

# BIG SPRING HERALD

Reflecting A Proud Community

FRIDAY  
August 23, 1996

50 cents

## Experts tell farmers, ranchers little drought relief in sight

By STEVE REAGAN  
Staff Writer

ST. LAWRENCE — Don't let this morning's rains fool you — the drought is still with us, and it could stick around for a long time.

That's the news area agriculture producers got Thursday in St. Lawrence when they met with state and federal officials to get updated on drought relief measures.

George Bomar of the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission told the crowd that, not only does the

*"Everyone hates to hear it, but I don't see anything that would make me say, 'Better days are ahead ... The drought is going to break soon,' I just don't see that."*

George Bomar  
TNRCC official

current drought show no signs of slackening, it could end up rivaling the epic drought of the mid-1950s in length and severity.

Bomar said several long-range indicators, such as sunspot activity and El Niño weather patterns in the central

Pacific, usually foreshadow rainy weather for this area. The bad news is that those indicators are not present.

"Everyone hates to hear it, but I don't see anything that would make me say, 'Better days are ahead ... The drought is going to break soon,' "

Bomar said. "I just don't see that."

Using those long-range indicators, Bomar told producers that the odds are "two in three" that the drought will continue for the foreseeable future.

This area of the state has endured the longest sustained drought of the 1990s, something no other region of the state can claim, Bomar said. The area is entering its fourth straight year of drought.

Bomar said people should not be surprised that the drought is with us. In fact, he said it was way overdue.

"Droughts are cyclic," he said, indicating that extended dry weather hits

Texas about every 20 years. In this century, there have been droughts in the 1910s, the Dust Bowl drought of the '30s and the severe drought of the '50s. The pattern broke in the 1970s, but is back with a vengeance now, Bomar said.

The good news is that all droughts eventually end, and when this one does, it won't take an Einstein to figure it out.

"Earlier droughts ended abruptly, which leads me to believe that when this drought ends, you and I will know it," Bomar said. "But I would also suggest that this drought is going to live a while longer."

## Government officials detail help available

By STEVE REAGAN  
Staff Writer

ST. LAWRENCE — State officials greeted farmers and ranchers with the worst possible news Thursday — the current drought will probably stick around awhile — then softened the blow with news that help is available.

Led by State Rep. Bob Turner, state and federal officials met with area agriculture officials in St. Lawrence to update them on drought relief measures.

Those measures, to say the least, are varied. Government officials are doing everything they can — from providing emergency loans to advising farmers on water conservation to using every legal means to protect the state's water rights.

Turner said the widespread action is more than necessary.

"People are worried and concerned," he said. "I've had a lot of people tell me that if they don't make a crop this year, they'll have to close up shop."

In response to those concerns, Turner and recently retired State Sen. John Montford organized a series of meetings across the state with Texas agricultural producers. Thursday's meeting in St. Lawrence was the fourth such meeting.

After opening the meeting by telling the crowd that the current drought is liable to remain with us for a few more years, officials then unveiled a series of measures currently being taken to help ease the effects of the dry weather.

Among those relief measures are:

## Big Spring woman irked by postal service damages

By CARLTON JOHNSON  
Staff Writer

It wasn't supposed to happen this way, but when Melanie Gambrell received the floral arrangement from her father's funeral, the box marked "fragile" was severely damaged and so was the arrangement.

Gambrell, who owns the Pet Connection in Big Spring, attended her father's funeral in Harland, Iowa, in July and had some of the floral arrangement sent to relatives in Okinawa, Japan; Redding, Calif.; and some here to Big Spring.

"Generally, I ship a lot of things through the post office, but I have reservations if this is how things are handled," Gambrell said. "I just stood and cried when I looked at the box because I knew what the arrangement would look like."

As if once was not enough for Gambrell, she said she recently ordered a piece of exercise equipment which she received Thursday. The box was damaged and so was a rubber handlebar on the piece of equipment.

Gambrell was able to talk to Big Spring Postmaster Richard Saxton Thursday afternoon, and since that package was insured, Gambrell is in the process of filing the necessary insurance claims on the damaged package.

Saxton said the post office in Big Spring may see one claim (on an insured package) every two or three weeks but the post office does take claims seriously and looks into each claim.

Please see MAIL, page 2A



Melanie Gambrell looks at one of the damaged packages containing floral arrangement from her father's funeral she received in the mail recently. Gambrell is in the process of filing a damage claim with the Post Office.

## Chemical traces reported found in TWA wreckage

SMITHTOWN, N.Y. (AP) — Traces of a chemical residue that may have come from a bomb or a missile were found on wreckage fragments of TWA Flight 800, a source close to the investigation told The Associated Press.

The traces were "certainly consistent with a bomb or missile," according to the source, who spoke on the condition of anonymity Thursday night.

The source cautioned, "but whether or not a bomb or missile brought down that plane at this point we don't know for sure."

A senior law enforcement source in Washington told the AP that investigators still haven't ruled out other scenarios, including the possibility that a mechanical failure caused the explosion that downed the plane.

The sources were reacting to a report in today's New York Times that said investigators found critical chemical evidence that an explosive device detonated inside the passenger cabin. The newspaper said chemists at the FBI lab in Washington found traces of PETN, a component of some plastic explosives.

The Times said the investigators were not yet ready to declare the TWA disaster a crime because they were not certain whether the explosive was a bomb or a missile — critical information for a court case.

The senior law enforcement official in Washington who spoke with the AP on condition of anonymity, however, said the Times account was "kind of exaggerated in saying we're down to two options, either a bomb or a missile."

"All three of the theories, including a mechanical accident, are still being considered. None have been ruled out. No great corner has been turned in the investigation," the official said.

The TWA Boeing 747 blew up 11 minutes after takeoff from John F. Kennedy International Airport to Paris on July 17, killing all 230 people aboard. If it is declared a crime it would be the most deadly criminal act in U.S. history, surpassing the April 1995 bombing of a federal office building in Oklahoma City that killed 168.

The source in New York told the AP that the chemical was found two weeks ago.

## Water line break leaves intersection blocked off

By CARLTON JOHNSON  
Staff Writer

A Thursday evening break in an 8-inch circa-1920s cast iron water line at the west intersection of 4th and Main has caused traffic to be temporarily diverted in the area.

"What we did instead of using a repair clamp on the line was install new valves and pipes all the way across the street," City Engineer Ralph Truskowski said.

Traffic at the intersection was scheduled to be shut down all day Friday. Truskowski hoped at least one lane could be opened by 5 p.m., but the morning's rains meant those hopes would go unfulfilled.

"What we'll have to do now that the new line has been put in is come back and do pavement repair using the hot mix asphaltic concrete (HMAC) overlay process," Truskowski added.

The public is advised to avoid traveling near the intersection and seek alternate routes because of construction in the



City of Big Spring workers spread concrete into a trench where they were working on a water line break this morning. The break and subsequent repair work has shut down Fourth Street next to the Howard County Courthouse, and is expected to remain closed until late Saturday.

## City's 'home team' working on Clean Cities 2000 effort

By CARLTON JOHNSON  
Staff Writer

All it took was a few strokes of a pen from Big Spring High School senior Paul Haney, chairman of BSHS's Student Council Energy Committee, to State Rep. David Counts and Big Spring is the site of a Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission pilot program.

Haney wrote a letter to Counts, chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources, in February asking him what more could students do to help in the recycling effort. Counts relayed the message to TNRCC officials asking them to respond.

The pilot program, SWAP or Solid Waste Assistance Partner-

ships Program, was officially introduced by Counts and TNRCC officials at the Dora Roberts Community Center Thursday morning.

In July, the Big Spring City Council voted unanimously to approve a resolution authorizing Mayor Tim Blackshear to enter into a partnership with the TNRCC in connection with the SWAP program.

The agreement is part of the Clean Cities 2000 program and if successful, Big Spring would be the only city in West Texas with a Clean Cities 2000 designation.

"We are honored to have Big Spring chosen as the first city in Texas to participate in the SWAP partnership. This is a good example of how citizens of all ages can have a positive

impact in the community," Counts said. "We are bringing the resources and technical assistance available in Austin out to the folks in Big Spring, so that local officials can design and approve a program that is tailor made for their particular needs."

"Don't ever fall into the trap of thinking all of the good ideas come from Austin, they come from right out here," Counts added.

Big Spring is entering the program because the TNRCC has offered the city free technical assistance offering a practical approach to planning and implementing cost-effective waste reduction programs on a community level; and the SWAP program is an approach based

on pollution preventions and recycling technical assistance, rather than one dealing with inspection or enforcement; and benefits from this program may include increased recycling participation, reduction in landfill disposal, cost savings and perhaps revenue from the sale of recyclables.

The SWAP process includes a team of six to eight city representatives meeting with TNRCC officials as part of an eight-step process.

That process began three days ago when TNRCC officials arrived in Big Spring.

The Big Spring team, referred to as the "Home Team," is made up of Howard Shivers, Tara

Please see TEAM, page 2A

## Pancake breakfast gets Howard Co. Fair events under way

HERALD Staff Report

Looking for something to do this weekend? Here's your ticket to weekend activities in and around Big Spring.

This feature is published each Friday and will include a variety of activities. It is limited to activities of a general nature, community fund-raisers, community functions, free performances, etc. It is not available to commercial ventures or for such events as dances where admission is charged.

To submit your activity, send it to "Weekend Ticket," Big



Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721.

If you wish, you may fax your listing to 264-7205 or bring it by the Herald offices at 710 Scurry St. No information will be taken by phone.

• Spring City Senior Center dance, tonight, 7:30 p.m.-10:30 p.m. Spring City Senior Center. Music by CW & Co.

• Heritage Museum, today from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Heritage Museum, 510 Scurry, Big Spring. Learn about the history of Big Spring and Howard County Friends.

• Pancake Breakfast, Saturday from 7 a.m.-9:30 a.m. at Santa Fe Sandwich Shop, Big Spring Mall.

This all-you-can-eat breakfast is a fund-raiser for the children's petting zoo to be held at the Howard County Fair and is a function of the fair association.

Cost is \$4 per person.

• Car wash, Saturday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Taco Villa, 1501 Gregg.

This donation-based fund-raiser is being conducted by the youth group of Cornerstone Church to fund their activities

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Vol. 92, No. 274

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### TODAY'S WEATHER

87 ▲ Highs 65  
Lows ▼

Mostly cloudy tonight with chance of showers and a low in the mid 60s. Saturday, mostly cloudy with a chance of rain. High in the upper 80s and a low in the 60s.





TEXAS BRIEFS

Wrong computer command led to Colombia crash

DALLAS (AP) — The captain of an American Airlines jet that crashed into a Colombian mountainside last December entered a computer command that inadvertently steered the plane in the wrong direction, according to a company letter obtained by The Dallas Morning News.

The finding, which highlights potentially serious problems regarding jetliner pilots and their computers, contradicts a National Transportation Safety Board report that said pilots of the Boeing 757 were wandering around lost just before the crash that killed all but four of 163 aboard.

American Airlines investigators found that the captain of Flight 965 apparently thought he had programmed the coordinates for the intended destination, Cali, by punching a one-letter command into the on-board computer.

But that command steered the plane toward Bogota, 132 miles in the opposite direction, and in the direction of the mountain.

According to a letter written by Cecil Ewell, American's chief pilot and vice president for flight, the listing for Cali and Bogota on South American aeronautical charts is identical. The coding, however, differs in most computer databases, Ewell said.

Ewell said the airline investigators discovered the mistake when they compared data from the jetliner's navigation computer with information previously retrieved in the plane's wreckage.

Texas Dems donate more than \$6 million in 'soft money'

DALLAS (AP) — The national Democratic Party has reeled in more than \$6 million in so-called "soft money" donations from Texans during the current election cycle, The Dallas Morning News reported in a copyright story today.

In a computer-assisted analysis of Federal Election Commission records, the newspaper also found that at least a dozen Texans have committed to raise \$350,000 each for the party and President Clinton's re-election bid.

The so-called Democratic Dream Team members both contribute their own money and collect it from friends. The cash is donated as "soft money," which is exempt from federal contribution limits.

"I call them raisers and writers, and some do both," Truman Arnold, a Texarkana businessman and member of the elite group, told the newspaper.

"Some of these people just write checks and don't raise," he said. "Some don't have the ability to write, but are tremendous fund-raisers. And some are in between."

In a similar report published two weeks ago, the newspaper found that the Republican Party has received some \$7.5 million in "soft money" from Texas.

Federal law limits single donations to \$1,000 for a national candidate. Donations are unlimited, however, when directed to national political parties.

DPS: More than 90,000 licensed to carry handguns

AUSTIN (AP) — More than 90,000 Texans are licensed to carry concealed handguns, according to the Department of Public Safety.

The DPS says it issued 91,501 concealed-carry licenses as of Wednesday. Another 617 people were denied licenses.

The department on Thursday released its monthly report covering 85,818 licenses issued as of Aug. 1.

The report showed 77 percent of those permits went to white men. That could include Hispanics, who are not counted separately.

The report also showed 17 percent of the permits went to white women, 2.6 percent to black men and 0.4 percent to black women.

State files suit on 20 nursing homes

AUSTIN (AP) — The deaths of two vulnerable nursing home residents — a baby and an older woman — are tragic examples of the need to restore stronger state regulation of the homes, Attorney General Dan Morales says.

The two nursing homes were among four sued Thursday by Morales on allegations of health and safety violations.

He sued 16 more on allegations that they misrepresented their health and safety record to the public.

But it's likely the four safety-related lawsuits will never make it to court because of a 1995 law allowing nursing homes to choose to settle such cases through arbitration, Morales said.

"We have now lost our ability to take these bad nursing home operators into a court of law even when there is a death that has occurred," he said. "The sanctions we can impose on bad operators have all the sting of a parking ticket."

Morales said the 1995 law had a direct bearing on the case involving the elderly woman's death, which came after she choked on food.

The law allows nursing homes to bypass requirements that have provided crucial protection to residents, such as feeding assistance, according to Morales.

"This is exactly what we were afraid of," he said.

The case involving the woman's death was filed against Bri-

arcliff Health Center in Carthage.

Morales said the nursing home didn't properly prepare the 62-year-old woman's food and didn't supervise her eating. He said she choked and then died of related complications.

Morales is seeking civil penalties in the case that could range from \$200 to \$20,000. The penalty is \$100 to \$10,000 per violation, he said, and two safety violations are alleged in connection with the death.

An administrator with the nursing home didn't return telephone calls from The Associated Press.

The lawsuit involving the baby was filed against the Truman W. Smith Children's Care Center in Gladewater. Morales

said a 15-month-old infant was placed on a heating pad for so long that his body temperature rose to 108 degrees, and he died.

In that case, Morales is seeking civil penalties that he said could range from \$600 to \$60,000.

A telephone call to the center was referred to a woman identified as an administrator. She refused to give her name and had no comment.

Two other nursing homes, Rowlett Nursing Center in Rowlett and Sunny Acres of De Kalb, also were accused in lawsuits of endangering residents' health and safety.

A spokeswoman for the Rowlett center, DeLana Thompson, had no immediate comment.

Cities band together to plead for Texas Eagle

FORT WORTH (AP) — The days when Texas Eagle passenger train can be financially successful have gone the way of the steam locomotive, an Amtrak official says.

Amtrak, faced with a potential \$258 million deficit for 1995, plans to discontinue the Texas Eagle as part of money-saving changes to take effect Nov. 10.

Officials from cities along the Texas Eagle route in Texas, Arkansas and Louisiana gathered Thursday to ask Amtrak to reconsider the cancellation, saying they can attract the tourists who will ride the train.

The Eagle, which Amtrak says has lost \$8.6 million so far in fiscal 1996, currently runs three times a week between Chicago, St. Louis, Little Rock, Dallas, Fort Worth and San Antonio.

The plan to cut service comes as Congress is moving to slash the railroad's requested subsidy by \$50 million for 1997.

Amtrak's changes, which also include closing two other routes, still will leave the railroad with nearly a \$60 million

shortfall.

"We are doing the best we can. Unfortunately, that means we have to make tough decisions," said Mark Cane, president of Amtrak intercity rail operations.

Cane said the Texas Eagle had weak potential for vacation revenue and mail service.

"We have a healthy, growing economy along the Texas Eagle route," said Mineola Mayor Celia Boswell, who added that the Texas Eagle had been "programmed to fail" because of

poor scheduling with no Friday service and trains that can't accommodate travelers who want to book tickets.

"Put the train where the people are. Put the train where the people want to go."

Eliminating the Eagle would mean that more than a dozen Texas cities will be without passenger rail service, including Dallas, Fort Worth, Texarkana, Marshall, Longview, Mineola, Cleburne, Temple, McGregor, Taylor, Longview, Austin and San Marcos.

revised economic figures indicate some general improvement in projected crop losses.

However, the figures also show the serious economic hardships being suffered by livestock producers who continue to face poor pasture conditions and higher feed costs.

Added feed costs for beef producers have increased 46 percent from earlier projections, to a total of \$546 million.

Drought damage estimate drops to \$2.1 billion with rains

AUSTIN (AP) — Scattered rains have helped to slightly ease damage projected from the drought. But Agriculture Commissioner Rick Perry says Texas farmers and ranchers still will suffer more than \$2 billion in losses this year.

Perry described that hit as a "major blow" to the state's second-largest industry.

"Scattered rain across the state has helped a little, as this latest figure indicates, but many of our producers will still face major income losses," he said Thursday.

In late May, Texas agricultural officials had projected the drought's agricultural damage at \$2.4 billion and the statewide total at about \$6.5 billion.

The Texas Agricultural Extension Service now estimates \$2.1 billion in agricultural losses and an overall, statewide economic loss of \$5 billion, Perry said.

"Summer rains have given us a reprieve but certainly not a pardon," he said of the improvement.

Half of the state's 254 counties have received disaster declarations because of the prolonged drought.

Texas Department of Agriculture spokesman Gene Acuna said the agency is working with more than 20 additional counties that still seek disaster declarations.

"We've continued to urge the USDA to expedite these things," Acuna said. "It's still taking an average of about 80 days from the time they get the paperwork until we get word."

Agricultural officials said the

Police arrest 18-year-old in shooting

DALLAS (AP) — Police have arrested an 18-year-old boy suspected of injuring six Sunset High School students with a shotgun blast fired from a passing van.

Alex Arzola, 18, of Dallas was arrested early today on a charge of aggravated assault, police Sgt. Jim Chandler said.

Arzola's bond was set at \$50,000 after he surrendered at the Lew Sterrett Justice Center, Chandler said.

The suspected driver, Stephanie Laredo, 17, of Dallas surrendered to Dallas police gang detectives, earlier this week. She was being held on \$50,000 bond on a charge of aggravated assault.

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EDITORIAL

Note of the Day

"We are all citizens of history."

-Clifton Fadiman

The opinion expressed is that of the Editorial Board of the Big Spring Herald unless otherwise noted. Other opinions are those of the respective columnist or writer.

Charles C. Williams  
Publisher

John H. Walker  
Managing Editor

OUR VIEWS

We salute:

Each Friday, the Herald salutes individuals and groups from our community and area who have been recognized for special achievements or accomplishments.

We recognize these special people for working to help make our region a better place to live, work and play.

This week we salute:  
\* HOWARD COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION for making the decision to mark the original Big Spring township plat, dated April 15, 1882, with historical markers.

The efforts of the county commission helps maintain a continuity between our past, our present and our future.

\* Local members of the TEXAS AUTOMOBILE DEALERS ASSOCIATION for their donation of a life-life CPR training mannequin for the Coahoma EMS/Fire Department.

\* Big Spring's PROUD CITIZENS, for their efforts to remove unlawful signs from utility poles and to remove the many thousands of hazardous nails, staples and other fastening instruments people have used over the years to illegally secure signs to utility poles.

Is there an individual or organization in our community that you feel should be saluted? If so, please send us their name and why you think they should be recognized. We must have your name and telephone number and you must provide it in writing — no phone calls.

OTHER VIEWS

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 was, paradoxically enough, almost a health risk as President Clinton and Republican and Democratic members of Congress all but tripped over each other to take credit for it. In the end, the president himself actually signed the legislation into law, and there were statesmanlike speeches about the glories of bipartisanship. But the bill isn't the great boon to 25 million uninsuredly insured Americans that its many political parents claim.

To be sure, the act is worth something. Its two main provisions would (1) forbid insurance companies from dropping an individual's coverage just because she became ill or (2) bar insurers from withholding coverage for longer than 12 months to new workers with pre-employment medical conditions. On the surface, this all looks like a protective egg around Americans' access to health care.

But in fact the egg's shell is only as thick as workers' or businesses' wallets. Although insurers no longer can drop risky policyholders, they remain free to raise premiums without a by-your-leave to any-

one except state insurance regulators (many of whom stoutly guard insurance companies' interests against the depredations of sick folks). To guarantee groups of workers in a business the "right" to coverage they can't afford is much like telling a shift of minimum-wage workers they have a "right" to buy a Key West condominium. Well, yes. But the right is merely theoretical without the wherewithal to exercise it.

Meanwhile, two of the new law's less trumpeted features deserve more fanfare. Self-employed Americans who have been able to deduct from taxes only 30 percent of their health-insurance premiums can soon deduct 80 percent. And the act authorizes a test of medical savings accounts. Tax-free MSAs could be drawn on only to pay medical bills. Come retirement, account holders could freely access anything left over. This incentive to good health habits and smart health-policy shopping seems a promising way to hold down medical costs.

Overall, Congress and President Clinton have done good work for Americans at risk of losing insurance coverage. But not quite as good as they let on.

-SCRIPPS HOWARD NEWS SERVICE

WHERE TO WRITE

**IN AUSTIN:**  
**GEORGE W. BUSH,** Governor, State Capitol, Austin, 78701. Phone: Toll free 1-800-252-9600, 512-463-2000; fax 512-463-1849.  
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**JAMES E. "PETE" LANEY,** Speaker of the House, State Capitol, Austin. Phone: 806-839-2478, 512-463-3000.  
**JOHN T. MONTFORD,** Senator, 28th District, P.O. Box 1709, Lubbock, 79408. Phone: 267-7535, 806-744-5555, 512-463-0128; fax 806-762-4217.  
**DAVID COUNTS,** Representative, 78th District, P.O. Box 338, Knox City, 79529. Phone: 817-658-5012.

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More of Moseley's 'Believe it or not' from the wire

Once again, there's neat stuff on *The Associated Press* wire report that couldn't find its way into the Herald.

And for some reason, people and their animals — some of them aren't even "their" animals — make for the best and often funniest reading.

One of the most interesting was a story out of Andreas, Pa., where workers repairing a stretch of roadway paved straight over a dead deer that one official says was hard to miss.

The minute I saw that story, I wondered if that's where the bump my car was virtually wrecked on one evening while negotiating East 11th Place came from.

Anyhow, the story went on to explain that a gooey spread of oil and rocks covers the deer's head, neck and shoulders along Route 895.

"The deer was lying there dead for three to four weeks," said Keith Billig, mayor of nearby Bowmanstown, about 65 miles northwest of Philadelphia. "I never saw anything like that before in my life."

It is against state policy to pave over a deer, said Walter



**John A. Moseley**  
Ast. News Editor

Bortree, a Pennsylvania Department of Transportation engineer.

"We do not routinely oil and chip over deer kill," Bortree said. "If in fact the deer was in the work area, it should have been removed before the work was done."

Bortree said the private contractor that did the work for the state probably missed seeing the deer because it was on the edge of the road.

But Billig said the animal is in plain view.

"You can't miss it," he said. "It's in a straightaway. If they couldn't see it, then they can't see the numbers on their checks either."

"We used a crow bar to try to get its mouth off her. We had a good 15 minute struggle," Carter said.

Finally, the paramedics used a hacksaw to remove the animal's head and release its grip.

"I don't think there's a written procedure to unravel a snake from its owner. Officers had never responded to a call like that," police spokesman Bill Robinson said.

City regulations there do not prohibit snakes as pets, although it probably should have been kept in a cage, Robinson noted.

And consequent inability to mate."

And all I thought Polly wanted was a cracker!"

The folks out there in Scottsbluff, Neb., that's right — the same place where Herald Editor John H. Walker once plied his trade, at Regional West Medical Center didn't even bat an eye when confronted with a 36-year-old chimpanzee with a lung condition.

What did the staff when that unusual patient came to their door? They treated her just like any other patient.

"It was just like a furry small person," surgical nurse Christy Jay said Tuesday.

Perhaps Big Spring's city council and its Animal Control Committee might take notice of the mess paramedics in San Diego, Calif., encountered when they were confronted by a couple's pet snake.

They were eventually forced to behead the 9-foot python after it wrapped itself around a pregnant woman's stomach and also entangled her husband.

As Dave Berry would say, I'm not making this up!

Mary Anne Carter, who is eight months pregnant, woke up about 10 a.m. Wednesday to find the Burmese python coiled around her stomach and biting her buttocks, police said.

Her husband tried to free her using a small knife, but he too became ensnared. "It totally locked up the right side of my body," Carter said.

Then a neighbor tried unsuccessfully to help.

In Australia — and again, I'm not making it up — a bird lover has filed a lawsuit against a veterinarian for ruining the sex life of his favorite parrot.

Roger Schlup told the New South Wales District Court that he took his blue and gold South American macaw named Nelson to veterinarian Ross Perry with a broken right leg in 1994.

He alleges that Perry somehow broke the bird's other leg during treatment and then failed to fix either properly.

Schlup claims strong legs are essential for the macaws' intricate mating ritual.

"It is necessary for the male and female to stand on a perch next to each other, twist around and align their rear ends," Schlup said in a statement to the court.

"As a result of the negligent treatment, Nelson has been left with a ... significant deformity of the left leg, a loss of mobility and loss of power and strength

Doctors at the hospital performed lung surgery Sunday on Pani, a resident of the Riverside Zoo who had been near death.

Pani had been ill for two weeks and antibiotics weren't working. The zoo brought Pani's chest X-rays to a hospital radiologist, who immediately diagnosed her with a collapsed lung.

Doctors reinflated the right lung and repaired the area where air sacs had ruptured. The hospital performed the procedure free of charge and all doctors and surgical staff donated their time.

The chimp was released the same day and is now recovering back at the zoo.

No wonder John wanted to come back to West Texas.

(John A. Moseley is assistant news editor of the Herald. His column appears on Fridays.)

Dole not likely to win a war of the generations

By LEONARD LARSEN  
Scripps Howard News Service

Bob Dole, in his early presidential poker, may have moved too many chips onto a risky bet — that he helps himself by slamming President Clinton as the soul and symbol of the baby boomers many of us loved to hate.

It might have been a good strategy 30 or even 20 years ago, when Boomers' image was the long-haired, pot-smoking draft-dodgers who upset their parents and a series of presidents but who — for all the trouble they caused — didn't turn out in great numbers to vote. It might be a strategy that still works for Dole when he speaks, as he did the other day, at a Veterans of Foreign Wars convention or other meetings where older people with shared memories and experiences pre-dating the Boomer era gather to whack away at Clinton and his whole crowd.

But there's trouble for Dole in that the Baby Boomers and the

post-Boomer generation of voting-age Americans now far outnumber Dole's generation, even if all Americans older than 50 are counted with the older, non-Boomer group.

The 1990 U.S. Census data show that the entire number of persons aged 50 and older is estimated at 77 million, by coincidence the same number as what's been estimated to be the number of Baby Boomers born between 1946 and 1964. But in a purely generational calculation, the Boomer voters would be joined by the younger non-Boomers, an estimated 31 million persons of voting age and most of them probably closer to the Boomer frame of mind than that of America's older folks.

An even more Dole-threatening calculation from the Census data would be the estimate that 12.6 percent, or about 32 million of the population, are older Americans, people actually of Dole's generation who are now 65 and older, that 32 million to be compared with the potential votes among a total of 108 million Boomers and

non-Boomers under age 50.

The point in the numbers is that when Dole, as he did in his acceptance speech in San Diego and as he's done since, condemns President Clinton in the broad-brush criticisms used against a generation that dominated the 1960s with protest and dissent, then he risks alienation of the millions of Americans in that entire group, not only the Baby Boomers but younger people who came after them.

Clinton, it could be reasonably argued, has already survived that generational criticism, burdened in 1992 with exposure that he was a draft-dodger during the Vietnam War and something of an unfaithful husband but still winning the presidency.

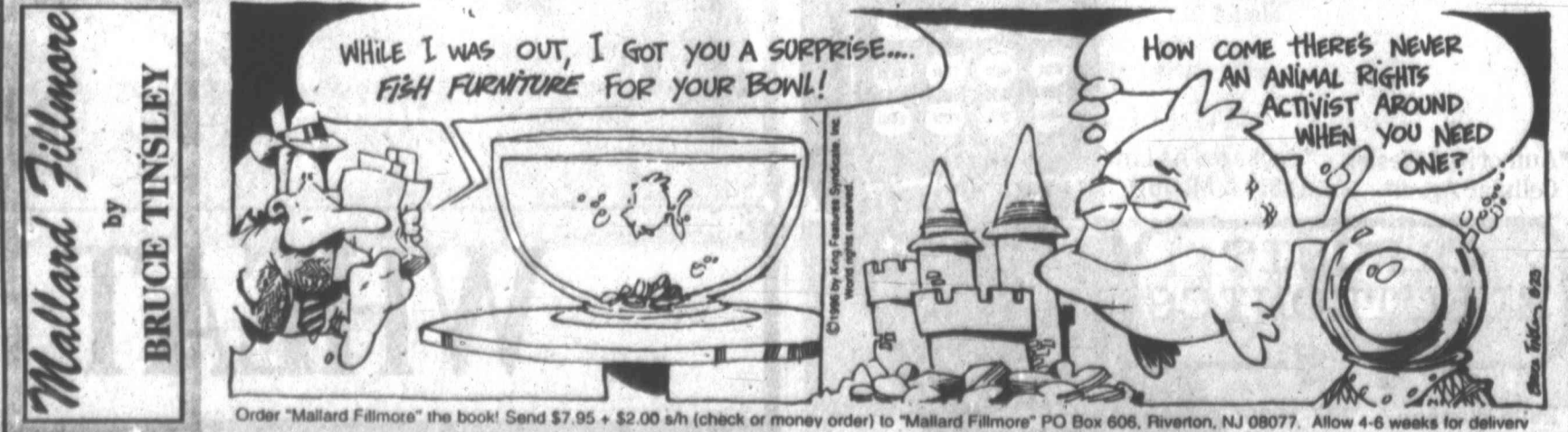
And as this one American of Dole's generation can tell him, even your own Baby Boomer children — now older, articulate and voting — are likely to get snappish when you let loose a broadside that lumps them and all their generation to conduct and an outlook on life that's condemned

largely because it's not like yours.

One passage that jumped out of Dole's acceptance speech was a thrust at President Clinton that was, all at the same time, one of Dole's best lines and, perhaps, his biggest mistake. Speaking of the Clinton administration and the occupants of the working White House, Dole blasted them as a rabble "who never grew up, never did anything real, never sacrificed, never suffered and never learned."

It was a withering observation that carried enough truth that Clinton staffers rushed out with an odd reply, using the hard work and tough-times experiences of their parents as proof that Dole had unfairly abused them. So Dole made the Clinton White House cringe and, no doubt, made points with millions of Clinton opponents, certainly those in Dole's own generation.

It boils down to another outcrop of the age issue and it hurts Dole, age 73, more than it hurts Clinton, age 50.



Order "Mallard Fillmore" the book! Send \$7.95 + \$2.00 s/h (check or money order) to "Mallard Fillmore" PO Box 606, Riverton, NJ 08077. Allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.

# Clinton attempts to soothe tension over signing welfare law

WASHINGTON (AP) — With a few pen strokes, President Clinton not only changed welfare "as we know it," he also altered his relationship, as he knew it, with some Democratic constituencies he'll need to get re-elected.

The president signed a new law Thursday that replaces the 60-year-old policy of guaranteed federal aid for the down-trodden with state-run programs that insist the poor go to work. He did this while pledging to find ways to fix the law.

But a number of Democratic voting blocs — particularly women — labeled that odious. "This act will leave a moral blot on his presidency and on our nation that will never be forgotten," said Marian Wright Edelman, president of the Children's Defense Fund and a longtime friend of Clinton.

The challenge for Clinton is to soothe annoyed Democrats enough so they will turn out Election Day. Some, however, were too angry Thursday to consider the possibilities.

"We know he is, at best, our option this year, not our answer," said Patricia Ireland, president of National Organization for Women. She predicted that many in Clinton's Democratic base "will refuse to lift a finger or contribute a penny toward his re-election" because he signed the welfare bill.

At the signing ceremony, Clinton promised that "we can change what is wrong" with the new law. "Let's work together in good spirits and good faith to remedy what is wrong."

"We are ending welfare as we know it. But I hope this day will be remembered not for what it ended, but for what it began — a new day that offers hope, honors responsibility, rewards work."

Thursday's signing, coupled with health insurance changes and a minimum wage increase, ended a weeklong frenzy of bill signings expected to swell Clinton's popularity in advance of the Democratic National Convention.

Clinton alluded to a package

of proposals he will unveil next week to create jobs in high-poverty areas or reward companies that hire welfare recipients. And aides said he wants the Justice Department to determine whether he can grant a grace period for legal immigrants who will lose benefits.

White House spokesman Mike McCurry said Clinton will reach out to "everyone who has got commitments to those who are poor" as he looks to offset the impact of the changes, adding:

"If the president has to live without the support of the National Organization (for) Women in the coming election, he'll just have to pay that price."

Republicans, who pressed the welfare legislation and many of the health reforms, accused Clinton of signing the welfare plan only in the interest of getting re-elected.

"It's too bad Bill Clinton wasn't up for re-election more often during his presidency," said GOP chairman Haley Barbour.

## Dolly set to swirl on Mexican coast for a second time

TAMPICO, Mexico (AP) — Heavy rain and high winds tossed boats in harbors up and down the Gulf Coast today as Hurricane Dolly swirled in for a second strike on Mexico.

The storm began to be felt in the oil and fishing port of Tampico late Thursday and continued into this morning, causing brief and sporadic power outages in some neighborhoods. High gusts bent palm trees.

Dolly's sustained wind of 80 mph was expected to strengthen as the hurricane approached landfall near Tampico, 210 miles northeast of Mexico City, according to the U.S. National Hurricane Center.

At 8 a.m. EDT, the storm was 40 miles southeast of Tampico.

Hurricane warnings were posted along Mexico's northeastern coast from La Pesca, 155 miles from the Texas border, south to Veracruz. The storm was not expected to reach as far north as Texas.

Up to a foot of rain was expected along coastal areas in the Mexican states of Veracruz and Tamaulipas, where flash flooding and mudslides were possible.

On Thursday, authorities evacuated 6,500 people in low-lying areas of Tampico as a

precaution, a Red Cross official said. The port, boxed in by the Gulf to the east and lagoons to the west, is prone to flooding.

Tampico's port was one of 37 along the Gulf closed because of high wind and waves. More than 450,000 people live in Tampico and neighboring Ciudad Madero.

Dolly briefly reached hurricane force of 74 mph when it first hit Mexico on Tuesday. Its journey across the Yucatan Peninsula knocked the wind back to about 35 mph a day later.

It regained strength in the Gulf for a second strike at Mexico — Hurricanes tend to disintegrate when they reach land and strengthen when over warm water.

There have been no confirmed deaths, but there were reports of two fishermen missing in the Yucatan state of Quintana Roo. Officials said the storm destroyed 16 houses and damaged 26 others.

Petroleos Mexicanos, the state-owned oil company, on Thursday reopened one of the three major Gulf Coast oil-supply terminals it had closed Tuesday because of the storm.

Forecasters said they doubted the storm would swing north toward drought-parched Texas.

## Dole's support now a little wider, deeper

NEW YORK (AP) — Bob Dole still trails President Clinton but has more and stronger support a week after the Republican National Convention than he did early this month, according to a national poll released Thursday.

The NBC-Wall Street Journal survey conducted Tuesday and Wednesday found 27 percent of registered voters now say they definitely would back Dole if the election were today, up from 18 percent in an Aug. 2-6 poll.

Clinton's "definite" support was at 32 percent, statistically unchanged from 34 percent in early August. Of course, he still can get a public opinion "bounce" of his own from the Democratic convention next week.

Ross Perot got no bump from the Reform Party convention that made him the party's presidential nominee over the weekend. His strong support was at 4 percent, the same as early this month.

Overall, including voters who say they probably would vote for their candidate but are "still thinking about it," Clinton led 48 percent to 38 percent for Dole and 8 percent for Perot. That compares to a 50-30-10 race in the early August NBC-Journal poll.

Looking another way at strength of support, 70 percent of Dole supporters now say they definitely would vote for him, up from 62 percent before; 67 percent of Clinton voters say that, unchanged; and 44 percent

of Perot voters are definite, compared with an earlier 36 percent tally.

Other national polls conducted since the GOP gathering ended last week also found Clinton's lead at least halved, to around 10 points. An ABC News tracking poll conducted partially before the convention ended found the gap narrowing to 4 points but back at 12 points in Sunday and Monday samples.

The NBC-Journal poll also found evidence that voters are skeptical of Dole's supply-side economic proposal but still think fondly of President Reagan's supply-side experiment in the 1980s.

The survey gauged reactions to statements pro and con about the plan. In favor: "It will make

the economy grow faster by encouraging more investment, creating jobs and giving families needed tax relief." Against: "It will increase the federal budget deficit or require cuts in important domestic programs, and will mostly give tax breaks to the wealthy."

Forty-eight percent then said they agree more with Clinton on this issue, 40 percent with Dole.

Yet 48 percent still Reagan's economic policies were mainly good for the country, 35 percent said mainly bad. Eight percent volunteered that the policies were "mixed" and 9 percent were not sure.

The survey of 806 registered voters had an error margin of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points.

## White House ready to OK teen smoking crackdown

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton is set to reverse centuries of U.S. policy that have made tobacco agricultural gold by declaring nicotine an addictive drug and unleashing a crackdown to stop teen-agers from picking up the habit.

The long-awaited Food and Drug Administration regulation of tobacco, expected to be unveiled by Clinton this afternoon, aims to cut in half the 1 million teen-agers who start smoking each year.

Doctors and anti-smoking activists hailed the move as a "courageous step" even as the tobacco industry and its supporters charged that Clinton was acting illegally and costing American jobs.

The crackdown already has spawned lawsuits pending in federal court in North Carolina, from cigarette makers who say the FDA has no business in its business and from advertisers who call the rules an infringement of free speech. North Carolina Gov. Jim Hunt also is considering filing a lawsuit on behalf of the state to block FDA regulation of tobacco.

"It's illegal jurisdiction," said Tobacco Institute spokeswoman

Brennan Dawson, adding that the industry will examine whether to seek an immediate injunction once Clinton releases the rules.

But tobacco would be less restricted than any other drug the government has labeled addictive. And taxpayers would continue promoting its production through a government price-support system.

Still, "tobacco has been exempt from safety regulations

that every other consumer product in the country has been subjected to," said University of California professor Stanton Glantz.

"They're basically going from a privileged status to being treated more like everything else," Glantz said.

The regulations would declare nicotine an addictive drug and treat cigarettes and smokeless tobacco as devices that deliver it.

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### QUICK TRIVIA

◆ The word pageant comes from the Latin *pagina*, meaning "platform."

◆ Pansy flowers are so-called from the French *pensee*, meaning "thought."

### Got an item?

Do you have a good story idea for the *Life!* section? Call 263-7331, Ext. 235.

# 1996 Howard County Fair set to begin Labor Day

By KELLIE JONES  
Features Editor

Calling all muffins, baked goods, pets, puppets, salt and pepper shakers and stuffed animals! The 1996 Howard County Fair is less than two weeks away and it's time to start getting your entries ready.

Shedd's Spread is sponsoring a muffin bake-off and recipe contest at this year's event. All entries must be original and recipes must accompany all entries. Each item baked must contain Shedd's Spread Country Crock, Spreadable Sticks or Church Style Spreadable Sticks instead of butter, margarine or oil.

The first place winner in the adult division (18 and up) wins a 19-inch color television and the first place winner in the junior division (17 and under) will be awarded a portable radio.

There is a separate baked goods division not sponsored by Shedd's Spread that anyone can enter as well. There are the following categories: cakes, cookies, breads, candy and decorate

cakes.

All baked goods entries will be received one day only, Aug. 31, from 1-5 p.m. at the fair grounds. The muffin bake-off entries will be received during the same time, for that day only.

The pet show is scheduled for Sept. 7 at 2 p.m. in the entertainment tent. You can enter your favorite dog, cat or exotic animal. Awards will be given out to the grand champion, reserve grand champion, first, second and third places.

A new category for people to enter this year is the Salt and Pepper Shaker Division. There is a limit of five sets per person and the sets must be at least 50 years old for ribbon premium. The following will be taken into consideration in judging the entries: quality, authenticity and age (facts known by owner and judges) and condition and interest.

Rosettes will be awarded for grand champion, reserve grand champion, first, second and third place. The grand champion will also receive a \$50 cash prize. Fair officials say the shakers must remain on dis-



John Myers, left, and Bob Hughes pose with their trophies after last year's domino tournament at the fair. The reigning champions will return for the 1996 fair with the tournament scheduled to begin at 5 p.m. Sept. 3.

play during the entire fair, no exceptions. Entries will be received Aug.

31 from 1-5 p.m. and Sept. 1 from 1-4 p.m. at the fair building and all entries must be

brought to the east door. You can pick up your entries after 11 p.m. Sept. 7 or between 8 a.m. and noon Sept. 8.

Another new category this year is the Barnyard Puppet Extravaganza. Students in grades three through five may enter. The puppets must depict farm animals such as cows, pigs or chickens.

Some suggestions by fair organizers for materials include socks, brown bags, fabric or material of the contestant's choice. Awards for grand champion, reserve grand champion, first, second and third will be awarded.

The younger kids aren't being left out. They can enter the Dress Your Favorite Stuffed Animal contest, also new this year. Children in second grade and under can enter one stuffed animal. Any size may be dressed but no soiled items will be accepted.

Awards for grand champion, reserve grand champion, first, second and third places will be awarded.

Entries for the puppets and stuffed animals will be accepted Aug. 31 from 1-5 p.m. and Sept.

1 from 1-4 p.m. at the fair building and all entries must be brought to the east door. You can pick up your entries after 11 p.m. Sept. 7 or between 8 a.m. and noon Sept. 8.

The Pet-A-Zoo is back this year Wednesday through Saturday (Sept. 4-7) at the fair. An all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast is this Saturday, Aug. 24, to help raise money to fund this popular attraction.

The breakfast is at Santa Fe Sandwiches at the Big Spring Mall from 7-9:30 a.m. Tickets are \$4 per person and available at Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, Posey Cotton Co. and Athletic Supply.

Other highlights:  
• Sept. 1 - lamb arrivals by 5 p.m. and weight cards turn in at 6 p.m.

• Sept. 2 - pancake breakfast at 6 a.m. in activity barn, lamb show at 8 a.m. and ranch rodeo at 3 and 7 p.m.

• Sept. 3 - agriculture products received 9 a.m.-5 p.m., judging at 5 p.m. and Battle of the Cheerleaders at 7 p.m. at the Rodeo Bowl.

• Sept. 4 - horseshoe and washer pitching - 6 p.m.

## Determination key to reaching heavenly summit

One of my family's favorite vacation areas in the Great Sand Dunes National Monument near Alamosa, Colo. For thousands of years, the wind blowing across the vast San Luis Valley has carried the sand to the east, but when the wind meets the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, there it drops the sand, which has formed sculpted dunes rising up to 700 feet high. It's fun to walk on the sand of the dunes. At the base of the sand dunes is a river that is several feet wide but only an inch or two deep. A child, or the child within an adult, can stoop there to build sand castles, dams, diversion canals and the like in the cool water.

Overlooking the Sand Dunes is Mosca Pass, a notch in the mountains where the old Colorado pioneers used to bring their narrow wagons from the Huerfano River Valley across to the San Luis Valley.

A few years ago when my family was camping at the

Sand Dunes, I decided to go running up to the pass at the top. After three miles of steady uphill jogging on a narrow trail through the trees and brush, I was about to collapse, so I decided to walk to the top. As I walked the rocky trail, I could see the top of the pass but every time I got to what I thought was the top, the winding trail showed me another "pass-top" on up the way.

I stayed with it a while, two or three miles more, but finally my tight time schedule forced me to turn back. If I'd had the time, I'd have gone on up though. I'd have seen the

Huerfano River Valley beyond. I'm determined that some day I will see it.

Those of us who are Christians need determination. How often in our Christian journey do we find what we thought was the "summit" of something was merely the top of the first foothill, and there are many more "false summits" to be gained before we can make it to the top?

This journey is not for the weak or the faint of heart - it will take everything we've got, but it will give us everything we need.

Determine to be determined. When you climb to the top of your own unique Mosca Pass, you will see not the worldly valley beyond, but your own unique golden valley.

God's kingdom, waiting for you there, if you stay with it. Be determined.

Ed Williamson is the minister at First United Methodist Church, 400 Scurry, Big Spring.



Ed Williamson  
Guest Columnist



John Collie, far right, celebrated his 100th birthday this week complete with balloons, cake and reminiscing. His nephew, far left, tells about his uncle's life while VA Community Relations Coordinator Fred Cox looks on.

## VAMC resident celebrates 100 years of living

By STEVE REAGAN  
Staff Writer

Eighty years ago, John Collie was just a lowly private slugging through the mud in France. Wednesday, however, he was king for a day.

A large crowd at the Veterans Administration Medical Center helped Collie celebrate his 100th birthday in the hospital's nursing home wing.

Collie, one of the few remaining survivors of World War I, was serenaded by Jody Nix, honored with a color guard, presented lifetime memberships to several veterans' organizations and almost smothered by affection from the crowd that gathered in his honor.

The new centenarian was born on Aug. 21, 1896 in Marfa, and called that far west Texas community home for most of his life.

When World War I broke out, however, he enlisted into the U.S. Army at Fort Bliss on July 3, 1917. After stateside training as a medic, he was transferred to Europe.

"I'm glad I got here," John Collie, centenarian

Private Collie served at Field Hospital No. 1 in France and saw action in several theaters during 1918. Among his assignments were the Toulon-Troyon sector of the Verdun occupation; the Ainsz-Marne defensive; Chateau Thierry; St. Mihiel offensive; and the Meuse-Argonne offensive (Champagne sector).

After the Great Armistice, he returned to the United States and served the remainder of his service as a guard on the

U.S.-Mexico border, receiving his honorable discharge on his 23rd birthday, Aug. 21, 1919.

He returned to Marfa and quickly became a downtown fixture, working for many

years as a custodian in the county courthouse. He also delivered newspapers for many years. For the past several years, Collie has been a

resident at the VA's nursing home.

After chomping on birthday cake, posing for countless photographs and receiving best wishes from the crowd Wednesday, it may have been understandable that Collie didn't have much to say about his experiences.

As for how he felt on the milestone, he simply said: "I'm glad I got here."

The well-wishers felt the same way.

## Memory lapses, chores for the boss

Scripts Howard News Service

Q: When I was asked recently by my employer whether I would consider accepting a top senior-level position if it became available, I surprised myself by answering, "I'm not sure." Yet - believe it or not - I've been aiming for that particular job for the past seven years! Am I crazy, you wonder. Nope; the problem is my memory.

Even though I'm only 49, the memory lapses have me scared silly! When I leave my house in the morning, I often don't remember whether I've locked the door. Or, when I get to

work, I find myself going into someone's office. But when I open their door I cannot remember why I wanted to see them. As for losing my car keys, that happens on a daily basis and often makes me late for appointments. Am I losing my mind? - Worried Silly.

### WORK

A: Probably not! More than 60 percent of the population forgets where they put things all the time. So you have lots of company when you can't find your keys. As for wondering whether you locked the door, join another merry throng.

Almost 40 percent of us can't recall something we've just done five minutes ago.

Memory expert Barry Gordon says to put your keys in the same spot every day, make learning deliberate (repeat what you want to remember). Then make sure you pay attention and use memory aids, like a notebook or file cards.

If you're offered that job, for goodness sake, accept! Your memory isn't perfect and wasn't meant to be. The more you worry, the worse it will get!

Q: Do you think I should be expected to give up some of my leisure time in order to teach

Please see WORK, page 7A

### Slice of Life!

### TIPS 'N' TRIVIA

#### Rug trivia

(NAPS)-Trivia and tips:

•The earliest known carpet was one archeologists discovered in Siberia and dated to the fourth century BC.

•The largest carpet was a red one of over 52,000 feet spread along the Avenue of the Americas in New York in 1982.

•Run a carpet sweeper over heavy traffic areas daily. Vacuum rugs thoroughly once a week.

•Try to attack spots and stains immediately. Blot up liquids, scrape up solids and treat with cleaner.



### FOR YOUR INFORMATION

#### Cowper Clinic reunion

Former employees of the Cowper Clinic and Hospital are having a reunion Friday at 5 p.m. at the Golden Corral. Anyone who worked at the hospital when it was in Big Spring, 15th and Gregg, between the late 1930s and the 1980s is encouraged to attend.

#### Teen parenting class

Methodist Hall-Bennett Clinic is sponsoring a teen parenting course beginning Sept. 13 and ending Oct. 3 from 4-5:30 p.m. The cost is \$1 per session per family. Teen parents, their parents or legal guardians are invited to attend. The course is being taught by Nurse Practitioner Olga McAlister. It is open to moms and dads ages 15-18 who are currently pregnant or recently delivered a child.

#### Blood pressure checks

The RSVP Volunteers at Malone & Hogan Clinic will be doing free blood pressure checks from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and from 2 to 4 p.m.

#### Show your Buffalo spirit

Forsan Buffalo t-shirts and sweatshirts are now on sale. Youth and adult sizes are available as well as two different designs. One is an all-sport design and the other is one for mothers to wear. Pick up order forms and details at Forsan High School, Buffalo Country Fina, C&G Quick Stop and Forsan Soda Shop.

Proceeds will go toward funding a trip for the all-star cheerleaders to take. The deadline for placing orders is Aug. 30.

### THE LAST WORD

In baiting a mouse trap with cheese, always leave room for the mouse.  
-Saki

I believe I've found the missing link between animal and civilized man. It is us.  
-Konrad Lorenz

If you think about what you ought to do for other people, your character will take care of itself.  
-Woodrow Wilson

Of all my wife's relations I like myself best.  
-Joe Cook

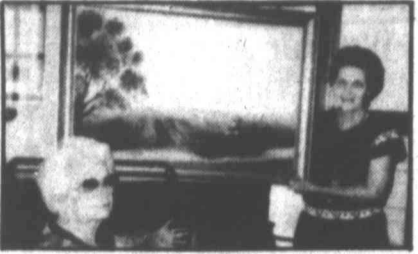
Big Spring Friday, August 23, 1996  
CLUB  
Deadline Wednesday  
Big Spring Association  
The Association  
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TAK FOR Y  
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Sunday Service over KB on y

## CLUBS IN BRIEF

Deadline for club news is Wednesday at noon.

### Big Spring Art Association

The Big Spring Art Association had their monthly



Courtesy photo  
Ruth Rutledge, left, and Alyne Kelly are members of the art association. Kelly's painting is on display at a local restaurant.

meeting at Marcy House Aug. 20. Two tenants from Marcy House had their paintings chosen to be displayed at businesses in Big Spring.

Alyne Kelly's painting will be displayed at Henry's Bar-B-Que on North Gregg. Ms. Lois Van Vleet's painting will be displayed at Sheila's Restaurant and Grill on Third Street.

These paintings will be there until the next monthly meeting.

### Big Spring Woman's Club

Big Spring Woman's Club met at the home of Susan McLellan Monday night Aug. 19. This was the first meeting for the club year of 1996-1997 with a new slate of officers: Stefanie Wilkerson, president; Donna Palmer, president-elect; Carol Hanes, first vice president; Lisa Brooks, second vice president; Teresa Warrington, recording secretary; Dandra Price, corresponding secretary; Julie Wolf, treasurer; Kelly McBee, press reporter; Karen Wingert, parliamentarian and Julie Bailey, immediate past president.

The club opened their meeting with a speaker from the "Action to Build for Children," Mrs. Kristie Carruthers presented a program on the school bond issue.

Being the first meeting of the year, the club discussed their fundraisers and the major projects they plan to accomplish. The third edition of the Big Spring Woman's Club has just gone to the press and will be available before Christmas. Also, the tradition of selling wrapping paper from Ennisbrook will start in September.

### West Texas Republican Women's Club

The West Texas Republican Women's Club met Thursday, Aug. 8 at the Big Spring Country Club. Guest speaker for the meeting was Dwan Fox, local CPA who attended the Texas Republican Convention in San Antonio. He explained the many things that went on at the convention and how much of it was quite different from the news reports given out.

During the business meeting, Kathryn Perry volunteered to be in charge of the Cancer Society's Breast Cancer Program for our club. Laura Bush has adopted the Breast Cancer Awareness Program and as a tribute to her, our First Lady of Texas, the Texas Federation of Republican Women has founded the Laura Bush Breast Cancer Awareness Program. Each member of Republican women's Clubs in Texas is asked to give \$2 toward this program.

The club also decided to sell Carolyn Barta's book, "Bill Clements, Texan to His Toes." She relates in the book how Bill Clements worked diligently during his lifetime to make Texas a two party state and was very successful in doing so. Before going into politics Bill Clements founded the Southeastern Drilling Co., known worldwide as Sedco. These books will be available from any Republican Women's Club member and will also be available at the Republican Club's booth at the fair. The book cost will be \$25.95. At bookstores it will sell for \$29.95 plus tax.

TAKE TIME OUT FOR YOURSELF READ THE BIG SPRING HERALD

## RELIGION BRIEFS

### Lawsuit doesn't mean churches must forsake all politicking

WINSTON-SALEM (AP) — A federal lawsuit filed against the Christian Coalition accusing it of partisan political activity has some churches concerned about their own political involvement.

Churches have a tradition of giving information to members and exposing them to candidates' positions on issues, and the government needs to keep its hands off that type of activity, said the Rev. C. Mark Cortis, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church.

"I think that any time that the government seeks to restrict churches' activities, that's a dangerous thing, because I believe in a separation of church and state," Cortis told The Winston-Salem Journal.

Many ministers and tax experts say the lawsuit does not mean churches have to forsake all forms of politicking.

If a church wants to preserve its tax-exempt status, that all changes.

According to the Internal Revenue Service, churches may engage in political activity, but they must do so with strict neutrality.

They also cannot oppose a specific campaign.

What they can do is speak out on political issues, such as abortion or welfare reform, and individuals can support or oppose certain candidates, as long as they do not do it with the church's backing.

A nonprofit organization with tax-exempt status — such as a church — can do some lobbying as long as it is not a substantial part of the group's activities, according to the tax code.

### Pastor delivers sermons, newspapers

WATERLOO, Wis. (AP) — Being head of a small struggling church has encouraged a local pastor to run faster and

further to spread the news. Todd Thelen is pastor of Prokopay Baptist Church, which now boasts 120 members, a notable increase from his original three parishioners.

He also is a Watertown Daily Times carrier who runs 8 1/2 miles a day, delivering the newspaper, plus the Daily Times Timesaver on Tuesdays.

The two jobs fit quite well together, according to Thelen, who no longer needs an outside full-time job to keep the church running. He worked at Trek Bicycle Corp. for three years to make a living while trying to get the church going again.

"I did it to get in shape, and as a service to people in the community. It gave me an opportunity to meet shut-ins and people I would otherwise not meet," he told the Daily Times.

### Church welcomes back youth who sparked fire

BROOKLYN PARK, Minn. (AP) — Although the Brooklyn

Park Evangelical Free Church burned to ashes, more than 1,000 worshippers — including the 15-year-old boy whose cigarette sparked the fire — gathered for a service a week later.

The Rev. Richard Ensrud said he had spoken with the teen and was pleased to see him on the recent Sunday. Worshipers gathered under a huge white tent near the charred remains.

He said last week, "I'll do anything." But I told him that we weren't asking him to pay off any debt, but to come back and worship Jesus Christ. He's forgiven," Ensrud said.

Ensrud told the congregation the fire is a message from God — God uses trials as a means to personal growth.

Ensrud delivered his message from a stage filled with donated speakers and musical instruments and floral arrangements sent from another church.

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## Work

Continued from page A6

my boss's hyperactive kid to swim? My employer knows I taught children's swim classes for a number of years, so he asked me a "favor" to take over five-year-old Billy's swimming instruction at a private recreational center. I know Billy is a handful, but my biggest reason for not wanting to teach the youngster is I'll have to give up precious hours on a Saturday afternoon. Should I level with my manager or just let him intrude in my personal life for fear of losing my job? — Eric, Windsor, Ontario

A: That is a loaded question, my friend, particularly with cutbacks and downsizing running rampant. The answer really depends on the relationship you have with your boss. If it's open and friendly, you may be able to be truthful. Or perhaps he'll agree to different times, like early evening or right after work for the swim instruction. I taught swimming at several different children's camps when I was in my teens, and I assure you, it ain't no picnic! You need patience (as you know) and a genuine interest in the youngster. As for losing your job if you say "No," I don't believe that will happen if he's happy with you as an employee.

Q: I'm a self-employed gardener who mows lawns after my all-night job in order to earn a few extra bucks. My problem is the homeowner who always tries to add a few extra chores around her property when I finish cutting the lawn. This can be trimming hedges, edging flower beds, cutting dead limbs off a tree or even fertilizing. I don't mind the additional work, but I sure would like to get paid for these time-consuming tasks. I just don't know what to say. — Weak-Kneed in Boston

A: You may sound like a mute mower, but it seems to me you're acting like a wet noodle. Shape up and show your customers that you're a businessman. All you have to say is, "I'll be glad to cut your hedge or edge the flower beds, but the additional work will be an extra \$10." Toss in a smile, and I have a feeling you won't be working for free anymore!

Dr. Paula Bern, author of "How to Work for a Woman Boss," has taught executive seminars at Pittsburgh's Carnegie-Mellon University's Graduate School of Urban and Public Affairs. Questions may be mailed to Dr. Paula Bern, 1090 Vermont Ave. NW, Suite 1000, Washington, DC, 20005. Questions can be answered only through this column.

## Americans are dressing down at work

Scruples Howard News Service

Much of the American workplace has peeled off its dark business suit and loosened its power tie, kicked off its pumps and stowed its industrial-strength hair spray. ... at least one day a week.

Consider these statistics: • The casual-day trend formally began in 1990 in Canada, when many companies introduced a dress-down day as part of their annual fall United Way campaigns.

Canadian office workers paid for the privilege of dressing down. United Way contributions increased nicely, and an idea was born.

• About 85 million of the 118 million employees in American workplaces dress casually at work.

• Almost 90 percent of Americans wear casual clothes to work at least some of the time.

• Morale increases in 61 percent of workers who are permitted perks such as dressing casually on the job.

• More than 60 percent of American employees prefer to wear casual clothes occasionally, and 28 percent prefer to dress casually every day.

• About 90 percent of Americans expect the rules of business attire to remain the way they are today.

Source: Dayton-Hudson Corp.

### life! section Sunday Deadlines

All Sunday items (weddings, anniversaries, engagements, birth announcements, Who's Who, military) are due to the Herald office by Wednesday at noon.

Wedding, engagement, anniversary and birth announcement forms are available in the editorial department.

# CLEAN SWEEP SALE



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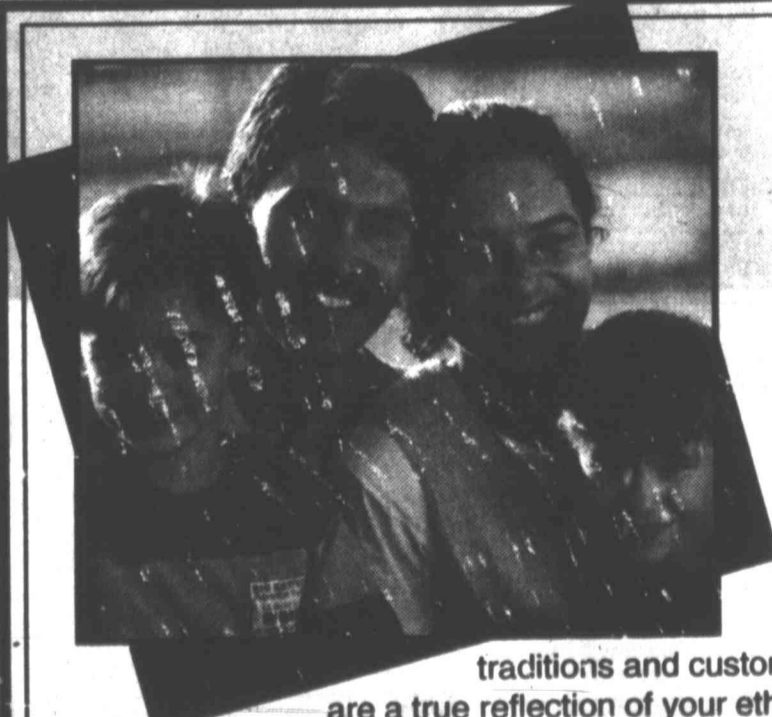
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FRIDAY

AUG. 23

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

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FAMILY CYCLE

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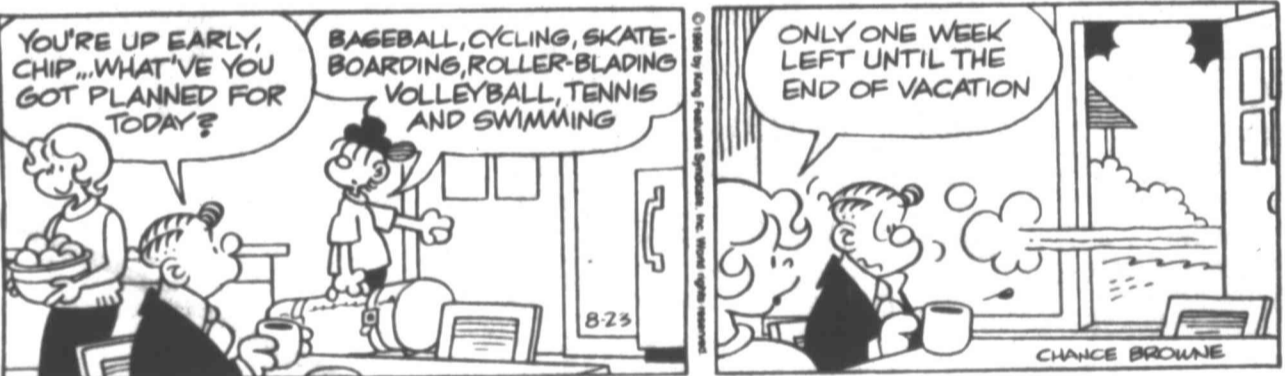
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"It doesn't take Barfy long to undress for a bath."



"MOM SAID SHE'D LOST HER MIND, SO I TOLD HER TO HELP HER FIND IT." "THE NEXT THING I KNOW, I'M SITTING OUT HERE."

THIS DATE IN HISTORY

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Today is Friday, August 23,

the 236th day of 1996. There are 130 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On August 23, 1927, Italian-born anarchists Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti were executed in Boston for the murders of two men during a 1920 robbery. (Sacco and Vanzetti were vindicated in 1977 by

Massachusetts Gov. Michael S. Dukakis.) On this date: In 1754, France's King Louis XVI was born at Versailles. In 1785, U.S. naval hero Oliver Hazard Perry was born in South Kingstown, R.I. In 1838, one of the first colleges for women, Mount Holyoke Female Seminary in South Hadley, Mass., graduated its first students. In 1914, Japan declared war on Germany in World War I. In 1926, silent film star Rudolph Valentino died in New York at age 31. In 1939, Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union signed a nonaggression treaty. In 1944, Romanian prime minister Ion Antonescu was dismissed by King Michael, paving the way for Romania to abandon the Axis in favor of the Allies. In 1947, an audience at the Hollywood Bowl heard President Truman's daughter, Margaret, give her first public concert as a singer.

THE Daily Crossword by Randall J. Hartman

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words.

Thursday's Puzzle solved:

Solved crossword puzzle grid with words filled in.

Advertisement for Park & Putt Miniature Golf Park, 7 Days A Week.

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Advertisement for BIG SPRING HERALD, Reflecting A Proud Texas Community, 915-263-7331.

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