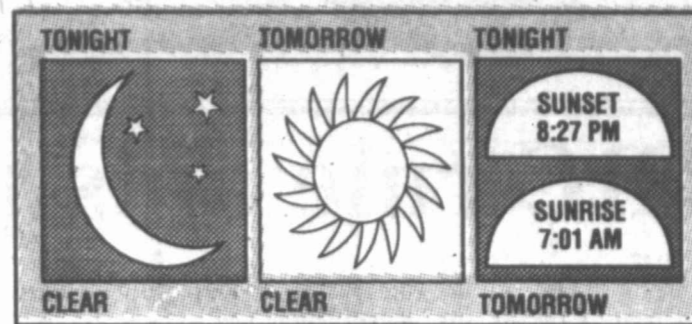


BIG SPRING Herald

"Reflecting a proud community"



12 Pages 2 Sections

Vol. 83 No. 281

TUESDAY, April 28, 1992

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TUESDAY, April 28, 1992

News Digest

Chamber host meeting for Abilene State School

Officials of the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce will host a meeting Wednesday regarding the Abilene State School's local Home and Community Services program.

The meeting, to be held at the chamber, 215 West 3rd, will begin at 2 p.m.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss construction of two community homes in Big Spring. The construction budget for the two homes is \$565,000.

Abilene State School currently administers six three-bed homes in Big Spring. The residents pay their own rent, utility bills and food bills and work at various businesses throughout the community.

Abilene State School currently has 67 employees in Big Spring with an annual payroll of \$930,000.

Parents' prom meet set

Parents Who Care, the volunteers who organize and manage the After the Prom Party for Big Spring High School juniors and seniors, will have a meeting to discuss the prom party Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in the high school library.

This year's party will be a casino night, and nearly 100 workers are needed to help manage and run the events. This meeting is scheduled to finalize plans and create the roster of volunteers for the casino party.

"What is needed now is parents who care enough to help with this party. Please meet with us at this time and sign up as a volunteer for the after prom party," said Terri Martin, publicity chairperson for the party.

For more information call Ray or Norma Alexander at 263-4992. Other persons coordinating the effort are Cheryl and Robert Kennedy and Shelane and Wayne Roberts.

HC board action taken

At the meeting of the Howard College Board of Trustees, the following action was taken:

- Authorization for the termination of 15 positions from Howard College, the SouthWest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf and for HC satellite campuses.
- Granted a developmental leave request by Nancy Edge, a SWCID instructor, to allow time to finish a master's degree.
- Employed an instructor, James Stepp, for the Eden Detention Center.
- Employed a new nursing instructor, Mary Louise Waldrop, for the Del Rio campus.
- Employed Joe Almaraz to replace leaving head baseball coach, Bill Griffin.
- Renewed contracts for all other faculty and staff at the college.
- Approved minutes of the last meeting and financial reports and bills for March.

Texas

• Change in rule to give producers bigger say: Producers would have a bigger say in how much natural gas is produced under a rule that has been passed by the Texas Railroad Commission. See Page 2A.

Nation

• Economy grows 2 percent so far this year: The U.S. economy grew at a modest 2 percent annual rate during the first three months of the year, boosted by the return of buyers to auto showrooms and department stores, the government said today. See Page 3A.

World

• Army ordered out, fighting continues in Yugoslavia: Fighting flared in Bosnia-Herzegovina today hours after Bosnian officials demanded the departure of federal troops, a response to the declaration of a new Yugoslavia by Serbia and Montenegro. See Page 3A.

Weather

Tonight, fair. Low in the upper 50s. Northwest to north wind 5-15 mph.
Wednesday, sunny. High in the upper 80s. East wind 5-15 mph.
Extended forecast on Page 6A.

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Sound off!
To contact the Herald: Phone 263-7331.

Perot must submit Texas signatures by May 11

AUSTIN (AP) — State election officials say Dallas billionaire Ross Perot must submit by May 11 the 54,000-plus petition signatures he says he has gathered to obtain a spot on the November election ballot.

Katy Davis, spokeswoman for Secretary of State John Hannah, said Monday that Perot also must formally apply for a general election ballot spot as an independent presidential candidate.

"At some point, he has to decide when he wants to submit his petitions

to our office, along with an application to be an independent candidate, and his designees for electors," Ms. Davis said.

May 11 at 5 p.m. is the petition deadline, she said.

On Sunday, Perot told supporters at a rally in Dallas that he had obtained far more than the 54,275 signatures needed.

"The job is Texas is done," he said. "If you can do Texas, you can do it anywhere."

Ms. Davis said that once Perot sub-

mits his petitions, the secretary of state's office will verify them, probably through a statistical sampling.

Under state election law, petitions are valid only if signed by registered voters who didn't cast ballots in the Republican or Democratic primaries or runoffs in March and April, Ms. Davis said.

Perot has said he is awaiting the results of petition drives in all 50 states before deciding whether to become a presidential candidate.

He has indicated he'll make a deci-

sion by June. Associates say they expect Perot to enter the race.

Recent opinion polls have suggested that Perot may have the support of a fifth or more of the electorate nationwide.

If Perot submits enough proper signatures in Texas, he would join three other presidential and vice presidential candidates on the November ballot — the nominees of the Republican, Democratic and Libertarian parties.

Unhappy students to continue efforts

By MARTHA E. FLORES
Staff Writer

Dissatisfied with the outcome of the Howard College Board of Trustees' meeting Monday, SouthWest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf student demonstrators will continue their efforts by contacting legislators and other government officials in hopes of relocating the SWCID campus, said Todd Cottle, demonstration organizer.

"We do not feel they (trustees) addressed the issues," he said. "It went in one ear and out the other."

"At this time we will drop the six demands and search for a way to leave Big Spring by moving SWCID to another college. This is not a threat, but with the present administration we cannot continue as we have in the past."

Cottle was chosen by student demonstrators to give a presentation to the board. He outlined the demands, which demonstrators had drawn up prior to the first day of protest, April 15. During his presentation he cited instances in which students questioned Howard College management of SWCID.

"We cannot say that we are able to receive top-notch services at Howard College because the service providers, whose salaries we pay a portion of, do not know how to communicate with us," Cottle said to the board and audience. "The faculty and staff at SWCID are required to pass a sign language evaluation in order to either obtain or keep their jobs. Yet, this policy does not apply to those we pay at Howard College."



Herald photo by Martha E. Flores

SouthWest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf students protest efforts to gain autonomy for the school despite board approval of cuts recommended by HC President Dr. Bob Riley.

He added that SWCID pays from 30 percent to 50 percent of 36 HC employees' salaries, but only three could pass the Professional Sign Language Evaluation required of the staff at SWCID in similar positions.

"We realize that it is necessary to pay some Howard College employees' salaries, but are the percentages fair?" Cottle asked. "Is 30 percent to 50 percent an equal share? Do the employees who

receive 30-50 percent of their salaries from SWCID, really concentrate on SWCID 30-50 percent of their time to enable them to receive that enormous amount of salaries?"

Cottle presented the students' concerns over the needed Dental Laboratory Technology renovations, another issue which had been drawn up as part of the student demonstration requests.

According to DLT majors, the lab is

designed in a classroom that has poorly designed work stations, which make it difficult for students to see the blackboard, overhead projector and (signed) lectures.

Cottle also questioned the decision making in which classrooms receive monies for renovations.

"In the classroom next to the DLT lab,

• Please see STUDENTS, Page 6A

Howard College board approves requested cuts

By GARY SHANKS
Staff Writer

While acknowledging the public outcry against the termination of faculty members, the Howard College Board of Trustees voted unanimously Monday to grant President Bob Riley's cuts.

Following speeches by students from both Howard College and the SouthWest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf, board member Harold Davis made a motion to accept Riley's proposed layoffs, which was seconded by board member Don McKinney.

State Rep. David Counts, D-Knox Cl-

ty, who attended the meeting at the request of school administration, defended the layoffs saying, "You only have so many jelly beans to go around."

Counts said that because of the possibility of a 5 percent cut in state funding, the increases in student enrollment at the HC facilities are hurting the college.

Counts then went on to say the cuts were not personal, but were necessary.

Local minister Claude Craven asked Counts to defend that statement in light of what appears to be a personal vendetta by Riley. "You said this wasn't personal. Who have you been

talking to?" Craven asked.

Counts said the college must make cuts somewhere and that what he meant was that the need to cut was not personal. "I'm not going to get into personalities."

"I'm not a griper — I'm concerned about the future of this college, Mr. Counts," Craven said. Craven went on to say that one of those who was to be terminated, Gayla Williams, is one of the "most respected teachers in this college." Williams contract has been renewed, however, because of a retirement within the department, said Cheri Sparks, vice-president for in-

stitutional advancement.

Of the possible termination of HC's tenured faculty, Davis said, "I will not, under any circumstances, not renew the contract of a tenured teacher as long as there is a non-tenured teacher in the department."

Davis, answering questions about the school's \$1 million plus surplus fund, said the surplus had been totally drained over the last two years because of the need to replace the school's aging computer at a cost of \$688,000; \$200,000 had to be taken from

• Please see BOARD, Page 6A

CVB promotional tool for city

By MARSHA STURDIVANT
Staff Writer

The Convention and Visitors Bureau of the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce brings tourism dollars to the area and promotes Big Spring and Howard County without cost to local residents, according to CVB Director Marae Brooks.

RELATED STORY — 6A

"We are solely paid by tax revenue from the motels. The secretary and I are absolutely no expense to the city of Big Spring or to the residents in any way."

"Every penny we make comes from out of town and we are regulated by the state concerning how we spend that money," Brooks said.

The hotel/motel tax rate is set at 13 percent.

A budget of \$77,125.75 was granted to the CVB this year to

cover such costs as brochure printing, salaries, postage, telephones and copies, Brooks said. There is not an office rental since the CVB is housed in the Chamber of Commerce offices.

"That's our only overhead. The rest of our budget goes to fund special events, such as the statewide barbecue cook-off this July. We gave Bettie Wilcox \$2,500 to help her promotion."

"We promote all kinds of things, through literature primarily. I am not actively recruiting. I don't solicit conventions because Big

Spring has no facilities, so I do not get into the bidding system. We can do small conventions, small clubs or organizations, but I cannot actively recruit over 50 people because we have no place to put them," Brooks said.

Special events that Brooks helps promote include bike-a-thons, cultural arts events, the Fourth of July symphony and fireworks, the Ag Expo, and the cowboy poets.

"I plan to have one new event each year, and this year we have

• Please see CVB, Page 6A



Herald photo by Tim Appel

Life skills

87-20 Special Education Cooperative homebound teacher Nancy Marshall helps one of the students plant iris plants this morning in front of the facility. Students in the B.A.S.I.C. program completed a two-week-long task of building a flower planter.

POLLARD'S "Best Value for your dollar" SALE! • SEE PAGE B-5 FOR DETAILS!

Nation/World

Economy grows 2 percent this year

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. economy grew at a modest 2 percent annual rate during the first three months of the year, boosted by the return of buyers to auto showrooms and department stores, the government said today.

Economists warned that the growth, which followed a near economic standstill in the fourth quarter of last year, was not vigorous enough to budge the nation's unemployment rate from a 6½-year high of 7.3 percent in March.

Still, it was the best since the economy expanded at a 2.5 percent rate during the first three months of the Bush administration.

"Thank God. It's taken a long time," said economist Mark Zandi of Regional Financial Associates in West Chester, Pa. "Two percent is nothing to jump up and down about, but it's better than we've seen in a long time."

Lackluster growth and rising unemployment have created a major problem for President Bush in this election year, with opponents criticizing him for failing to manage the economy more effectively.

Economic growth slowed in 1989 as Bush took office. Then in July

1990, just before the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, the economy lapsed into a recession. It has been struggling to shake off the effects since.

In the first quarter, growth was propelled by a healthy 5.3 percent increase in consumer spending, the best since the fourth quarter of 1987, the Commerce Department said. Spending rose an especially strong 18.3 percent for durable goods such as automobiles, home furnishings and appliances.

Consumer spending is the most important sector of the economy, representing two-thirds of the nation's output of goods and services.

The January-March rise was aided by a boom in mortgage refinancings, which put hundreds of dollars in many consumers' pockets, and by an increase in early federal tax refunds, the result of a rise in computerized filing.

However, analysts warned that the economic upturn won't last unless employers have enough confidence in the future to start rehiring laid-off workers.

"If businesses are too cautious about their hiring plans, they won't give people the income necessary to keep growth going," said economist Robert G. Dederick of Northern Trust Co. in Chicago.

Army ordered out, fighting continues

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP) — Fighting flared in Bosnia-Herzegovina today hours after Bosnian officials demanded the departure of federal troops, a response to the declaration of a new Yugoslavia by Serbia and Montenegro.

The fighting in the former Yugoslav republic cast doubt on any success for European Community talks in Lisbon, Portugal with leaders of Bosnia's Slavic Muslims, Serbs and Croats.

Bosnia's presidency late Monday demanded the Serbian-dominated federal military withdraw its estimated 100,000 troops under the supervision of the republic's Interior Ministry and European Community monitors.

Gen. Milutin Kukanjac, an army commander in Bosnia, had told reporters earlier that the army would not withdraw. The army contends that more than 80 percent of federal troops in Bosnia are local ethnic Serbs.

According to a statement carried by the Belgrade-based Tanjug news agency, army members can join a newly formed Bosnian defense force or leave the republic "in an orderly fashion."

Immediately after the announcement, fierce fighting broke out in the Sarajevo suburb of Ilidza, apparently between Serb and Muslim militias.

Mortar explosions, cannon fire and light artillery reverberated during the night and gunfire was still being heard in the Bosnian capital this morning.

Clashes were reported elsewhere. Radio Sarajevo claimed Serb irregulars killed seven Muslims in Foca, a predominantly Muslim town toward the Montenegrin border seized by Serbian forces two weeks ago.

An unspecified number of people died and more than 20 people were wounded in an artillery attack late Monday on southwestern Mostar, where Croats oppose local federal forces, Tanjug said.

The army command also reported several people killed in the northern town of Derвента.

Serbs, about a third of Bosnia's 4.4 million people, reject its independence. Paramilitary Serbs, sometimes backed by federal troops, have seized large chunks of territory in hopes of proclaiming their own republic inside Bosnia.



The old Yugoslav flag, with the Socialist red star symbol, is removed as the new one without the red star is flown in Belgrade after the proclamation of the constitution of New Yugoslavia, Monday. The new state was announced as the unification of Serbia and Montenegro, despite Western threats that the new state could lose diplomatic recognition and U.N. membership as the old Yugoslavia.

Arsonist blows up mansion with propane

NAPA, Calif. (AP) — An \$8 million mansion as long as a football field exploded with a boom heard miles away, the work of an arsonist who pumped in propane and ignited it, police said.

"Whoever did it didn't care that we would know it was purposefully set," sheriff's Lt. John Baumgartner said.

"All I can say is that somebody didn't like him," Baumgartner said.

"I'm still in a state of shock," De Monet said. "I don't know what to think."

De Monet said he, his wife and five children had been vacationing in Lake Tahoe. The propane apparently came from a 900-gallon tank used to heat the swimming pool.

De Monet had been threatened in the last few months, Baumgartner said. "We are looking at people he's associated with," he said.

No one was in the two-story home when it was flattened early Monday morning.

The 20,000-square-foot mansion — the largest and most expensive house in Napa — was owned by developer Joaquin de Monet, who had lived there with his family for three months and was trying to sell it.

People six miles away reported the explosion, which shook windows and doors.

"At first I thought it was an earthquake," Karina Miller said. "There were unbelievable flames. The sky was orange. I've never seen such a thing in my life."



This is a recent file photo of an \$8 million mansion in Napa, Calif., that blew up Monday morning. Fire department officials suspect an arsonist caused the blast. The owners of the home were on vacation and there were no reported injuries.

Eight officials jailed

GUADALAJARA, Mexico (AP) — Eight officials were jailed and the mayor surrendered after investigators meted out blame for a series of sewer line explosions that killed at least 191 people and left thousands homeless.

The governor said hazardous facilities would be moved out when the city rebuilds the neighborhood devastated by Wednesday's blasts, which federal officials say resulted from a leak in a gasoline pipeline owned by Pemex, the state-owned oil monopoly.

Mayor Enrique Dau Flores turned himself in late Monday.

Dau Flores had initially obtained a temporary restraining order against his arrest, but on Monday made statements to federal law officials and then to a federal judge who will decide if there is enough evidence to file charges.

By law, the judge must decide by late Wednesday.

Seven defendants — four from Pemex and three from city water and sewer departments — were arrested Monday and appeared at a preliminary hearing at the state prison outside the city.

They stood in green prison jumpsuits as the judge read charges including negligent homicide, causing damage and injury to others, damage to public communications and violation of federal environmental laws.

Defendants are assumed guilty and must prove their innocence. The judge said the average sentence for negligent homicide is about five years.

Late Monday, police arrested state urban development secretary Aristeo Mejia after he was released from a hospital.

Last Wednesday's explosions were caused by a gasoline leak from a corroded pipeline owned by Pemex.

Attorney General Ignacio Morales Lechuga on Sunday accused Dau Flores and Mejia of failing to act before the explosion on residents' complaints of a strong smell of gasoline.

Pemex has denied responsibility for the blasts. However, the monopoly said Sunday it will give about \$30 million for reconstruction — one-tenth the officially estimated damage of \$300 million.

National Credit Union Administration executives paid high bonuses

WASHINGTON (AP) — It wasn't difficult for senior employees at the National Credit Union Administration to qualify for handsome bonuses last year, often on top of six-figure salaries.

All 39 executives at the agency, responsible for oversight and insurance of federally chartered

credit unions, received a bonus — and all but one received the maximum amount possible, the agency confirmed Monday.

The executives divided \$480,000 in bonuses, averaging \$12,300. The biggest, \$26,000, went to the agency's executive director, Donald Johnson. He made \$130,000

last year before the bonus, and was earning \$146,000 this year.

The bonuses are drawing questions from the chairman of the House Banking Committee and protests from a credit union trade organization.

Credit union officials are upset because the NCUA budget is

financed entirely by the 12,800 non-profit credit unions it regulates.

"Payment of bonuses to selected individuals based on merit is a laudable management practice, but giving a maximum bonus to everyone eligible is only a subterfuge for paying higher salaries than are warranted," said Kenneth

L. Robinson, president of the National Association of Federal Credit Unions.

In a letter to the agency, Rep. Henry B. Gonzalez, D-Texas, called the bonuses "extraordinary" and demanded a justification.

NCUA bonuses and salaries were made public earlier this month by

the Credit Union Information Service, which publishes an independent newsletter. Jonathan Stern, the editor, obtained the documents through a Freedom of Information Act request.

The agency has budgeted \$625,000 for bonuses this year and the same amount for 1993.

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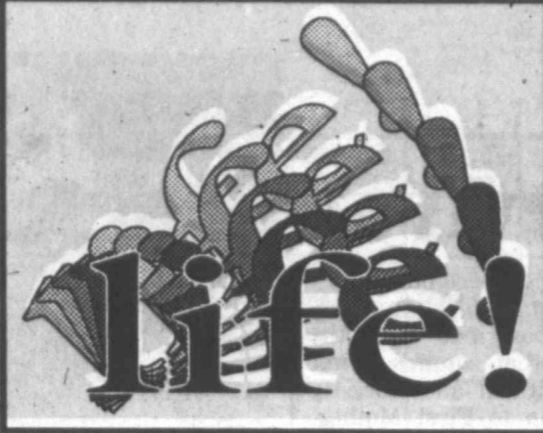
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B



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Comics page 3

Spring board

How's that?

Q. What San Benito-born country music performer was born Baldemar G. Huerta?
A. According to Texas Trivia, it is Freddy Fender.

Calendar

TODAY
• Bingo offered by the Lions, Elks, and Main Street Club, Monday-Friday, 6:30 p.m., Saturday, 1 p.m., and Sunday, 2 p.m., at the Lions Club, 1607 E. Third.

• Sands Art Association Open Spring Exhibit, Ward County Community Center, 400 E. 4th, Monahans. Today through Saturday, 9 a.m. to noon and 1-5 p.m., Judging and Viewing, \$200.00 for best in show. Sunday, 1-4 p.m., viewing, presentation and awards.

• Narcotics Anonymous will meet 7 p.m., V.A. Medical Center, room 401. Everyone welcome.

• Al-Anon will meet 8 p.m., 615 Settles.

• Recovery Solutions, Inc., mens support group will meet 6:30-8 p.m., 307 Union St. For information call 264-7028.

• Family Support Group - a support and education group for families with a member with mental illness will meet 5:30-6:30 p.m., Howard County Mental Health Center. Open to public. For information call John McGuffy, 263-0027 or Chaplain Perrine, 267-8216.

• Spring Tabernacle Church, 1209 Wright St., has free bread and whatever else is available for area needy from 10 a.m. to noon.

• Adults Molested as Children will meet 5:15 p.m., 315 Runnels, Howard County Mental Health Center. Anyone interested must call first, Dawn Pearson, RNC or Gail Zilai, MSW at 267-8216, ext. 287.

WEDNESDAY
• Coahoma Elementary will have pre-registration for kindergarten and pre-kindergarten, 2 p.m., Coahoma Elementary A.V. room. Kindergarten-bring birth certificate, shot records, and social security number. Pre-kindergarten-must qualify for free or reduced lunches, or be of limited English speaking ability.

• Spring City Senior Center invites the public to attend a spring fashion show at noon. Seven stores will show their fashions. For information call 263-4964.

• Tumble Weed Smith will be performing as part of the Fuguay Distinguished Lecture series, 7:30 p.m., Permian Basin Petroleum Museum. For ticket information call 683-4403.

• The Divorce Support Group will meet 6-7 p.m., First United Methodist Church, room 101. Anyone welcome. Child care available. Use back entrance at Gregg Street parking lot. For information call 267-6394.

• Co-Dependents Anonymous will meet 7 p.m., Scenic Mountain Medical Center, fourth floor.

• Recovery Solutions Inc., womens support group, will meet 6:30-8 p.m., 307 Union St. For information call 264-7028.

THURSDAY
• Chapter I Computer Lab will meet 7-8 p.m., Moss Elementary School. All Chapter I students, brings your parents.

• Howard College Music Department will have a music student recital, 8 p.m., Fireplace room of the Student Union. Free admission.

• Howard County Democratic Club meeting, 7 p.m., Dora Roberts Community Center. Presented will be Lena Guerrero, John Sharp, David Counts, A.N. Standard, Tim Blackshear and Joe Gunn. Public invited.

• Kentwood Country-Western Special, 7 p.m., Kentwood Older Adult Center. Program by the Melody Maids. Public invited. No dancing.

Tank safety gauge born in Big Spring

By PATRICK DRISCOLL
Staff Writer

"It's so unbelievable and so simple it's unreal," a local marketer says of a new invention. But it is real. The Tank Safety Gauge, using an inside float hooked by a pulley system to an outside gauge, is safer, saves time, is cheaper and more accurate than gauges now used in the oil industry, says Donnie Reagan, vice president of Tank Safety Gauge Inc. of Big Spring.

The gauges' bright yellow fiberglass body and orange indicator can be seen from inside a workers' vehicle, which eliminates workers having to get near it to read it. That means no slips and falls on ladders and walkways or workers having to wear respirators while getting near gasses concentrated inside tanks.

It is also maintenance free. All materials — fiberglass, stainless steel, nylon, epoxy and permanent color — are non-corrosive.

Installation takes minutes and involves drilling a hole in the top of a tank, dropping a float and attaching an A-frame to the top of the tank and the fiberglass body to the side of the tank using epoxy. To eliminate sparks, a clay donut is put down and filled with oil before the hole is drilled with an air gun.

"As you can see, it doesn't take a rocket scientist to put it up," Reagan said. "No welding, no nothing, no maintenance."

The device is the vision of a pumper, who wants to remain anonymous, with 35 years experience in the business, Reagan said. Reagan, 43, who was working for Fiberflex Inc. when he heard of the idea three years ago, left his job to perfect the device, get a patent and then market it.

"The only thing I did was upgrade it by using what I was used to, which is fiberglass," Reagan said. "We wanted everything simple, proficient and cost effective for the oilfield."

The biggest problem was figuring out how to drill a hole in a tank without causing sparks. Engineers contacted said tanks should be drained and cleaned before doing

'Anything that can save money and protect the environment, as well as protect and save lives, has a tremendous opportunity in today's market.'

**Don Reagan
marketer**

it. But the pumper devised an easier way by using a clay donut and oil.

"Sometimes high technology doesn't necessarily mean it's the best way to solve a problem," Reagan said.

Reagan, working with Fiberflex and other local companies, perfected the gauge, got a patent pending in three weeks and last July sold ten units to a major oil company. Since then more than 200 units, now selling for \$525 each, have been sold. Each comes with a 30-day trial period but none have been taken down.

"We were in the black in 90 days," Reagan said.

Assembling and installing the gauges for up to \$150 each, depending on location and number installed, is Spencer Coating of Big Spring. Other local companies involved are Southwest Tool Co., which supplies the A-frames, and Hester & Robertson Mechanical Contractors Inc., which manufactures the brackets and gauge housing.

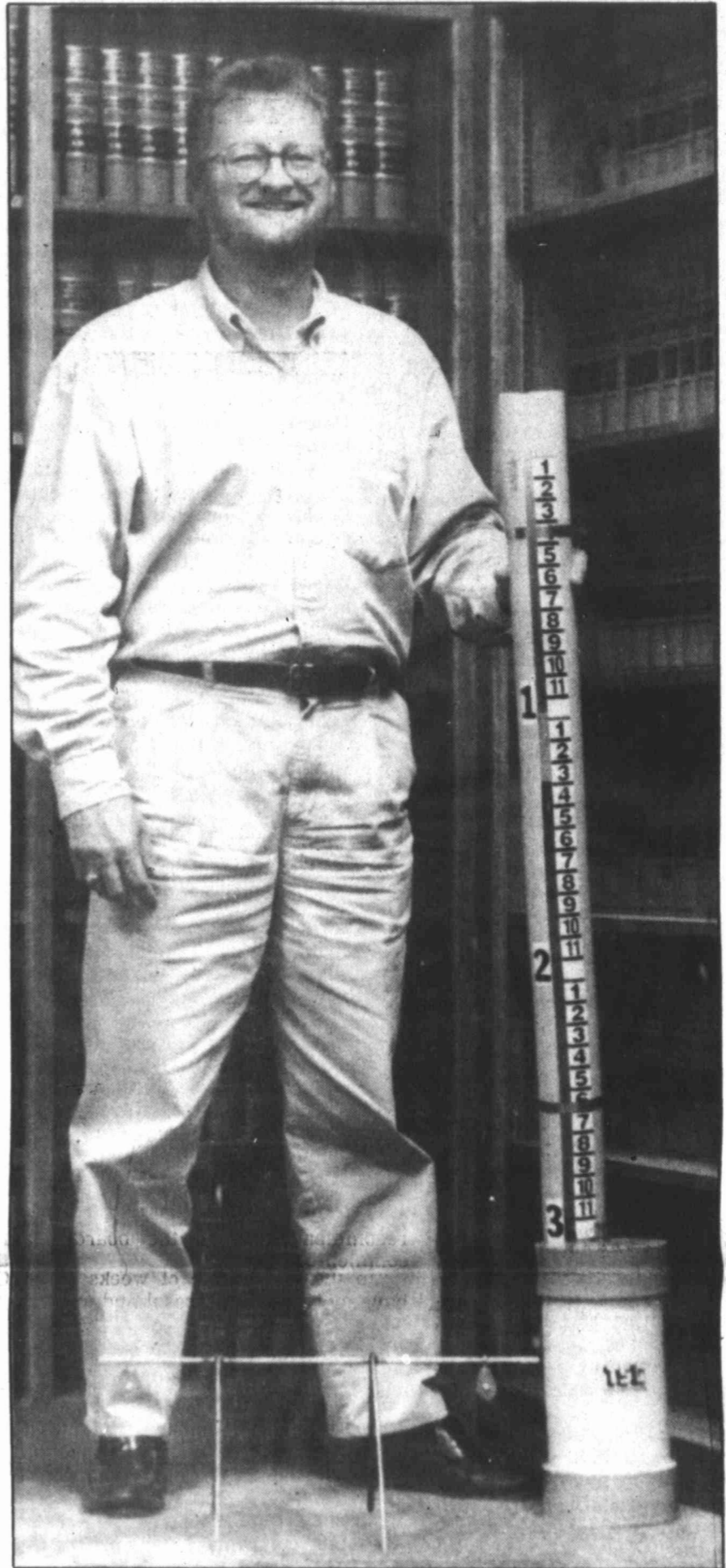
"We try to keep everything here," said Reagan, who was born and raised in Big Spring. "That way we get excellent service."

The gauge is not Reagan's only project. In February, another company he is involved in got needed approval to sell a fiberglass sign post. It is the only fiberglass signpost with a patent, he said.

Reagan recently formed another company of which he is co-owner, called Patent Discoveries, which is currently looking into patents and marketing studies for half-a-dozen other inventions by local inventors.

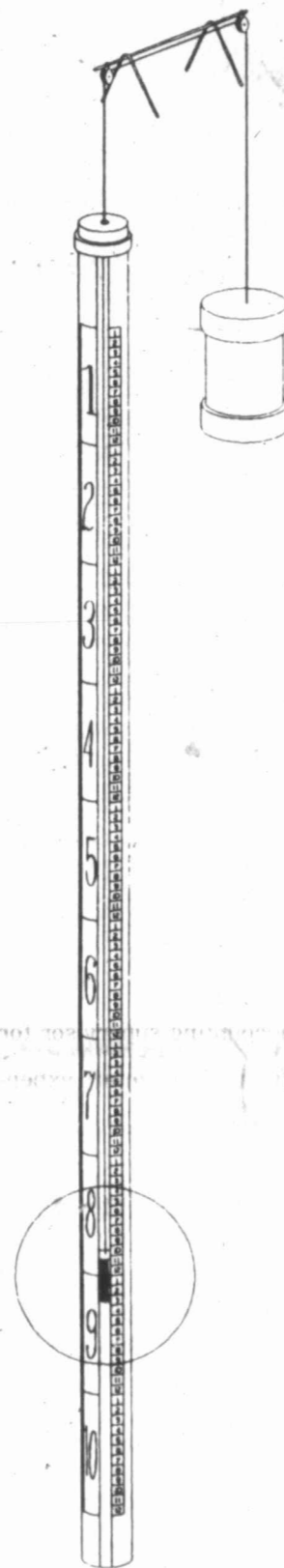
"It's just kind of derived from talking to a lot of people out in the field who had a lot of ideas but didn't know what to do with them," he said. "A lot of people have great ideas, but if you don't know how to market it, it's not going to do any good."

"Anything that can save money and protect the environment, as well as protect and save lives, has a tremendous opportunity in today's market."

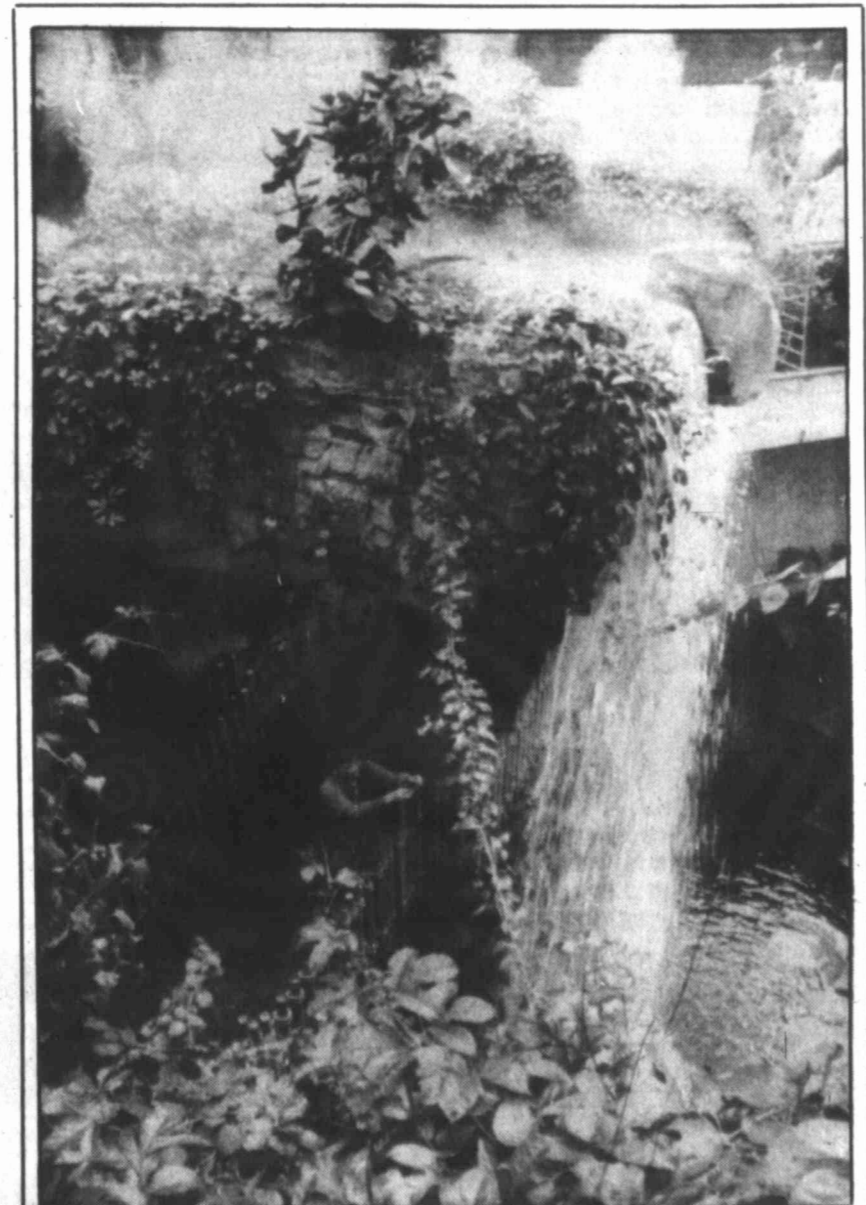


Herald photo by Patrick Driscoll

Don Reagan, a local marketer, stands beside the tank safety gauge that was developed by a Big Spring inventor. The gauge has proven to be an accurate, durable and safe gauging system for the petroleum industry.



The tank safety gauge combines modern technology and materials with simple mechanical principles to offer an accurate, concise, maintenance free gauging system.



Associated Press photo

Indoor jungle

Animal curator, Danny Morris, adds finishing touches recently to the Lied Jungle at Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo. The jungle, complete with a waterfall, jungle animals and tropical flora, is the world's largest indoor rain forest. It officially opened in early April.

Smart drugs, brainless pursuit?

NEW YORK (AP) — At the end of "The Wizard of Oz," the Scarecrow, fulfilling his quest for a brain, reels off a complicated mathematical equation after simply being handed a diploma.

Would that it were that easy. Well, how'd you like to get smarter merely by popping a pill? Or by knocking back a fruit-flavored drink with a name like "IQ Booster"?

So-called "smart drugs" and nutrients — usually a mix of vitamins, amino acids, herbs and assorted pharmaceuticals — are gaining a steadily growing band of devotees lured by the prospect of ingestible intelligence.

The drugs fall in a gray area with the Food and Drug Administration, and some scientists pose troubling questions about them.

But the possibility of increasing brainpower the effortless way has captivated an odd amalgam of believers: computer hackers transfixed by the prospect of artificial intelligence, professionals with demanding jobs, "granolas" who want to enhance their mind and their bodies with herbs and vitamins and, to a lesser extent, club kids simply looking for new kicks.

John Morgenthaler, co-author of the believers' bible, "Smart Drugs and Nutrients," contends the drugs represent an idea whose time has come.

"A corporation may be structured so that employees must compete intellectually for promotions and raises... We believe that more and more business people and scholars are looking for the kind of 'edge' that athletes get from science," he writes with his fellow author, Dr. Ward Dean, medical

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director of the Center for Biogerontology in Pensacola, Fla.

The assumption behind smart drugs is that the brain begins to deteriorate after the age of 20 or so, a decline accelerated, presumably, by factors such as cigarettes, alcohol, marijuana and — sorry, java junkies — even coffee.

The effects of the decline can be subtle: Who hasn't misplaced their keys or forgotten a phone number or wandered into a room and suddenly forgotten what they were about to do?

Smart drugs and nutrients — which come in pill, powder or liquid form — are touted as bolstering the neurotransmitters that convey messages between nerve cells in the brain, presumably helping you locate your keys.

Many of the drugs can be obtained legally in this country with a doctor's prescription, but anyone can order them by mail — without a prescription — from companies in Switzerland and England, or purchase them over the counter in Mexico. A month's supply ranges in cost from about \$12 to more than \$30, depending on the drug.

"Smart drugs and smart nutrients are not things that get you high," Morgenthaler said. "If someone is used to recreational drugs and if they start using smart drugs, they are going to be disappointed. Smart drinks are like vitamins: If used properly and ad-

ded into a daily regime, you won't notice it for several weeks."

The book written by Morgenthaler and Dean, a quasi-technical how-to guide for obtaining drugs both here and abroad, has been purchased by more than 75,000 people since 1990, its first year of publication.

It details what smart drugs supposedly do: increase alertness, mental energy and concentration; build stamina for concentrating; increase the ability to memorize; alleviate depression; and improve overall health and sexual performance.

"I'm not overinflating the claims," Morgenthaler said by telephone from San Francisco. "These drugs are not going to double your intelligence. What we're looking at is a few percentage points in your intelligence. ... We are talking about an average increase of 4 or 5 points."

But while some doctors emphatically say smart drugs simply do not work, others go further, warning there is evidence that suggests they could have tragic consequences for some users.

"Smart Drugs and Nutrients" states at the outset that anyone interested in using the drugs should work with a doctor; it even offers a telephone number to help readers find one near them. But the book also lists specific dosages and methods for obtaining the drugs without prescriptions.

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TV schedule grid with columns for station (KMID, KPEJ, KERA, etc.) and time slots (5 PM, 6 PM, etc.) listing various programs like 'Cosby Show', 'Ninja Turtle', 'Sesame Street', etc.

Dogs who frighten child keep sister at bay

DEAR ABBY: My sister-in-law — I'll call her Evy — has two dogs, a poodle and a Lhasa apso. I have an 18-month-old son, "Timmy," who is Evy's godson. When I visited Evy with Timmy, her dogs yelped, barked and jumped up on my son, frightening him. The last time we were there, the poodle came very close to biting Timmy on the cheek. The child became hysterical. I told Evy I would not visit her again unless she secured her dogs behind a barrier, and if she wanted to visit me, she would be welcome — without her dogs. It's been two months and neither one of us has budged. I'm afraid the longer this situation continues,



Dear Abby: The more hard feelings it will cause in the family. I hope with your wisdom you can resolve this matter. — UNPLEASANT SITUATION DEAR UNPLEASANT: The "wisdom" you attribute to me will not resolve this stalemate. You gave Evy an ultimatum: Either secure the livestock, or I'm not crossing your threshold with your beloved godson.

To date, Evy has shown no signs of missing you. Were your demands unreasonable? Absolutely not. Is Evy being unreasonable? Absolutely. If you miss her, and want to avoid a family feud, visit her with Timmy and carry a water pistol (filled with water); if her pooches come near your baby, let 'em have it with both barrels. DEAR ABBY: What is so fascinating about sex? My husband told me the facts of life on our wedding night. I never asked any questions before I was married because I didn't know there was anything to ask. I learned about abortion, homosexuality and condoms only after they became media stars. I still don't understand many sex-related phrases. I find people coupling a laughable image — not romantic. After five years of pain, messiness and vaginal infections, I said "no more" and abstained for 30 years. Yet I had a beautiful marriage. As a recent widow, tall, blonde and pretty, but preferring the morals, dress and lifestyle of the '30s, '40s and '50s, I would like to date again. But are there any men out there who still abide by the old rules and treat women like ladies? In other words, a kiss goodnight, and nothing more until marriage? — LESS IS MORE IN OHIO DEAR LESS: There are men who treat women with respect and do not demand sexual favors in return for their company. But don't expect to find another man who would stay married to a woman who regards marital relations as painful, messy and the cause of vaginal infections. Your husband was one in a million.

Jean Dixon

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! IN THE NEXT YEAR OF YOUR LIFE: Define your plans more realistically and you will enjoy greater success. Make your work your main focus, beginning in August. Loved ones act more affectionate as Thanksgiving approaches. Travel helps you move closer to a long-cherished goal in December. Expect 1993 to bring a beneficial change of lifestyle. You enjoy a new sense of well-being. Be willing to move out of state next spring if doing so will help your career. CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DATE: actress Michelle Pfeiffer, tennis star Andre Agassi, actor Daniel Day-Lewis, Japanese Emperor Hirohito. ARIES (March 21-April 19): Never underestimate the power of positive thinking! A domestic problem or personal matter could threaten to distract you from important business. Put first things first. TAURUS (April 20-May 20): A day when you can gain access to influential social and business groups. Big ideas should be taking shape now. Negotiate a financial deal behind closed doors. GEMINI (May 21-June 20): A clear head and guarded approach will prevent a domestic or professional setback. Although a purchase may be OK, so is saving your money. Get together with friends and plan a fun event. CANCER (June 21-July 22): Fools rush in where wise men never go. Avoid splurging on luxuries, even if a friend urges you to do so. It is a run-errands, talk-it-up day. Reach for the stars. LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): A work conflict may place you between a rock and a hard place. Compose yourself. You will have no trouble getting the information you need. Make good use of your natural talents. VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Business success depends on your showing more initiative in the workplace. If someone gives you valuable inside information, use it wisely. New friendships and adventures could be heaven-sent. LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Although unrest lingers, victory is at hand. You have a lot to gain from being friends with an influential associate. Be a doer instead of a watcher. Take out your sketch pad or dancing shoes. SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): This is not the time to wear your heart on your sleeve. Be the Rock of Gibraltar to a friend in need. Lie low today and spend a peaceful evening at home. SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Although playing second fiddle is not much fun, it is better than being passed over completely. Live in the present and be content. The evening looks great; invite friends for dinner. CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Financial speculation will almost certainly result in loss. Focus on creative enterprises and listen to the advice of someone more experienced than yourself. AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): The social scene offers you ample opportunity to rub elbows with friends and VIPs alike. New financial benefits accrue. Prosperity makes a comeback and good luck abounds! PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Rise above petty squabbles at work or home. Do not shake the foundations of your life in pursuit of an elusive objective. You can manage your money more efficiently.

DENNIS THE MENACE



"You'd make a great TEACHER, Margaret."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Poor Kevin. He got braces and now he can't spit between his teeth."

PEANUTS



WIZARD OF ID



BLONDIE



BETLE BAILEY



SNUFFY SMITH



CALVIN AND HOBBES



GEECH



HI & LOIS



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



B.C.



GASOLINE ALLEY



