

# BIG SPRING HERALD

Reflecting A Proud Community

TUESDAY  
February 27, 1996

50 cents

## Commissioners implement burning ban throughout county

By CARLTON JOHNSON  
Staff Writer

Several West Texas counties, in light of the long dry spell that's plagued the region as well as the recent North Texas grass fires, have imposed county burning bans until the dry spell is broken.

Martin and Howard Counties are among these counties.

Martin County Judge Bob Davenport said, "It's a touchy issue and I hope these (dry spells) aren't normal times." The Martin County Commissioners' Court was unanimous in issuing its outdoor burning ban.

Davenport said its not a permanent

thing, but this is an emergency type of situation because one spark could cause a disaster.

The Howard County Commissioners' Court was not so united in issuing its outdoor burning ban, despite recommendations from Big Spring Fire Chief Frank Anderson and a plea from a local resident.

Several farmers are boll weevil trap burning and some just to clear land, but the dry conditions have at least three members of the court a bit nervous.

Commissioners Sonny Choate and Emma Brown were dead set against imposing a ban on county residents.

Choate said, "We as a court should urge people to use their heads when

burning outside, but not make any laws.

Commissioner Bill Crooker was in direct opposition saying the court should urge people to not burn trash period.

"We risk lives, we risk homes and we risk property by burning in the midst of a dry spell like this. People need to take a little more time to take trash to the dump," Crooker said.

Anderson said, "Conditions are very extreme in the county right now and the least little spark could ravage the entire county. Our vegetation is bone dry. I recommend a total burning ban except for supervised targeted burning where a large tanker and fire engine can be on site."

He added, "Open burning such as cans, containers and pits is unacceptable and will end up causing some big losses."

In April 1988, Scenic mountain went up in flames because of a spark from a welding torch being used to build a new water tank. Winds blew the sparks into the grass and 150 acres of brush and grassland and the one-million-gallon city water storage tank were destroyed.

Choate still objected to issuing a ban because he said it infringes on the citizens private property rights.

"If we restrict people on their own property, we'll end up having county crews picking their trash out of our bar ditches. I'm not for making rules

on private property," Choate said.

Crooker said, "I'm in disagreement and think we need to encourage people not to burn. When you lose a home, you've lost a lot."

One local citizen addressed the court saying he disagreed with Choate and Brown and that 57 other counties in the state have banned outdoor burning.

He said, "At the very least, banning outside burning along with a fine should be sufficient enough to stop the burning. There's no need for people to burn trash."

Choate said, "I think were about to do something we're going to find to live with."

Commissioners' passed the measure 3-2.

## Commissioners discuss Woodie Howell lawsuit 'threat' by his attorney

Howell blames "dirty" politics; attorney promises not to sue

By CARLTON JOHNSON  
Staff Writer

The Howard County Commissioners' Court met in executive session late Monday morning to discuss pending lawsuits and possible litigation with former Sheriff's deputy and Republican Sheriff candidate Woodie Howell.

Following the executive session Howard County Judge Ben Lockhart said the commissioners' court, after talking with attorneys in Austin, authorized him to make a statement about the situation.

"Our attorneys have advised

us that they have been in contact with Howell's attorney Cindy Weir-Ervin of Odessa and she indicated to them that she anticipates filing suit as some point on behalf of Howell against Howard County," Lockhart said.

Sources indicate that any litigation on behalf of Howell would include the claim he was wrongfully fired from the Howard County Sheriff's office.

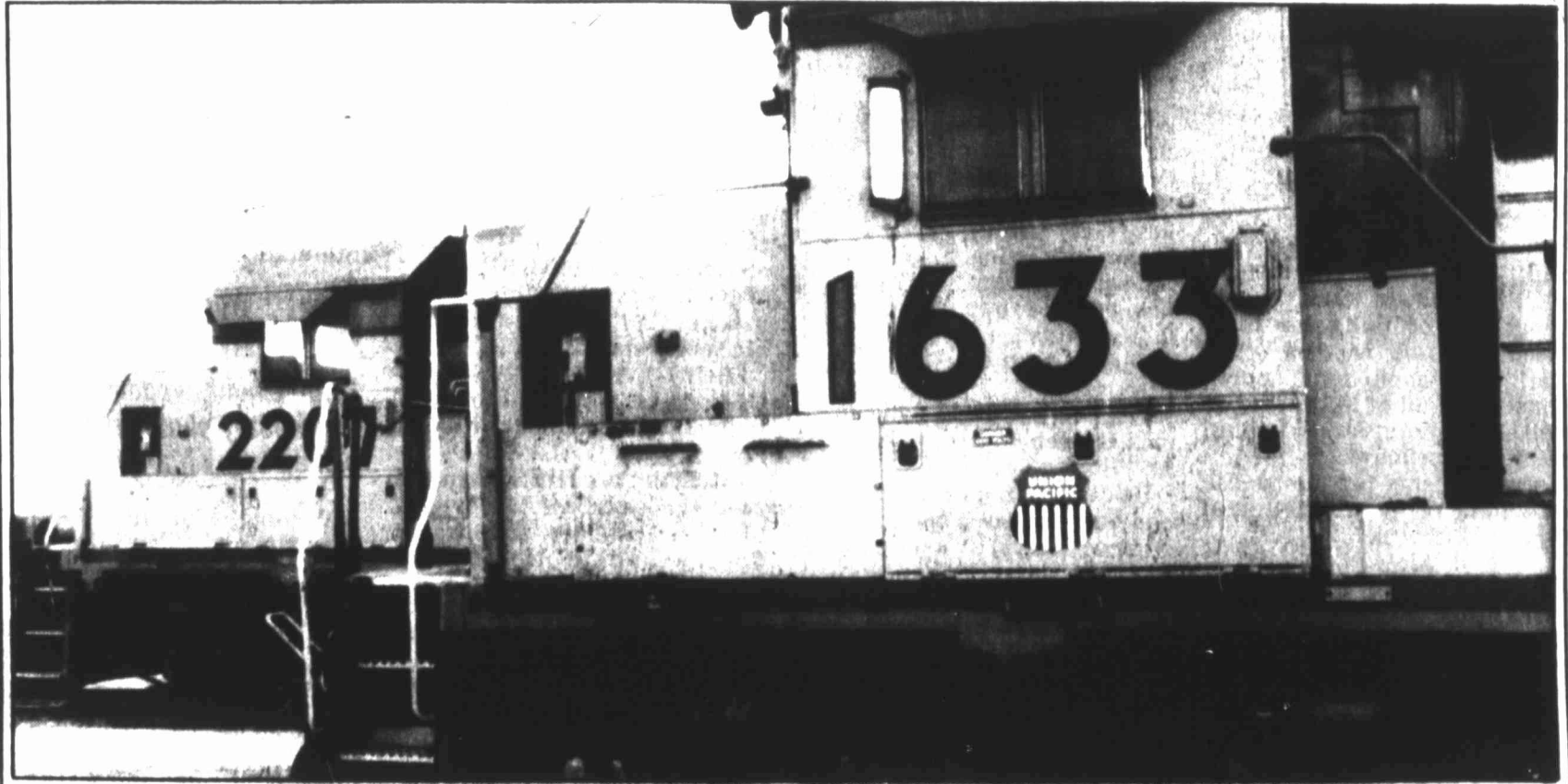
Howell and Ervin did not attend Monday's commissioners' court meeting, but Howell did respond to the charge that he would file suit against the county.

"I'm not suing the county and I don't know what they are talking about," Howell said.

He added the only reason he

See LAWSUIT, Page 2

## POWERFUL UNITS



Two Union Pacific locomotives sit in the Big Spring Yards this morning, waiting assignment on a train. Rail traffic through Big Spring is expected to increase dramatically if the Interstate Commerce Commission approves the pending merger of Southern Pacific into UP. That merger would make the line the largest in the world in respect to miles operated and rolling stock.

## Big Spring police nab two Florida murder suspects

By CARLTON JOHNSON  
Staff Writer

Two Florida murder suspects turned up in Big Spring this past weekend, but are now being expedited back to face charges in the murder of Bagdad, Fla. resident Calvin McCullers.

McCullers was found in his Bagdad, Florida home over the weekend. His throat had been slashed. Authorities believe he was killed Feb. 13.

On Saturday, officers with the Big Spring Police Department arrested the suspects while investigating the homicide after being contacted by Santa Rosa County officials.

Police arrested 24-year-old Dennis Penn and 19-year-old Marcus Brian McCullers,

the victim's stepson Saturday.

A female suspect, 17-year-old Catherine Caudell of Florida, was also taken into custody and questioned, but later released without charges being filed against her.

Florida investigators say Marcus McCullers' girlfriend was afraid Florida welfare workers would take her child, so McCullers and Penn allegedly concocted a scheme to leave Florida and killed the victim to steal his car.

Detectives Paul Lio and Tom Gunn traveled to Big Spring Monday to escort the suspects back to Florida to face murder and robbery charges as well as Texas charges of being fugitives from justice.

Lio said other motives for the killing are also possible.

The suspects and their girlfriends, along

with a six-week-old child ran out of money when they reached Texas and were staying at the Mayo Ranch Motel in Big Spring trying to figure out how to get their car repaired which had broken down on them. Detectives say the suspects were headed to New Mexico or California.

The child is currently in the care of Texas welfare officials.

One break in the investigation came when the estranged husband of Marcus McCullers' girlfriend implicated him to authorities.

Lio said, "The BSPD was they key break in this case and we appreciate their level of cooperation. The suspects will now be formally charged and booked in Florida and put through the legal system."

## MAKING A VOLCANO



Tiffany Richards, Ben Richardson and Alyssa Nunez add more dirt onto a pile on the College Heights Elementary School playground as they were building a volcano for a class project. Once the mountain was built high enough, their teacher added baking soda and vinegar for a lava effect.

## GOP hopefuls make final push for support in Arizona

ATLANTA (AP) — With GOP presidential hopefuls making a final push to sway votes in Arizona, Pat Buchanan defended his campaign and its supporters today, saying they were not extremists, but "good Americans. They want to participate."

Steve Forbes, hoping to repeat his primary in victory in Delaware on Saturday, also focused on Arizona.

Forbes said, "I'm not going to make any predictions. We are

attracting more and more support as we speak. We'll just take it from there."

Bob Dole played the endorsement game, making a pilgrimage on Sunday to the Arizona hilltop home of GOP conservative patriarch Barry Goldwater to win his endorsement and courting former President Bush. His campaign moved on to Georgia today.

Buchanan, in morning interviews, dismissed his Republican opponents, saying, "They

sound like Bill Clinton. They call me the same names Bill Clinton calls them. They look like they've picked up his vocabulary."

Buchanan dismissed suggestions he is attracting extremists.

"These are good Americans. They want to participate. All we're saying is open the door, we want to come in."

Arizona is the big prize on Tuesday, with 39 delegates for grabs.

Races are also being held Tuesday in North Dakota and South Dakota, followed by a "first-in-the-South" contest in South Carolina on Saturday.

Dole, the Senate majority leader, reorganizing his staff and trying to overcome two straight losses in New Hampshire and Delaware, disclosed that he'd talked to Bush soon after the New Hampshire vote.

Asked if he expected an endorsement, Dole said, "Well, it would be nice. I don't know."

**Howard Co. Trivia**

When did Howard County commissioners first meet?

July 1, 1882

**INDEX**

Abby ..... 6  
Classified ..... 6-7  
Comics ..... 8  
General News ..... 3  
Horoscope ..... 6  
Obituaries ..... 2  
Opinion ..... 4  
Sports ..... 6

Vol. 92, No. 130

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**RECIPE/READER PAGE**

**Attention readers:**

As part of the Herald's on-going efforts to provide you with a product you enjoy, we will be resuming a recipe page on April 10.

If you have a favorite recipe you'd like to submit, send it to Recipes, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721, Attn. Kellie Jones.

Also, we want you, our reader, to help us rename our reader page, currently titled "Huh?" Send your suggestions for a new name for the reader participation page to Reader Page, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721, Attn. Kellie Jones.

**STATE**

**Water restrictions**

For the first time ever, the Edwards Underground Water District imposing mandatory water conservation measures. Page 3.

**Amarilloans fight grass fires**

As north and central Texans pray for rain, firefighters battle a blaze near Amarillo. More than 180,000 acres have been burned statewide. Page 3

**TODAY'S WEATHER**

Today **71** ▲ Highs **24**  
Lows ▼

**Partly Cloudy**

Temperatures near 70 today, but much colder tonight with lows forecast to 25. Daytime winds northwest 10-to-20 and gusty.

**Tonight**

**Panhandle Basin Forecast**

Wednesday: Highs only near 50 with lows in upper teens. Cloudy, winds northeast 10-to-20.

Thursday: Highs near 45 and lows near 25. Windy with blowing dust expected.

FEB 27 1996



# New wildfire breaks out near Amarillo; 180,000 acres now burned

DALLAS (AP) — A new wildfire broke out Monday in rural Potter County near Amarillo, while North and Central Texas prayed for rain to thwart grass fires like those that ravaged thousands of acres last week.

The 2,000-acre fire, in an area of scattered homes some three miles northwest of Amarillo, was extinguished about 6:30 p.m., but hot spots continued to flare up.

A spokesman for the Potter County Sheriff's Department said at least one house was destroyed. No major injuries were reported, although some firefighters suffered smoke inhalation, the spokesman said. Since January, some 3,000 separate blazes have consumed more than 180,000 acres, almost 10 times as much land as all of last year, officials with the State Division of Emergency Management said.

Those 180,000 acres represent an area of 281 square miles, about 85 percent the size of Dallas.

More than 130 homes and 115 vehicles have been destroyed by fire, state figures show. The dollar amount of the damage has not been totaled.

Also Monday, Buddy Young, regional director for the Federal Emergency Management Agency, announced a "fire suppression grant" for Potter County.

A fire suppression grant reimburses the state for 70 percent of the costs of fighting the fires. The Potter County grant could also be expanded to other counties in the immediate area in more fires start, said FEMA spokesman Morrie Goodman.

Last week, FEMA announced a fire suppression grant for Parker, Wise and Jack counties, where 16,500 acres burned.

The fire suppression grants are in addition to the federal emergency declarations in 21 Texas counties last weekend. The emergency declaration pays for the federal government to stage equipment in areas where fires might break out.

No Texas counties have been declared disaster areas, which would send federal money to help pay for damage caused by the fires.

**Those 180,000 acres represent an area of 281 square miles, about 85 percent the size of Dallas.**

Parts of North and Central Texas received scattered rain showers Monday afternoon, and the forecast called for a chance of rain through the night and into Tuesday.

Much of the state is parched from lack of moisture.

North Texas, for example, has received only about 7 inches of rain since August. The normal rainfall for that period is about 17 inches, said Lori Bovitz, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service.



Firefighters from various departments watch as a wall of flames approach their position in a field near Agnes, in Parker County, where more than 25,000 acres have been burned thus far.

## U.N. denounces Cuba at U.S. insistence

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — At Washington's insistence, the U.N. Security Council denounced Cuba today for downing two American planes, but in much milder terms than the Clinton administration had sought.

After 16 hours of wrangling, the council adopted a statement saying it "strongly deplores" the attack Saturday, in which Cuban MiGs shot down two unarmed planes belonging to Brothers to the Rescue, a Miami-based group of Cuban exiles. The four Cuban-Americans aboard are presumed dead.

The United States originally asked the 15-member council to say it "condemns" the attack as an unlawful use of force and a threat to international order. None of that wording made the final statement.

Cuba's acting ambassador, Bruno Rodriguez, defended the attack before the council.

"International peace and security is not what is threatened today," Rodriguez said.

"It is the peace, sovereignty and security of Cuba which have been endangered for more than 35 years because of... those in a position of strength who promote action against my country," he said.

Cuba claims the planes were shot down over its territorial waters, which the United States denies. In the past, the exile group has rescued Cuban refugees from the waters off Cuba, and has dropped leaflets over Cuba criticizing Fidel Castro's communist government.

A Cuban Foreign Ministry spokesman called the resolution "a total miscarriage of justice" that lacked "any clear condemnation of the United States as the clear originator of this sequence of events."

U.S. officials allowed the

planes to take off from Florida despite knowing they would violate Cuban airspace, the spokesman, Miguel Alfonso Martinez, said in Geneva.

The Security Council presidential statement, accepted unanimously although without a formal vote, carries less weight than a formal council resolution, which would have required a vote.

It cites international covenants banning the use of weapons against civilian aircraft and asks the International Civil Aviation Organization in Montreal to conduct an immediate investigation.

Through that request, U.S. officials hope to lay a legal foundation for any future sanctions that might be imposed against Cuba.

Council diplomats said that apart from the Americans, there was little or no support for punitive actions against Cuba.

The United States had pressed the council to act on the statement without delay.

"It is important to the United States to get action on this heinous crime, and to have the international community make clear this is a major breach of international law," U.S. Ambassador Madeleine Albright said. "It is a criminal act."

As current holder of the rotating council presidency, Albright at one point threatened to keep the council in session until dawn, if necessary, diplomats said.

Council members beat that deadline by just three hours.

China's ambassador Qin Hua-sun had stalled, staying he needed to consult his government in Beijing. China also wanted to wait until the Cuban foreign minister, Roberto Robaina, arrived.

Eventually, the council agreed to let Rodriguez address the body.

When the council agreed upon the statement, Albright invited Rodriguez to take a seat at the council table to hear the statement, as is protocol.

Rodriguez stalked out instead. "I guess he doesn't want to," Albright said.

## Bodies of American students returned home from Israel after bombing attack Sunday

TEANECK, N.J. (AP) — Sara Duker flew to Israel last fall to continue her studies and be with her boyfriend, Matthew M. Eisenfeld. Early today, flag-draped coffins bearing Duker and Eisenfeld returned home aboard a plane to tearful families and a planned joint burial.

Duker, 22, and Eisenfeld, 25, were among 25 people during two bombing attacks on buses early Sunday in Jerusalem.

In a letter written Monday, Duker's sisters appealed for peace and paid tribute to Sara.

"For those who would use her death as an excuse to blame and hate, we can only say that our sister never hated anyone, and would never have wanted to contribute to the hate in this world," wrote Tamara, 20, and Ariella, 14.

Duker was the "antithesis of violence," said Rabbi Menahem Meier, the principal of her religious high school.

"I remember her as a real individual, who was brilliant,

who cared for others, and who felt that she could make a difference in others' lives," he said.

Duker had been taking classes at Hebrew University in Jerusalem and working in a school microbiology lab. She was a graduate of Barnard College in New York.

Eisenfeld was a second-year rabbinical student at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York, and was in the school's Jerusalem study program.

"He was a gentle soul with a very fine mind," said Benny Segal, head of studies at a Jerusalem seminary.

The couple had been dating, and Duker had gone to Israel in the fall in part to be near Eisenfeld, relatives said.

Funeral services were scheduled today for Duker in Teaneck, and on Wednesday for Eisenfeld in his hometown of West Hartford, Conn. They were to be buried side by side.

## Edwards sets first-ever usage restrictions

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — An appeals court, ending the threat of a federal takeover of the Edwards Aquifer, has ordered an end to a lawsuit brought by the Sierra Club against the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The action by the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals came Monday on the 58th day of the second-longest drought in San Antonio history. It also came on the same day the Edwards Underground Water District declared mandatory conservation measures for the first time since adopting its drought management plan in 1989.

A three-judge appeals court panel in New Orleans told Senior U.S. District Judge Lucius D. Bunton III of Midland to end a 5-year-old endangered species lawsuit.

The appeals judges said all the remedies requested by the Sierra Club in its lawsuit have been granted, so the case should be concluded.

"I think it's a good decision and a correct one," said Russell Johnson, attorney for the San

Antonio Water System. "But it sets the stage for Round Two."

Sierra Club attorney Stuart Henry said he is pleased with the suit's accomplishments getting the wildlife service to issue a plan to protect endangered species in Comal Springs and the state to create an authority to regulate pumping.

But he said more lawsuits to protect plants and animals that depend on aquifer-fed springs in New Braunfels are likely.

"If the aquifer keeps going down, and we start getting takes (deaths) of endangered species, I guess we'll have to start filing some lawsuits against San Antonio and a bunch of other pumpers," Henry said. "I don't know that we've got much choice. I hope like the dickens it rains."

Even the appeals court in its order acknowledged the possibility of more litigation, saying that if the Sierra Club wants additional relief it must file a new lawsuit.

The Sierra Club had asked and Bunton had threatened sev-

eral times to impose federal pumping limits, but the appeals court on Oct. 18 ordered Bunton to hold back, pending its review of the case.

The wildlife service Feb. 14 issued its recovery plan for aquifer species. The appeals court said that was the last step needed to satisfy Bunton's May 1993 final judgment in the case.

The Texas Attorney General's Office last fall appealed to the 5th Circuit over Bunton's appointment of a monitor to oversee the aquifer. The state also objected to being billed for one-third of the monitor's cost.

The appeals court Monday agreed with Bunton's actions, but instructed him to take the "steps necessary to conclude this case promptly."

While the order apparently brings at least a temporary halt to action in federal court, the Texas Supreme Court is scheduled next month to consider whether the authority created by the state to regulate the aquifer may go to work.

## Israelis pressure Palestinian arrests

JERUSALEM (AP) — Under pressure from Israel after two deadly bombings, Palestinian police have arrested more than 120 militants of the Islamic Hamas group.

Hamas members said today that only two of the detainees are leading Hamas figures and none belong to Hamas' military wing, Izzedine al Qassam, which carried out two weekend suicide bombings in Israel.

Prime Minister Shimon Peres has vowed to destroy Hamas and told Yasser Arafat he must disarm the group and arrest its leaders if he wants to remain a credible peace partner.

The Palestinian leader was to meet today with Israel's military commander, Lt. Gen. Amnon Shahak, to discuss the crackdown. Shahak will give Arafat a list of about 10 Hamas leaders Israel wants arrested, Israeli officials said.

Foremost on the wanted list is Mohammed Deif, the reported mastermind behind the bombings that killed 27 people Sun-

day in Jerusalem and the coastal town of Ashkelon.

Sunday's bombings on a Jerusalem bus and at a hitchhiking post for soldiers at Ashkelon were planned in Gaza, but the suicide bombers came from a refugee camp near the West Bank city of Hebron, which is still under Israeli control, Palestinian officials said.

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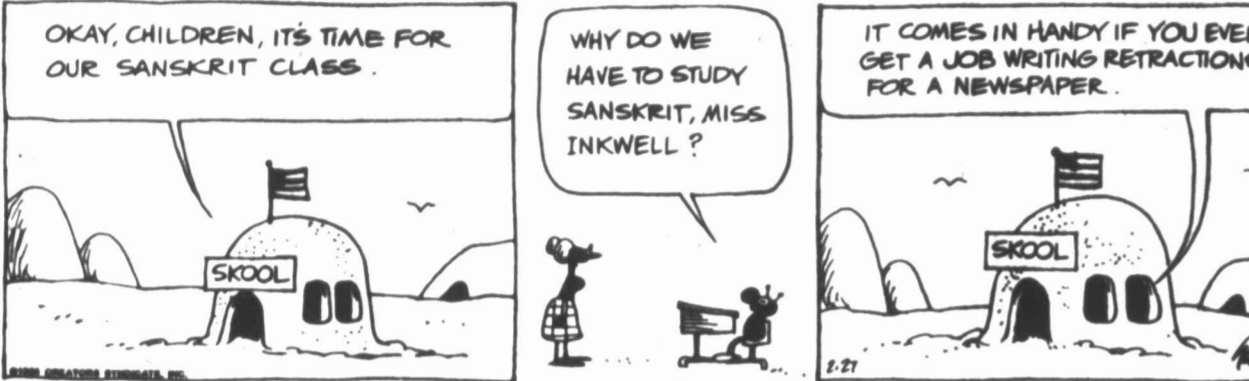
FEB. 27

Table with 31 columns representing different TV channels (KMBD, KPEJ, KERA, etc.) and rows listing various programs and their start times.

HAGAR



B.C.



GEECH



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FAMILY CIRCUS



'We're gonna play steppingstones.'

BLONDIE



THIS DATE IN HISTORY

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Today is Tuesday, Feb. 27, the 59th day of 1996. There are 308 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On Feb. 27, 1933, Germany's parliament building, the Reichstag, caught fire. The Nazis, blaming the Communists, used the fire as a pretext for suspending civil liberties.

ing Russian rule over Poland; five marchers were killed. In 1890, boxers Danny Needham and Patsy Kerrigan fought 100 rounds in San Francisco before the match was declared a draw, after more than six and a half hours. In 1922, the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously upheld the 19th Amendment to the Constitution that guaranteed the right of women to vote.

In 1973, members of the American Indian Movement occupied the hamlet of Wounded Knee in South Dakota, the site of the 1890 massacre of Sioux men, women and children. (The occupation lasted until May.) In 1979, Jane M. Byrne confounded Chicago's Democratic political machine as she upset Mayor Michael A. Bilandic to win their party's mayoral primary. (Byrne went on to win the election.)

THE Daily Crossword by Samuel K. Filegner

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words.

One year ago: Court-appointed salvagers swarmed into Britain's oldest investment bank to evaluate the remaining assets of Barings PLC after Nick Leeson, a 28-year-old trader, ruined the firm by gambling on Tokyo stock prices.

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Advertisement for RITZ eye care services.

Advertisement for Big Spring Herald newspaper, including contact information and office hours.

Advertisement for MOVIES 1 featuring 'HAPPY GILMORE', 'BROKEN ARROW', 'MUPPET TREASURE ISLAND', and 'RUMBLE IN THE BRONX'.