin said.

"Thank goodness most can tell their parents," she said. "It's those who can't that will be put in an even more difficult situation."

The rules also require the court to appoint an attorney for the girl and to issue a ruling within two business days of her request. The court also would have to give preference to a girl's request over other pending matters.

The rules also established guidelines for an appeal should a girl's request be denied.

The notification requirement was passed by state lawmakers in May and signed into law by Gov. George W. Bush.

Critics have said keeping the judges' names confidential could threaten the Texas Constitution's ban on closed court proceedings. Supporters say it protects judges from electoral intimidation from either side of the abortion debate.

The judge's decision and the girl's name also would be confidential.

Sen. Florence Shapiro, R-Plano, has said she supports keeping the names of the judges secret but that it was never discussed by lawmakers.

"My intent was to always make absolutely sure the child's confidentiality was upheld at all costs," Ms. Shapiro said. "But at the same time, they put the confidentiality over the entire process. I think the judges probably lobbied for that."

TOYS: The charity program is known nationally as Angel Tree

(From 1B)

give our customers plenty of time. Most of the people in Midland are very much aware of what the cause is; these kids might not have a toy otherwise."

"We've done it for at least three years to help give back to the less privileged. People get into it. One guy wanted to prime the pump and gave his own kid's toys when the box was first put out. Even if we just got one to make a little boy or girl happy, that's successful," Weeks said.

"There are lots of kids that would not have gotten stuff that will this Christmas because of these efforts. There's going to be some happy kiddos this Christmas. A big, white teddy bear always looks cute and we got some really nice toys — some of the people put some money into them," said Klatt. "We don't think of ourselves as being greater than that because we're working in this program. In the Fire Department, our whole job is helping people so, to us it's kind of a low-key thing because it's something we do all of the time. I just think it gives a very good feeling at Christmas to give to your fellow man."

"The program is known nation-

ally as Angel Tree, but we work in conjunction with the Marines and use their Toys For Tots trademark. We've done it for the past 20 years. The public should understand that it is given to a truly needy family, not just supplied to anybody," said Ms. Villafuerte.

"We make sure that the big companies have posters and then we also collect the toys and take them to the Salvation Army. Our office was full of people coming by left and right. The most interesting experience was singing karaoke at a banquet for money. We were able to buy \$450 worth of Walkman's with those donations. As long as it puts a smile on a kid's face, that's all that matters," said Midland Marine recruiter Mario Ribas.

All of the families are screened and interviewed to make sure they meet strict poverty guidelines set by the federal government. Ringing in the Christmas spirit, the Salvation Army also took teddy bears to senior citizens in conjunction with Meals on Wheels.

As for the giving spirit, Ms. Villafuerte explained that the organization relies heavily on donations received during the Christmas season. All goods collected are distributed within the community.

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*A NEW Look at
"The Twelve Days
of Christmas"*



*On the eleventh day of Christmas
my true love gave to me...*

Eleven pipers piping

The Faithful Apostles

(Acts 1:13)

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CENTER: No full-access memberships will be issued

(From 1B)

after-school activities," said Swallow.

Swallow said the community center will provide an excellent use of funds because it will benefit children from area schools and neighborhoods near the center.

The Abell Hanger Foundation contributed \$55,000 to Camp fire, but Lester Van Pelt, Jr., secretary-treasurer, said he couldn't comment on the nature of the grant until after Jan. 1, 2000.

The fee structure for the Midland Community Center is as follows:

- Activity room rental, \$20/hour;
- Smaller meeting room rental, \$10/hour;
- Gym rental, \$20/hour;
- Kitchen use, a flat \$25 fee;
- \$200 deposit for all meeting room and gym use.

According to Ms. Burke, there will be no general access memberships offered at the community center. Although many of the same programs will remain at the former Northeast YMCA, the facility won't operate as a YMCA; no full access memberships will be issued.

Youth Development Coordinator Billy Merritt said he has been overwhelmed with the calls to reserve facilities at the community center. He recommends that anyone interested in using the community center sign up at the registration drive being held 9-11 a.m. Dec. 28-30 at the Midland Community Center at 2300 Butternut Lane, just off of Scharbauer Road.

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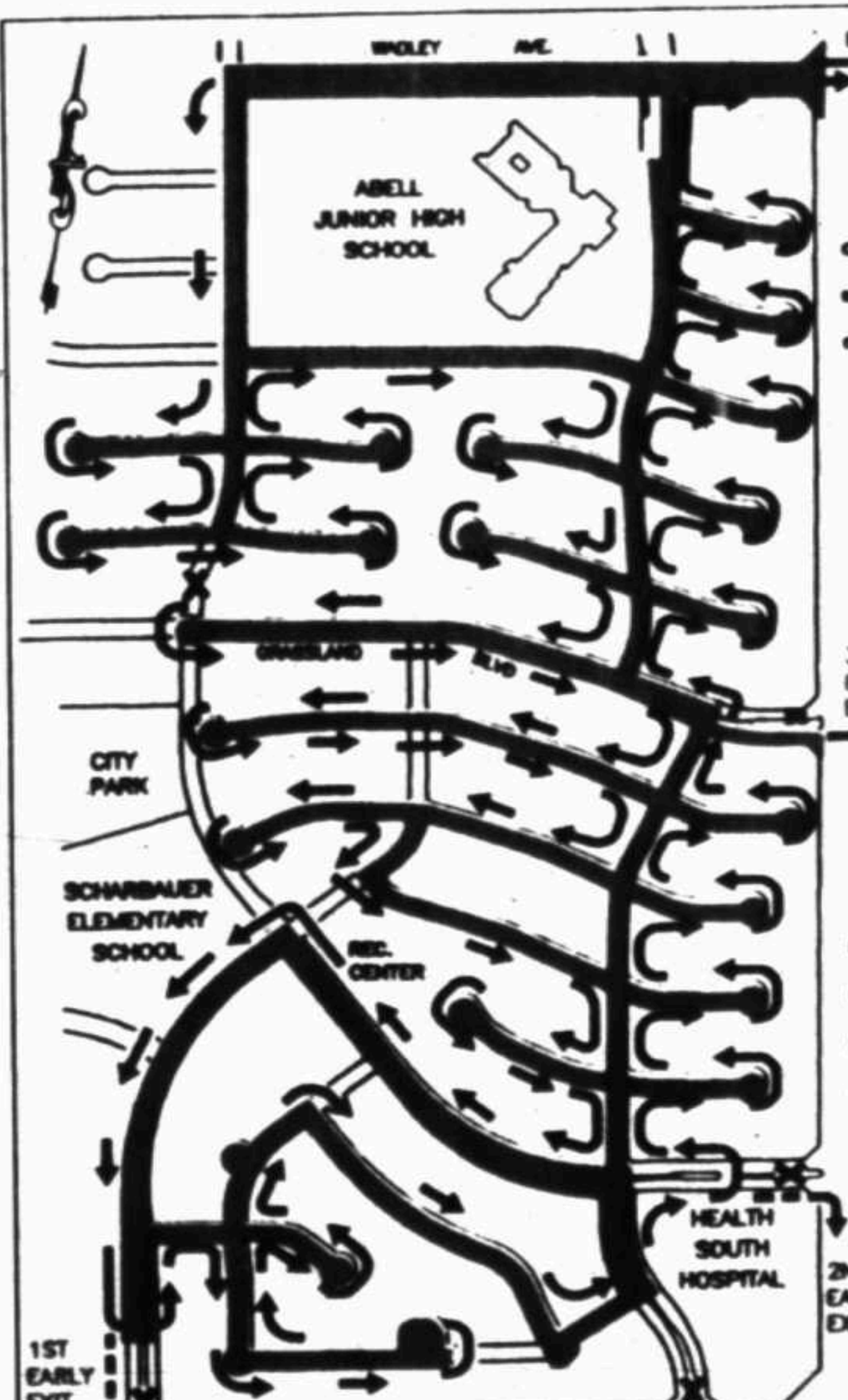
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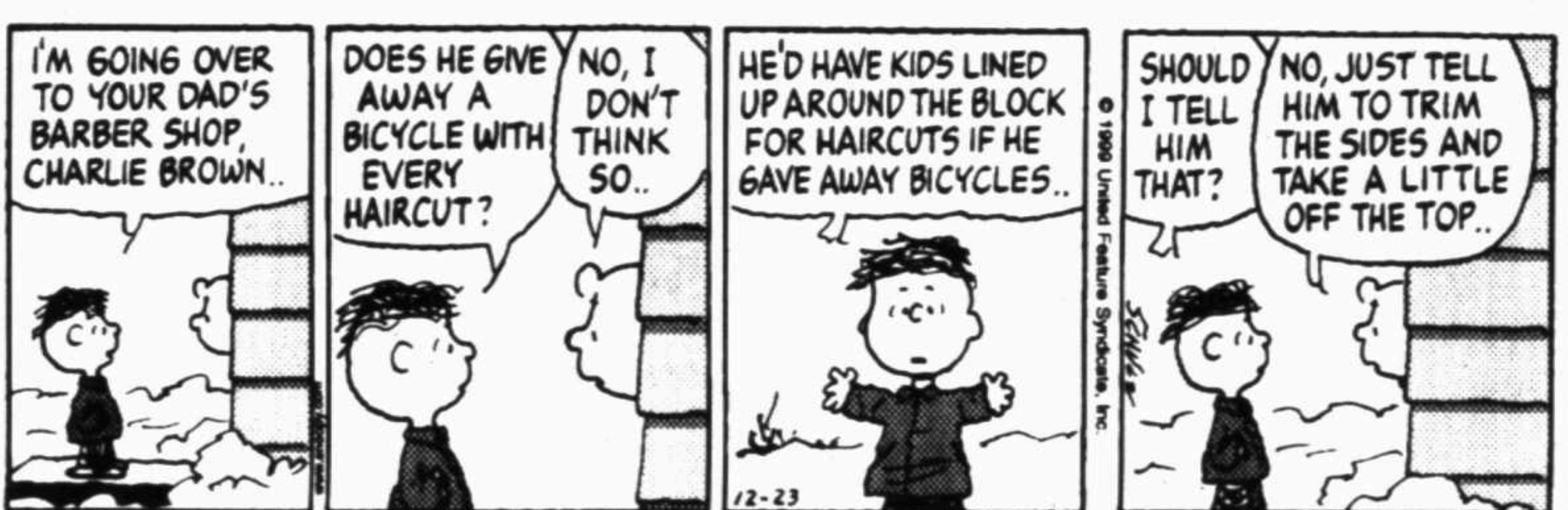
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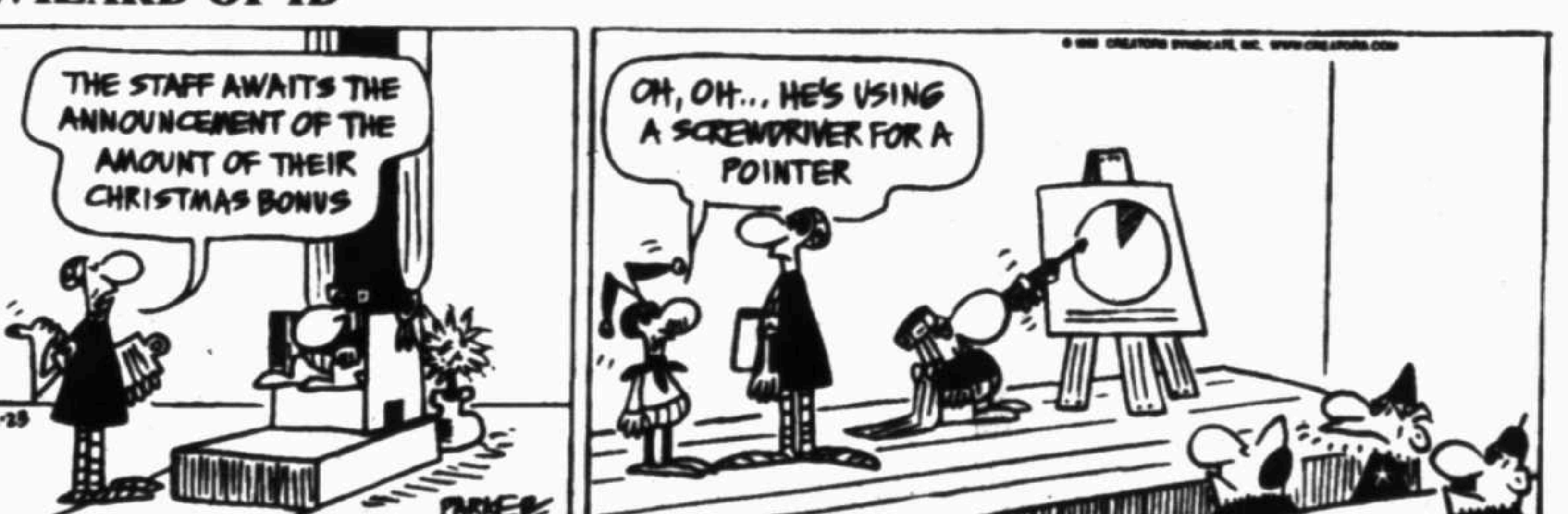
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MARY WORTH



JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Thursday, Dec. 23, 1999: You are more concerned with others this year than you have been in the past. Juggling others' needs with your own could become a full-time job. You gain because of your stamina and tenacity. You embrace commitment and give it meaning. Friends come through for you. However, in some way, collaboration with a friend could be costly. If you are single, romance is not the problem — choosing the right person is. You are unusually aware of this through spring. If attached, you add a joyful adventure or event to your life when operating as a couple. Share responsibilities, and your relationship will grow. **CANCER** challenges you, but also cares. **ARIES** (March 21-April 19) ★★★★★ It is your choice — deep caring or a hot fuse! Think before you speak, even though being impulsive is natural for you. Popularity increases, and with it come responsibilities. Worry less about the implications. Let the good times roll! Tonight: Attend to family. **TAURUS** (April 20-May 20) ★★★★★ Don't reveal all the surprises you have up your sleeve, even though another might be testy as he attempts to find out what is on your mind. Sometimes a boss or someone you care a lot about has a hard time expressing his caring. Express yours. Tonight: Start the celebrations. **GEMINI** (May 21-June 20) ★★★★★ You might have some last-minute running around to do. A friend will join you. Make a meeting. Know that another cares and that how he expresses it could be difficult. A loved one might need

you to do something unusual for him. Don't deny his request. Tonight: Indulge yourself or another. **CANCER** (June 21-July 22) ★★★★★ You have the pleasure of giving a lot of yourself to another. You certainly appreciate the caring and what someone means to you. Listen to another who sometimes gets upset if he doesn't get enough attention. A friend is serious. Listen. Tonight: It is your ballgame! **LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★★★★ Sometimes it might be hard to keep a secret, especially from someone as provocative as a key loved one. Don't become ensnared! Let him find out what is up your sleeve. Listen and express your caring, but keep the cat in the bag. Tonight: Mystery suits you. **VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★★★ Your smile helps others get past a moment or two of stress. Understand that what isn't being said is probably more important than what is being said. Make that additional effort for a co-worker or someone you treasure in your day-to-day life. Tonight: Join friends. **LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★★★ Close relating proves to be difficult and demanding at times. You might be more into show and tell than you realize. How important are image and form compared to your inner spiritual ties? Finances are stretched as you attempt to please. Tonight: A command performance. **SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★★★ You mean well, though another clearly triggers strong feelings. Listen to another. Be willing to take a risk or two. Look at the whole story. Become more

detached. Another clearly cares, despite his odd way of showing it. Tonight: Do something dreamy. **SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★★★ Though you are tired, you still expend an additional effort. A partner does appreciate your feedback and energy. Pressure builds. You might feel like you have to make all the concessions. Be more trusting. Know that others are doing their best. Tonight: Togetherness counts. **CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★★★★ Focus on loved ones, the good life and making what you need happen. A child or loved one could experience a stressful reaction. Help him through it. Be careful with spending. Understand that you can't be the only one taking responsibility. Tonight: Go along with another's plans. **AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★★★★ Emphasis is on getting the job done at work and in your personal life. Your ability to organize helps you. A boss or parent leans on you heavily. Recognize your objectives, and you'll succeed. Another indulges you. You are clearly in the holiday mood. Tonight: Get a good night's sleep. **PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★★★★ Romance counts, especially at this time of year. Make that extra effort toward an important person in your life. What is difficult at first becomes easy later. Don't forget someone at a distance! He still needs your caring. Tonight: Get into the "ho ho ho" spirit.

BORN TODAY
Actress Susan Lucci (1949), actor Corey Haim (1972), football player James Harbaugh (1963)

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With Omar Sharif and Tannah Hirsch

Neither vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH			
♥ K Q			
♦ J 4 3			
♣ A K J 10			
♠ A K 6 3			
WEST			
♥ A J 10 9 6 3			
♦ Void			
♣ Q 8 4			
♠ Q 10 7 2			
EAST			
♥ 7 4 2			
♦ Q 10 8			
♣ 9 7 5 3			
♠ J 8 5			
SOUTH			
♥ 8 5			
♦ A K 9 7 6 5 2			
♣ 6 2			
♠ 9 4			

The bidding:
NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
1♣ Pass 1♥ Pass
3♣ Pass 3♥ Pass
4♥ Pass 5♥ Pass
6♥ Pass

Opening lead: Ace of ♠

There are some plays you can make at the bridge table that only stand to gain. South found such a play on this deal, and a defender cooperated to give declarer a slam which was destined for defeat.

Hampered by a partnership agreement that the range for a two-no-trump opening bid was 22-24 points, North had a difficult hand to bid and probably did as well as possible. South's bid of five hearts showed slam interest based on good hearts but no outside control, so North knew that slam would be a good bet.

West led the ace of spades and continued the suit, the queen winning. All declarer

Resist Temptation

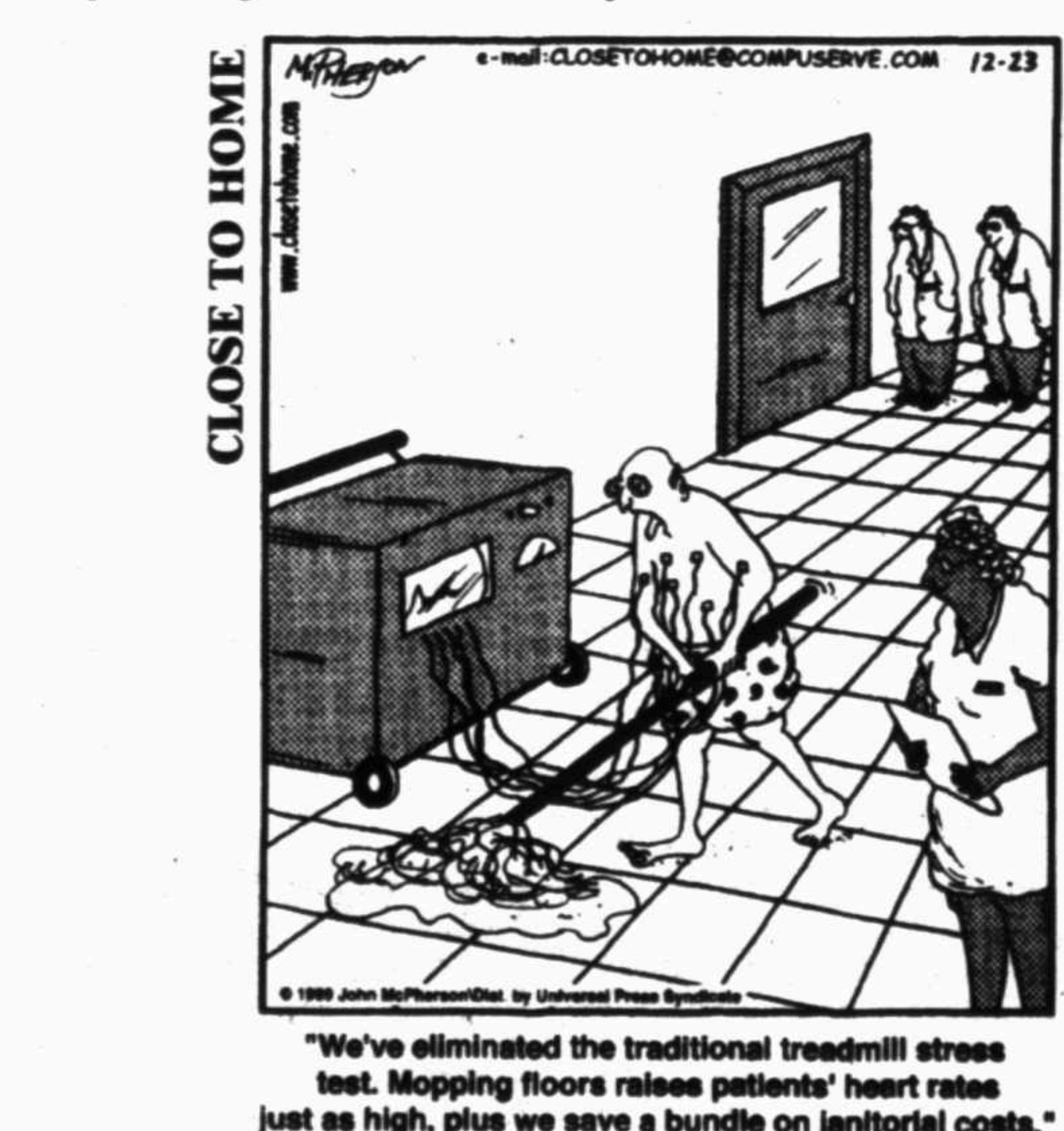
needed was a 2-1 heart break to land the slam, a 78 percent chance. Double dummy, the slam could also be made if East held all three missing trumps, but that involves a first-round finesse for the queen, an impossible position to take.

However, declarer elected to start trumps by leading the jack from dummy at trick three. Had East followed low, declarer intended rising with the king and playing for the percentage distribution.

From East's holding it should have been obvious that declarer was not taking a finesse. But East routinely elected to cover, and the roof fell in.

Declarer won with the king and West showed out. It was now an easy matter for declarer to cross back to dummy to lead a trump and, when East produced the eight, to finesse the nine and land the slam.

West's comments are unprintable!



ZITS



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FAMILY



PEO Ber

LOS ANGELES — **ERIC BENET** will be the 31-year-old TV magazine spokesman for the new phone message service Tuesday. The coup is being celebrated by HBO movie star **Dorothy Dandridge**, the first black woman to be nominated for an Oscar. Benet's first message will be "Spend Myself," which is a reference to his own life.

MIAMI — his waterfront. In October, the deal fell through. Its three guests are real estate agents. The unnamed lion. The on-air Express Hotel exclusive cover. Stallone spent at least a million dollars on a movie.

VATICAN — wheels for the armored car. The metal in gold, was



Ennis officials negotiating to keep hospital open

ENNIS (AP) — City leaders here are hoping to postpone the closing of the only municipal hospital until a new operator is found.

Dallas-based Baylor Health Care System announced last week that it planned to close its Ennis hospital on Jan. 31. Baylor officials said they would return control of the 45-bed Ennis hospital to city officials, as required under their 1980 sale agreement.

Ennis officials on Wednesday said the hospital must remain open to maintain its accreditation. City commissioners said it will be harder to find a new provider

if the doors close. The city will request that the hospital stay open an additional 90 to 120 days.

"We realize we can't run that hospital. We don't have the money, the expertise or the accreditation," Commissioner Byron Walker told the Ennis Daily News.

A Baylor official, meanwhile, expressed concerns that the hospital's emergency room may not have the staffing to remain open through January.

In a letter to employees, Ron Hudspeth, executive director of the hospital, that the facility will discontinue inpatient surgeries

and close the women's health unit this week. The skilled nursing facility will take no new patients after Friday.

Ennis is a city of about 18,000 residents, 33 miles south of Dallas. After the closing, Ennis residents needing hospital treatment would have to drive west to the Baylor hospital in Waxahachie, the Ellis County seat 13 miles to the northwest, or south to Corsicana or north to Dallas.

Ennis officials said at least four other hospitals have expressed interest in operating the hospital, including Providence, which has

a Mexia branch.

Baylor announced it would close the hospital after reporting a \$21.3 million loss systemwide. Officials for the chain of six North Texas hospitals said the Ennis hospital, one of its two in Ellis County, has lost \$14 million since 1992. The chain expected to lose another \$20 million in the next five years.

The officials blamed the losses on cuts in Medicare fees and private insurance coverage, as well as a shortage of patients.

Baylor will offer to operate a scaled-down health center in partnership with the city, said Tim

Parris, Baylor regional executive.

Ennis city officials said last week that they might ask voters to approve a hospital district that could levy a tax for health care.

Mayor Bill Lewis said he hoped to put a hospital district on the ballot in late January or early February. City officials have not yet determined how much of a tax to propose.

Baylor closed the hospital's intensive care unit 16 months ago to cut costs and try to save the operation, said Ron Hudspeth, hospital administrator. But the move backfired as that prompted medical

specialists to withdraw, patients to go elsewhere for important treatment, and the losses continued.

Hospital officials said it has been averaging five overnight patients a day, down from 11 just before the intensive-care unit was closed and from the hospital's peak of 27 in 1989.

While expanding outpatient care and other services in Waxahachie, Baylor considered "other scenarios" for keeping the Ennis operation going. But despite the city's expected growth, "we couldn't find one that made sense," Parris said.

County: Ex-inmate's request for \$1.4 million in damages is 'demand'

LUBBOCK (AP) — Lubbock County again urged a federal court judge this week to enforce an agreement releasing the county from liability related to a former inmate who claimed two jail supervisors had created a bogus case against him.

The county paid Ollie Johnson \$100,000 in April to settle accusations that he was abused by jailers. Johnson has since asked for an extra \$1.4 million.

But county officials voted in September not to grant Johnson's request, instead filing a complaint in federal court asking that the

earlier settlement be enforced.

Johnson's attorneys, however, contend the agreement is invalid because their 33-year-old client signed it without legal advice and under threats and intimidation. Attorney John S. Powell of Houston filed a complaint last month asking that the county's case be dismissed because the federal court lacks jurisdiction in the case.

This week, the county responded that Johnson's request was a "demand letter" which, "clearly threatened Lubbock County and its officials with coercive action."

That "coercive action" falls

under federal law, according to the county's attorneys.

Johnson was originally jailed in April 1998 on a charge of criminal trespassing.

According to sheriff's office reports, Johnson scuffled with deputies on April 30, 1998, after refusing to follow orders. Johnson struck one jailer in the mouth and threatened to kill another, reports said.

He was charged the next day with assault on a public servant and retaliation. Authorities now say the charges were falsified. "Ollie Johnson stayed in jail for

almost eight months on what you'd want to call bogus or trumped up charges," criminal District Attorney Bill Sowder told the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal last August.

Johnson was released on his own recognizance late last January. Sowder dismissed the assault and retaliation charges on April 20. Six days later, County Commissioners paid Johnson the \$100,000 to settle his abuse claims.

Since that time, Sheriff's Deputy Rusty Hendrick has been found innocent of falsifying the criminal offense report used in 1998 to indict Johnson. Another deputy, 34-year-

old Tommy Ray, has entered an agreement under which he will offer his testimony in exchange for pleading guilty to a lesser misdemeanor records tampering charge.

A felony tampering charge is still pending against Cpl. Jerrold Welborn, 35. Misdemeanor assault charges are pending against Deputy Russell "Cash" Lilley, 33.

All four men resigned from the sheriff's office before the investigation ended.

Two other jail employees connected to the case, deputy Richard Lewis and assistant jail administrator Jack Mitchell, face no criminal charges. In June, Lewis resigned and Mitchell retired after 26 years with the sheriff's office.

DFW airport answering call for more security

DALLAS (AP) — The Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport is one step ahead of requests by the federal government to tighten up security this holiday season, say officials.

On Tuesday, the Federal Aviation Administration said travelers should expect tightened security precautions at airports, including stricter enforcement of parking regulations.

"Security is always extremely

important and a priority at DFW Airport," Jeffrey P. Fegan, executive director of DFW Airport, said in a prepared statement.

Airport officials highlighted some of the normal safety measures that meet the federal government's request for more security.

The airport has a Department of Public Safety with 307 commissioned police officers responsible for law enforcement, fire and emergency medical services.

The department also has a SWAT team and FAA certified K-9 explosives detection teams on site. Also, the department's Anti-Air Piracy unit keeps a vigil with cameras positioned throughout the terminals.

The terminal areas will also see an increased presence of patrol units and uniformed police officers.

The security measures are not expected to cause any major delays, airport officials say.

Cab company owner pleads guilty, agrees to testify against Dallas council member

DALLAS (AP) — A Dallas taxi cab owner has pleaded guilty to a federal conspiracy count relating to allegations he bribed longtime Dallas City Councilman and black rights leader Al Lipscomb.

Floyd Richards has agreed to testify in the public corruption trial against Lipscomb set for Jan. 11 in Amarillo. Richards, who will be sentenced in April, faces a maximum five years in prison and \$250,000 fine.

This week, federal Judge Joe Kendall ordered the change of venue, citing "significant media attention" and Lipscomb's long-time status as "one of the most influential and well-known" leaders of the Dallas black community.

Lipscomb's attorney, Scottie Allen, discussed Wednesday's plea agreement by Richards with his client.

"Lipscomb was very disappointed," Allen said.

He said Kendall will be asked to reconsider his decision to move the trial from Dallas.

The councilman's attorney also

says Lipscomb's position is "adamant and consistent" in that he did nothing wrong.

After Richards' plea, U.S. Attorney Paul E. Coggins said, "Because the remaining Lipscomb case is pending trial, no

further comment can be made, other than we will be ready for trial in Amarillo in January."

Lipscomb pleaded innocent in March to 33 bribery-related counts involving payments from the taxi company owner.

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Genetically engineered drug shows promise for asthma patients

By Linda A. Johnson
Associated Press

An experimental, genetically engineered asthma drug could offer sufferers an entirely new treatment without the dangerous side effects of steroids, the standard medication for many patients, researchers say.

In a study published in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine, about one-quarter of the asthma patients on inhaled steroids were able to stop taking them after being given the new drug, rhuMAB-E25. And one-third of those using oral steroids were able to quit, too.

"It's going to be a breakthrough," said the lead researcher, pediatric asthma specialist Dr. Henry Milgrom of the National

Jewish Medical and Research Center in Denver. "The new drugs such as this one are intended to be the magic bullet against asthma."

Steroids have been widely used to treat moderate to severe asthma for the past decade. But long-term use stunts children's growth. In adults, steroids can cause osteoporosis, stomach bleeding, elevated blood pressure and blood sugar, cataracts and weight gain.

RhuMAB-E25 is an intravenous drug made by splicing a tiny segment of a cloned mouse antibody into a human antibody.

After further testing, the three companies developing it — Genentech, Novartis Pharma AG and Tanox — hope to seek Food and Drug Administration approval for sale in about six months. Genentech funded the study.

Despite the numerous drugs available, many patients don't control their asthma well. The condition kills 5,500 Americans annually, is the ninth-leading cause of hospitalization and prompts 10 million doctor visits each year. About 17 million Americans have asthma, an astonishing increase of more than 75 percent since 1980.

In an asthma attack, hypersensitive airways narrow drastically when exposed to an allergen, such as cigarette smoke, pet dander, pollen, feathers and mites. A type of antibody called IgE prompts immune cells to release histamines in a misguided attempt to neutralize the allergens. Instead, the histamines inflame and further narrow the airways.

Exercise and breathing cool air also can trigger attacks. Symptoms

include shortness of breath, wheezing and coughing.

Steroids reduce the airway inflammation. Over time, the drugs lower sensitivity to those allergens, reducing the incidence of asthma attacks.

RhuMAB-E25 works in a different way: It binds up more than 95 percent of the IgE, blocking release of much of the histamine, said another researcher, Dr. W. James Metzger of East Carolina University.

"This is not a cure, but it reduces the allergic reaction" dramatically, Metzger said.

Over a 12-week period, 317 patients with moderate to severe asthma were injected every two weeks with either a high dose of the drug, a low dose or a placebo. Over the next eight weeks, they

were slowly taken off steroids.

About half those getting either drug dose cut their use of inhaled steroids at least 50 percent, compared with 38 percent of the placebo group. Eighteen percent of the high-dose group and 23 percent of the low-dose group stopped using inhaled steroids entirely, compared with 12 percent in the placebo group.

Of the 35 patients also taking oral steroids, at least one-third getting either drug dose stopped taking the steroids, compared with 17 percent in the placebo group. About two-thirds of those getting rhuMAB-E25 cut oral steroid use.

Patients getting either drug dose also reported fewer asthma symptoms and fewer limits on their activities.

The researchers believe the

patients in the placebo group improved because they had twice-monthly doctor exams and frequent instruction on sticking to their treatment plan.

In an editorial in the journal, Dr. Peter J. Barnes of Britain's National Heart and Lung Institute called the drug an "important step forward" that might also control hay fever and other allergies. He said further research may show that less-frequent injections or under-the-skin injections that patients could give themselves work as well as intravenous shots.

Singularly, a pill approved last year, also prevents asthma attacks and helps cut reliance on steroids. It works by blocking leukotrienes, substances in lung tissue that contribute to inflammation.

Asthma attacks

Patients who took an experimental asthma drug reduced their symptoms, researchers said. Here is a look at an asthma attack.

When exposed to an allergen, the smooth muscle bands that encircle the bronchial walls contract and mucus builds up in the airway, partially plugging it. The sufferer wheezes and coughs.

Triggers

Some allergens:

Pollen

Dander

Dust

Normal airway

Constricted airway

Sources: National Center for Health

Algerian pleads innocent to alleged bomb parts smuggling

SEATTLE (AP) — An Algerian accused of trying to smuggle nitroglycerin and other bomb-making materials into the United States from Canada pleaded innocent on Wednesday to all five counts of a federal indictment.

Ahmed Ressaam, 32, was indicted on charges he made false statements to U.S. customs officers; smuggled nitroglycerin across the border; transported explosives; and possessed unregistered firearms — the apparent timing devices found in Ressaam's car.

He could get up to 40 years in prison and fined more than \$1 million if convicted on all counts.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Francis Diskin told the judge at Wednesday's hearing that material found in Ressaam's car was sufficient to build a powerful bomb.

"This destructive device would easily have taken down a building," he said.

Ressaam, speaking through an Arabic interpreter, answered affirmatively when U.S. District Judge John Weinberg asked him if he understood the charges and the meaning of his pleas.

Weinberg ordered Ressaam to continue to be held without bail.

"There are no conditions that can be set than would ensure his appearance and the safety of the community," Weinberg said.

His arrest — and the arrest of a second Algerian at the Canadian border in Vermont — have stirred fears of terrorist attacks during the holidays and prompted warnings from the State Department that U.S. citizens abroad may be in danger.

Ressaam was stopped by U.S. customs officers Dec. 14 after he took a ferry from Victoria, British Columbia, to Port Angeles, Wash., about 60 miles northwest of Seattle. Investigators have not said what Ressaam's target might have been.

The New York Times reported Wednesday that French officials believe Ressaam has links to an Algerian terrorist group responsible for a number of bombings in France in 1996. The newspaper also reported that American officials have unconfirmed intelligence reports that Ressaam was seen in Islamic fundamentalist training camps during the 1980s.

Law enforcement officials told The Associated Press they are searching for as many as three other people who may have ties to Ressaam. The FBI on Wednesday asked the public for help identifying everyone who traveled on the ferry Coho the day Ressaam was arrested.

U.S. officials have tried to assure Americans they are doing all they can to prevent terrorist attacks over the holidays, including tightening security at airports and investigating whether there are any links between Ressaam and suspected Saudi terrorist Osama bin Laden.

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**U.S.A
HOMES**

Section C
Midland
Thursday

Rock ever

By Chad Roe
Associated Press

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AP Sports W

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Rocker insults nearly everyone in New York

By Chad Rodeheiler
Associated Press Writer

ATLANTA — Even John Rocker admits he went "way too far" this time. The tough-talking reliever for the Atlanta Braves ate his own words Wednesday, saying his comments that disparaged homosexuals, AIDS patients, foreigners, minorities and single mothers were a mistake.

Rocker triggered outrage in New York and even his native Georgia with his remarks in the current Sports Illustrated that could lead to discipline from baseball or the Braves.

He told the magazine that he would

retire before playing for a New York team and then added:

"Imagine having to take the (No. 7 train to (Shea Stadium) looking like you're (in) Beirut next to some kid with purple hair, next to some queer with AIDS, right next to some dude who got out of jail for the fourth time, right next to some 20-year-old mom with four kids. It's depressing."

"The biggest thing I don't like about

Please see **ROCKER/2C**

Atlanta Braves pitcher John Rocker went too far by his own admission in comments he made to Sports Illustrated.

AP Photo



Braves retool; Yankees send Irabu to Montreal

By Ronald Blum
AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK — With most teams about to close for the holiday break, the Atlanta Braves and San Diego pulled off a big deal Wednesday while the New York Yankees finally got rid of Hideki Irabu.

Remolding their roster yet again, the Braves dealt second baseman Bret Boone, outfielder/first baseman Ryan Klesko and minor league right-hander Jason Shiell to the Padres for first baseman Wally Joyner, second baseman Quilvio Veras and left fielder Reggie Sanders.

Atlanta, which has won eight straight

division titles but only one World Series in the 1990s, gains both a lead-off hitter and an outfielder to make up for the loss of Gerald Williams, who signed with Tampa Bay.

Joyner becomes insurance in case first baseman Andres Galaraga isn't at full strength after an 18-month layoff during his treatment for cancer.

"We're all very hopeful Andres will come back and assume full duty at first base," Braves general manager John Schuerholz said. "That is still somewhat of an unknown set of circumstances. Wally Joyner, prior to 1999 before he suffered the shoulder injury, put up very, very good numbers offensively, and of

Please see **TRADES/2C**

MOBILE ALABAMA BOWL

Underdog Frogs win again

TCU defeats
East Carolina
for 2nd straight
upset bowl win

By Jenna Fryer
AP Sports Writer

MOBILE, Ala. — It's too bad Texas Christian University can't speed up its move to Conference USA.

After a convincing 28-14 victory over No. 20 East Carolina Wednesday night in the inaugural Mobile Alabama Bowl, the Horned Frogs believed they were ready to move on to bigger things.

It will have to wait a year, though. TCU, currently a member of the Western Athletic Conference, isn't scheduled to join East Carolina in C-USA until 2001.

"Maybe we should go in next year," TCU coach Dennis Franchione said. "But it feels good to know when we do go, we'll be going in on pretty good footing."

LaDainian Tomlinson ran for 124 yards and two touchdowns to lead TCU.

It was the second consecutive bowl upset for TCU (8-4), which knocked off heavily favored Southern Cal in last year's Sun Bowl. East Carolina (9-3) was favored by six points at game time.

And it was the first time the Horned Frogs have won consecutive bowl games since winning three in a row from 1936-39.

"It means a lot to our team and to our seniors who two years ago were 1-10 — it's pretty amazing," Franchione said. "I hope it gives us some national respect."

East Carolina coach Steve Logan said he thought TCU had earned it.

"They can play with anybody," Logan said. "And anybody in our conference. I know that now."

TCU confused East Carolina early with its two-quarterback option attack and completely shut down the Pirates' running game, holding them to minus-16 yards.

"Our defense played great," Franchione said. "That was really the key."

So was countering East Carolina's plan of stopping Tomlinson, whose 1,850 yards edged Heisman Trophy winner Ron Dayne for the NCAA Division I rushing title.

TCU, which alternated between quarterbacks Casey Printers and Patrick Batteaux, made it impossible for the Pirates to adjust.

Early in the first quarter, Printers



Texas Christian University defenders Shannon Brazzell (41), J.W. Wilson (75) and Terrance Malden (59) celebrate after sacking East Carolina quarterback David Garrard (9) during the inaugural Mobile Alabama Bowl Wednesday in Mobile, Ala. The Horned Frogs upset the 20th-ranked Pirates, 28-14.

gained seven yards on an option run to move TCU to the 2. Batteaux, a senior who runs the option better than Printers, came in on the next play and pitched the ball to Tomlinson, who ran in for the touchdown. That tied the game at 7-7 and TCU slowly pulled away from there.

The trio set up another touchdown the same way in the second quarter.

Printers threw a 9-yard pass to Tomlinson and Batteaux came in on the next play and gained 35 yards on an option keeper that put TCU at the 19.

Tomlinson carried on four plays, finally scoring from three yards with 51 seconds left in the half. It gave the Horned Frogs a 21-7 halftime lead.

"I knew they were keying on me so the yards came hard," said Tomlinson, who TCU plans to promote for the Heisman Trophy next season.

"At first I could only get eight yards here, four yards there, and they were tough. But they came and I'm happy with the outcome."

East Carolina, which couldn't run the ball at all against TCU, had to go to the air in the second half.

Please see **MOBILE/2C**

Coakley earns Pro Bowl spot

■ Cowboys' young linebacker gets first trip to Hawaii; Four Dallas teammates will join him.

Associated Press

IRVING — Linebacker Dexter Coakley is going to the Pro Bowl for the first time and four of his Dallas Cowboys teammates will be there, too.

The NFL announced Wednesday that running back Emmitt Smith was chosen for the eighth time and cornerback Deion Sanders made it for the fourth time as a Cowboy.

Offensive guard Larry Allen will be back for a fifth straight year, along with tackle Erik Williams for his fourth time.

Allen and Sanders will be starters.

Dallas (7-7) had six players chosen last year. Coach Chan Gailey had the honor of announcing the news to the team following practice. Players were especially proud of Coakley, a third-year player who has repeatedly made big plays this season. He's second on the team with 117 tackles and his four interceptions lead the team. It's the most by a Dallas linebacker since Lee Roy Jordan had six in 1975.

"It really hasn't hit me yet," Coakley said. "It's something that is very special to me. I've worked very hard to get to this point, but I know it's not all me. It's a team accomplishment."

Even though this is old hat for Smith, he still feels honored.

"I think it definitely shows I'm not washed up, as people once thought I was," said Smith, who has achieved career milestones while being the eighth-leading rusher in the NFL this season.

The only running backs with more Pro Bowl appearances than Smith are Barry Sanders with 10 and Walter Payton and Franco Harris with nine. Bob Lilly (11), Mel Renfro (10) and Randy White (nine) are the only Cowboys with more selections than Smith.

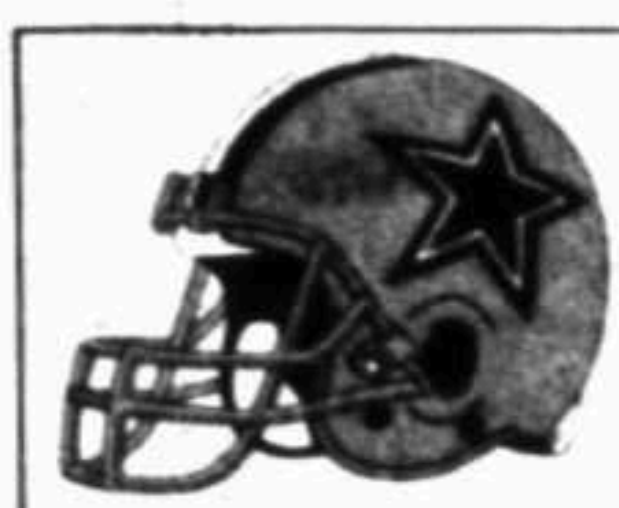
Williams, who came into this season slimmer than ever, is returning to Hawaii after a one-year absence.

"Since my car accident five years ago, I haven't been the same," he said. "I've struggled to get back to that Pro Bowl-type of play. I've tried to do something different every year, whether I lose weight or get stronger. When you're peering around the league look at you and vote you in, that's very gratifying."

Allen, who has missed the last five games with a sprained knee, returned to practice. Gailey is hopeful he'll play Friday against the New Orleans Saints.

"He practiced today for most of the time and was really improved over yesterday," Gailey said. "That's a positive sign."

Receiver Ernie Mills and cornerback Kevin Smith missed practice nursing injuries. Gailey had expected Mills to start against the Saints, but Jason Tucker may get his third straight start.



Pro Bowl
■ Unusual QB selections make Pro Bowl/2C
■ Roster/3C

Brazzell starting to catch on in Dallas' offensive scheme

By Jaime Aron
AP Sports Writer

IRVING — Chris Brazzell is doing a lot more studying this week.

Liberated from running patterns for the scout team, the first-year receiver for the Dallas Cowboys is trying to quickly learn the intricacies of being a featured player, a role he was thrust into last Sunday.

"They made it easy for me last week," Brazzell said. "Now, I've got to really concentrate and learn about blitzes in standard formations and worry about every type of coverage."

The Cowboys took a flier on Brazzell in September when they claimed him off waivers from the New York Jets, who had kept him on the practice squad all last season after making him a sixth-round draft pick.

Brazzell, a 6-foot-2, 198-pound speedster with only small college experience, was on Dallas' active roster for the first four games. But he played in just one, and that was on special teams.

Then the Cowboys released him Oct. 14 and signed him the next day to their practice squad. His only duty was to run basic patterns to help the first-team defense prepare for the upcoming opponent.

"Being on the scout team is very simple," Brazzell said. "You look at the card and run the route."

Brazzell played well enough to catch his coaches' attention. Just the mention that they were considering activating him as a receiver was enough to keep

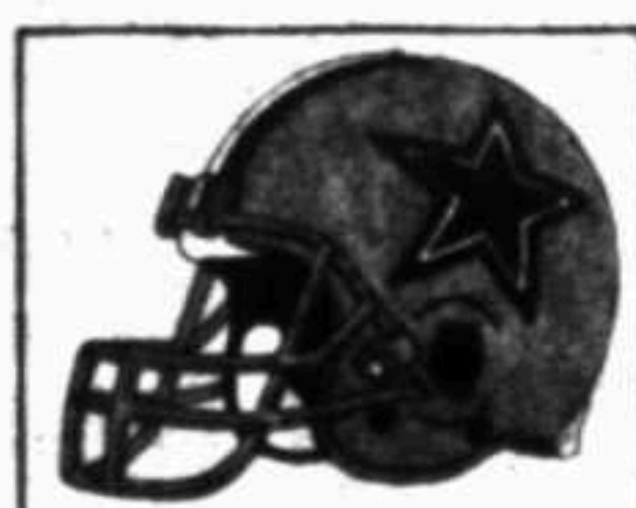
Brazzell motivated, even though he continued being inactive.

"I said, 'Well, I had a good week, maybe they'll do it.' Then I had another good week and said, 'If it's not this week, then it'll be another week,'" he said.

Brazzell finally got his chance two games ago against Philadelphia. With Dallas facing a third-and-9 in the third quarter, he caught the first ball thrown his way for a 12-yard gain.

Against the Jets last Sunday, Brazzell

Please see **BRAZZELL/2C**



Dallas Cowboys wide receiver Chris Brazzell, shown beating New York Jets cornerback Marcus Coleman (a Texas Tech product), is trying to quickly learn the intricacies of being a featured player for the Cowboys.

AP Photo



Pro Bowl rosters include unusual selections at QB

By Dave Goldberg
AP Football Writer

Yes, John Elway retired. Sure, Vinny Testaverde was hurt in the first game of the season.

But what were the odds before the 1999 NFL season that Kurt Warner, Steve Beuerlein and Rich Gannon would be voted to the Pro Bowl ahead of Brett Favre, Troy Aikman and Doug Flutie?

The Pro Bowl teams announced Wednesday for the Feb. 6 game in Honolulu reflected again how strange this season has been.

"I guess the second half of life is the greater half," said the 34-year-old Beuerlein, who was selected for the first time in a 13-year career.

He has played for seven teams, much of the time as a backup. This is by far his best year. As a starter for Carolina, he's thrown for 3,857 yards and 29 touchdowns.

"It's neat. It's great," added Carolina coach George Seifert, who as coach of the 49ers routinely had Joe Montana and Steve Young in the NFL's all-star game.

"We're all very excited to see it take place. Steve's been with different clubs and had his moments, but I don't know that he's had any he's as proud of right now."

Warner, who will start for the NFC, came from total obscurity.

A former Arena League and NFL Europe star, he had played in just one NFL game before this season and was left unprotected last spring on the expansion list from which the Cleveland Browns chose their players.

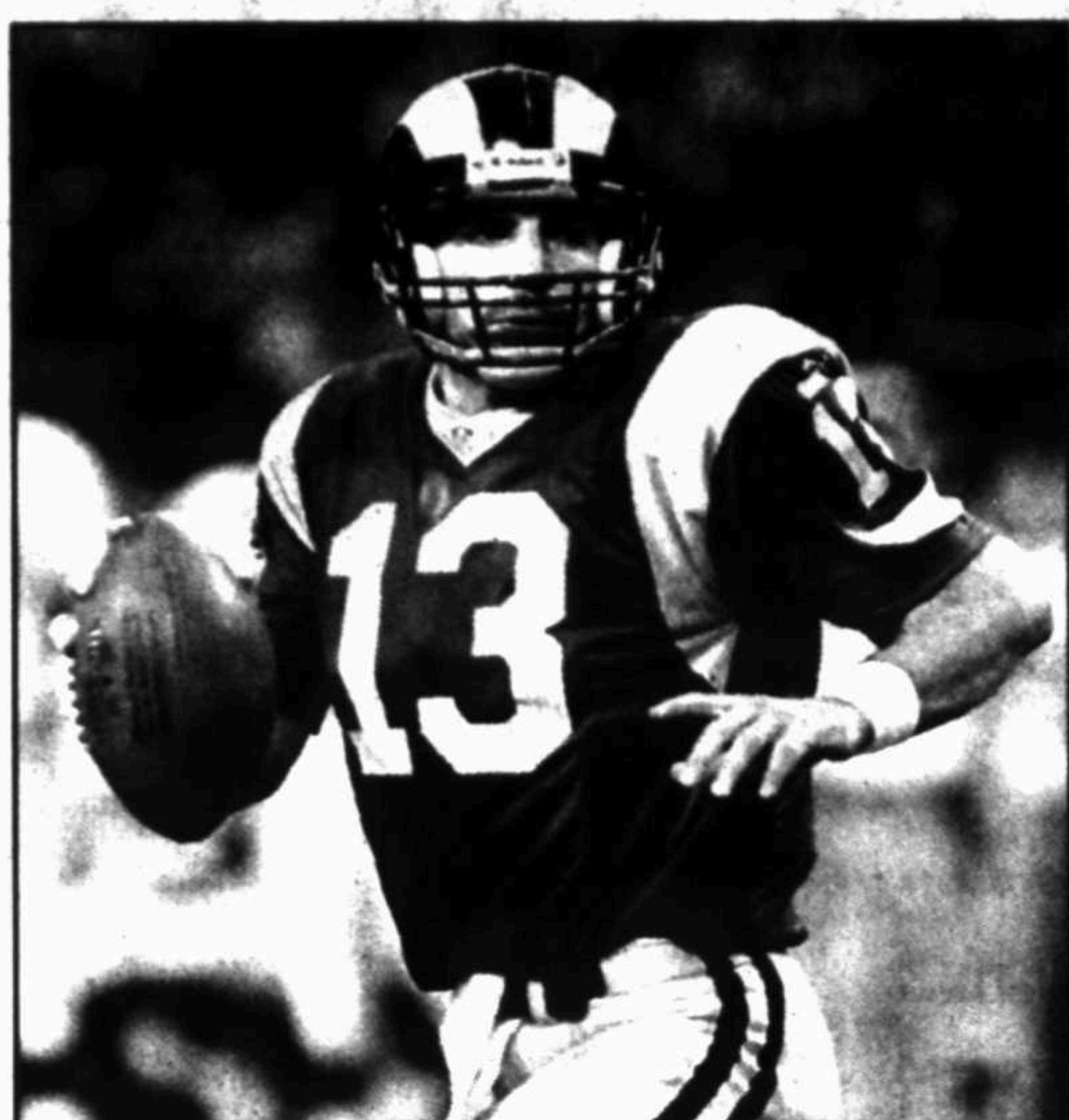
He became a starter only when Trent Green was lost for the season with a knee injury and shocked even Rams coach Dick Vermeil by leading the NFL in passing and guiding the team to a 12-2 record.

The Rams had just one player, Isaac Bruce in 1996, make the Pro Bowl in their first four seasons in St. Louis. This time they had six representatives — tied with Tampa Bay for the most in the NFC. Jacksonville (13-1) has seven players on the AFC team, another indication that it pays to be on winners.

"I dreamed about this when I was in the third grade," Warner said.

"The biggest thing is we have six representatives and some alternates. It really shows what this team has done this year and gives us a lot of respect. Obviously, it's going to go to certain people that are more in the limelight but there's a lot of guys that are deserving on this team."

Gannon, like Beuerlein, has been around. He was drafted by New England as a running back or wide receiver then traded to



Not too long ago, Kurt Warner was playing in the Arena League. In February, though, the now-St. Louis Rams quarterback will be playing in the NFL's Pro Bowl.

Minnesota when he said he wanted to play quarterback. He then played for Washington and Kansas City before signing with the Raiders for this season.

"You look at guys around the league and sometimes they're not very pretty and sometimes it's ugly," said Gannon, not known for a rifle arm. "But they find ways to put their teams in position to win."

The Pro Bowl rosters are the usual mix of staples, many of them offensive linemen who seem to get permanent spots in the game once they make the team, and newcomers from successful teams, such as four of the six Rams.

The only St. Louis players who

have been there before are Bruce and running back Marshall Faulk, who had been to the Pro Bowl while with Indianapolis.

Two rookies made it — running back Edgerrin James of the Colts and defensive end Jevon Kearse of Tennessee.

Five teams have no representatives, including the NFC's last three Super Bowl representatives, Atlanta and Green Bay. The other three are San Diego, expansion Cleveland and Pittsburgh.

Three former Steelers did make the AFC team — safeties Rod Woodson of Baltimore and Carnell Lake of Jacksonville and offensive tackle Leon Searcy of the Jaguars.

NFL suspends Brown for pushing referee

By Tom Withers
AP Sports Writer

BEREA, Ohio — The NFL pushed back at Orlando Brown on Wednesday, suspending the Cleveland tackle for shoving a referee who accidentally hit him in the eye with a weighted penalty flag.

The indefinite suspension was announced hours after Brown learned he must stay in the hospital because of new bleeding in his right eye. He was to have been released Wednesday before this setback.

Brown also faces a possible fine and could be suspended for part of the 2000 season. He is the first player in league history to be suspended for more than one game for contact with an official. Commissioner Paul Tagliabue will meet with the 6-foot-7, 350-pound tackle in New York after the Pro Bowl in February. Additional penalties will be discussed at that hearing.

"We continue to hope Orlando Brown makes a full recovery from his injury," Tagliabue said. "However, as everyone has acknowledged, the injury to the player was completely inadvertent and did not justify his action against the referee."

"It was an unfortunate accident but we cannot condone under any circumstances physical contact against our game officials."

Brown was hit by a flag weighted with BBs — thrown by referee Jeff Triplette — during Sunday's game with Jacksonville. Brown stormed back on the field and knocked down Triplette with a two-handed shove to the chest.

Brown blamed his violent actions on the fact that his father, Claude, lost his sight to glaucoma in 1993. Brown has been in the hospital since Sunday night, with impaired vision and bleeding in a chamber of his right eye.

The injury would have kept Brown out of Cleveland's season finale against Indianapolis on Sunday. The Browns have a bye week on the last weekend of the season.

Still, that weekend counts toward the suspension and Brown will not get a paycheck, NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said. Brown signed a six-year, \$27 million contract with Cleveland in February. Based on his 1999 salary, Brown will lose \$49,411.

If the suspension continues into next season, Brown would lose \$131,250 per game, based on his \$2.1 million salary in 2000.

Brown's agent, Tom Condon, did not say if his client will appeal.

"I would prefer we wait until after the hearing before making a comment," said Condon, who on Tuesday hinted about a possible lawsuit against the league if Browns' injury was career threatening.

Brown's penalty is already more severe than the other four in which a player has shoved an official. Those penalties ranged from one-game suspensions to a \$20,000 fine.

The players disciplined for such contact were: Don Burroughs of Philadelphia in 1963, Monty Sticks of New Orleans in 1968, Michael Jackson of Seattle in 1982 and Steve Wisniewski of Oakland in 1996.

ROCKER: Braves pitcher catches heat

(From 1C)

New York are the foreigners," he went on. "You can walk an entire block in Times Square and not hear anybody speaking English. Asians and Koreans and Vietnamese and Indians and Russians and Spanish people and everything up there. How the hell did they get in this country?"

In a statement released Wednesday, Rocker retracted those remarks.

"While I have evidenced strong competitive feelings about New York fans in the past, and take responsibility for things I have said publicly, including the Sports Illustrated article, I recognize that I have gone way too far in my competitive zeal," he said.

Rocker said he was not a racist, although he "let my emotions get the better of my judgment, and have said things which, when read with cold, hard logic, are unacceptable to me and to my country."

"Everyone makes mistakes and I hope everyone can put this aside and begin the 2000 season with a fresh start," he said. "I am contrite."

Commissioner Bud Selig called Rocker's remarks "inappropriate and offensive" and said they are being reviewed. "We will take appropriate action," Selig said.

Braves general manager John Schuerholz spoke with Rocker for 10 minutes Wednesday

and said he planned to meet with him after the holidays "to discuss what actions the organization will take."

"The viewpoints attributed to John Rocker in no way reflects the views of the Atlanta Braves organization," Schuerholz said. "He works for us, but in no way do the comments, attitude and feelings represent those of the Atlanta Braves."

Rocker's teammate, Brian Jordan, told Atlanta's WQXI-AM: "You can't respect a guy that makes comments like that publicly." Pitching coach Leo Mazzone, also on WQXI, was critical of Rocker.

"One of his teammates might punch him out," Mazzone said. "Something's going to go wrong now with his career. And you watch it, it'll end up going straight down the tubes."

Ryan Klesko, who was traded from Atlanta to San Diego on Wednesday, defended his former teammate.

"He's not a bad guy," Klesko said. "He's not one of those guys who hates everybody like everybody thinks. He's young. He's a good guy."

Schuerholz said he did not think Rocker's remarks would be disruptive to the team. He said Rocker told him that "he has as many good friends on this team that are African-American or Latin as he has that are Caucasian."

The comments weren't playing well with

other Atlantans.

"His racist opinions are just, to me, a representation of a very ignorant and uneducated person," said Sara Gonzalez, president of Atlanta Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

Terri Watson, shopping at the Braves Clubhouse store Wednesday, described herself as a Rocker fan — or maybe a former one.

"I sure hope I don't get a Rocker jersey for Christmas now. And I asked for one," she said. "If he can't come up with a good explanation for why he's a bigot and a racist, he needs to change his views and do some soul-searching."

Rocker has been the focus of hatred from New York Mets fans since September, when he said he enjoyed beating the team. During the playoffs, he said Mets fans insulted his mother and threw batteries at him.

Tony Braswell, executive director of AID Atlanta, said he attended the playoff game in New York and was shocked by the rude behavior of Mets fans. But he was even more offended by Rocker's comments.

"Welcome to the real world, Mr. Rocker," he said. "The world is made up of people from India and Korea and Vietnam and Spain and Russia and people with purple hair and queers living with AIDS. There are men, women and children of all walks of life living with AIDS."

'BOYS: Brazzell moves quickly up depth chart

(From 1C)

showed his former team what they were missing by catching a 9-yarder early in the second quarter. On the next series, he turned a 12-yard hitch pass into a 53-yard gain, setting up the touchdown that put Dallas ahead 14-13.

Coaches were so impressed by those two grabs that at halftime they made Brazzell the No. 2 receiver behind Raghieb Ismail. Developing another pass-catching threat has been a priority since Michael Irvin was sidelined in October.

"Brazzell made a big play," coach Chan Gailey said. "We were hoping to get him in position to make another play."

Quarterback Troy Aikman, however, completed just four passes in the second half, none to Brazzell, as the Jets pulled out a 22-21 victory.

Dallas (7-7) plays at New Orleans on Friday. The Cowboys are guaranteed a playoff berth if they win their final two games. With veteran Ernie Mills still

slowed by a pulled thigh muscle, Jason Tucker is likely to start a third straight game. Brazzell will back him up and also be used in multiple-receiver formations.

"My confidence is way up," said Brazzell, whose only disappointment is that the season is almost over. "There are a lot of young receivers here in Dallas and I'm young, too, so I feel I can do the things they're doing."

"My job is just to catch the ball when it comes my way and keep making plays. Hopefully the coaches will see something and I'll leave the season on a good note."

Brazzell does a good job of acting cool, but simply having a locker next to Emmitt Smith and a few stalls from Aikman is a big thrill for a 23-year-old who grew up in Alice, Texas, as a self-proclaimed "big-time Cowboys fan."

"Everybody from my hometown has called," he said, smiling. "I'm a role model to Alice, Texas. Not too much talent comes through there. I think when someone from a small town makes it to the NFL it's a big deal."

TRADES: Padres, Braves swap 6 players

(From 1C)

course is regarded as one of the finest first baseman defensively around."

Klesko and Boone combined for 41 homers last year while Joyner and the switch-hitting Veras combined for just 11. Veras had career-highs with a .280 average and 95 runs scored, and his on-base percentage of .368 was 58 points higher than Boone's. Klesko's slugging percentage was .532 compared to Joyner's .350.

"We've gotten a little bit slower, but we've added more offense," Padres general manager Kevin Towers said. "We've gone from more of a speed club to probably a club that's more of a power-type club."

Iraju, 11-7 with a 4.84 ERA in 27 starts and five relief appearances this year, waived his no-trade clause, allowing the Yankees to deal him to Montreal for minor league right-hander Jake Westbrook and two players to be named. The deal lowers New York's payroll to \$66 million for 14 signed players.

The 30-year-old right-hander, called a "fat...toad" by Yankees owner George Steinbrenner last spring, had worn out the patience of Yankees officials. While pitching well in stretches, he was wildly inconsistent and appeared in just one postseason game in the last two years, a mopup effort at Fenway Park.

"Hideki came in with a lot of fanfare," Yankees general manager Brian Cashman said. "He wanted us as badly as we wanted him. There were some good times and some tough times as well. We

saw those flashes of brilliance that attracted us when he was a free agent coming out of Japan."

Iraju had one season at \$2 million left on his \$12.8 million, four-year contract.

To get him to agree to the deal, the Expos took his \$4 million option for 2001 and guaranteed it at \$2.5 million. It would rise to \$3 million if he pitches 150 innings next year, \$3.5 million if he pitches 165 innings and \$4 million if he pitches 180 innings.

"We thought Hideki could be someone special for us," new Expos owner Jeffrey Loria said. "My read on Hideki was that he was a power pitcher with a terrific arm and probably one of the nastiest split-fingered fastballs I have seen."

In a minor trade, the Padres acquired left-hander Dan Serafini

from the Chicago Cubs for minor league outfielder Brandon Pernell.

Serafini, 25, was 3-2 with one save and a 6.93 ERA last season for the Cubs, who acquired him during spring training from the Minnesota Twins. He had 38 relief appearances and four starts.

In the free agent market, left-hander Jeff Fassero agreed to a one-year deal with the Boston Red Sox and outfielder Thomas Howard returned to the St. Louis Cardinals, agreeing to a \$650,000, one-year contract. Howard hit .292 with six homers and 28 RBIs in 195 at-bats this year.

Catcher Mike Figga agreed to a minor league contract with Tampa Bay and pitcher Ricky Bones, released by Cincinnati, Minnesota and Baltimore in the last three years, agreed to a minor league contract with Florida.

MOBILE: Frogs shut down Pirate attack

(From 1C)

It initially worked, as David Garrard moved the Pirates down the field, setting up Jaimie Wilson's 13-yard touchdown run that made it 21-14 with 4:30 to

play in the third quarter. The Pirates' Forrest Foster then recovered an on-side kick, but TCU's defense held.

On the first play of East Carolina's next possession, Russell Garry intercepted Garrard's pass

and returned it 32 yards for a touchdown. That gave TCU a 28-14 lead with 14:04 to play.

"They scored 21 and that's doable against our defense," Logan said. "But that interception put it away. It was a good throw, David did the right thing, but it was one of those things."

Printers, a freshman who started nine games after Batteaux went down with an injury, threw

a 21-yard second-quarter touchdown pass to Mike Scarborough.

He finished 13-of-19 for 174 yards and ran for 24, earning the game's most valuable player award.

Batteaux ran six times for 37 yards.

East Carolina, which came into the game averaging 170 yards on the ground and 406 overall, was held to 223 total yards.

LOCAL SPORTS

'Hounds take home honors

The Midland RockHounds earned honors at pro baseball's winter meetings this past week for their publications, as did co-owner Bob Richmond.

The 'Hounds corporate brochure and pocket schedule were named the best in Double A baseball for 1999. This is the fifth straight season that one or more publications by the

Midland franchise have been recognized.

Richmond was given the Warren Giles Award, presented annually for outstanding service as a league president. Richmond is president of the Northwest League, one of minor league baseball's most successful and stable leagues. He was also given the "Friend of Baseball" award from Baseball Chapel, which provides players with the opportunity to attend chapel services held at the ballpark.

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More Sports/1D

Jacks Watch
Tonight's Game
Odessa Jackalopes at El Paso Buzzards,
8:11 p.m.
Records

Radio

Last Five Games
Odessa 4, Central Texas 3
El Paso 5, Odessa 4 (SO)
Odessa 6, El Paso 2
Odessa 5, Amarillo 3
Amarillo 4, Odessa 0

Next 10 Games
at El Paso
TRA

Dec. 28	at Alexandria	7:05
Dec. 31	at San Angelo	7

Jan. 7	at Lake Charles	7:05
Jan. 8	at Shreveport	7:05
Jan. 9	at Monroe	5 p.m.
Jan. 18	at New Mexico	8:15
Jan. 21	El Paso	7:15
Jan. 22	Amarillo	7:15

Sports on TV

Today

COLLEGE BASKETBALL — Men,
 Michigan State at Kentucky, 6 p.m., ESPN.
 North Carolina at Louisville, 8 p.m., ESPN.

NHL — Colorado Avalanche at Buffalo Sabres, 6:30 p.m., ESPN2.
 Dallas Stars at Chicago Blackhawks,
 7:30 p.m., FSN.

Sports Briefs

U.S. women's soccer players to boycott Australia Cup

U.S. women's soccer team.
Angered by stalled contract negotiations

with the U.S. Soccer Federation, players of the Women's World Cup champions said Wednesday they will boycott the Australia Cup next month. The USSF responded by saying it will send young players to the tournament.

"You can imagine the frustration and disappointment we feel as a team," U.S. co-captain Julie Foudy said. "It was important all of us to meet right after the World Cup to reach a new agreement in order that we could focus exclusively on our Olympic training beginning in January 2000. U.S. Soccer refused to listen and have now asked us to accept their last-minute proposal."

Phillie missing in Venezuela

PHILADELPHIA — A Philadelphia Phillies prospect playing in Venezuela is unaccounted for in that country's flooding disaster, a team spokesman said Wednesday night.

Henry Brito, 17, of Vargas, Venezuela, was playing on the La Victoria team during the Venezuelan summer league. He was the only person connected with the Phillies who was unaccounted for following the disaster.

Phillies spokesman Larry Shenk said.
Brito, signed in April, hit .236 in 50 gam

during the summer league. He was not playing currently in the country's winter league.

Romanowski fined again

DENVER — With two of the NFL's perceived bad boys meeting in Detroit on Christmas Day, it's safe to assume league officials will be making a list and checking it at least twice.

Denver linebacker Bill Romanowski and Detroit safety Mark Carrier have combined for \$92,500 in fines this season.

Carrier's rap sheet includes a one-game suspension, while Romanowski has written five checks to the NFL for transgressions ranging from helmet-leading hits to throwing the ball at the opponent.

Romanowski's latest fine was \$15,000 a helmet-to-helmet hit on Jacksonville running back Fred Taylor, who was hit while trying to catch a pass against Denver on Dec. 13.

Victim's mother takes baby

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — The infant boy whose mother, Chedica Adams, died in a

shooting police say was arranged by Rae Carruth was placed in the temporary custody of

of the child's maternal grandmother Wednesday by a family court judge.

Caruth, being held without bond on first degree murder and related charges for his alleged role in the death of Adams, was the court for the hearing before Judge Yvonne Evans. Neither Caruth nor his mother, Theodry Caruth, sought custody of the child, Chancellor Lee Adams.

Evans put off a decision on awarding permanent custody to Sandra Adams pending the results of a paternity test. The judge scheduled another hearing on the matter Dec. 30.

Judge sends Collins back

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — Handcuffed to a courtroom chair, Miami Dolphins running back Cecil Collins pleaded with his attorney to do everything possible to get him out of jail.

"I'll start working on it as fast as I can," Fred Haddad, Collins' attorney, said.

Collins had hoped to be released Wednesday on bail. Instead, a judge ordered Collins be sent to Louisiana for a probation violation.

AMERICAN STOCK EXCHANGE

NAME	LAST	CHG	BYX	Bayco	31% -1%	ICOL	Citadel	21% -1%	EVP	EVP	10% 1%	HA	Heartst	3%	LB	Labcor	17% +1%	MPV	MunfAm	10% -1%	PHR	Pennic	37% -3%	XLY	SP COT	22% +1%	LJI	UTI Eng	20 +%
BER	Ame	9	BOC	BearyCo	d1% -1%	CGN	Cognate	d15% -1%	EQD	EqvAlm	1% -1%	HTI	Heartst	3%	LAN	Lanorg	47% +3%	MVA	Munvnt	7% +1%	PHR	Photoact	37% -3%	XLY	SP COT	22% +1%	LJI	UTI Eng	20 +%
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NASDAQ NATIONAL MARKET

[illegible]

MUTUAL FUNDS

[illegible]

BUSINESS BRIEFING

OIL PRICES	
Wednesday	\$25.50
Previous	\$26.26
POSTED	
Wednesday	\$22.75
Previous	\$23.50

NATURAL GAS

Wednesday	\$2.444
Previous	\$2.522

Energy futures

NEW YORK (AP) — Energy futures plummeted Wednesday on the New York Mercantile Exchange as a dearth of buyers lowered prices in thin pre-holiday trading.

Crude oil for February delivery fell 79 cents to \$25.50 a barrel; heating oil for January delivery fell 1.17 cents to 67.97 cents a gallon; January unleaded gasoline fell 2.09 cents to 70.31 cents a gallon; January natural gas fell 7.8 cents to \$2.444 per 1,000 cubic feet.

In London, North Sea Brent crude for February delivery fell 64 cents to \$24.65 a barrel on the International Petroleum Exchange.

Dollar falls

NEW YORK (AP) — The dollar fell against the yen Wednesday following strong gains in the Tokyo stock market, which increased demand for the Japanese currency.

In late New York trading, the dollar was quoted at 101.70 Japanese yen, down from 102.18 yen late Tuesday.

The dollar posted a slight gain in the euro. The European currency was trading at \$1.0084, down from \$1.0093 late Tuesday.

In other trading, the dollar was quoted at 1.5888 Swiss francs, up from 1.5856, and 1.4768 Canadian dollars, up from 1.4761. The British pound fell to \$1.6077 from \$1.6129.

Cocoa futures

Cocoa futures fell to levels unseen since the mid-1980s Wednesday on New York's Coffee, Sugar & Cocoa Exchange as progress toward bumper crops in West Africa kept the market in its long downward spiral.

On Wednesday, the price of cocoa for March delivery settled down \$17 at \$808 per ton — the lowest in at least 13 years, according to Fimat Futures in New York.

The latest pressure came from continuing reports of large crops in Ivory Coast and Ghana, the world's top two cocoa producers, and the dismissal of top cocoa officials in Ivory Coast. The export officials were dismissed following months of criticism by farm groups dissatisfied with low prices.

Cocoa prices could now fall as low as \$750 a ton, he said. "There doesn't seem to be any turnaround in sight yet in the consumption-supply scenario," the analyst said.

Coffee futures

Coffee dipped further, but prices did not go into free-fall as they did the previous day when the Brazilian government's official estimate of the drought-affected 2000-01 crop was announced. March coffee settled down 3.2 cents at \$1.175 per pound.

Traders said the possibility of further crop losses made the price hold relatively stable after Tuesday's 10 percent plunge.

Hot weather in Brazil sent soybean futures rocketing higher, taking wheat and corn with them. Soybean prices took off after forecasts called for above-normal temperatures in soybean-growing areas of South America starting Thursday.

Sharp gains in soybean also pushed soybeans higher. January soybeans rose 10 1/4 cents to \$4.67 a bushel on the Chicago Board of Trade. March wheat rose 2 cents to \$2.48 a bushel, while March corn rose 1 1/4 cent to \$2.03 1/2 a bushel.

Candidate meets Midland oilmen

By Mella McEwen
Staff Writer

Campaigning for next year's elections got off to an early start Wednesday as Andy Draughn, a Republican seeking the nomination for Railroad Commissioner, visited with Permian Basin oilmen.

A 19-year oilman who worked for Clayton Williams Jr. as a scout in the Giddings area, the Austin resident said this was his first campaign visit to the Tall City. He met with an estimated 47 interested oilmen at a reception at the Petroleum Club. The number of attendees was a pleasant surprise, he said.

"Andy is an easy sell," said Frank Kell Cahoon, a Midland oilman who is serving as Draughn's campaign treasurer.

Cahoon said he supports Draughn's campaign



Draughn

against Midland native Michael Williams, who was appointed to the commission by Gov. George W. Bush a year ago, citing Draughn's experience in the oil business.

While Cahoon said Williams is a fine individual, he believes the domestic energy is at too critical a point in its history to not have someone with industry experience on the commission.

Draughn agreed, saying that challenges facing the industry require someone with experience in and understanding of the industry be a commissioner and that is what prompted him to throw his hat in the ring.

"As Houston and other metropolitan areas grow, they're growing into areas with existing oilfields," he pointed out, adding "That's just one reason we need someone with experience. We also need representation in Austin to really effect changes in Washington."

He decried comments in Washington by U.S. Secretary of Energy Bill Richardson and senators from the Northeast who want to sell crude from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve in order to lower oil prices.

"I feel strongly about that issue," Draughn said. "I feel the SPR should be used as it was intended, for purposes of national defense, and not to control prices."

Advances in technology will also challenge the industry, he said, from three-dimensional seismic to horizontal drilling, and observed that he has participated in drilling 19 horizontal wells and that efforts to establish units around these wells will be a challenge to commissioners.

"I'm also a big proponent of natural gas; I feel it's the fuel of the future; but we need to ensure that our pipelines are safe. We're going to need that infrastructure."

Taxation issues will also be a challenge, he said, considering its importance to the state's education because two-thirds of Texas school districts receive at least a portion of their funding from oil and gas properties. Oil and gas royalties also fund the Permanent School Fund, and the Permanent University Fund. As an independent oil and gas consultant, he himself pays ad valorem taxes in seven counties.

FCC allows Bell Atlantic to offer long-distance service

WASHINGTON (AP) — Bell Atlantic got approval from federal regulators Wednesday to offer its own long-distance service to some local customers, providing a map for other regional phone companies to also become competitors of AT&T, MCI Worldcom and Sprint.

The company said it will begin offering long-distance service Jan. 5 in New York state, where it now is the local phone company for 6.6 million households.

Approval of its plan by the Federal Communications Commission marks the first time since the court-ordered breakup of AT&T 15 years ago that consumers can get both local and long-distance service from one of the AT&T spinoffs.

FCC Chairman William E. Kennard called the unanimous decision by the five-member panel "an historic moment for American consumers."

"We are able to finally declare that the Berlin Wall of local phone monopoly in New York has been demolished and hauled away," he said. "The competitive future in local phone service is now on the doorstep of every citizen in the state of New York."

Industry analysts predicted New York would be just the beginning, saying that other local phone companies around the country would use Bell Atlantic as a model for also getting into the lucrative



AP Photo

Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Chairman William Kennard announces the decision to let Bell Atlantic provide long-distance service in New York state during a press conference in Washington, Wednesday.

long-distance market.

That could mean even more advertisements, incentives and phone calls from telemarketers interrupting the family dinner hour and waking up people who work at night with appeals to switch their long-distance providers.

The FCC's action is a milestone in meeting the goals of the 1996 Telecom-

munications Act, a law that permitted cable television and local and long-distance phone companies to get into one another's businesses.

Under the law, a local Bell company had to show it had opened up its local monopoly to give rivals a chance to compete before it could offer long-distance. Others had tried, but Bell Atlantic was

the first to convince the FCC it met the requirements.

"We will hit this market in a big way," said Ivan Seidenberg, chairman and chief executive officer of Bell Atlantic, which serves 13 Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states. "We're ready to go, and we can't wait to roll out Bell Atlantic long distance, not just in New York, but all across the Bell Atlantic region."

AT&T all but promised to appeal the FCC's decision in court, claiming the commission ignored evidence that Bell Atlantic gives its own orders priority over competitors.

"Today's decision shortchanges the people of New York because it does not ensure that Bell Atlantic's local phone markets are truly open to competition," said Jim Cicconio, AT&T's chief legal counsel.

MCI Worldcom took the Bell Atlantic announcement as an opportunity to push its proposed merger with Sprint, a deal that would combine the nation's second- and third-largest long-distance companies and, if approved by the FCC, be the biggest corporate takeover in history.

"The telecom market is shifting quickly toward global carriers," said Michael H. Salsbury, MCI Worldcom's general counsel. "Bell company's long distance market entry ... demonstrates why the combined MCI WorldCom-Sprint will be a pro-competitive force."

Stocks edge modestly higher as rally continues; Nasdaq hits 12th new closing high in December

By Phil Galewitz
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Stocks moved modestly higher Wednesday, sending the Nasdaq composite index to its 12th new closing high this month, as investors' spirits were boosted by the combination of low inflation, steady economic growth and strong corporate profits.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 3.06 to 11,203.60. The Nasdaq, which rose 127.28 Tuesday for its biggest one-day point gain ever, added 26.15 to 3,937.30. It was the index's 57th record high close of 1999.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index was up 2.70 at 1,436.13, also a new closing high.

"The Santa Claus rally has begun and playing Santa is Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan," said Alfred Goldman, chief market strategist for A.G. Edwards & Sons in St. Louis. The Federal Reserve on Tuesday left interest rates unchanged, which sent technology stocks soaring to

a new high.

The Commerce Department, which Wednesday issued its final estimate of third-quarter economic activity, said inflation remained under control during the fall months. The government said the gross domestic product rose at a robust 5.7 percent annual pace, better than its earlier estimate of 5.5 percent.

An inflation gauge tied to the third-quarter GDP rose 1.7 percent, the same as previously estimated. It was a better showing on inflation than the 1.9 percent increase the measure posted in the second quarter.

"We have the best of all worlds, a strong economy and positive inflation readings," Goldman said.

Eastman Kodak, which named a new chief financial officer Wednesday, up 4 11/16 to 62 1/16 as of 5 p.m. EST, and Merck, up 1 1/8 to 67 3/16, led the Dow higher.

Big gainers on the Nasdaq included biotech firm Amgen, up 2 13/16 to 52 15/16 and software maker Oracle, up 7

3/8 at 105 1/16.

"We saw a little further strength in technology, though it was a more ragged day," said Richard McCabe, chief market analyst at Merrill Lynch & Co. He said investors showed signs of pausing to take some profits from the recent rally, although he predicted stocks would rise more before the year ends.

Technology stocks were mixed with Amazon.com down 2 3/16 to 97 11/17 and Yahoo! up 13 3/16 to 418 3/4.

Declining issues outnumbered advances by a 7-to-6 margin on the New York Stock Exchange, with 1,426 up, 1,704 down and 437 unchanged.

NYSE volume totaled 1.07 billion shares, up from 957.50 million in Tuesday's session.

The Russell 2000 index of smaller companies rose 2.15 to 477.94.

Overseas, Japan's Nikkei stock average rose 2.1 percent, Germany's DAX index was up 1.2 percent, Britain's FTSE 100 was up 0.3 percent, and France's CAC-40 was up 1.7.

Midland to see Daewoo autos

From Staff Reports

Don James, owner of the Toyota car dealership at 3110 W. Wall St., will soon begin selling Daewoo automobiles. Daewoo is a South Korean company that up until 1992 was co-owned by General Motors.

"We're just now getting the cars in," James said. "We've had the franchise now for a couple of weeks."

There are small, mid-sized, and larger models of Daewoos ranging in price from \$8,999 to \$19,515.

James said Daewoos began selling in the U.S. in November 1998. He said Daewoos goal is to have 300 dealers positioned in the U.S. There are currently 210. The majority of the Daewoo dealers have been dueling with other franchises.

THE ECONOMIST

Tax credits available for research and development

By M. Ray Perryman

When people ask me why we need tax credits such as those passed in the recent session of the Texas Legislature, I respond with a question of my own: How is the Lone Star State been faring in the competition for corporate locations? The answer: Okay, but it could be better.

Texas has fallen from 1st to 6th in U.S. manufacturing locations since 1996, with the number of locations dropping by more than 35 percent. Ohio, Michigan, North Carolina, California, and New York each currently attract more manufacturing locations than Texas. While there are certainly numerous contributing factors to this phenomenon, the main common denominator is the fact that these states have recently implemented aggressive incentive programs to attract manufacturing enterprises. Although the programs differ across states, they typically focus on research and development incentives and investment tax credits. The 1999 Texas Legislative Session, through provisions of Senate Bill 441 (SB441) may help us reestablish the state as the premier place to locate a new facility.

One important tool we can now pull out of our war chest as needed, thanks to SB441, is statewide tax relief for research and development (R&D) activity. There are essentially two potential ways to provide tax-based incentives for R&D initiatives in Texas. One is through a tax credit against franchise tax liabilities; the other

is through exempting R&D capital purchases from sales taxes. SB441 provided a modest program of franchise tax credits.

The economic rationale for government actions to encourage R&D lies basically in the theory of "externalities." An externality is something that is not captured in the workings of the private economy. Externalities can be good or bad. Pollution, for example, is considered a negative externality, and thus governments take steps to ensure that manufacturers bear the costs of pollution that are not reflected in the market. On the positive side, governments support education because the benefits to society are in excess of the benefits to the individual. Thus, if left to the market and individual consumption, education would, in theory, be under-consumed.

This same notion of externalities applies to R&D. All of society benefits from innovations in ways that the private market does not capture. For example, advances in technology or healthcare may have benefits to society that are in excess of the actual monetary returns to the discovering entities. Thus, in the absence of government support, the market will produce less R&D than is socially optimal. In keeping with this premise, the federal government has actively supported research initiatives for decades. Many states also now subsidize R&D through incentives. Given the risks and uncertainty associated with such projects, they are extremely cost sensitive.

Research and development does not generate the large and immediate effects of a sizable investment in a plant that will exist for decades. Instead, R&D has more of a project-by-project impact on business activity. Moreover, R&D "multipliers" are not as large as the

ones associated with high value-added manufacturing enterprises. Furthermore, there is no guarantee that R&D in Texas will ultimately lead to production in Texas. The large plants that sometimes emanate from successful research may well be built in other states or, for that matter, other countries.

On the other hand, the R&D jobs themselves tend to be high-paying jobs. Also, the firms engaged in R&D are often those most likely to make large-scale investments in plant and equipment (P&E) and are desirable participants in the state economy. While an R&D credit does not guarantee a state future plant location, there is some notable historical correlation between the location of research activity and subsequent production facilities. In fact, numerous research efforts in Texas have led to the presence of major manufacturing complexes. Many of the high-growth industries of the future are technology-based and include a significant research component.

The promotion of R&D is critical in order to be viewed favorably relative to other large industrial states. Presently, at least 20 other states have adopted similar legislation, including most of the major production areas. While the level of the R&D credit is less than originally proposed and less than that offered by some other states, it nonetheless puts Texas into an enhanced strategic position to compete for R&D activity and ultimately additional production facilities.

Dr. M. Ray Perryman is President and Chief Executive Officer of The Perryman Group (www.perryman-group.com). He also serves as Institute Distinguished Professor of Economic Theory and Method at the International Institute for Advanced Studies.



Perryman

¿QUE PASA?

Enrique Iglesias: making a connection

By Joey Guerra
Houston Chronicle

Enrique Iglesias is running late — very late.

That may not be an earth-shattering surprise in a celebrity's world of late-night concerts, autograph sessions and interviews, but this Latin crooner has a legitimate excuse.

Iglesias was en route to Paris recently to promote "Enrique," his first English-language album, when the flight he was on unexpectedly took a disaster-movie turn for the worse. And we're not talking turbulence.

"The front window — the cockpit window — broke," said Iglesias when he finally called from his safe hotel room in Paris. "We were at 35,000 feet. Emergency landing! Emergency landing!"

At the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, more than 56,000 people swooned to his lush love songs. Some were so overcome by Iglesias' presence at the Astrodome that they dived over guardrails and chased the singer as he was leaving the stage.

"That was hilarious. You should've seen the bulls. Suddenly you felt like the bulls were the audience," Iglesias said, recalling the stampede.

"The minute I jumped in the truck, there were already hundreds of girls running all over the place and holding onto the truck. Cops running all over the place. ... And the girls are actually punching the cops."

Such a reaction is typical at this entertainer's concerts, which rely more on raw emotion and personal connection than the prepackaged spectacle of Ricky Martin, Latin music's current king.

The teary-eyed hysteria suits Iglesias just fine.

"What is the worst thing a girl can do? They're going to scratch you? Give me a break. They're my audience," Iglesias said. "They're not going to kill me. Thank God that happens. The day I have to worry is the day that doesn't happen."

The 24-year-old singer and songwriter won't have to worry about fans losing interest anytime soon. Since the release of his first Spanish-language album in 1995,



Iglesias

Iglesias has sold more than 14 million albums, scored more than a dozen No. 1 singles, and earned a Grammy and an American Music Award.

This year brought the flamenco-flavored "Bailamos," his first English-language chart-topper, on the "Wild Wild West" soundtrack. It resulted in a fierce bidding war that incited interest from Maverick, Madonna's record label.

Iglesias eventually signed a \$40 million multi-album deal with Universal/Interscope. He completed his "Enrique" album in a mere two months, and no expense was spared on the glittering collection.

It features credits from such big-league players as producers Mark Taylor and Brian Rowling, David Foster, songwriter Diane Warren and Whitney Houston, who joins Iglesias for a duet, "Could I Have This Kiss Forever."

Arista Records (Houston's label) president Clive Davis suggested the collaboration to Iglesias after Houston said she loved the song, too. Because of conflicting schedules, the song was recorded over the phone using Integrated Services Digital Network technology.

"She was in Germany, and I was in L.A. I never met her, but I've seen her on TV,"

'What is the worst thing a girl can do? They're going to scratch you? Give me a break. They're my audience. They're not going to kill me.'

Enrique Iglesias

Iglesias said with a laugh.

Iglesias co-wrote five tracks on his album, including the sensual first single, "Rhythm Divine." The video is in heavy rotation on MTV, and the album entered Billboard's charts at a modest No. 42.

"I know it's stupid, but it's what I call a happy album," Iglesias said. "The songs I wrote, they're pretty positive. They leave you in a good mood."

One of the best moments on the album is Iglesias' hushed version of "Sad Eyes," a song originally featured on Tracks, Bruce Springsteen's collection of outtakes and rarities. Interscope president Jimmy Iovine, who has produced Springsteen, brought the song to Iglesias' attention.

"He knew I was a big Bruce Springsteen fan," Iglesias said. "I listened to the song, and I fell in love with it. I'm like, 'How am I going to do a Bruce Springsteen song?' But I went into the studio with a bunch of great musicians I liked, and I produced it with a friend of mine (Lester Mendez). I did it kinda my way."

While the label "crossover" has been slapped on every artist with the slightest Latin appeal, Iglesias isn't afraid to label his accessible sound as pure pop. His influences — Springsteen, Billy Joel, Lionel Richie, the Police — reflect that.

Producers Taylor and Rowling, known collectively as Metro, ushered galloping dance beats and pop smarts into four tracks on Iglesias' album. (They are also responsible for "Believe," Cher's techno-tinged comeback.)

"What I did in Spanish was mainstream," Iglesias said. "That's where my focus was on this album. I wanted to do

a mainstream pop album in English. I'm Latino — that's what makes it Latino. Anything that has Jennifer, Ricky — they even stuck Christina Aguilera in it — it's really pop. You cannot be No. 1 in the United States if you're not mainstream. It all comes down to that."

With Iglesias aiming for U.S. stardom, he'll be going head-to-head with Martin and Marc Anthony, who beat him to the male-heartthrob punch with full-length albums earlier this year. Iglesias concedes, however, that there is room for everyone on the charts and in the hearts of music listeners.

"If there's only a few of us out there, it's just going to be a trend," Iglesias said. "But at the end, what I love about it, what matters, is the album. People don't get in their cars, turn on the radio and say, 'Oh, it's Latino time; let's buy that song.' If a song is good, it will do good."

Besides a slate of radio promotion shows and TV appearances, Iglesias isn't planning a full-scale tour any time soon.

His worldwide "Cosas del Amor" outting wrapped up in May, and he won't hit the road again until next September, when more singles will have been released from his English-language album.

Until then, he should have plenty of time to prepare himself for any potential outbreak of frenzied fans.

"I love my audience. I feel so protected when I'm around them," Iglesias said. "You can't really explain what you feel. That's what pushes you. That's when you say, 'All the work, all the traveling, all the interviews, all those sleepless nights, all those hotels, all that — it's all worth it as long as you feel that.'"

Author examines the roots of Hispanic herbal remedies

By Daniel J. Vargas
San Antonio Express-News

When Joie Davidow moved from New Jersey to Los Angeles, she knew very little about Mexican-American herbal remedies. Once she settled in a mostly Hispanic neighborhood and got to know her neighbors, they offered her soothing teas when she wasn't feeling well.

"I drank them and they worked," said Davidow, 52, the author of a new book on herbal treatments. "I would see the herbs in supermarkets. I wanted to learn more about this tradition."

Her curiosity sent her on a two-year adventure of research and interviews that resulted in her book, "Infusions of Healing: A Treasury of Mexican-American Herbal Remedies" (Fireside Books, 340 pages, \$14.)

FLOWER: Poinsettias found everywhere at Christmastime

From 8C

Another place to find numerous poinsettia plants is at the office on the desks of co-workers. Executives find these plants to be perfect solutions to their gift-giving problems. The plant offers brilliant color and a great hiding place when needed.

In churches, the plant is used as decoration at the altar or the front of the building for the congregation to admire.

The last place to be at the end of the day is at home, where the weather is warm and the rooms are cozy during cold winter nights. The most typical place to find a poinsettia plant in this setting is on the kitchen table or at the window seal as a center piece.

"It was like unlocking a dark closet and seeing it was filled with treasure," Davidow said of her research.

In the beginning, she thought it was going to be a simple project because she already knew a lot about herbs.

It turned out to be a gigantic undertaking.

Davidow traveled the Southwest and talked to curanderas (healers) and yerberas (herbalists), abuelas (grandmothers) and young women. She also scoured records on the Internet from Mexican universities on the subject.

"I learned what was being practiced in the Mexican-American neighborhoods — they were legacies from Aztec medicine," she said of the indigenous Indian civilization of Mexico. "It was an integral part of their religion."

Davidow said the Aztecs had detailed botanical records and cultivated botanical gardens. When the Spanish conquered the Aztecs, the practice was outlawed because some of the herbal concoctions had ties with their religious beliefs and practices.

"The practice went underground and became a folk tradition being passed from generation to generation," she said in a recent interview.

"I wanted to make sure I talked about the Aztec's contributions to medicine. If you don't, it's out of context and missing the point."

In "Infusions of Healing," Davidow describes 250 herbs and plants from A to Z to help ease everyday ailments such as indigestion, congestion, diarrhea, migraines and arthritis.

She includes English, Spanish and botanical names with notes

on their origin and primary uses.

"I tried to choose the ones that are easy to find, commonly used and ones that I could talk about their known medicinal properties," Davidow said, adding that two of the more popular herbs are spearmint (yerba buena) and chamomile.

Next, readers are told how to prepare the herbs from warm teas (infusions) and compresses to soothing liniments. Teas are the most popular.

The author does warn that people should be aware of possible allergic reactions to herbs. And, she said, people should always tell their doctor what herbs they are taking because of

potential interactions with prescription and/or over-the-counter medication.

Davidow said there is a rebirth of herbal remedies in part because of the burgeoning natural supplement industry, which has sales of \$12 billion annually.

And why not? An estimated 25 percent of all modern pharmaceutical drugs are derived from herbs, including aspirin, which comes from white willow bark.

The author is such an herbal remedy fan that she has a "great big collection" of herbs in her kitchen.

"I grow my own herbs in my garden, and I dry them out myself," Davidow said.

WIN FREE NEW YEAR'S EVE TICKETS!

Who: La Tropa F
When: Fri., Dec. 31, 1999
Where: International Ball Room in Odessa

You're Name: _____

Age: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

Bring or send entries to Y2k Bash, 201 E. Illinois, Midland, TX 79701 or enter on the web site at: www.mrt.com/quepasa

Deadline 5 p.m. December 29, 1999. One winner will be drawn.

Contestants must be at least 18 years old.

DEAR ABBY

Woman's search for insight yields man of her dreams

By Abigail Van Buren

DEAR ABBY: I would like to share something special with you. What began as a simple little experiment to give me insight into the people around me ended up giving me more than just the warm fuzzies.

I asked some of those I work with and some close friends to answer the following question with the first thing that came to mind. I asked it exactly as stated



Van Buren

with no emphasis on any one particular word: "If you could do any one thing in the world, what would it be?" Some of the answers were amusing. My co-workers answered: "Turn invisible." "Lose 50 pounds." "Educate the world." "I'd rule the world."

My friends answered: "Feel better about myself." "Feed the world." "Become a millionaire."

I asked my boyfriend of five months at the time the same question. Without hesitation, he answered, "I would give you a working pancreas." My jaw dropped, my heart melted and my eyes filled with tears. You see, Abby, I have had type II diabetes for nearly 10 years. Thankfully, I am very well controlled and

healthy, yet he knows that the daily rituals that control my life will never go away.

I think I have finally met a man with my best interest at heart. How could I not love someone with such unselfish kindness? Maybe there is hope for the world after all! — LANA A., ATLANTA

DEAR LANA A.: You picked yourself a Georgia peach, honey. Hang onto him — he's a keeper.

DEAR ABBY: Yet one more letter about tolerance. Can we not be great Americans and still hold onto ethnic traditions? Why do we have to be a melting pot? Why do we need to shed our backgrounds in order to be true Americans?

There are so many wonderful, beautiful and enriching traditions, and if we open ourselves to learning about them, we can only grow in our acceptance and appreciation of all people. Tolerance means the acceptance of individuals as they are, not as we necessarily want them to be.

I choose to believe that our founding fathers wanted America to be a place where all are welcome, not just those who are like us. Good citizenship does not require the shedding of our backgrounds. Good citizenship means accepting each other and working together for the betterment of us all. — ANDELA IN LOVE, LAND, OHIO

DEAR ANDELA: Of course,

we can be great Americans and still hold onto our ethnic traditions. However, this country would be stronger if everyone who immigrates here became proficient in the English language. And while our various cultural traditions are important in defining who we are, I think it is important to define ourselves as Americans first, rather than calling ourselves "hyphen-Americans," which separates us rather than unites us as a nation. It's a matter of priorities.

DEAR ABBY: I have a neighbor who tells visitors to remove their shoes before entering because she has a light-colored carpet.

I, for one, don't like it. What?

JOKES: Ho, Ho, Ho, Ha, Ha, Ha, Hee, Hee, Hee

From 8C

riding in the elevator of a very posh hotel. Just before the doors opened they all noticed a \$20 bill lying on the floor. Which one picked it up?

Santa of course, because the other two don't exist!

A paramedic a few years ago answered a call about a man who had a head injury he got when some teenagers were throwing eggs at cars. It seems that the egg had come through the open window of the man's car as he was driving at about 45 mph. He had a large swelling on his forehead. In the official report, the paramedic described the incident as an "egg-noggin."

Santa Claus, like all pilots, gets regular visits from the Federal Aviation Administration, and the FAA examiner arrived last week for the pre-Christmas flight check. In preparation, Santa had the elves wash the sled and bathe all the reindeer. Santa got his log book out and made sure all his paperwork was in order. He knew they would examine all his equipment and truly put Santa's flying skills to the test. The examiner walked slowly around the sled.

He checked the reindeer harnesses, the landing gear, and even Rudolph's nose. He painstakingly reviewed Santa's weight and balance calculations for sled's enormous payload. Finally, they were ready for the check ride. Santa got in and fastened his seat belt and shoulder harness and checked the compass. Then the examiner hopped in carrying, to Santa's surprise, a shotgun.

"What's that for?!" asked Santa incredulously.

The examiner winked and said, "I'm not supposed to tell you this ahead of time," as he leaned over to whisper in Santa's ear, "but you're gonna lose an engine on takeoff."

There was once an Eskimo who was always complaining about being cold, especially when he was out fishing in his seal-skin and blubber kayak. One of the other Eskimos said, "Hey, if you are always cold why don't you light a fire in your kayak to keep warm?"

This seemed to make a lot of sense to the Eskimo, who on his next fishing trip took along a copy of the Eskimo Times and some twigs for kindling. Soon, feeling the cold, he lit the fire. Being made of seal skin and blubber, the whole kayak burst into flames. All that was left of the kayak was a pile of ashes. This just goes to show, you can't have your kayak and heat it too.

Jokes can be found at http://www.theholidayspot.com/christmas/christmas_jokes.htm

Richard Acosta is a staff writer for the Midland Reporter-Telegram.

We want you to write us ... it's lonely in the Secret Que Pasa Cave. Write to Midland Reporter-Telegram Secret Que Pasa Cave 201 E. Illinois Avenue, Midland TX 79701. OR e-mail us at "nfacc@quepasa.com." Or check us out on-line at www.mrt.com/quepasa.

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This week in Hispanic history

December 23

In 1751 artist Jose Campeche was born in San Juan, Puerto Rico. His father, a freed slave, was a painter and musician, and Jose Campeche learned painting from him. He began painting religious figures, then branched out. In 1789, he painted portraits of the king of Spain and the royal family. He also traveled to other Spanish colonies to paint and by the time of his death in 1809 was one of the best-known artists in the New World.

December 24

In 1997 agreement was reached to allow American troops to remain in Panama after control of the canal is turned over to Panama on Dec. 31.

December 25

In 1856 the town of San Justo, Argentina, was established. Located south of Buenos Aires, the land was given to encourage settlement. Four years later, the first church was established in the town.

December 26

In 1904 Cuban novelist Alejo Carpentier was born in Havana. He started as a journalist and a professor before turning to writing books. In 1943 he was sent into exile because of his political views. He returned in 1959 after Fidel Castro came to power. His books deal with the culture of the Caribbean. He died in 1980.

In 1956 Castro attempted to land in Cuba to overthrow the regime of Fulgencio Batista. All but 11 of Castro's followers were killed.

December 28

In 1978 King Juan Carlos of Spain ratified Spain's first democratic constitution in nearly five decades. Juan Carlos was sworn in as the first ruling monarch of Spain in 1975, two days after the death of Gen. Francisco Franco.

December 29

In 1845 Texas became a state. Mexico gained independence from Spain in the 1820s and welcomed Americans into Texas. By the 1830s, the Americans outnumbered the Mexicans, and attempts by the Mexican government to regulate the Americans led to rebellion. In March of 1836, in the midst of armed conflict with the Mexican government, Texas declared its independence from Mexico and became an independent republic.

In 1996 Guatemala's long civil war officially ended. The war began 35 years earlier, and peace talks started in 1990. The government of President Alvaro Arzu was able to reach an agreement with the left-wing National Revolutionary Unity.

From Universal Press Syndicate

Win! Win! Win!

Who: Elida y Avante
When: Sat., Dec. 25, 1999
Where: La Playa de Colores Night Club in Odessa
You're Name: _____

Age: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

All entries must be faxed to the Midland Reporter-Telegram, attention: Que Pasa at 682-3793. Deadline is 5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 24. One winner will be selected. Must be 21 to enter.

Celebration heart of Christmas spirit

Editor's Note: This is the final installment of a two-part series about Las Posadas. This story highlights a group of Midlanders who participated in the religious tradition.

By George Torres
Staff Writer

As cold weather begins to make its appearance in Midland, some members of Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church are keeping warm with the help of Christmas spirit.

Since Dec. 16, members from Our Lady have been conducting the nine-day Catholic-based Christmas celebration of Las Posadas.

Filled with songs and prayers, it is a festive celebration that commemorates Mary's and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem in search for shelter. And that, of course, leads to the eventual birth of Christ: the real reason Christmas is celebrated in the first place.

Las Posadas has been celebrated for hundreds of years dating back to the time of the Aztecs and Spaniards. And the reason for that longevity is the passing of the tradition from generation to generation.

Lisa Luna, who volunteered her home for the celebration in Midland, is one person who truly feels the real importance of continuing the tradition.

"I lost my mom in April last year, and around the holidays it gets kind of hard," Ms. Luna said. "I do this (Las Posadas) because it helps me remember my mom. It's sort of like my treatment for her being gone."

Ms. Luna also can remember earlier in her life, as a child, celebrating and getting involved in Las Posadas with her mother. She recalls her mother as a deeply religious person who celebrated Las Posadas frequently.

"She was in charge of things. She had something for everyone to do, so you knew everything was going to get done. Now I feel it's real important to push it to the next generation," Ms. Luna said.

And it was obvious how much Ms. Luna and her sisters missed the appearance of their mother this year, as tears filled the room when the celebration began.

"For me it's a real spiritual thing,"

said Cecilia Perez, a sister of Ms. Luna. She then smiled and said she was feeling the presence of her mother while the celebration was being conducted.

Ms. Perez remembers her mother getting her involved with Las Posadas and volunteering her home for the celebration right after the time she got married. That seems to be the goal of many older people who want to pass along the tradition of Las Posadas to the up-and-coming generation.

"Kids sometimes forget what Christmas is all about and Las Posadas gives them more knowledge about it. It's all about the coming of Christ," said Alex Luna, Ms. Luna's husband.

Luna acknowledges that he doesn't remember doing Las Posadas as a kid, but understands the importance of children knowing about — and understanding the significance — of the event.

The Lunas practically open their home to anyone who wishes to be involved in the celebration.

"As we grew up we lived next door to a family from Mexico and they celebrated Las Posadas a little differently than we did, ... but really it didn't matter because Las Posadas is about friendship, the opening up houses to friends," said Israel Robledo, a brother of Ms. Luna and Ms. Perez.

Elodia Heredia, who has been organizing Las Posadas for 14 years at Our Lady of Guadalupe, said she takes part in the activities as a way of helping people remember how people celebrated Christmas in the past.

"We've been doing Las Posadas for many years, and we just want to keep the tradition going," Mrs. Heredia said.

Las Posadas will be carried out until Friday, Christmas Eve, and everyone is invited to participate. Addresses to participating homes hosting the celebration are posted on the front door of Our Lady of Guadalupe at 1405 Garden Lane.



Ines Baeza (left) holds her prayerbook tight while praying the Rosary with her Rosary beads. Sammy Robledo (bottom) carries a scene of Mary and Joseph in the Manger.

Photos by U. Frank Williams Jr.



What is Christmas without flowers?

By Erica Garibay
Staff Writer

A 16th Century tale tells of a curious little girl who follows the wise men to the cradle of the Infant Jesus. When she noticed there were no flowers beside the manger, she wept with sorrow. Just then an angel appeared and told her to take the weeds she was holding in her hand to the infant. As she laid them down the weeds began to blossom into vivid, beautiful poinsettias.

This story, which can be found at <http://www.grayweb.com>, is an imaginative version of the history of the poinsettia, and was taken from a book by Ruth E. Mullins, "Flowers and Symbols for the Christian Year."

The site also attributes the author's saying, "The poinsettia represents fertility and eternity, and is a symbol of the Christmas festival."



As perfect as the old tale may sound, the poinsettia originally made its debut in the United States by the first U.S. Ambassador to Mexico, Joel R. Poinsett in 1825, according to "The Texas Poinsettia Producers Guide (TPPG)," www.aggiehorticulture.tamu.edu/greenhouse/guide/poinsettia/history.html.

While serving as ambassador, Poinsett often visited Taxco, Mexico and found the plants growing on the hillside. A botanist, he sent a few of the plants home to Greenville, Calif., where he owned a greenhouse.

Traditionally, Americans give poinsettias as holiday gifts, as did Poinsett and his friends. He distributed the plants to various botanical gardens and his horticultural friends, as well as John Bartram of Philadelphia, who in turn gave the plant to Robert Buist, also a botanist.

Buist then sold the plant as Euphorbia poinsettia, even though the plant had been named Euphorbia pulcherrima by a German taxonomist in 1833. As we know it today, the poinsettia has remained the accepted name in English-speaking countries ever since.

"Although the poinsettia is among the most traditional symbols of the Christmas season, it was cultivated by the Aztecs of Mexico long before the

introduction of Christianity to the Western Hemisphere," according to the TPPG. Kings Netzahualcyotl and Montezume kept poinsettias as prized possessions, but because of climate restrictions, the plant could not be grown in their capital, in what is now known as Mexico City.

The site also indicated that the "first religious connotations were placed on poinsettias during the 17th Century."

"Because of its bright red leaves and holiday blooming time Franciscan priests, near Taxco, began to use the flower in the Fiesta of Santa Pesebre, a nativity procession."

Poinsettias come in various sizes, ranging from 6 inches to 4 feet tall and their leaves can grow from 4 to 7 inches long. In its natural habitat, the poinsettia can grow as tall as 10 feet. Its leaves range in color as bright red, yellow or white.

Today, there are still many around the world that believe these plants are toxic or poisonous. Don't worry, they're not, but it is not recommended to eat the plant, says The Poinsettia: A Winter Wonder, www.geocities.com/RainForest/Vines/1056/Poinsett.htm.

"Those with sensitive skin may develop a mild skin reaction whenever coming in contact with the sap of a poinsettia," the site said.

According to The Texas Poinsettia



Photos by Brian Adamcik

Producers Guide (TPPG), "poinsettias are one of the most important floricultural crops produced in the U.S."

In 1980, total U.S. poinsettia production was valued at \$66 million. In Texas, the plant is valued at approximately \$9 million annually and involves more than 700 producers statewide.

"Projects for the next 3 to 5 years indicate that demand will remain steady with a slight increase at a rate of approximately 3 to 5 percent," the TPPG said.

Finding poinsettias around the holidays is probably the easiest item to spot in stores across the country. With its red and green color, the plant is admired by most consumers and is often given as gifts for those who offer no clue as to what they want for Christmas.

See FLOWER/7C

FACE

Add a little Ho-Ho-Ho to the Ho-lidays

I read a story about some people bring Christmas presents to needed children. I was just about getting that warm mushy feeling inside. Then I read the first quote in the story.

"We just want the kids to understand the true meaning of Christmas."

What? Maybe my mommy raised me differently from everyone else, but she always told me that the true meaning of Christmas is family, friends and (if your religion recog-

nizes it) the birth of Jesus Christ.

Laughter lives in my family in good times, bad times and most especially during the holidays.

Here are some Christmas jokes I've gathered together for you and your families to enjoy.

Season's greetings.



Acosta

The 3 stages of man: He believes in Santa Claus. He doesn't believe in Santa Claus. He is Santa Claus.

What happened when Santa's cat swallowed a ball of yarn? She had mittens.

What do you call a chicken at the North Pole? Lost.

What did the two melting snowflakes invite their friends

to? Their wetting.

What do you call a cow in Alaska? An Eski-moo.

Why did Frosty go to live in the middle of the ocean? Because snow man is an island.

Just before Christmas, an honest politician, a generous lawyer and Santa Claus were

See JOKES/7C

TOP 20 Tejaño Hits

1. Por Eso Te Amo by Palominos
2. Mil Botellas by Jay Perez
3. El Amigo Que Se Fue by Intocable
4. Fuiste Mala by Kumbia Kings
5. Me Hace Llorar by Masizzo
6. Tiki Tac by Elida Y Avante
7. Otra Vez A La Cantina by Michael Salgado
8. El Cazador by Bobby Pulido
9. Dejalo Al Tiempo by Intenso
10. Se Baila Asi by Tigrillos
11. Sonador Eterno by Intocable
12. Solamente Mia by Masizzo
13. Se Fue Mi Amor by Kumbia Kings
14. No Quiero Estar Solo by Jay Perez
15. Contigo by Intocable
16. Inolvidable by Intenso
17. Me Enamore by Tropa F
18. Duele by Elida Y Avante
19. Solo Una Palada by Ramon Ayala
20. Cantarle A Ella by Bobby Pulido

From KMRK Tejaño 90.1 for the past week



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Ewing's late bucket sinks Raptors by 1

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Patrick Ewing hit a turnaround 14-footer with 21.3 seconds left and the New York Knicks, despite blowing another big fourth-quarter lead, overcame Vince Carter and the Toronto Raptors 91-90 Wednesday night.

NBA Roundup

It was the biggest shot of the season for Ewing, who was playing in just his seventh game since recovering from a partially torn Achilles tendon. He finished with eight points — just the 36th single-digit scoring night of his 984-game career — and eight rebounds to support a 25-point effort from Latrell Sprewell. Carter scored a crowd-pleasing 36 points, the highest total by a Knicks opponent this season.

Heat 74, Jazz 72

MIAMI — Alonzo Mourning had 17 points, 10 rebounds and five blocks — including one in the final seconds — to lead Miami.

Mourning blocked Bryon Russell's drive to basket with 13 seconds remaining and John Stockton missed a 3-pointer at the buzzer for Utah, which had won eight straight in Miami.

Karl Malone had 21 points and eight rebounds to lead the Jazz, who lost for the third time in four games.

Celtics 98, Hawks 81

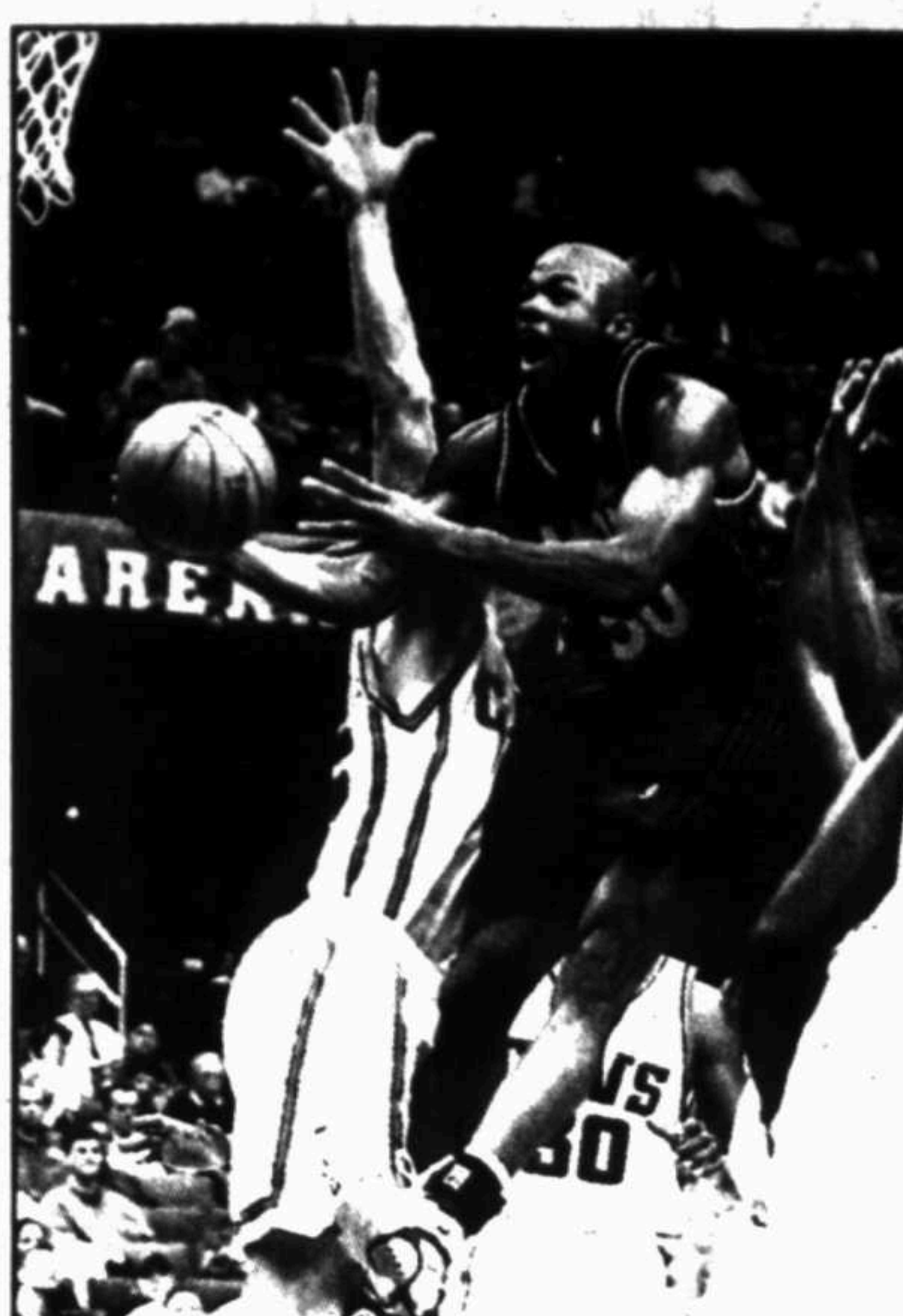
BOSTON — The Boston Celtics said goodbye to their parquet floor at halftime and Atlanta even before that, getting 24 points from Antoine Walker to snap a six-game losing streak.

The Celtics led by 14 points after one quarter, 18 after two, 24 after three and 87-59 early in the fourth before the Hawks scored eight consecutive points. Jamel Thomas completed a three-point play and Kenny Anderson added a layup to squelch the charge.

The 81 points was Atlanta's lowest output of the season and the loss was the Hawks' fourth in a row, tying their longest skid of the year.

Magic 103, Cavaliers 97

CLEVELAND — Rookie Chucky Atkins scored 22 points to lead Orlando past Cleveland.



Orlando Magic forward Corey Magette (50) splits two Cleveland Cavalier defenders as he drives to the hoop Wednesday in Cleveland.

Atkins scored six points down the stretch as Orlando took advantage of an injury-depleted and turnover-plagued Cavaliers team to earn its fourth straight win.

Cleveland, with only nine healthy players, battled throughout but committed 10 turnovers in the first 9:19 of the fourth quarter and lost its fifth in a row.

Bob Sura scored 28 points to lead Cleveland, which was without starting point guard Brevin Knight and reserve forwards Mark Bryant and Danny Ferry.

Timberwolves 106, Bulls 86

CHICAGO — Kevin Garnett provided the muscle inside and Malik Sealy and Terrell Brandon hit just about everything outside as Minnesota routed Chicago.

It was the third win in a row for the Timberwolves, who started the month 0-8. Garnett led five Timberwolves in double figures with 22 points. He also had 13 rebounds.

Sealy had 19 points on 8-of-10 shooting. Brandon added 16 and Joe Smith came off the bench to score 18.

The Bulls were led by Elton Brand's 17 points and eight rebounds.

Lady Raiders hold off TCU

Associated Press

FORT WORTH — Texas Tech didn't need to shoot well to win.

Aleah Johnson scored 17 points to help No. 7 Texas Tech overcome a poor-shooting second half in a 63-57 victory over TCU on Wednesday night.

"I thought our shot selection was not bad — we just couldn't make anything," said Texas Tech coach Marsha Sharp. "Luckily we played defense well enough to win."

Texas Tech (10-0) improved on its best start in school history and extended its winning streak over TCU to 35 games.

Johnson scored six of the game's first 12 points as Texas Tech jumped out to a 10-2 lead in the first four minutes.

TCU got within 3 points on three separate occasions in the first half, but trailed 42-33 at the half after Melinda Schumucker-Pharies and Amber Tarr hit 3-pointers in the final minute.

"We felt like we had to run some help in the post because we're not very deep there," TCU coach Jeff Mittie said. "We gambled on their perimeter shooting and they made us pay in the first half."

Texas Tech shot 59 percent in the first half, but went cold in the second, making just 8 of 27 shots (29 percent).

TCU (7-5) was unable to capitalize because of its own poor shooting. The Lady Frogs hit just 7 of 25 shots (28 percent).

"We could have (won). The opportunities were there," said TCU's Tricia Payne, who had a game-high 19 points. "A shot here, a stop there and we would have won the game. We definitely had our chances, but just didn't take advantage."

7-foot-9 player tries to bridge political divide

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — He can dunk without jumping. He is two inches taller than Manute Bol, the tallest player ever in the NBA.

Ri Myung Hoon, all 7-foot-9 of him, is making basketball one of the most popular sports in North Korea. He's also proving just as popular in South Korea, where he and his teammates arrived Wednesday for a goodwill exhibition between declared enemies.

Pedestrians stopped and waved as Ri's bus drove through Seoul. The bus carried a large red-letter banner that read "235," the player's height in centimeters.

The 62-member North Korean basketball delegation is the first group of athletes from the North to visit South Korea in nine years. South Korea is trying to engage the isolated communist state through economic, sports and other exchanges.

The basketball games are dubbed "reunification matches." Officials hope they will ease tensions between countries that divided in 1945 and are still technically at war after the 1950-53 Korean War ended in a shaky truce.

"We expect that these basketball matches will serve as a good opportunity for national reconciliation and solidarity and contribute to national reunification," chief North Korean delegate Song Ho Gyong said upon arriving at Gimpo Airport.

But in South Korea, where the average adult is 5-7, more attention is paid to the awesome height of Ri than to the political significance of the games.

Rodman gets arrested under suspicion of drunken driving

COSTA MESA, Calif. (AP) — Dennis Rodman, who has had a stormy few months since his NBA career ended abruptly, was booked Wednesday for investigation of drunken driving, police said.

Rodman, who was driving a Bentley, was stopped for a traffic violation, a passenger not wearing a seat belt, police Sgt. Bob Ciszek said.

"Also, the security in the area had reported he was possibly intoxicated as he was leaving a restaurant and bar," police Sgt. Don Holford said.

The 38-year-old former NBA rebounding champion was booked and bail was set at \$2,500, said Holford, who added that Rodman flunked the field sobriety test conducted by a special driving-under-the-influence team.

Rodman was expected to remain in jail for up to six hours, Holford said Wednesday night.

It was the third time within the past four months that Rodman has been arrested, although charges were dropped in the previous cases.

Rodman was arrested Aug. 21 in nearby Newport Beach after a disturbance at a restaurant and bar. But the Orange County district attorney's office decided not to charge him with misdemeanor public drunkenness because evidence did not show Rodman was so drunk that he could not care for his own safety.

Rodman, waived by the Los Angeles Lakers last April after spending a rocky seven weeks

with the team, was arrested Nov. 5 in Miami Beach, Fla., after he and his wife, Carmen Electra, allegedly had a loud fight in their hotel room. Both initially were charged with simple battery, a misdemeanor, but those charges later were dropped.

Rodman, who led the NBA in rebounding seven years, played on league championship teams twice with the Detroit Pistons and three times with the Chicago Bulls.

He was released by the Lakers after showing up late for several practices and missing others. Rodman indicated he would like to continue playing in the NBA, but no other teams apparently wanted to sign him.

WEST TEXAS SPORTS

Booster Clubs...

The Midland Lee Basketball Booster Club meets the first Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Lee High School cafeteria. All boys' and girls' basketball fans are invited to attend...

The Midland High Softball Booster Club will meet the first Thursday of each month through May 4 in Conference Room A at MHS. Meetings begin at 7 p.m. Contact Patti Heard at 686-9239 or David Askew at 686-7025 with questions...

The Midland Lee Lady Rebel Softball Booster Club will meet the first Thursday of every month at 7 p.m. in the Lee cafeteria. Call Bryan Hargrove at 688-1537 for more information...

Golf...

The University of Texas of the Permian Basin is looking for a golf coach to assist in the development of its newest team. Coaching duties will begin in January 2000 and will pay (\$5,100 plus benefits). Any individual interested in applying for the position, or anyone who has questions about playing on the team should contact Steve Aicinen at UTPB...

Baseball...

The University of Texas Winter Camp has scheduled a session in late December. An Advanced Specialty Camp for players 14-18 is scheduled for Dec. 27-29. For more information, call (512) 471-3309...

Soccer...

Registration for a spring youth league is being accepted through the Midland Soccer Association. Players can sign up during office hours at the MSA office, with a fee of \$40. New players must submit a copy of their birth certificate at registration. For more information, call the MSA office at 684-5425...

Midland's Fusion Soccer Club is forming an '88 team for girls under 12 as of Aug. 1, 1999. Tryouts are scheduled for Jan. 2, 9 and 16 from 2-4 p.m. at Windlands Park. A player release form for recreational players may be

obtained at MSA offices and must be signed for tryout. For more information, call Andy Rickard at 520-3333...

Job vacancy...

There is an opening for the head girls soccer coach at Odessa High School. Must have experience in soccer and have a valid teacher's certificate to teach Social Studies. Salary is based on degree and experience, \$5,760 above teaching. Medical Benefits and Life Insurance. It is a 10 1/2 month contract and all other state and local benefits will apply. Interested individuals may immediately contact or send resume to: Don Ford, Athletic Director, Ector County Independent School District (915) 334-7172. Fax: (915) 334-6711 or Jim Carson, Campus Athletic Coordinator, Odessa High School, (915) 337-6655. Fax: (915) 33-6014.

Swimming...

Pre-competitive swimming is being offered at the Mabey Aquatic Center. The program will teach elementary age swimmers techniques of competitive swimming while improving their strokes. It is open to swimmers who can swim at least 25 yards of freestyle and backstroke. The cost is \$40 per month on a year-round basis. For more information, call 684-7755...

COM Aquatics is holding water aerobics classes Monday through Saturday at Mabey Aquatic Center. Classes are at 6:15 a.m., 7:15 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. All classes are open to the public and swimming skills are not necessary. Cost is \$45 per month, \$65 for a couple. Deep and shallow water classes are offered. For information, call Rita Simmons at 684-7755...

COM Aquatics - Learn to Swim year round lessons for both children (3 years of age or older) and adults wishing to learn to swim or improve technique. Private or group lessons (limit four students per instructor) are available. Children are grouped by age and ability. A session normally consists of eight 30-minute lessons. Please call 684-7755 for more details...

The COM Masters Swim Team is open to anyone 20 and over. There are two Masters swim team workouts. You

can choose from Monday-Wednesday-Friday or Tuesday-Thursday-Saturday at 6-7 a.m. at the COM pool. Call 684-7755 for more information...

COM Diving offers a full range of diving instruction from beginning lessons to elite team training and competition. All ages and ability levels are invited to participate. Diving lessons are offered at various times. For information, call 684-7755...

The Midland YMCA offers year-round 30-minute swim lessons for parents and children and 45-minute lessons for youth. Private lessons are available. For more information, call Leaf Faller at 682-2551...

Midland YMCA is offering water aerobics classes, including Hydro-fit and Deep Water aerobics. Classes are available both morning and evening. Call Leaf Faller or Deborah Posson at 682-2551 for more information...

Basketball...

The Boys and Girls Club of Midland is offering an After-school Youth Basketball Program for third through sixth grades. Registration runs through Jan. 2. League play will begin the first week of January. The cost of the program will be \$10 per child and a \$3 membership is required. For more information, call the Huff Park Unit at 683-5297 or the Taylor Park Unit at 683-0500...

The Ten Star All Star Basketball Camp is accepting applications for boys and girls ages 7-19. Players for the camp are selected by invitation only, and many past attendees have included future NBA players. One of the camps is located in Commerce. To pick up an evaluation form, call (704) 372-8610 through March 20...

A 3-on-3 tournament for men 35 and over is scheduled for Jan. 5 from 6-9 p.m. in San Angelo. Entry fee is \$30 per team for a four-man team. For more information, call (915) 223-1309...

Tennis

A Mixed Doubles Tennis Tournament is Jan. 15-16 at the Midland College Tennis Center. The deadline for signups is Jan. 13 at 6 p.m. at the Armstrong Racquet Club, Midland College Tennis Center. Fees are \$7 per person

and \$14 per team. Call 687-4046 for more information.

The Permian Basin Tennis Umpires Association is holding a USTA certification school Jan. 14-15 at room 212 of the Odessa College Sports Complex. The sessions run from 6-9 p.m. the first day and from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. the second day. For more information, call Brooke Green at 694-2847 or Charles Arnold at 697-4827...

The Midland Women's Tennis Association is beginning its spring league Feb. 1. Play will take place on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. at Green Tree Country Club and Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:15 a.m. at Midland College. A \$15 fee should be sent to Jennifer Wilson at 3609 Springmont Drive, Midland, 79705. For further information, call Teresa Krisa at 687-5433. The organization is also conducting and Ice Ice Freeze Tournament at Midland College on Jan. 25 (moved to Jan. 27 if weather interferes) from 9 a.m. to noon...

Softball...

Umpires are needed to work high school games in Alpine, Andrews, Big Spring, Brady, Coahoma, Colorado City, Eldorado, Fort Stockton, Greenwood, Hermleigh, Kermit, Lamesa, Midland, Monahans, Odessa, Pecos, San Angelo, Snyder, Sonora and Wall. For more information, call Mack at 520-5961 or Freddie at 694-5508...

The Midland Softball Association will host a general meeting at 8 p.m. on Jan. 18 in the Umpires Building at the Bill Williams Softball Complex. The meeting is to exchange ideas for the adult slowpitch organization and is not an organizational sign-up meeting...

Miscellaneous...

The Midland Wrestling Club offers adult, high school, Olympic and freestyle wrestling. Call 685-0531 for information...

The Midland branch of the American Escrima Wing Tsun Organization is holding an adult self defense combat class in association with the Midland Wrestling Club. Classes will be held three times a week. For more information, call David Lesser at 687-6973 or 685-0531...

For All of Your Advertising Needs Classified Can 682-6222

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 070 Obituaries
- 071 Curiosity Corner
- 080 Odessa Ads
- 100 New Arrivals
- 105 Happy Ads
- 106 Valentines
- 110 Lodge Notices
- 115 Announcements
- 130 Personals
- 140 Card of Thanks
- 150 Lost and Found
- 155 Lottery Infor.
- 160 Loans Wanted
- 161 Deeds of Trust
- 162 Mortg. Wanted
- 163 Money To Loan
- 165 Invest. Optpyts.
- 170 Schools/Instruc.

TRANSPORTATION

- 200 Autos Domestic
- 205 Classic Cars
- 210 Autos Foreign
- 215 Sport/Utility Veh.
- 220 Trucks and Vans
- 225 4x4 Vehicles
- 230 Commercial Veh.
- 235 Cars, Trucks, Vans Under \$3,000
- 240 Motorcycles
- 245 Trailers
- 250 Rec. Vehicles
- 255 Veh. Rent/Lease
- 260 Boats and Motors
- 270 Airplanes
- 280 Auto Services
- 290 Parts/Access.

EMPLOYMENT

- 305 Job Services
- 310 General Help
- 311 Medical Help
- 312 Professional Help
- 314 Clerical Help
- 318 Sales Help
- 318 Management
- 320 Skilled Trade
- 330 St. Wanted
- 335 AdultCare Needed
- 336 AdultCare Prov.
- 340 ChildCare Needed
- 341 ChildCare Prov.
- 350 Bus. Optpyts.

MISC. SALES

- 400 Auctions
- 402 Garage Sale Svcs.
- 404 79706 Zip code
- 405 79701 Zip code
- 406 79703 Zip code
- 407 79705 Zip code
- 408 79707 Zip code
- 409 Area Garage Sales
- 410 Misc. Sales
- 413 Jewelry
- 415 Misc. Wanted
- 420 Things To Eat

Who's Who For Service

800-1055

ERRORS AND ADJUSTMENTS

Please check your ad the first day it appears to be sure that all of the information is correct. This will ensure that your ad is exactly what you want readers to see. Call us the first day if you find an error at 682-6222. To report an error in Saturday's edition call Saturday morning between 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. Errors in Sunday's edition should be reported on Monday morning after 8:00 a.m. We must limit our financial responsibility, if any, to the charge for the word or space, and cannot be held responsible for incorrect ads after the first day of publication.

LEGAL NOTICE

Sealed Bid(s) will be received until 11:00 a.m., January 5, 2000, to be opened at 11:00 a.m. in the office of the Purchasing Agent, City Hall, 300 N. Lorraine, Midland, Texas for the following Bid(s):

Bid #032-00 to purchase: 10 Portable Stage Risers for the Midland Center.

Information for Bidders, Proposal Forms, Specifications, and General Conditions for bidding may be obtained from the office of the Purchasing Agent, City Hall, 300 N. Lorraine, Midland, Texas.

Purchasing Division City of Midland, Texas

LEGAL NOTICE

Sealed Bid(s) will be received until 11:00 a.m., January 5, 2000, to be opened at 11:00 a.m. in the office of the Purchasing Agent, City Hall, 300 N. Lorraine, Midland, Texas for the following Bid(s):

Bid #032-00 to purchase: 2 Cab & Chassis for Refuse Collection Trucks for the Garage Division.

Bid #031-00 to purchase: 1 Chip Spreader for the Garage Division.

Information for Bidders, Proposal Forms, Specifications, and General Conditions for bidding may be obtained from the office of the Purchasing Agent, City Hall, 300 N. Lorraine, Midland, Texas.

Purchasing Division City of Midland, Texas

THE CITY COUNCIL of the City of Midland, Texas will hold a public hearing at 11:00 a.m., Tuesday, January 11, 2000 in the Council Chamber, City Hall, 300 N. Lorraine, Jr. for a Zone Change from PD, Planned District for a Housing District to Amended Planned District, on all of Mira Vista, Section 2, City and County of Midland, Texas. (Generally located at the southwest corner of Big Spring Street and Solomon Lane). The meeting facility is accessible to disabled persons. A wheelchair entry ramp is located at the southeast entrance to City Hall. A parking space designated for use by disabled persons is available near the southeast entrance door. Any disabled person needing special accommodations or hearing impaired persons wishing to have an interpreter should request services through the Administrative Services Department at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting by contacting David Hunter, Compliance Coordinator for the City of Midland, at (915)685-7250. If communication via TDD is required, please call 1-800-735-2989.

Acacia Masonic Lodge #1414 1000 Upland

Stated Communication, 2nd & 4th Tuesday at 7:30 P.M. Mike Pipes, W.M. Al Talbot, Sec.

Centennial Lodge #1448 1800 W. Wall

Reg. meeting, 1st & 3rd Sat. 8:30 am. Breakfast 7:30 am. Tom Burns, W.M. Bob Elwood, Sec.

PERSONALS

BEAUTYCONTROL PRODUCTS Shirley Whitehead, Senior Consultant 520-0416. Danielle McVernin Consultant 570-1611. All products on sale.

COSTUME

RENTAL! Santa - Mrs. Santa - Frosty Snowman - Elves - Christmas Tree - Wisemen - biblical characters. Costumes by Dorothy 694-7687.

FOUND & LOST

FOUND Cocker Spaniel in Grasslands. Call 689-3021 or 685-6095.

Fax It! 682-6999

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DODGE 1992 Shadow

Manual. Runs great, needs

paint. Great car \$2,500 or

best offer. 570-8648.

FORD 1989 TAURUS-CL

4 door, 79K miles, good

condition, great school car,

all power. Must sell \$2,500.

O.B.O. Call 683-8904.

FORD 1994 Escort LX, 4

door, 4 cylinder, A/C, cas-

sette, one owner, \$3,795

694-7345.

ROGERS ★ FORD

NORTH

FORD 1994 Explorer 4x4

XLT, sunroof, automatic,

custom wheels, \$10,998.

694-7345.

ROGERS ★ FORD

NORTH

FORD 1997 Taurus GL

green, 44,505 miles, 4

door, V6, power windows,

locks, cruise, tilt, cassette,

automatic. Red tag \$9,999.

Call 697-3293.

GEO 1993 PRIZM LSI

One owner, 34K, well

maintained \$7,000. Call

686-7540.

Jack Sherman

Chevrolet, Mazda

Sales & Service

4100 W. Wall, 694-9601

OLDSMOBILE 1993 CUT-

LASS Supreme

Convertible, good condi-

tion, leather interior. Runs great,

windows tinted, new bat-

tery. \$9,500. 699-4939

OLDSMOBILE 1994 CUT-

LASS Ciera, 4 door,

maroon, new tires, excel-

lent condition, like new.

\$5,495. Located at 1605

McDonald. Call 694-8646.

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4200 W. Wall 694-8601.

CADILLAC 1995 Deville

White, excellent condition,

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sale \$14,500. Call 685-

1372 days, 697-1781

evenings.

CADILLAC 1997 Sedan

Deville, like new. Gold

package, new car warren-

ty, will sell at \$20,800

(wholesale). 697-7884.

697-0744 after 6:00pm.

CHEVROLET 1997 Monte

Carlo. Like new. Only 22K

miles. Leather, Cruise, CD,

extended warranty. Book

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\$249⁹⁹ MO.

\$1,000 down (cash or trade), 36 month Red Carpet Option @ 6.5% APR to qualified buyers, \$1,000 Rebate to Dealer, Residual \$5,549.25, Sale Price \$13,999-TTL.

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TRUCKS



2000 FORD F-150 XL REG CAB

\$17,999⁹⁹ TTL

2000 FORD F-150 XL SUPERCAB



2000 FORD F-150 XLT SUPERCAB



\$22,999⁹⁹ TTL



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\$23,999⁹⁹ TTL

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2000 FOCUS SE 4-DOOR



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\$1,000 down (cash or trade), 36 month Red Carpet Option @ 6.5% APR to qualified buyers, \$1,000 Rebate to Dealer, Residual \$8,052.50, Sale Price \$10,999-TTL.

2000 MUSTANG 2-DR. COUPE



\$16,999⁹⁹ TTL

\$1,000 down (cash or trade), 36 month Red Carpet Option @ 6.5% APR to qualified buyers, \$1,000 Rebate to Dealer, Residual \$8,052.50, Sale Price \$14,999-TTL.

2000 CONTOUR SE 4 DR. SEDAN



\$15,999⁹⁹ TTL

\$1,000 down (cash or trade), 36 month Red Carpet Option @ 6.5% APR to qualified buyers, \$1,000 Rebate to Dealer, Residual \$8,052.50, Sale Price \$13,999-TTL.

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220 Trucks

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6 Cylinder, 5-Speed, Black, CD Player
Custom Wheels, Low Miles
\$16,800

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Automatic, Transmission, A/C, Red
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\$6,995

2000 FORD CONTOUR SPORT
24 Valve V-6, Spoiler, CD Player, Power Windows
Power Locks, Red, Tilt, Cruise, Power
Of Factory Warranty Left
\$11,950

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Cassette, Cruise, Automatic, A/C
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215 Sports/Utility Vehicles

220 Trucks

FORD 1995 Explorer, 4 door, 23,744 miles, power windows/locks, cruise/tilt, cassette, tilt. Call 697-3293.

CHEVROLET 1991 Blazer 4 Doors, 90K miles. Excellent Condition. Garage kept, one non-smoking owner. Blue/silver. \$6,250. 694-7406. 683-5533.

FORD 1997 Explorer, green, 4 door, 23,744 miles, power windows/locks, cruise/tilt, cassette, tilt. Call 697-3293.

NISSAN 1992 PATHFINDER. Good condition, very dependable. 81K. Four door, tinted windows. \$8,400. Must sell! Call Mary at 694-4208.

CHEVROLET 1998 Tahoe LT, four door, 4X4, loaded including leather, rear air, power everything, water, 15" 30K Alum. Wheels, 129K miles. \$25,500. 686-8544. 683-6117.

FORD 1992 Crew Cab dually, one ton, 460 cubic inch engine, five speed, new tires and custom interior. High mileage but nice truck. \$9,975. 520-9003.

CHEVROLET 1978 EL Camino, 350 with lots new, good condition. \$2,500. Call 684-9685 after 5 p.m.

CHEVROLET 1998 C1500 Z71, 350 Vortec, power windows/locks, cruise, tilt, cassette/CD, bucket seats, dual air bags, overhead console, automatic, 3 door. Red tag \$22,999. Call 697-3293.

FORD 1993 RANGER XLT. Great condition. Premium wheels, air/mirrors, cassette, sliding rear window. \$5,850. 689-4590 between 5:30 to 9:30.

FORD 1995 F-250, XLT, extended cab, 4 door, 4X4, power windows, 107K miles, ready to go anywhere. \$16,750. Call 685-4078 or 685-3746.

FORD 1997 F350 crew cab, 7.3 powerstroke, 1 ton, new tires, long bed, 42K miles, power/tilt, 683-3322 work. 699-8070 home.

TOYOTA 1996 T100 truck. Automatic, air, cruise, extended cab, 35K, new tires, like new. \$14,500. Call 682-9513.

CHEVROLET 1994 Silverado 3/4 Ton, extended cab, long bed, 6.5 liter turbo diesel, 68K, very nice. \$13,700. 682-4412/699-4883.

CHEVROLET 1994 Silverado, Black, 4X4 Z71, 5 speed, loaded, excellent condition, new tires, 78K miles. \$14,500 o.b.o. Call 682-8321/697-6275.

FORD 1997 F150 XL Regular cab, Flare-side, v6, standard, a/c. Excellent condition, 79K miles, am/fm cassette, tilt/cruise. \$10,500. Call 697-2448.

FORD 1992 F150, single cab, short bed, CD, new radiator/motor mounts, tires. \$5,500. Negotiable. 694-2013, 556-3193 after 3 p.m.

ROGERS ★ FORD NORTH

FORD 1997 F150 XL Regular cab, Flare-side, v6, standard, a/c. Excellent condition, 79K miles, am/fm cassette, tilt/cruise. \$10,500. Call 697-2448.

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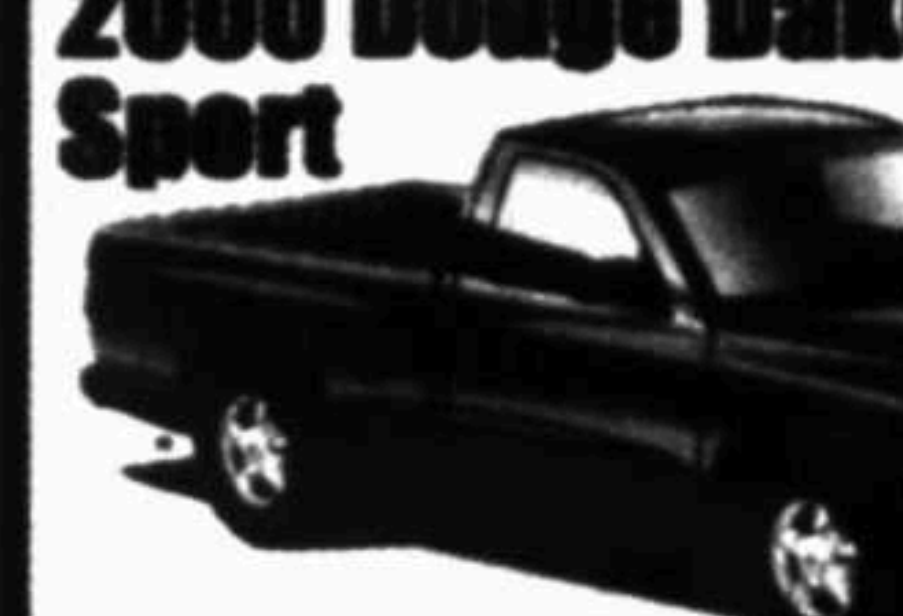
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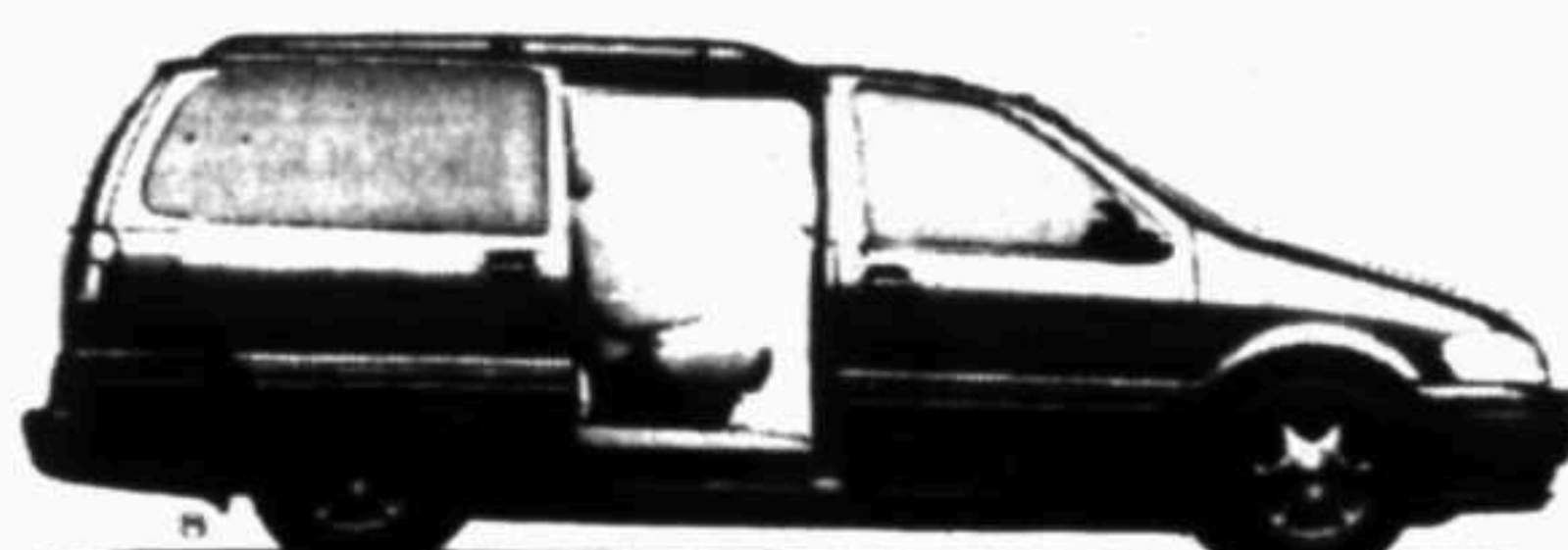
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SERVICES
SERVERS/ASSISTANTS
HOST/STEWARDESSES
BARTENDERS
DISHWASHERS
COOKS
MEAT CUTTER

Will Pay Top Dollar
For Experienced
Steakhouse Grill Cooks

Voted "Hot New Concept"
by Nation's Restaurant News

We offer our employees:
Fun upbeat atmosphere Flexible hours
Paid Vacation Meal Discounts
Medical Insurance

Located at:
4609 West Loop 250 North
Midland, TX

Apply Mon.-Sat. 9 am-6 pm

Now hiring to sales
associates who can show
enthusiasm & communicate
in a professional manner
Apply in person only!
Monday- Friday
9:00am- 12:00pm
or 1:00pm- 4:00pm

10601 W. County Rd. 127
(Behind Warfield)

CLASSIFIED FAX #!
682-6999

Please include the following information:

★ Full name and address
★ Billing phone number
★ Phone number of person placing ad
★ Start date ★ Classification

Faxed ads are subject to normal deadlines. We
reserve the right to edit, properly classify or decline
any ad.

Pam, Jennifer, Nancy & Emily are available to
help you with all of your advertising needs.

310 General Help Wanted

311 Medical Help Wanted

NEEDED DELIVERY:
Drivers for burrito route,
must have own vehicle.
Average \$7 to \$12.50 per
hour. Apply at 700 East
Florida, 684-5985.

PINOCCHIOS PIZZA
now is now hiring for deli-
very drivers. Full time and
part time positions available.
Can earn \$8-\$10 per hour.
Must be 18 years or older.
Please apply in person
3303 N. Midland.

REPRESENTATIVES
Sell Avon Good earnings.
\$0 Fee 12/20/1/7 Verla
520-0119, Independent
Rep.

SONIC DRIVE INN
1109 N. Midland, is now
hiring Carhops for day or
evening shifts (flexible
hours). Please apply in
person. Personality is a
plus.

SONIC-Midland Drive now
accepting applications for
Cooks, Carhops, for all
shifts. Apply in person
4201 Midland Drive,
Midland.

TEACHER NEEDED: Must
have at least 2 years experi-
ence in a Child Care
Center. Great benefits,
health insurance, college
scholarships. Earn up to 12
per hour. Please apply in
person. Salary DOE. Non-
soliciting. Apply 1007
Austin or call 689-6309.

TELEMARKETING phone work
Like talking on the phone?
Easy-Easy-Easy! \$8-\$16
Hour, Full-time or Part-
time, days or evening.
Hourly/Commission plus
cash. Daily pay. No
experience necessary. Will
train! Call today: Start
Tomorrow! Delivery
Drivers Also Needed! Call
Now! 683-7395

V.I.P. Employment
Services 686-9722
Give your resume a facelift.
Professional Resumes and
Typing Available.

WEST TEXAS DRUM
COMPANY is taking appli-
cations for tractor/trailer
driver with 1 1/2 years mini-
mum experience. Apply at
11107 County Road 127
West. Just east of
Channel 9 News.

311 Medical Help Wanted

TRINITY HAVEN
HEALTHCARE of Midland
has openings for
CNA's
FullTime
Good starting pay
Family owned &
Operated

Apply in person
3203 Sage St.
Midland, Texas
683-5403

BUSY DENTAL Office
needs Receptionist. Also
looking for Part-time Dental
Assistant. Please send
resumes to: Box J-5059,
c/o Midland Reporter-
Telegram, P.O. Box 1650,
Midland, TX 79702.

NEEDED For Midland
and Odessa. Paramedics
and EMTs. Call 563-3911.
Life Tech EMS.

ORTHODONTIC ASSIST-
TANT: For fast paced,
youth oriented practice.
Must be friendly, a good
communicator, and able to
work as a team member.
Non smoking environment.
Knowledge of dental pro-
cedures preferred. Send
resumes to: N-4185, c/o
Midland Reporter-
Telegram, P.O. Box 1650,
Midland, TX 79702.

KENT KWIK
24 Hour * Job Hotline
520-4053 ext. 371

LITTLE CAESARS pizza
hiring part-time drivers.
Must be 18, courteous,
have good driving record.
Apply at 1000 North
Midland.

3 Big Ways to Save!

FREE 15 words,
4 days, FREE!

SUPER SELLER #1
7 days/\$10

SUPER SELLER #2
7 days/\$5

FREE! That's right, we'll
advertis your house-
hold item (Under \$50)
for 4 days absolutely
FREE! (Mon.-Thurs.)
Submit your 15 word ad
in writing (please fax it,
mail it, or bring it in!)
1 Fax line per family per week

With Super Seller
I, we'll advertise
your household
item (priced under
\$350) for 7 days,
for only \$10.

With Super Seller
II, we'll advertise
your household
item (priced under
\$150) for 7 days,
for only \$5.

Price must be included in your ad, one item per ad, private individuals only.

682-6222 Midland Reporter-Telegram
Classified

Do-It-Yourself Ideas



Redwood Chaise

Nothing beats redwood for outdoor furniture.
Although it costs a little more, redwood is beautiful,
durable and long-lasting. Of course, weekend do-it-
yourselfers can save the extra cost by making their
own redwood furniture.

This chaise lounge project features a three-posi-
tion backrest, armrests, wheels and a folding shelf
for drinks or food. It measures 74 inches long by 24
inches wide.

The plan includes step-by-step directions with
photos, full-size traceable patterns, exploded dia-
grams and a materials list and cutting schedule.

Redwood Chaise plan (No. 639) ... \$7.95
Redwood Trio (No. C39) ... \$11.95
Three projects incl. 639 ... \$3.95

Catalog (pictures hundreds of projects) ... \$3.95

To order, circle item(s), include your name,
clip & send w/ check to: address and the name of
U-Bild Features, include postage. Allow
P.O. Box 2383 3-4 weeks for delivery.
Van Nuys, CA 91409

Or call (800) 82-U-BILD
www.ubild.com
Money Back Guarantee

314 Clerical Help Wanted

341 Child Care Providers

600 For Rent

SMALL ESTABLISHED
Business needs depend-
able, industrious worker to
handle office duties.
Responsibilities include:
clerical work, answering
phones, office organiza-
tion, sales and computer
input. Tuesday- Friday.
Send resume and salary
requirements to: Box J-
5080, c/o Midland
Reporter-Telegram, P.O.
Box 1650, Midland, TX
79702

316 Sales Help Wanted

350 Business Opportunities

ESQUIRE TUXEDO is now
accepting applications for
Part Time Sales Help. Call
between 10:00 am and
5:00 pm on Monday
through Thursday to make
an appointment. 694-1286.

SALES PERSON:
Experienced in the HVAC
Trade a plus. Ask for
Michael, call 570-8105 or
come by 2302 Garden City
Highway.

SALES REP for pipeline
and meter treatment prod-
ucts service. Minimum 3
years experience required.
College degree with sci-
ence background prefer-
red. Salary plus commi-
sion based on sales. Expe-
rience. Please send resume
to: P.O. Box 3627, Odessa,
TX 79760.

318 Help Wanted

319 Help Wanted

320 Skilled Trades

MAKE \$1,500 PLUS
Selling fireworks
December 26th through
January 1st. Call 520-2264
or call 653-3419

320 Skilled Trades

CAMPBELL
CONSTRUCTION
Company has an immedi-
ate opening for an experi-
enced Carpenter.
Commercial experience
preferred. 401(k) plan and
insurance benefits avail-
able. Salary DOE. Apply at
241-A Spring Park Drive,
Midland.

314 Clerical Help Wanted

315 Medical Help Wanted

316 Sales Help Wanted

317 Medical Help Wanted

318 Help Wanted

319 Help Wanted

320 Skilled Trades

321 Medical Help Wanted

322 Medical Help Wanted

323 Medical Help Wanted

324 Medical Help Wanted

325 Medical Help Wanted

326 Medical Help Wanted

327 Medical Help Wanted

328 Medical Help Wanted

329 Medical Help Wanted

330 Medical Help Wanted

331 Medical Help Wanted

332 Medical Help Wanted

333 Medical Help Wanted

334 Medical Help Wanted

GARAGE SALES
Hidden treasures? Junk?
Recycle your unwanted items!
Call 682-6222 today. A friendly Classified Consultant
will help you create an ad that gets results!

79701

3241 "A" Franklin; Tuesday- Wednesday-
Thursday- Friday- 8:00 until 5:00. Shoes,
shoes, shoes. All new. Tennis shoes, all
brands, all sizes. \$25 Maximum. Reebok,
Nike, Vans, Converse, etc.

1/2 PRICE BOOK SALE. Friends of the
Library, 2305 West Michigan. Entire month
of December- Wednesdays and Saturdays 9
am- 12 Noon. Please park in front or across
the street.

BARGAINS ON VACUUM Cleaners. All
brands- New and rebuilt. Repair all makes.
1005 North Midland, 520-6464.

79703

CLOSE OUT SALE!
Everything 50% Off!!!
[excluding candles]
Save \$'s for Christmas!
Anna Marie's Gifts
3312 W. Illinois 522-2229

79705

The Deadline to place an Ad in our
Saturday Garage Sale Section is Noon
Friday. Call 682-6222 to place your ad
today.

Expressions Too
Christmas Bonus!!
Open Friday only
10 to 4 pm
take Additional
20% Off!!!
ENTIRE STORE
3209 N. Big Spring
682-3450

79706

DON'T MISS OUT!
The deadline
for a
Saturday Garage Sale
ad is Friday at Noon.
Please be sure to call
682-6222, before noon,
to ensure your ad will be
in Saturday's paper.

79707

610 Apartments Unfurnished

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610 Apartments Unfurnished

610 Apartments Unfurnished

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610 Apartments Unfurnished

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MARTY'S MARKETPLACE

Leading you to the best bargains in Midland and the area!

Do you need to get rid of some of your extra goodies around the house?

Don't want to spend a lot of cash?

*Marty's Weekday Special

3 Line Ad
1 Item Priced \$300 or Less
Monday through Thursday ONLY
\$4.00

Call or Fax Classifieds today to schedule your special Marketplace ad!

682-6222
Fax 682-6999

*Private Party merchandise ads only. 1 item per ad. Price must be in ad to qualify. Other restrictions may apply, ask consultant for details.

4100 Local Cheats 5 PAIRS Ladies name brand shoes, size 7.5-8. \$8 each or \$15/ all. 520-2341. CHRISTMAS SPECIAL: brand new spas only \$49 a month. Delivery and financing available. 563-3108 or 552-6878 after 5:00pm. ★ BIBLE TALK: "Did the early church ever divide the assembly to form bible classes for the purpose of teaching?" 915-520-0381. Free recorded message. BARGAINS ON VACUUM Cleaners. All brands. New and rebuilt. Repair all makes. 1005 North Midkiff. 520-4644. SCHWINN AIR DYNE: Exercise bike like new \$500 firm. Call 688-5514.	4100 Local Cheats SECTIONAL WITH A sleeper, \$350. 6' tall glass and wood Curio, \$250. Chevy bench seat, \$125. Call 425-8064. WOODEN DOLL: cradle, made about 6 dolls, 12" x 48". Great Christmas gift. \$40. 683-9478. SLIGHT DAMAGE: 12"x20" workshop/ storage building. 563-3108 or 552-6878 after 5:00pm. OBLONG GLASS and wood dinette set, \$65. Little Tikes slide, almost new. \$50. Toolbox for regular pickup, \$15. Isuzu 1988 4 door, \$1,800. Speed Queen dryer, \$50. Antique dresser like new property at Spence, other miscellaneous items. 697-4112.	4100 Local Cheats GLIDER SWINGS: \$70. Dog Houses: \$35- \$45. Book cases: \$40. 2 doors. \$10 each 563-0452. WURLITZER Juke box, 1974 model. Excellent condition. Call 684-7188 or 684-6478. AIRLINE TICKETS (2). 1 Way/ round trip anywhere in the US. \$139 each way. 877-359-1929. Super Nintendo with 16 games \$50. Nintendo 64/3 games \$75. Good working condition. 684-9949. BINGO, American Legion, 501 Airport Road, Friday nights, games start at 8. Food, Refreshments. 682-5511. BILL'S FIREPLACE: used wood insert for sale. New wood stove, gas log, chimney sweeping. 682-5157.
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WHY PAY RENT? 10'x16' storage buildings \$42 a month. Delivery and financing available. 563-3108 or 552-6878 after 5:00pm.

4100 Local Cheats

SPECTACULAR 1.97 carat diamond, GIA certified, registered and laser inscribed. Priced for quick sale by private owner. 334-0462.

4100 Local Cheats

SOUTHWEST Company Club tickets or other airline mileage awards wanted. Will pay top dollar. 687-5036.

4100 Local Cheats

REECE PECANS: Just harvested and shelled. Call 684-7188 or 684-6478.

4100 Local Cheats

DELICIOUS BAKLAVA Pastries. Great For Gifts/ Parties! Order through December 30th. Call Nancy (afternoons): 699-4747.

4100 Local Cheats

GARDENALE PECANS: Shelling, selling and buying pecans. Fresh baked goods, Candy, Pecan crackers and pickers, Cookbooks. Hwy 158 and Gardendale. 550-7800.

4100 Local Cheats

FRESH PECANS: Unshelled. \$1.50 per pound. Outstanding quality. Bulk pricing available. While supplies last. 915-570-7786.

4100 Local Cheats

BEAUTIFUL Peach recliner, \$285. Purchased in September for \$535 from Carters. 697-3300, leave message.

4100 Local Cheats

RUG for sale 3.5'x5.5'. Hand-hooked wool, floral design on ivory background. Like new. \$150. 694-2711.

4100 Local Cheats

BROWN COUCH: used \$25. Call 522-2559.

4100 Local Cheats

ROCKY MOUNTAINS best seasoned and smelling Pinon. Fine firewood. Fence posts or rails. Call Skip at 915-684-8325. Call 915-425-3875, Midland, Texas. Deliveries surrounding towns all directions.

4100 Local Cheats

WASHER AND DRYER: \$150 for set. Works good. Delivery available. Call after noon 683-7040.

4100 Local Cheats

YARD-KING: Ridging mower, 12 hp Briggs & Stratton engine, rebuilt, guaranteed, body like new. \$600. 682-3050.

4100 Local Cheats

WASHER AND DRYER: \$150 for set. Works good. Delivery available. Call after noon 683-7040.

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4100 Local Cheats

BURLINGTON Floral sofa asking \$300. Cherry wood dinette table with 5 chairs, \$650. Or best offer on both. 699-4665.

COUCH IN Excellent condition. \$100. Please call 634-1629.

WROUGHT IRON Daybed/ trundle- bedding, canopy \$295. Thomasville couch/ chair \$325. Expensive glass/ chrome draw leaf table/ 6 chairs. \$495. 915-362-2746.

FUTON LIKE new- King size velvet bed spread and upright vacuum. Call 697-0201 or 683-5693.

3000 POUND Pressure pump with 10 HP Briggs & Stratton engine. \$600. Call 682-3050.

FREE REMOVAL of your unwanted appliances. Sales & Service 550-6540.

WASHER AND DRYER, \$150 for the set. Call 570-8347.

DOUBLE DOOR Refrigerator, almond colored, excellent condition. \$300. 694-1296.

YARD-KING Ridging mower, 12 hp Briggs & Stratton engine, rebuilt, guaranteed, body like new. \$600. 682-3050.

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EAGER BEAVER Firewood- Oak, Pinon, mesquite. Delivery. Stacked. Small quantities available also. 685-3521, mobile 664-0577.

SHOCKERS FUND Raiser- Oak Firewood. \$180 per cord, delivered. Call Sid 697-0372 or Kevin 570-8775.

TURF SPECIALTIES Best in town. Mesquite, Juniper, Open. Seasonally. CALL FIRST, 684-7166.

SEASONED FIREWOOD: Oak or mesquite- delivered or picked up. Call Larry Tucker. 689-7151.

HONDA VALLEY Firewood. Pinon and Juniper. Call 520-3091 or fax 694-2263. E-mail: Terry_garrett@yahoo.com

DICK'S FIREWOOD: Oaks, Mesquite, Pecan & Cedar. We deliver. 1-(915)-453-2151. Fax 1-(915)-453-4322.

450 Sporting Goods

Holiday Golf Special

Walls closing in? Holiday hustle getting a little too intense? Grab your clubs, come out to Nueva Vista Golf Club and enjoy our Holiday Practice Special. From now through January 9, a large bag of balls is only \$2.00 each. Practice areas for chipping & putting available at no extra cost.

Nueva Vista Golf Club

6101 W. Wadley

Setting the new standard for Daily- Fee Golf

450 Collectibles

POKEMON- ADVANCED Kits 204 cards approximately \$240 value 3 set, each arranged neatly. Asking \$150 o.b.o. Monday- Saturday 682-2551. Sunday 699-7428.

JUDY JACKSON'S Estate Sales. An experienced professional working for you! 689-3536, 682-6147.

450 Collectibles

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JUDY JACKSON'S Estate Sales. An experienced professional working for you! 689-3536, 682-6147.

BRUNSWICK HERITAGE: Pool table, Excellent condition. \$1,100. Call 570-7857.

POOL TABLE: Brunswick regulation. Accessories included. Good condition. \$700. call 694-1575.

ROLLER BLADE Black nine skates, lady's size 8. Great condition. \$60. 687-3199.

450 Antiques & Arts

ORIGINAL OIL Paintings by different artists. 682-4538. If no answer, please leave message.

THE CATS MEOW: 4000 sq. ft. of fine merchandise- we buy & sell antiques. 408 Andrews Highway. (915)687-2004.

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