

BIG SPRING HERALD

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TUESDAY
November 7, 1995

50 Cents

Wind erosion project expands to Howard Co.

By CARLTON JOHNSON
Staff Writer

A wind erosion pilot project has been expanded to include more local counties.

The program has been in progress more than a year and Congress Charles Stenholm has been working to expand it.

The program is under way in Martin County and has been expanded to include Howard, Dawson and Borden counties in

Stenholm's 17th Congressional District.

"I am very pleased that our efforts have caused the Natural Resources Conservation Service to expand the pilot project to provide farmers in these counties and other adjacent counties with additional conservation practices which will enable them to reduce wind erosion and stay in compliance with farm programs," Stenholm said. "The current project in Martin

County has been a joint effort between the Big Spring Agricultural Research Service facility and the Mustang Soil and Water Conservation District.

The program probably won't effect farmers in Howard County until after the new year, when research information is finally calculated, District Conservationist for the Howard County Soil Conservation Service Field Office Eddy Spurgin said.

Prior to this new program, farmers in Howard County farming highly erodible land had to have a wind erosion conservation plan in effect to participate in other government programs.

"One method of conservation in Howard County was wind strip-cropping," Spurgin said.

Farmers would plant cotton and have a four-row strip of a high-residue crop such as sorghum or some type of grain,

depending on the soil type.

"Originally, the program called for strip-cropping to stay in place until April 1 of the following year, but now farmers can plow through their fields if there's enough moisture so they can maintain the cloddiness of the field and it won't be blown away by the wind," Spurgin said.

Results from the year-long study are being finalized by the Ag Research Service and will be

presented to the conservation service shortly for incorporation into the Field Office Technical Guide.

"Including this information in the technical guides will allow for the development of additional alternative conservation systems for reducing wind erosion. Extending the pilot project to surrounding counties will make this information immediately

Please see WIND, page 2

Digging turns up new tax cap for college

By KELLIE JONES
Staff Writer

Howard College officials received some good news Monday afternoon from President Cheri Sparks.

It looks like the college's tax cap rate is 70 cents per \$100 valuation instead of 20 cents. For years, college officials were under the impression the most they could tax was 20 cents but a recent discovery by Sparks indicates a higher limit.

Sparks said Professor Paul Ausmus brought a copy of the 1965 self-study report to her so she could make some comparisons for a project she was working on.

While reading it, the president discovered county taxpayers voted to increase the limit to 50 cents in 1947 and to 60 cents in 1955.

Sparks then visited with former college president Dr. Charles Hays. Hays said he recalled the tax limit being higher than 20 cents but he could not recollect the exact amount. Hays had been president of the college in the late 1970's and early 1980's.

Staff members then began looking over minutes from old board meetings. They discovered in 1975 voters passed a resolution to raise the tax limit to 70 cents as part of the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum bond election.

"We knew the tax rate had been as high as 70 cents in the past but we thought it was that high because of the method used for figuring the appraisal. Prior to 1978, property taxes were collected on a partial appraisal," said Sparks.

"With the passage of the Peve-to-Jones Bill in 1979, property taxes were collected on a \$100 valuation. When this bill went into effect, the college's tax rate dropped from 70 cents to 14 cents. The same amount of levy was being collected, but the method for collecting changed," she said.

Vice President for Institutional Advancement Linda Conway said when the residence halls were in the planning stages in 1980's, the bonding company wanted to know what the maximum tax rate was. The college's charter indicated 20 cents.

Please see DIGGING, page 2

MAKING TURKEY



Tony Campos places a feather he purchased on a turkey in the Marcy Elementary School hallway Thursday. Each school has a turkey, and students buy feathers for a quarter, with the money going toward the Kids' Zone playground.

FINAL CHANCE

Substance abuse facilities give offenders a chance after breaking probation

By KELLIE JONES
Staff Writer

It's the last resort for those who revoke their probation.

Substance Abuse Felony Punishment Facilities were established during Ann Richards' reign as governor. If a person is placed on probation for a felony offense and then for whatever reason revokes it, the defendant may be sent to this type of facility.

Sending a person to a punishment facility is in lieu of revoking their probation instead of sending them to prison, Sherrill Farmer explained. Farmer is a supervision officer with the 118th Judicial District Community Supervision and Corrections Department.

"The ones with a substance abuse problem are sent to this type of facility. Certain felonies are excluded, such as sexual offenses, but people can be sent there for driving while intoxicated and many others," Farmer said.

A person can be sentenced to a term of 60 days to one year. Farmer said the average time spent is nine months followed by a one- to three-month stay in a halfway house. From there, the person receives outpatient counseling.

"Including the outpatient counseling, someone could be involved in this program for up to two years.

Once they are through with the program, they are on probation for the remainder of their sentence," Farmer added.

For example, a person is put on five years' probation for felony driving while intoxicated. Her probation is revoked, for whatever reason, about one year into probation. It is determined she has an alcohol abuse problem.

She is sent to the facility for nine months, stays in a halfway house for three months and goes through outpatient counseling for six months. She will still be on probation for an additional two and a half years.

Farmer said since the district court began participating in the SAFFP program, they have sent a total of 54 people to a facility. They started in December 1993 and so far this year, 22 people have been sentenced to one of 13 places.

There are a total of 5,590 beds in the facilities located in Burnet, Sugarland, Dayton, Huntsville, Gatesville, Brownwood, Hondo, Richmond, Rosharon, San Diego, Breckenridge and Winnsboro. The 13th facility, the Wheeler Unit, has not been opened yet.

While in a facility, an inmate takes part in self-help groups, substance abuse education classes and other programs designed to help overcome the addictions.

Man sentenced to five years for sexual assault

Troy Michael Allen, 36, pleaded guilty to aggravated sexual assault.

Allen, of HC 61 Box 288, entered the plea Nov. 3 in the 118th District Court and was sentenced to five years in prison.

He admitted to sexually assaulting a 33-year-old woman on the east side of town in May 1993. Police reports indicated the two knew each other and Allen used physical force

when he assaulted her.

District Attorney Rick Hamby said the case was about to go to trial but the woman wrote a letter to the court asking that Allen receive a five year sentence. Because this is an aggravated offense, Allen will have to serve most of the sentence before he is eligible for parole.

Herald Staff Report

Planning key to good park facilities

Editor's Note: This is the third in a series of reports looking at Big Spring's master plan and what it includes for the city and the residents of Big Spring and Howard County.

By CARLTON JOHNSON
Staff Writer

Planning has to be a top priority where parks and recreation are concerned.

Several of the areas included in the master plan's parks and recreation section include more county involvement; making

children the number one priority in this area; utilizing existing facilities; details of a park director's job description; better management and maintenance at the city golf course; privatization of park facilities; addressing vandalism in parks; utilizing the inmate workforce as well as include city-sponsored recreational programs.

One of the major elements in the shaping of an urban environment is its size, location, configuration and use of the community's parks and public open spaces. These elements

tend to form a common core for residential development and neighborhood activities, effectively utilizing land deemed unusable for normal urban development and they serve as buffers between otherwise incompatible land uses.

Big Spring has a disproportionate amount of tax income derived from residential property, leaving tax payers uncomfortable with an increase in taxes for park purposes.

The city is deficient in neighborhood park areas and there is also a shortage of picnic areas

and playground equipment.

In part one of the master plan, topography in Big Spring was listed as an asset as well as air quality, with very few environmental problems.

Other areas of concern pertaining to parks and recreation include the shortage of community facilities, the need for a sports complex, and whether or not Big Spring needs a recreation center.

The city's park system is comprised of several areas including open areas such as

MASTER PLAN

Comanche Trail Golf Course, Comanche Trail Amphitheater, Mount Olive Cemetery, Moss Creek Lake and city services, which includes investigation of the administrative needs of the park service.

The adequacy of Big Spring's existing parks, recreation facilities and open spaces is determined by applying the needs of the present and forecasted populations of the city to acceptable national standards.

TEXAS TRIVIA

What two feuding civilian factions created havoc in Shelbyville in the early 1840s?

Regulators and Moderators

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WORLD/NATION

World: Before a rapt courtroom, three American military men admitted today to the ambush-rape of a 12-year-old Okinawan schoolgirl, an attack that outraged Japanese and strained security ties between the two nations. See page 4.

Nation: Gunshots cut through the restaurant's lunchtime hubbub, jolting customers into a split second of silence — then pandemonium. See page 5.

STATE

Dismissed

Nearly four dozen child sexual abuse indictments in a bizarre case involving allegations of satanism have been dismissed after prosecutors said they couldn't go forward with tainted testimony. See page 3.

Citric lifesaver

In what has been a dismal year for Rio Grande Valley agriculture, citrus may prove to be the cream of the crop. See page 3.

TODAY'S WEATHER

Tonight **73** ▲ Highs **40**
Lows ▼

Cloudy

Tonight, clear, low near 40, light winds.

Permian Basin Forecast

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, high mid 70s, south winds 10 to 20 mph; clear night, low near 40.

Thursday: Mostly sunny, high mid 70s, south winds 10 to 20 mph; clear night, low near 40.

Friday: Mostly sunny, high mid 70s, south winds 10 to 20 mph.

45 indictments in child sexual abuse case dismissed

GILMER (AP) — Nearly four dozen child sexual abuse indictments in a bizarre case involving allegations of satanism have been dismissed after prosecutors said they couldn't go forward with tainted testimony.

Visiting state District Judge James B. Zimmermann granted the state's motion on Monday, dropping 45 of 48 indictments against 10 people.

Assistant Texas Attorney General Lisa Tanner argued that the special prosecutor and a

team who once handled the case "irreparably tainted" the children who were to testify, so going forward would be impossible.

"If we did that, justice would be denied for others," she said.

Dr. Bruce Perry, a child psychiatrist, testified that while he believed some of the children were abused, it would be difficult to prove in court because of the tactics used to elicit the information. The children were interviewed at different times

by state social workers, law enforcers, the special prosecutor's team and others.

"These kids' disclosures about everything were completely destroyed by these coercive tactics," he said.

Of particular concern, he said, was a "highly controversial" technique performed by a foster mother in which the children were held and their ribs and sides rubbed, sometimes to the point of raising bruises.

In taped interviews with

Perry that were shown in court, several children said they falsely reported satanic rituals and sexual abuse because of the "holding" technique.

"After a while you'd give in," one boy said in tearful taped testimony about the technique.

"Sometimes she (his foster mother) makes you say stuff you don't want to say, like stuff your parents did that they didn't do like hurt me or something."

The case has fueled rumors in

the small town of Gilmer, 110 miles east of Dallas, particularly when it dovetailed with the investigation into the 1992 disappearance of 17-year-old Kelly Wilson, who has never been found.

Special prosecutor Scott Lyford and his team reported that an investigation revealed evidence of "satanic rituals, sexual and physical torture, cannibalism and mass murder," court documents showed.

Lyford did not return a call to

The Associated Press for comment.

Indictments handed up between May 1993 and January 1994 against 10 Gilmer residents alleged various sexual abuses of 15 children. Those charged included seven members of one family: Eugene Kerr, 67; his wife, Geneva, 63; a son, Wendell, 46; Wendell's wife Wanda, 31; another son of the elder Kerrs, Danny, 41; Danny's com-

Please see DISMISSED, page 4



Workers at Mission Shipper's box grapefruit and oranges in Mission. The Rio Grande Valley citrus harvest is in full swing and this year's crop looks to be bigger and juicier, agriculture officials said Monday.

BIGGER, JUICIER

Citrus harvest brightens dismal ag year for Valley

WESLACO (AP) — In what has been a dismal year for Rio Grande Valley agriculture, citrus may prove to be the cream of the crop.

The annual harvest of Valley grapefruit and oranges is in full swing, and this year's crop looks to be bigger and juicier, agriculture officials said Monday.

"The crop is forecast up this year. We fully expect an increase in production annually probably for the next four or five years," said Dr. Julian Sauls of the Texas Agricultural Extension Service.

Drought and insects wreaked havoc on other crops this year. But the dry weather had little impact on citrus, with the exception of more misshapen fruit, and a new pest known as the Asian citrus leaf miner created only minimal damage, officials said.

"Production should be up," Sauls said. "It just won't be up as much as it might have been."

Prices also have improved over last year, when an unusually large crop in Florida drove the cost of citrus to its lowest point in almost 25 years, said Ray Prewett, executive vice president of Texas Citrus Mutual, a trade organization claiming 450 growers.

"Last year was a real rough year from a price standpoint. A lot of growers lost money," Prewett said. "The best news is that the price is considerably better at this point in the season than it was last year, so we're hoping the growers will be able to make a little bit of money this year."

Texas Rio Star grapefruit is selling for \$8 per 40-pound carton, while oranges are going for \$10 a carton. Prices last year plunged to as little as \$5 a carton, Prewett said.

Last year's sales totaled \$40 million, with an economic impact to the region of \$100 million, Prewett said.

Texas growers continue to bounce back from two devastating freezes in 1983 and 1989. Before the '83 freeze, there were 80,000 acres of citrus across the Rio Grande Valley. That dropped to 13,000 acres following the '89 disaster.

This year, about 900 growers are harvesting 33,000 acres.

"We're coming back very strongly. The last two seasons our crop has been up considerably," said Dr. Victor French, interim director of the Texas A&M-Kingsville Citrus Center.

"It takes a long time," he said. "A lot of the trees were killed

outright and they had to be replanted. Those replanted trees are coming into production."

Growers now are concentrating efforts on getting their products back into consumers' grocery carts.

The '83 and '89 freezes allowed California and Florida to strengthen their hold on the citrus market, leaving Texas growers out in the cold.

Last year was the first since 1989 that Texas grapefruit saw an increased presence in supermarkets, said Mary McKeever, general manager for TexasSweet Citrus Marketing Inc., marketing arm of the Fresh Texas Citrus Industry.

Los Angeles was the No. 1 market for Texas citrus last year, followed by Dallas and Houston, she said.

Marketing efforts now are being focused on other areas of the United States, particularly the Midwest.

"The produce department is a highly competitive division of supermarkets. You have to prove yourself to gain your place back," Ms. McKeever said. "I think it's been out of sight, out of mind for many consumers. They haven't seen the product so they tend to select something else."

Woman finally nabbed when tires shot

FORT WORTH (AP) — Deanna Washington, 20, of Fort Worth twice had eluded police when they tried to arrest her in the past, but she was finally taken into custody after a chase from Fort Worth to Irving and back.

Fort Worth police Sgt. T.R. Guck said Ms. Washington caught officers off guard Monday when she backed her car out of her east Fort Worth garage as they sought to arrest her on a warrant issued on an attempted murder charge.

For more than an hour, police pursued the woman's car, but were limited in what they could do because of department policy that forbids roadblocks, ramming or shooting at a moving vehicle unless someone's life is perceived to be at stake.

Department of Public Safety officers, operating under less

stringent rules, finally took her into custody in south Fort Worth by shooting a rear tire, Buck said.

"She was swerving, trying to run DPS troopers off of the road, so they decided to stop her by shooting out her tires," Buck said.

Once the car was stopped, Buck said, the woman refused to get out, so a trooper broke out the passenger window to take her into custody. The trooper, whose name was not released, suffered several small cuts.

Ms. Washington was being held in Tarrant County Jail on an attempted murder warrant for the May 23, 1994, shooting of a 26-year-old woman outside apartments in east Fort Worth. New charges were being prepared in connection with Monday's chase.

As the driver returned to Fort Worth, DPS officers joined the chase, Buck said. After the driver tried to run the troopers off the road along Southeast Loop 820, they responded, Buck said. After the car exited on Campus Drive and turned onto Seminary Drive, officers shot out the tire.

Fort Worth police rarely pursue vehicles in long chases because of the risks involved. But they did so Monday because of the seriousness of the warrant and the woman's history of running from police, said Lt. Pat Knebllick, a Fort Worth police spokeswoman.

"We had reasons to maintain the pursuit," Knebllick said. "This was more than a traffic warrant. If it were simply a minor traffic violation, it might have been a different situation."

Mascot: I'll be bat - after being beaten during game

AUSTIN (AP) — The beating went a bit too far by 19 percussionists with the Tech Goin' Band from Raiderland.

Nineteen people have been suspended from the Texas Tech band for an attack Saturday on Rex L. the Bat, a fuzzy costumed mascot that appears at University of Texas football games.

But Austin, American-Statesman employee Roosevelt Hawkins, who wears the bat costume under the newspaper's sponsorship, said that won't stop him from appearing at games.

"I'll be back. I'll be bat. I'm hoping to be back (for the Nov. 18 game against Texas Christian University)," Hawkins, 26, told the newspaper.

"I hope it won't take too long to repair the costume. I would love for them to see that they could attack the bat and that we could come back for the next game and keep on kicking."

The incident occurred midway through the third quarter of the Longhorns' 48-7 victory, when the mascot was lured into a semicircle of 15 to 20 dancing Raider band members, the American-Statesman reported.

UT Police Capt. Silas Griggs said Monday the incident still was being investigated, but that it apparently stemmed from a Red Raider ritual.

"Evidently, the Texas Tech band has a ceremony in which they circle around the opposing mascot and sort of do a little dance. This time, when it was over, instead of breaking off ... some of the band members stormed the bat," Griggs said.

Band members beat Hawkins with their fists, the newspaper reported. Hawkins said the beating lasted less than a minute. The attack was broken up by two Travis County sheriff's officers and a group of Longhorn band members.

Hate crime trial begins

LUBBOCK (AP) — Federal prosecutors hope to convince a jury that three racist triggermen drove through the streets shooting at pedestrians out of hatred for blacks.

But attorneys for the defendants argue that the shootings could have been sparked by drugs or gang revenge, instead of race.

Trial got under way Monday with defense attorneys deriding the credibility of the prosecution's chief witness, an alleged white supremacist.

The 14-member jury, which includes two alternates, was seated with one black member and two Hispanics.

Prosecutor Tom Perez of Washington, D.C., said the three defendants went out hunting black people Oct. 16, 1994, and intended to shoot them off the streets of Lubbock.

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A Boston Police officer, left, and a Boston Emergency Medical Technician console an unidentified woman outside the "99" Restaurant & Pub in Boston's Charlestown neighborhood. The woman is believed to be the wife of a victim who was shot there Monday. According to police, at least four people were killed during a shooting at the restaurant.

GUNSHOTS & PANDEMONIUM

Four killed in shooting at Boston restaurant

BOSTON (AP) — Gunshots cut through the restaurant's lunchtime hubbub, jolting customers into a split second of silence — then pandemonium. People screamed, leaped behind the bar and scrambled to the floor for safety.

When it was over, four men were dead, one was seriously wounded and two suspects were in custody, arrested by a pair of plainclothes officers who happened to be in the restaurant eating lunch.

While The Boston Herald reported today that the shooting erupted from an argument over drug profits, Police Commissioner Paul Evans said earlier that the motive was unclear.

"If it was a hit, it was a very sloppy hit in broad daylight in a very crowded restaurant," Evans said.

The gunmen walked into the 99 Restaurant & Pubs on Monday, began an argument with the men, who were sitting in a booth, and fired 13 shots, witnesses said.

"I heard, 'Pop, pop, pop.' I hit the deck," said Bill Sewall, one of about 50 people in the restaurant in the rough, mostly Irish Charlestown section, where a "code of silence" has sunk many a murder investigation. "I

ran out the front door, and I'm still shaking."

Immediately after the shooting, the two suspects raced out and Everett police Officers Robert Hall and Paul Durant — in street clothes after making a court appearance — gave chase with guns drawn.

"I saw a cop pointing his gun at them and holding his badge in the air," said a witness, who spoke on condition of anonymity. "He said, 'If you move, I'll blow your head off.'"

The officers, who would not comment, were praised as heroes. Patrol Capt. Richard Basteri said both were proven "young and aggressive, good street cops," in Everett, just outside Boston.

The two suspects were identified as Damien Clemente, 20, and Vincent John Perez, 27. They were each to be arraigned today on four counts of murder. Perez worked for Boston's Transportation Department and had no prior criminal record. Clemente listed his job as "laborer."

The Herald identified the dead men as Robert Luisi Sr., his son, Roman Paul Luisi, his nephew, Anthony Sarro, and an associate, Anthony "Sonny" Pelosi. Police would not confirm

those names early today, pending identification by family members.

Roman Luisi was acquitted last year of charges he killed two men while working as a bouncer at a Hollywood, Calif., nightclub.

The shootings resulted from the Luisis' attempts to muscle in on the drug trade in the city's largely Italian North End neighborhood, by forcing some small-time drug dealers to share their profits, the Herald said, citing police sources. The two suspects were among those threatened, the newspaper said.

The wounded man, Richard C. Sarro, 27, of Boston, was listed in serious but stable condition with a gunshot wound close to his heart.

Charlestown, sandwiched between Boston Harbor and the Mystic River, is known to tourists as the home of the Bunker Hill monument and the USS Constitution, the 19th-century warship dubbed Old Ironsides.

But to police, it is a place where witnesses rarely talk. Earlier this year, one local group said half of the 50 slayings they have tracked in Charlestown since 1975 remain unsolved.

Child credit could be made retroactive

WASHINGTON (AP) — Don't count your money yet, but leading Republicans are discussing making a proposed \$500-per-child tax credit at least partly retroactive to 1995.

"I'd like to do it, but I've got to look at the entire package," House Majority Leader Dick Armey said recently, reflecting a widespread concern that the change may be too expensive to fit into the GOP balanced budget legislation.

Armey, R-Texas, is a leading advocate of the proposal, although House Speaker Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., and Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole, R-Kan., also have indicated interest. Officials say the topic has been discussed at meetings on balanced-budget compromise talks between House and Senate Republicans.

Legislation passed by the House and Senate provide the tax break effective Jan. 1, 1996. But making it retroactive — possibly to Oct. 1, 1995 — would mean taxpayers would realize some benefit when they file out their tax returns next April, at the beginning of the 1996 election year.

The proposal has political appeal because Republicans

could trumpet the cut as an early benefit of their legislative program, before the impact of the spending cuts sinks in.

Some Republicans, speaking on condition of anonymity, also said it could give them political leverage in a showdown with President Clinton, who is expected to veto the overall balanced-budget bill for its curbs on spending on Medicare, Medicaid and other programs.

At the same time, concern about the cost led another senior Republican to say he doubted the idea could be incorporated into the legislation now being drafted.

"I would love to do that," said Rep. William Archer, the Texas Republican who chairs the tax-writing House Ways and Means Committee. "The difficulty is that the revenue losses in the first year, are, I think, going to be unsustainable."

The price tag for making the child credit retroactive to Jan. 1, 1995, is more than \$20 billion in the Senate bill, which would be less generous than the House-passed measure.

Under the House bill, families earning up to \$200,000 a year would be eligible for the full credit. The Senate measure pro-

vides for the full benefit for single parents earning up to \$75,000 and couples earning up to \$110,000.

Republican officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said there has been fresh discussion in recent days about making the cut effective for five years instead of seven as one way of finding additional money, on the theory that Congress will dramatically reform the tax code after the 1996 elections.

Another possible source of revenue, according to other officials, is the possible sale of government assets such as loan portfolios.

Another key provision of the bill, the reduction in the capital gains tax cut, is virtually certain to be made retroactive to some time in 1995. The House-passed measure makes the cut effective Jan. 1, 1995. The Senate bill sets an Oct. 14 effective day.

Capital gains taxes are levied against the profits on sales of investments. By making that cut retroactive but the child tax credit effective Jan. 1 of next year, Republicans might be open to fresh Democratic criticism.

Man convicted in Ohio-to-New Mexico crime spree

NORMAN, Okla. (AP) — A man was convicted on Monday of murdering a marina security guard during an interstate crime spree that stretched from Ohio to New Mexico.

Lewis Eugene Gilbert, 24, of Newcomerstown, Ohio, was convicted of first-degree murder, robbery and kidnapping in the September 1994 shooting of Roxy Ruddell.

The penalty phase of the trial was to begin on Tuesday. Prosecutors are seeking the death penalty.

"I was hoping for the guilty verdict but I learned a long time ago not to expect anything," assistant prosecutor Rick Sitzman said. "We were confident but tried not to be overconfident."

Eric Elliott, 17, also of Newcomerstown, is also charged. His trial is set for January.

Gilbert and Elliott are suspected in the disappearance from Newcomerstown of Ruth Loader, who is presumed dead, and are charged in the deaths of Flossie and William Brewer, an elderly couple found shot in the basement of their house just north of Kingdom City, Mo.

Ms. Loader's car was found in Kingdom City and the Brewers' car was found in Oklahoma, where Ms. Ruddell died. Her truck was found near the New Mexico site where Gilbert and Elliott were arrested.

Prosecutors rested their case

against Gilbert Monday with testimony from the New Mexico State Police officer who interviewed him after his arrest in a culvert near Santa Fe.

Agent Daniel Becker testified Gilbert confessed to the murder

of Ms. Ruddell, 37.

Also Monday, an Oklahoma City police firearms expert testified a .22-caliber revolver found in a glove near Gilbert when arrested was the weapon used to kill Ms. Ruddell.

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It's tit for tat time over debt extension

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Clinton administration's postponement of scheduled Treasury auctions escalates its budget battle with Republicans, and GOP is about to return the favor.

With the government's ability to borrow money likely to run out Nov. 15, the House Ways and Means Committee planned to vote today on a bill that would extend that authority into early or mid-December.

But the measure will include a provision prohibiting Pres-

ident Clinton from shifting money from federal trust funds or taking other steps to free up cash if Congress refuses to extend the debt limit again in the future, said a Republican aide, speaking on condition of anonymity.

It will ensure that the administration can't juggle the books, making the debt limit real and unavoidable, the aide said.

The measure is expected to reach the House floor Wednesday or Thursday.

There, it could be amended with other provisions the White House opposes but that some conservatives want as a price for their support.

There, it could be amended with other provisions the White House opposes but that some conservatives want as a price for their support.

GOP lawmakers have been threatening to withhold an extension of federal borrowing authority unless Clinton accedes to Republican proposals for balancing the budget by 2002.

TREVOR CLAY

Happy Birthday
Your 7 on Nov. 7th
It's a Full Moon
And it's
ELECTION DAY
WATCH OUT
WORLD!

YOU CAN WIN!

Here are the top 10 winners of last year's contest. There were 100 winners in all who got Bestman's!

Kate & Alex Conroy
Silver Spring, MD
Kate and Alex studied solar energy, built an oven and cooked things like chicken, zucchini and pretzels. They built their solar oven out of a box and aluminum foil. We liked it, and we also liked seeing a sister/brother team share it and the prize.

Mickey Cyprien
Mount Shasta, CA
Mickey designed a new kind of folded paper airplane. He kept track of each design detail and tested how it would make the plane work better or worse. The first plane went only 7 feet. But after 16 design changes, the plane he ended up with went 55 feet! (Mickey named it the Bestplane.)

Erin Rohan
Fort Pierce, FL
Erin learned lots from a baby bird she adopted. Lucky is a mockingbird that fell out of its nest. The baby bird was just days old and would die if someone didn't take care of it. Erin did. She figured how to make bird food out of mashed grasshoppers. Not only did Erin do a great job as a big bird, but she also kept a journal of it, which she sent us.

Jordan Yarden
Fargo, ND
Jordan sent us his collected writings. The folder included poems, short stories, legends and essays. He wrote so well, we called Jordan's mom to make sure he had really written it all. His Ode to Baseball essay was so good we all felt like we were at home plate facing a pitcher's mean curveball.

Janice Arnold
Terra Costa, OH
Janice conducted a really drastic project. She changed the setting of her body clock. She slept in the daytime and stayed up at night for a whole week. The important thing about this is that Janice kept records of her experiences and kept a journal of how her life had changed during the experience. One thing she learned was how lousy all-night TV is.

Sirak James
Arvada, AZ
Sirak found a seed in his new house. No one knew what kind of seeds they were. Sirak's family wanted to get 2 goats, but there wasn't any grass for them to eat. Then Sirak planted the seeds and took care of the plants. Luckily, goats will eat just about anything. When Sirak's brother arrived in Arizona, the whole family was together and Sirak's plants helped feed the goats.

Joshua Gilmoro
Chicopee, MA
Most people see a jungle gym. Joshua sees the letter B. For Joshua a toy car became the letter B. Joshua took his camera and went on a trip around town taking pictures of things that reminded him of the shapes of the letters of the alphabet. He sent us all 26 pictures.

Najeh Ali Rashid
Muharraq, Bahrain
Najeh took a look at what archeologists do and wrote a report about it. Then she went on a dig she created for herself, recording and examining the stuff she found where she lives in Bahrain — a nation in the Middle East. Najeh drew up pictures of the artifacts she found, which included rocks and soda-can tabs. She also wrote us a beautiful history of her country.

Erin Joyce
Fairview Park, OH
Like all of us, Erin is a real dreamer. She studied dreams and dreaming. She got books on dreaming from the library and kept a dream journal. Erin also produced a home video talk show with herself as host. She analyzed the dreams of people who called in. She also sang us the Everly Brothers song, "Dream, Dream, Dream."

NOV 07 1995

TUESDAY

NOV. 7

Table listing TV channels (KMO, KPEJ, KERA, etc.) and their respective programs for Tuesday, Nov 7, 1995.

BEETLE BAILEY



BLONDIE



GECK



GASOLINE ALLEY



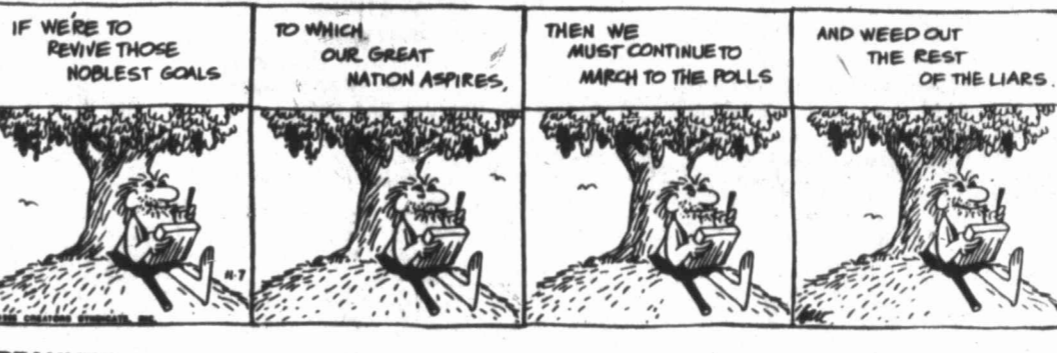
CALVIN & HOBBES



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



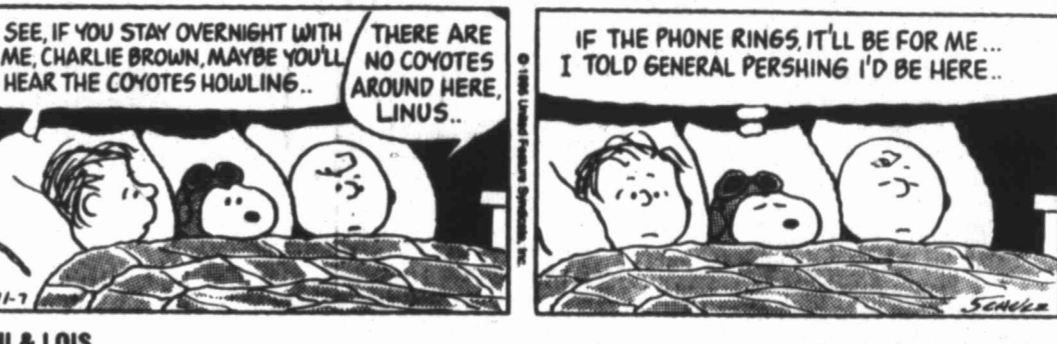
THE WIZARD OF ID



M.C.



PEANUTS



CINEMARK THEATRES MOVIES 4 listing movies like 'How to Make an American Quilt', 'Now and Then', 'Fair Game', and 'Vampire in Brooklyn' with showtimes.

DENNIS THE MENACE



FAMILY CIRCUS



HI & LOIS



SNUFFY



RITZ listing movies like 'Angus', 'Jade', 'Get Shorty', and 'Nicole Kidman in To Die For' with showtimes.

THE Daily Crossword by Don Johnson

Crossword puzzle grid and word lists (ACROSS, DOWN, Monday's Puzzle solved) for the Daily Crossword.

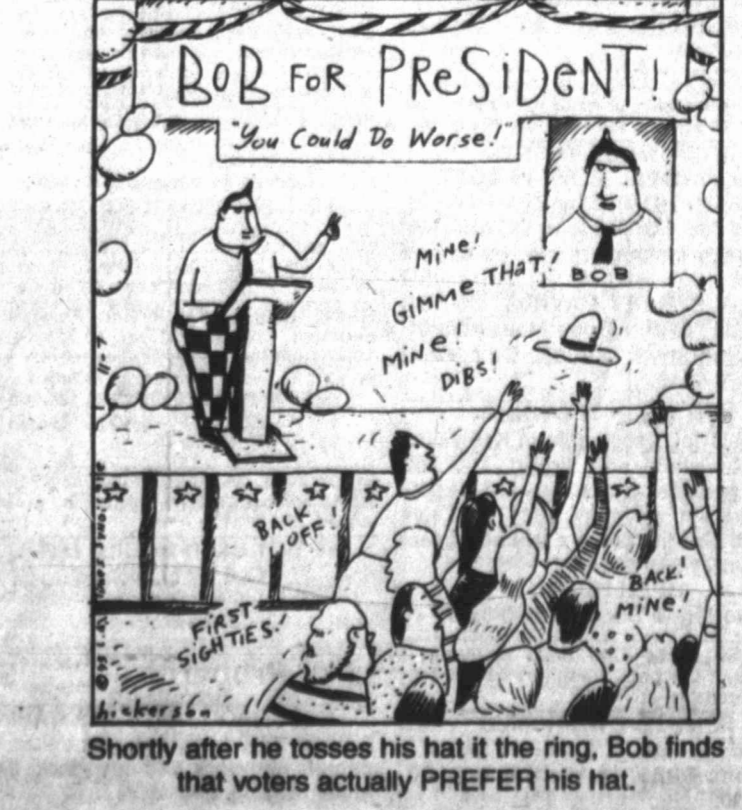
THIS DATE IN HISTORY

Today is Tuesday, Nov. 7, the 311th day of 1995. There are 54 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On Nov. 7, 1917, Russia's Bolshevik Revolution took place in a cartoon drawn by Thomas Nast in Harper's Weekly.

strongest remarks during the Persian Gulf crisis, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher warned Iraqi President Saddam Hussein that time was "running out" for a peaceful solution. One year ago: On the eve of Election Day, President Clinton concluded an eight-day campaign odyssey with an impassioned plea for embattled Democrats, saying, "We'll go forward, we don't want to go back," even as he braced for expected Republican gains in the House and Senate.

Big Spring Herald advertisement including contact info (915) 263-7331, Fax 915-264-7205, and office hours.

THE QUIGMANS by Buddy Hickerson



Shortly after he tosses his hat in the ring, Bob finds that voters actually PREFER his hat.