

# BIG SPRING HERALD

Reflecting A Proud TEXAS Community

MONDAY  
October 17, 1994

50 Cents

## Nursing home given extension

Recent survey finds improvements warranting extension

By KELLIE JONES  
Staff Writer

Comanche Trail Nursing Center has been given an extension to come into compliance with the Texas Department of Human Services so the facility will not lose its Medicaid funding.

Officials with DHS surveyed the nursing home on Oct. 14 to see if any improvements had been made towards improving the health and safety of its residents.

"We reduced the termination day from 23 days to 90 days. What that means is there has been substantial improvements made to turn things around so they received an extension. Although they still are not in complete compliance with Medicaid, we gave them the 90 days so the staff would have more time," explained Assistant Commissioner of Long Term Care-Regulatory Mark Chouteau.

Chouteau adds the survey team was very impressed with the changes and felt comfortable in giving the extension.

"The staff they have now is new and are currently being trained. Everyone at Comanche Trail is doing good work with the help of the consultants and trustees. I feel very confident they will clear the compliance survey before the 90 day termination," Chouteau continued.

The center has until Dec. 24 to make the changes DHS recommended and come into compliance with Medicaid.



City crewmen work to fix a waterline leak at 15th and Princeton that left a good portion of Big Spring without service for several hours this past weekend. The city will receive an update from Pitometer & Associates this week about that city's water loss problems.

## Leak shuts city down for several hours

By CARLTON JOHNSON  
Staff Writer

City crews were busy again this past weekend repairing a major water leak at 15th and Princeton Streets.

According to Assistant City Manager Tom Decell the leak was due to a bell-joint break on a 10-inch line with a four inch tap which compounded the problem, according to Decell.

Decell said, "We had quite a bit of the city shut down (no water service) while working on the leak."

Many residents were without

service for several hours as crews worked to alleviate the problem.

Decell added in the last two or three weeks the city has taken a number of programmed steps towards working on water line problems.

He said, "A lot of the steps being taken aren't things seen by the public because it involves computer work."

According to Decell, representatives from Pitometer & Associates will be back in town this week to discuss the city's water problems with city officials.

At a previous meeting of the Big Spring City Council Tom Bean of Pitometer & Associates informed the council that there was not much good news to report about the city's water loss problem which is about one million gallons a day (approximately 700 gallons per minute).

Fifty of 300 meters were tested, including Colorado River Municipal Water District meters, and no problems have been spotted so far, but Bean did tell the council that water will find the easiest point from which to escape.

So far, water loss is costing

the city about \$600 per day and City Manager Lanny Lambert has stated the city is anxious to fix this problem.

The firm of Parkhill, Smith & Cooper has been hired to assist the city in studying the downtown water distribution system. This study will cost between \$9,000 and \$11,000.

There is also speculation that some of the city's water loss may be out at McMahon-Wrinkle Airpark and that there may also be meters at the old Air Force base that may be covered up or unknown to city officials.

## Detectives wish they had DNA tool back in 1952

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Frank Castillon marvels at how genetic testing has revolutionized the art of criminal detection.

If only he had the tool in 1952, he might know who killed Florence Elder.

A 19-year-old male pedestrian had found the nude body of Mrs. Elder, 41, floating face up in the San Antonio River at what is now the McCullough Avenue bridge on the northeastern fringe of downtown.

She had been stabbed 31 times. It was 10:30 a.m., Feb. 5, 1952.

Castillon and Bill Lambkin were San Antonio police homicide detectives. Lambkin was a veteran of the identification bureau.

"When they first found her, they didn't know who she was. I identified her through her fingerprints," Lambkin, now 77, told the San Antonio Express-News for a story in today's edi-

You can imagine what could be done now with DNA.

Frank Castillon

tions.

Police found evidence of a violent struggle on the river bank near where the body was found. Clothing and personal effects littered the area. Mrs. Elder's lipstick, rouge and compact were found on the bank, along with a bra, a man's blue sock and a black glove.

A condom also was found at the scene, although the find never was made public, says Castillon, now 69 and retired.

At the time, the condom wasn't much to go on. Today, it could have been a case-breaker.

Castillon remembers the condom found at the scene as one

piece of evidence that tended to exonerate Mrs. Elder's husband, Mansell Elder.

"You can imagine what could be done now with DNA," he said.

Mansell Elder, 43, was an alcoholic who, after his wife's death, was never known to take a drink again, Castillon said.

"He would go into the bars he used to frequent, sit at the table with his old drinking buddies and he wouldn't touch it," Lambkin said.

The Elders had lived in a two-room apartment about two blocks east of what is now Hemisfair Plaza.

According to newspaper accounts of the time, police arrested Mansell Elder and questioned him for three hours after they identified his wife.

However, Elder told police he and his wife had been in a bar drinking all afternoon the previous day before going home, where he passed out. The bar owner placed the Elders' departure at 8:30 p.m. The bar owner said the couple left about 8:30 p.m.

Elder said he awoke the next morning to find his wife and most of her clothes gone. He told detectives that he was not concerned by his wife's disappearance; she had left him several times before.

Elder was released the following day.

The murder story was pushed off the San Antonio front pages one week later by the death of Britain's King George VI.

Eventually, all leads dried up,

and Mansell Elder died. Nevertheless, Castillon and Lambkin still suspect the husband.

"We always suspected the husband, but we could never prove it. We ran him on the polygraph not once but several times, and it came out inconclusive," Lambkin said.

Today, the file on the Florence Elder murder rests in an old, yellowed cardboard box in the city archives at the old Bexar County Jail.

Since there is no statute of limitations on murder, unsolved cases are never closed. However, Mrs. Elder's murder is the oldest unsolved murder case on San Antonio's books, and police service agent Jim Caruso says the case only promises to get older. There have been no fresh leads in the case in decades, he said.

**Texas Trivia**  
What Mac Davis song has been recorded by over 50 artists?  
"I believe in music"  
First to grow cotton commercially?  
Jared Groce

**INDEX**  
Classified ..... 8  
Comics ..... 10  
Crossword ..... 10  
Dear Abby ..... 8  
Horoscope ..... 8  
Nation ..... 5  
Perspective ..... 4  
Sports ..... 6  
Texas ..... 3  
World ..... 4

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**WORLD/NATION**

**Nation:** Six-year-old Justin Dailey did all he could to save his little brother from the fire that broke out in their family's log cabin. See page 5.

**World:** After negotiations dragged late into the night, Israel and Jordan agreed to initial a draft peace accord. See page 4.

**STATE**

**One killed**  
At least one person drowned early today as extensive flash flooding spread across a vast area of Southeast Texas. Officers said the fatality was reported near Conroe in Montgomery County and involved an incident in which a car was swept off the road by rising water. See page 3.

**More blacks given death**  
In Harris County, which has earned the unofficial title of being the nation's death-penalty capital, blacks have been sent to death row nearly twice as often as whites during the last 10 years, according to a published report. See page 3.

**TODAY'S WEATHER**

Tonight **77** ▲ Highs **52**  
Lows ▼

**Fair, low low 50s**  
Tonight, fair, low in the lower 50s, southwest winds 5 to 15 mph.

**Permian Basin Forecast**  
Tuesday: Mostly sunny, high in the upper 70s, west winds 5 to 10 mph; fair night, low lower 50s.  
Wednesday: Mostly sunny, high in the upper 70s, west winds 5 to 10 mph; fair night, low lower 50s.  
Thursday: Mostly sunny, high in the upper 70s







NEWS IN BRIEF

Assembly at Rodham rally painfully sparse

MIAMI (AP) — It was a once-in-a-lifetime chance to see the president of the United States, up close and personal, for only \$10 — the price of a ticket to a rally for Democratic Senate candidate Hugh Rodham.

But the assemblage at the seaport convention hall was painfully sparse.

In a room meant for several thousand, about 200 people clustered under patriotic bunting and Rodham-for-Senate signs.

And on the small stage, a tableau of Rodham family solidarity: Hugh and his wife, Maria; brother Tony, the campaign manager, and his wife, Nicole, daughter of a senator; sister Hillary, the first lady, and her husband, Bill, the president.

Quite a lineup for a candidate at 20 percent in polls against a Republican incumbent, Connie Mack, who's in the 65-percent range.

"I know the uphill battle Hugh Rodham has," Clinton said in the understatement of the night. Even he, the plurality president, managed 43 percent.

But this was a labor of love, or so went the spin.

GE selling troubled brokerage firm

NEW YORK (AP) — General Electric Co., primarily known for its prowess in industrial pursuits ranging from washers to turbojets, has decided to scrap an 8-year-old foray into running a Wall Street brokerage.

GE is selling its troubled Kidder Peabody Group Inc. subsidiary to PaineWebber Group Inc. in a deal valued at roughly \$670 million, GE and Kidder executives said Sunday. A formal announcement was expected today.

Half of Kidder's 5,000 employees will be laid off, according to a GE executive speaking on condition of anonymity. That would be one of the biggest mass-axings to befall the securities industry since junk-bond powerhouse Drexel Burnham Lambert Inc. collapsed in 1991, putting thousands of investment bankers on the street.

It's unclear whether the Kidder name will survive the sale, which would mark the end for one of Wall Street's oldest houses, formed nearly 130 years ago.

Man kills ex-wife, boyfriend, then self

SKOKIE, Ill. (AP) — A man shot and killed his estranged wife and her boyfriend outside the restaurant where she worked, then shot himself.

Police said they found notes that the gunman, Vincent Languido, had written but never delivered to his wife saying he was depressed over their breakup.

Languido, 28, shot Serena Languido, 21, in the parking lot of the family-style restaurant as she reported for work Sunday afternoon, police said.

He also shot Christopher Latimer, 25, then shot himself in the head. Latimer, who police said was living with Mrs. Languido, died early this morning.

Alan Gerstner said he was mowing a lawn across the street when he heard gunshots.

Christopher: U.S. won't wait the next time

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States will not wait to retaliate the next time Saddam Hussein sends his troops south to threaten Kuwait, Secretary of State Warren Christopher said Sunday.

The warning came a day after the U.N. Security Council unanimously voted to demand that Iraq end all "hostile or provocative" actions against Kuwait.

"The message is clear," President Clinton said Sunday. "Iraq must complete its withdrawal. It must not threaten its neighbors in the future."

Christopher, speaking on NBC's "Meet the Press," also said it was improbable that Saddam can stay in power even if he complies with all the U.N. resolutions required to bring about a lifting of economic sanctions.

Christopher emphasized that the United States has all the necessary authority it needs under existing U.N. resolutions to attack Iraqi forces moving toward the Kuwaiti border.

"Next time, we'll probably not wait. We will take action, strong action against him," the secretary said.

Christopher's warning was echoed by U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Madeleine K. Albright, who said the Mideast region is vital to U.S. national interests and the United States is prepared to go it alone to stop Iraqi aggression.

The United States will work "multilaterally when we can, unilaterally when we must," she said on ABC's "This Week With David Brinkley."

CRUSHED



Passersby gaze Sunday at a pile of 16 late model cars crushed at Ron Corbo Oldsmobile Subaru in West Seneca, N.Y. by a runaway 35-ton front end loader. The big Caterpillar, which was parked at the site of the nearly demolished Seneca Mall, was cranked about 5 p.m. and traveled a half-mile trail over railroad tracks and narrowly missed two sets of high-tension power line supports and a busy video rental store before crushing the cars and pinning a mini-van against the dealership's building.

New airport troubled by shoddy construction

DENVER (AP) — Workers at Denver's troubled new airport cut corners that could lead to collapsing floors, buckling walls and falling ceilings, according to a former inspector.

Dean Hill said he quit after refusing to sign off on shoddy work, and that he has photographs documenting potentially dangerous construction.

He said another inspector

approached him while he was taking the photos and told him, "Guys like you have come up missing."

Bob Storck, the airport's head of construction, promised a full investigation. He said Hill's photos do show potential construction problems.

"We're real anxious to go check some of this stuff out," he said. "If we find people were

actually engaged in fraud, that certainly is something we will take to the district attorney."

Hill, who spent 35 years as a construction supervisor, said he turned over photographs of the construction to Denver's district attorney, who is investigating allegations of falsified tests and fraudulent contracting and construction practices.

Food banks worry about federal cuts in food supplies

WASHINGTON (AP) — Food pantries around the country are worried about closing their doors to hungry Americans this winter as the federal government cuts the amount of food it provides to them.

In a money-saving move by the Clinton administration, the Agriculture Department will spend just \$25 million this fiscal year to supply food banks and other programs for the poor with flour, corn meal, canned vegetables, fruits and meats.

Last year, USDA distributed \$80 million in commodities under The Emergency Food Assistance Program, or TEFAP, known for the great cheese and butter giveaways of the 1980s.

Food bank directors say they cannot expect the private sector to make up for the loss in commodities because donations from manufacturers and grocers are declining, due to greater efficiency and less waste.

At the same time, poverty is on the rise and food bank directors say growing numbers of families with children and the working poor are turning to local pantries for a bag of groceries.

A study earlier this year by Second Harvest, a nationwide network of food banks, found

that nearly 26 million Americans rely on food pantries, soup kitchens and emergency feeding programs.

"The impact (of the cuts) is going to be very dramatic," said Dick Goebel, executive director of the Second Harvest St. Paul Food Bank in Minnesota.

Goebel said he is especially concerned about rural food banks nationwide, as well as in his own state, because federal commodities tend to account for a high percentage of the food they distribute.

Instead of running full time, they may decide to open only a couple of days a week and to lay off some workers, he said.

Judy Perry, executive director of Harvesters-The Community Food Network in Kansas City, Mo., said 15 inner-city pantries served by her food bank may close.

"They won't be getting enough food and they don't have the funds to purchase food," she said. "They also have limited donations of food coming in from other sources, so the commodities are really important to their pantries."

Perry said the pantries most at risk are located in public housing and senior citizen housing, and many of the people they serve lack transportation.

He did all he could to save his brother

YORK, Pa. (AP) — Six-year-old Justin Dailey did all he could to save his little brother from the fire that broke out in their family's log cabin.

He stood among the flames to call 911, then dragged his 4-year-old brother to the door and tried to escape.

"They were on the phone with 911, and the phone went dead," said Fire Chief Jeff Griffith. "The dispatcher said she thought she heard the fire over the phone, and, unfortunately, she was right."

When firefighters knocked down the door early Sunday, they found the two boys unconscious.

Matthew, with burns over three-fourths of his body, died at the scene. Justin suffered burns and smoke inhalation and was listed in critical condition Sunday night.

The boys' parents — Thomas, 39, and Deborah, 31 — also were killed. Officials said the flames trapped them in the back bedroom and prevented the boys from reaching them.

Authorities blamed the fire on a free-standing wood stove that overheated in the living room. A new, more-efficient wood stove that was recently bought sat outside the cabin, under a blue tarp.

Table with financial data for Coahoma State Bank, including assets, liabilities, and equity capital. Includes a MEMORANDA section and a NOTARY PUBLIC signature block at the bottom.

Advertisement for Leonard's Pharmacies. Text: "We Care About You And Your Health. Providing you with prescriptions and health care services is only part of what we offer. We also take a genuine concern in you. We take the time to talk with you. We get to know you and your family. And we provide you with the personalized service and care that you expect. That's our way of doing business because we don't think you should settle for anything less." Includes address and phone information for various locations.











MONDAY

OCT. 17

Table with 24 columns representing different TV channels (KMID, KPEJ, KERA, etc.) and rows listing various programs and their start times.

B.C. BLONDIE WIZARD OF ID



GASOLINE ALLEY



CALVIN AND HOBBS



WIZARD OF ID



GEECH



HAGGAR THE HORRIBLE



WIZARD OF ID



HI AND LOIS



BEETLE DAILY



RITZ 481 S. Main 263-7480. Marisa Tomel & Robert Downey Jr. Only You PG. Little Giants PG. River Wild PG-13. THE SPECIALIST R.

DENNIS THE MENNAGE



FAMILY CIRCUS



PEANUTS



CINEMARK THEATRES MOVIES 4. WES CRAVEN'S NEW NIGHTMARE. EXIT TO EDEN. FORREST GUMP. THE SPECIALIST R.

THE Daily Crossword by Virginia B. Hopewell

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words.



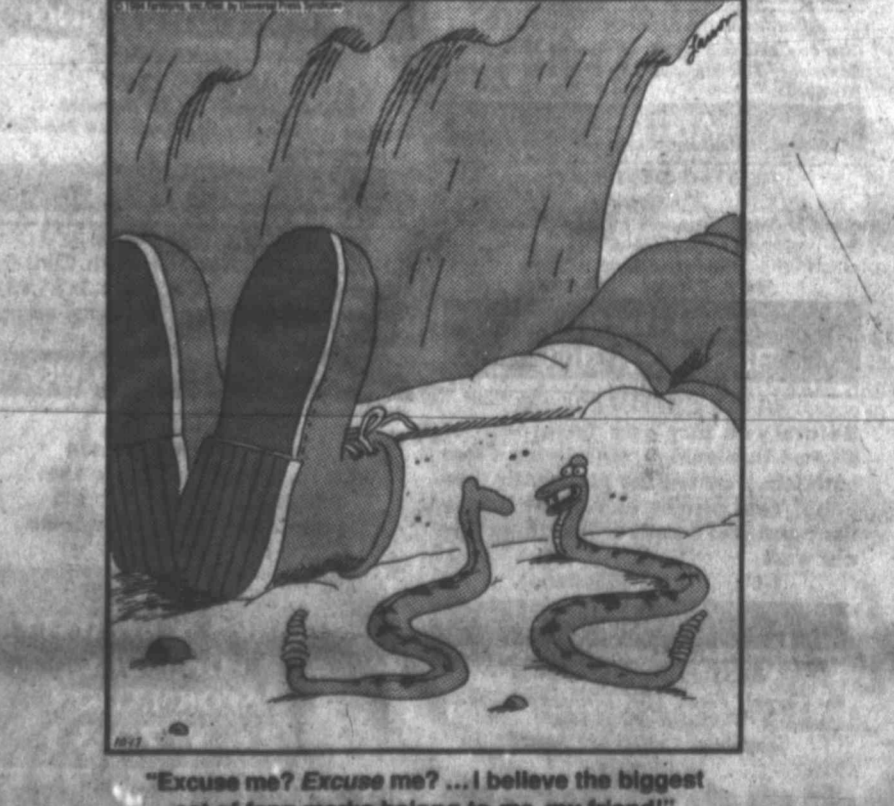
This date in history: Today is Monday, Oct. 17, the 290th day of 1994. Today's Highlight in History: On Oct. 17, 1777, British forces under General John Burgoyne surrendered to American troops in Saratoga, N.Y.

In 1939, Frank Capra's comedy-drama 'Mr. Smith Goes to Washington'... In 1941, the U.S. destroyer Kearney was torpedoed by a German submarine... In 1945, Col. Juan Peron staged a coup in Buenos Aires... In 1957, French author Albert Camus was awarded the Nobel Prize in literature... In 1973, Arab oil-producing nations announced they would begin cutting back on oil exports to Western nations and Japan... In 1977, West German commandos stormed a hijacked Lufthansa jetliner that was on the ground in Mogadishu, Somalia... In 1978, President Carter signed a bill restoring U.S. citizenship to Confederate President Jefferson Davis... In 1979, Mother Teresa of India was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for her years of work on behalf of the destitute... In 1991, mobster Al Capone was convicted of income tax evasion and sentenced to 11 years in prison (He was released in 1939).

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THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



Saturday's Puzzle solved: A grid of words including CHAP, ACRID, ARIA, LOGE, THRANE, LIBS, UBER, HOTANDMAST, BODILESS, RATER, LAKE, PAESANO, BEACHANDGO, ARBOR, APOSTYLE, SOUP, CANON, RIVA, STEARIC, AIMED, BOREANDBONE, SCRAPPY, WIZE, AHOME, RECESSED, TOWANDBULK, MAXI, IRAN, JODIE, AGAR, EDNA, STEAL, NAME.

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'Excuse me? Excuse me? ...I believe the biggest set of fang marks belong to me, my friend!'