

BIG SPRING HERALD

Reflecting A Proud Community

WEDNESDAY
February 19, 1997

50 cents

School board awards \$9.4 million contract for junior high school

By JOHN A. MOSELEY
News Editor

Big Spring's new junior high school will be built by Monterey Construction Co. Inc. of Wolforth after school board members awarded the contract for the \$9.4 million project during their regular meeting Tuesday night.

Voters in the Big Spring Independent School District approved a \$12.5 million bond issue in September of last year, some \$10 million of that to construct the new junior high school.

Monterey Construction was the apparent low bidder when proposals from six companies were opened last week. Its base bid was \$8,888,000, a figure that could have been increased to

as much as \$9,564,400 with the addition of 18 alternate bids.

Instead, trustees opted for 16 of the alternate bids — one more than had been recommended by BSISD administrators — which left the projected price tag at \$9,401,400.

Superintendent W.A. "Bill" McQueary and his staff had recommended that trustees approve 15 alternates. The difference was that the staff recommended approving a roof that would have had a 10-year warranty.

The board, however, opted for a roof that would provide a 20-year, no dollar limit warranty at an added cost of \$11,300.

With the old Boydston Elementary School building already removed from

the new school's site, board members scheduled an 11 a.m. Thursday, March 6, groundbreaking ceremony.

The district's architect for the project, Tommie Huckabee of Huckabee & Associates Inc. from Stephenville, told trustees he expected to be able to have all contracts for the project signed in the near future, perhaps on the same day as the groundbreaking.

"Construction usually begins about 10 days after execution of the contracts," Huckabee said.

Trustees also approved a \$69,369.30 computer maintenance and services contract with the IBM Corporation.

The board gave its approval to the Big Spring Steer Band's spring trip. The band is scheduled to attend the Winter Park Music Festival in Winter

Park, Colo., on April 18-20.

Administrators stressed that no district monies would be spent on the trip. All costs for the trip are being raised by the band members. However, the trip would require the students to miss one full day of school, thereby requiring the board to give its approval.

Assistant Superintendent Murray Murphy noted that the district will conduct a public hearing on textbook recommendations for the 1997-98 school year at 3:45 p.m. on Feb. 27 in the board's meeting room at Big Spring High School.

The board will be asked to approve those recommendations during its March 3 meeting.

In other business, the board

approved the assignments for administrators, directors and coordinators for the 1997-98 school year and approved two-year contract extensions — through the 1998-99 school year — for Big Spring High School Principal Kent Bowermon, Athletic Director Dwight Butler, Murphy, Assistant Business Manager Ron Logback and Ron Plumlee, the assistant superintendent for business.

Trustees also approved a number of budget amendments and the district's calendar for the 1997-98 school year. The board also gave its OK to the retirement of Gene Adkins, the district's director of special education, and the resignation of Sandra Klatt, a seventh-grade language arts teacher at Goliad Middle School.

GOING UP



Mark Lackey (photo at left), an employee of SIGNCO Inc. of San Angelo levels a new sign at the Texaco station at the intersection of FM 700 and Gregg Street. John Higginbotham (above) applies a coat of paint to the sign's supports.

Videotape captures shootout

WILMINGTON, Ohio (AP) — Police are asking the public for help in identifying two men involved in weekend shootouts with police, one of which was videotaped by a patrol car camera.

The shootings happened Saturday after a trooper stopped a Chevrolet Suburban because it had expired Washington state plates.

There were conflicting reports about who owns the vehicle.

Police released the videotape Tuesday to see if anyone would identify the men. Investigators said they did not have enough information to identify or issue warrants for the two men involved in the shootouts.

After the traffic stop, the Suburban's driver got out but refused to be searched.

The driver ran from the trooper and a deputy sheriff, and a passenger fired several shots at the officers and ran away, police said.

Constitutionality of religious freedom law at issue

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congress improperly stripped the courts of some of their authority to interpret the Constitution when it passed a 1993 law to promote religious freedom, a lawyer for a Texas city told the Supreme Court today.

"How far can Congress go to ensure constitutional guarantees?" asked attorney Marci Hamilton, who represents a Texas town in a dispute with a Catholic church that could lead to one of the high court's most important religious freedom decisions.

"Our argument is it certainly can't go to the point where Congress can reinterpret the meaning of the Constitution."

At issue is the Religious Freedom Restoration Act that

says government cannot "substantially burden" a person's religious freedom unless there is a compelling government interest.

Hamilton said the law also improperly overrides state laws, subjecting them to the tough constitutional standard.

University of Texas professor Douglas Laycock, representing the church, defended the law, calling its impact "a mile wide and an inch deep." Also, he said Congress always has had the power to "make constitutional rights effective in practice."

Several justices questioned whether the 1993 law can be used by religious institutions to free themselves from other government rules. Justice Sandra Day O'Connor asked whether religious groups could avoid

paying state taxes on non-religious businesses.

Acting Solicitor General Walter Dellinger, the Clinton administration's top courtroom lawyer, said the answer is no. He noted religious groups first must prove such rules constitute a substantial burden.

The case stems from a dispute over building permits between a Catholic church in Boerne, Texas, and city officials.

The justices are expected to rule by July.

The question was: Does St. Peter the Apostle Church have the right to tear down all but the facade of its building to expand its sanctuary?

Squeezed for space because of a growing congregation, St. Peter's petitioned to expand its 230-seat sanctuary. The town of

Boerne refused to give permission in 1994 on grounds that the church, an imposing Spanish-style structure built in 1923, is in a historic district.

The archbishop of San Antonio sued, saying the 1993 law shields the church from historic preservation ordinances. A federal judge sided with Boerne.

The archdiocese appealed to the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, which reversed the judge. The town then appealed to the Supreme Court.

Boerne officials are asking the Supreme Court to rule that the law violates the 10th Amendment rights of states and local governments by forcing them to allow more protection for religious beliefs than the Constitution requires.

Guess decides to seek re-election to council

By CARLTON JOHNSON
Staff Writer

After many hours of weighing the pros and cons associated with the position, District 4 City Councilman Tom Guess has decided he will seek a second term in the May 3 election.

Guess officially filed for re-election today.

Monday, the first day for filing.

Guess was presented an opponent when Howard college instructor Tommy T u n e announced for the race.

"I feel as though I can still contribute," Guess said. "The experience I've had in the last three years along with the fact that I'm retired and can research issues, played a part in my deciding to seek re-election."

Guess said he is pleased with

three items in particular that have taken place during his first term: the city's increased tax base; the performance of the ambulance service since the fire department took it over; and the agreement between the city and Cornell Corrections for the management of the Big Spring Correctional Centers.

Guess added that he will work with anyone to expand the city's tax base.

The city's tax base has increased by \$81.9 million or 22 percent during Guess' time on the council, from a little more than \$370.2 million in 1994 to just over \$452.2 million in 1996.

"Without an expanded tax base, we would not have been able to increase employee salaries," Guess said.

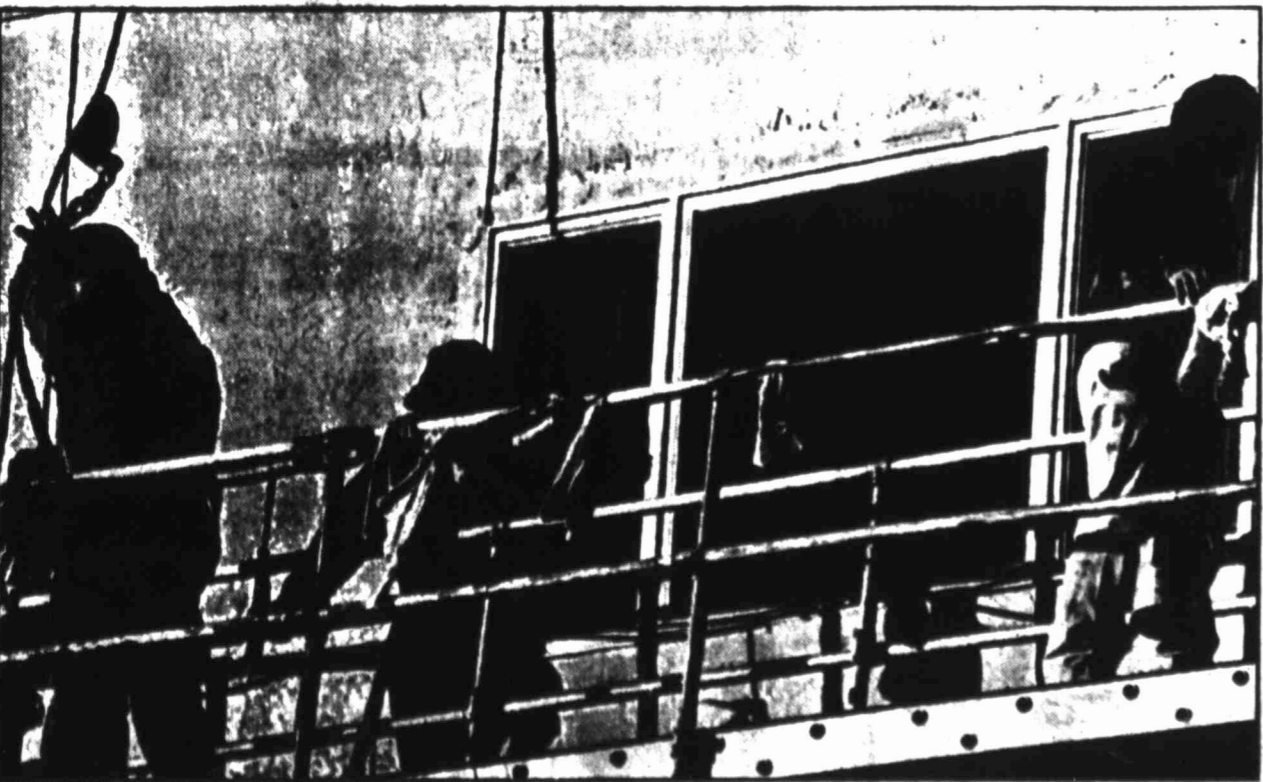
Guess also believes the city has offered the citizens of Big Spring a first rate ambulance service and is pleased with the progress it has made in its first 17 months.

Please see GUESS, page 2A



GUESS

PAINTING CANTERBURY NORTH



Two unidentified workers on a mechanical scaffold paint the east side of Canterbury North Retirement Center.

Mystery power surge hits downtown, Herald

TO OUR READERS: A power surge at approximately 10:50 a.m. today that hit much of the downtown Big Spring area also hit the Herald, resulting in a complete computer failure.

As a result, today's front page includes two wire stories that we would not normally have used and does not include four locally produced stories from Big Spring, Coahoma and Garden City.

These stories will appear in Thursday's edition of the Herald, as well as a story on the power outage and the problems it caused in the community.

JOHN H. WALKER
Managing Editor

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TODAY'S WEATHER

62 ▲ Highs 45
Lows ▼

Tonight: Showers and thunderstorms likely. Low around 45.

Thursday: Mostly cloudy with rain likely. High around 60. Low in the mid 30s.

Extended outlook: Friday, partly cloudy. High in the mid 50s. Low in the upper 20s. Saturday and Sunday, partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 60s. Lows in the lower 30s.

Vol. 93, No. 110

Call us at:
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National tests for children would measure some basic skills

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton has offered millions of children the chance two years from now to take tests that many will fail.

It's a challenge that's bound to make states and school districts nervous. But the administration says that without the voluntary math and reading tests, paid for by federal taxpayers, no one can tell whether children have mastered the basics.

"Yes, there may be a high failure rate in the very beginning," Education Secretary Richard

Riley said Tuesday. "But in time we will have a high success rate as well — if all Americans see themselves as part of the solution."

Governors last March set a two-year deadline for creating goals in each state for what students should be able to know and do, and for testing them.

The administration says the proposed national tests, providing some teeth to those standards, would gauge the right skills at the right time.

But Clinton's call for volun-

tary tests has met resistance from some Republican governors. They complain about eventual federal control of what children are taught, a matter properly left to states.

States pay almost all the costs of education, they say, and will pay the roughly \$40 million cost to give all future tests after the government hands out a free sample in 1999.

In addition, as in earlier debates on standards, some critics worry that poorly funded schools with large numbers of

minority children will bear the stigma of low scores. Teachers will depend on rote instruction.

"We will no longer be able to tell what kids really know from what they just memorized for the test," said Monty Neill, associate director of the National Center for Fair and Open Testing, a Cambridge, Mass., group that helped fight national testing.

Yet, the idea also has garnered wide support. Republican Governor John Engler of Michigan says the plan will

help states make schools accountable. Engler wants the state to be able to take over school districts where students do poorly.

The nation's top business leaders back the idea as a way to make sure new workers have some basic abilities. Employers, facing worldwide competition, worry about what their young workers know.

A Republican "education president," George Bush, in 1991 floated the idea of a standard national test for high-schoolers.

It was shelved because of complaints the test would be unfair and expensive and would lead to national textbooks.

The Clinton administration says the proposed national tests would gauge the right skills at the right time.

Pupils who learn to read by the end of the third grade can read for a lifetime. Eighth-graders who know the basics of math, including some algebra and geometry, can take on tough math and science courses in high school.

TEXAS BRIEFS

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

AIDS group pulls national ad campaign after complaints

DALLAS — An AIDS charity has pulled a nationwide ad campaign declaring that "Prayer won't cure AIDS — Research will" from buses and billboards after complaints in North Texas.

The American Foundation for AIDS Research campaign, which was to have continued through March in 19 major markets, met opposition in Dallas-Fort Worth earlier this month and was canceled by transit agencies in both cities.

Two other ads in the campaign read:

- "Sexual abstinence won't cure AIDS. Research will."
- "Red ribbons won't cure AIDS. Research will."

IRS seizes atheists' property in \$250,000 tax lien

AUSTIN — The bizarre case of missing atheist Madalyn Murray O'Hair has taken another twist with the Internal Revenue Service seizure of her home and property to pay \$250,000 in back taxes.

O'Hair, whose 1962 lawsuit led to the U.S. Supreme Court banning school-sponsored prayer, has been missing for about 18 months.

Stuart Bradford, a spokesman for the IRS in Texas, said the agency filed a lien on O'Hair's property on Jan. 21 for personal taxes unpaid in 1980, 1986, 1987 and 1988.

Agents showed up with moving trailers at 11 a.m. Tuesday to take possession.

"The tax lien was for real and personal property and so today we're seizing the property to protect the government's interest in the tax lien," Bradford said.

Report alleges Kelly labor leaders misused funds

SAN ANTONIO — An investigation of the Kelly Air Force Base labor union alleges its leaders misused donations and spent dues on steak dinners and horse track outings, the San Antonio Express-News has reported.

Local union officials have failed to act on the internal report, which was issued in September.

Meanwhile, rank-and-file members of the American Federation of Government Employees Local 1617 say they are losing faith in their leaders, the Express-News reported in its copyright story Tuesday.

Lou Georges, union president, dismissed the report as the product of infighting. He would not answer specific allegations, but said the national union office had cleared him and other local officials of any wrongdoing.

Police dispute claims of misconduct in Guerra case

HOUSTON — Police say they took precautions and followed proper procedures while interviewing witnesses to the shooting of a fellow officer that resulted in a Mexican man going to death row.

Harris County prosecutors are revisiting the case this week at an evidentiary hearing where they are trying to counter a federal judge's finding that they and police were guilty of misconduct in obtaining a tainted conviction and death sentence for Ricardo Aldape Guerra.

U.S. District Judge Kenneth Hoyt has said Aldape Guerra should be retried or set free.

Aldape Guerra, 34, an illegal immigrant who had only recently arrived in Houston, once came within three days of execution before receiving a reprieve. The case has drawn much attention in Mexico, which does not have the death penalty.

Bill lessening gun restrictions sent to subcommittee

AUSTIN (AP) — Eileen McCarron brought a pair of tennis shoes with her when she argued against lifting a statewide ban on carrying concealed handguns into churches.

The teen-ager who wore them was a church usher, dreamed of becoming an engineer and died when he was shot by a robber in a fast-food restaurant.

For Thomas Reilly's memory, McCarron urged the Senate Criminal Justice Committee Tuesday not to pass a bill that could make guns more widespread.

The panel sent the bill she opposes, which critics say would remove many important protections in the 1995 concealed handgun law, to a subcommittee for more work.

"For Thomas' sake, we do not need to increase the reach of guns by extending its domain to the very place that he considered and treasured as a sacred and safe haven," said McCarron, a member of the First Congregational Church in Houston.

But for Sen. Jerry Patterson, author of the 1995 law and of the bill considered Tuesday, her argument is an example of the emotion that he says has skewed press reports and debates on the concealed handgun issue.

The teen-ager's death, which McCarron said wasn't caused by a licensed concealed handgun holder, "had nothing to do with the concealed handgun law," Patterson said.

"She feels very strongly, and I understand it, but that kid was killed by a robber... That's emotion, and we need to take the emotion out of this," said Patterson, R-Pasadena. He noted that the proposal would allow individual churches to ban guns on their premises.

Under the bill — which also drew opposition from Texans Against Gun Violence, the Texas Municipal League and police chiefs — local govern-

ments and state agencies could not prohibit licensed concealed handguns from their premises, except for any guns carried by their employees.

Patterson said that would follow a state constitutional provision giving only the Legislature the power to regulate carrying arms.

The bill would delete a ban in state law on carrying concealed handguns in churches, nursing homes, amusement parks and in most areas of hospitals. Such private entities still could pass their own prohibitions, and a state ban would continue on carrying concealed handguns into emergency rooms or trauma centers.

Among other provisions, the bill would allow people convicted of nonviolent felonies, but whose records have been wiped clean through deferred adjudication and who have had their other rights restored, to be eligible for permits.

The Senate subcommittee

which has been referred to the House Public Health Committee, would create a non-profit corporation to administer a low-cost insurance plan for children who don't qualify for Medicaid coverage. Families would enroll voluntarily and pay a sliding-scale premium based on their income.

When asked about the prospects of passing all three bills, Berlanga was confident.

"I don't think anyone can (oppose the legislation)," Berlanga said. "I want someone who's opposed to children having insurance in Texas to come forth and to tell me why..."

Lawmakers band together for 'triple threat'

AUSTIN (AP) — Bills meant to protect young people by expanding health care coverage, making tobacco less accessible and instituting "zero tolerance" for juveniles who drink and drive were promoted as a "triple threat" by lawmakers.

The bills "are a clear indication that we're looking out for the future of Texas and that we must continue to press forward to fulfill that mission," said Rep. Hugo Berlanga, D-Corpus Christi, one of several sponsors of the legislative package.

The "triple threat" package includes a House bill that would make children's health care coverage more available; a Senate bill that would lower the allowable blood alcohol content for drivers under age 21 from 0.07 to zero; and a Senate bill that would, among other things, require tobacco retailers to verify the age of purchasers younger than 27.

Some of the measures have failed in previous legislative sessions. The Senate bill to control tobacco sales is its third

legislative round, but sponsors, such as Sen. Judith Zaffirini, D-Laredo, say the timing is right.

"This bill is overdue in terms of passing," said Ms. Zaffirini of the bill which was referred to the Senate Health Committee.

In addition to requiring identification, the tobacco bill would:

- Restrict vending machines to places inaccessible to minors;
- Prohibit the distribution of free samples or coupons redeemable for free or discounted tobacco products;
- Prohibit outdoor advertising of tobacco products except at facilities leased or owned by a professional sports franchise.

The "zero tolerance" bill, which was passed unopposed in the Senate and has been referred to the House Criminal Jurisprudence Committee, would also affect non-driving alcohol offenses by minors, such as possession, imposing sanctions such as driver's license suspension, community service and fines.

The "Healthy Kids" bill,

Zaire showing some willingness for peace talks, U.N. envoy says

KINSHASA, Zaire (AP) — Zaire's neighbors and the United Nations pressed the government to make peace in the country's escalating civil war, getting back some slight signs that leaders might be ready for talks with rebels.

The U.N. Security Council urged an immediate halt to the fighting in eastern Zaire, as part of a five-point plan adopted late Tuesday to end a war that threatens cities and refugee camps with attack.

The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, meanwhile, repeated pleas for the largest refugee camp Zaire to be demilitarized and armed Rwandan Hutu extremists separated from genuine refugees.

Sadako Ogata said Zairian army commanders have promised they will stop arming refugees in Tingi-Tingi camp.


In Paris, diplomats from European nations and the

United States issued a statement calling for an international conference on Zaire and urging the retreat of all foreign forces.

African foreign ministers arrived in Kinshasa for talks with Zairian leaders. Before leaving Nairobi, Kenya, the foreign ministers from Kenya, South Africa, Tanzania, Cameroon, Congo and Zimbabwe said they would prepare the way for a summit to try to end the war.

Zaire has refused to attend two such summits, though Prime Minister Leon Kengo wa Dondo has said Zaire supports calls for an international conference.

By Michael S. Phillips, M.D.
Diplomate, American Board Obstetrics & Gynecology
PRIMARY AND SECONDARY
DYSMENORRHEA



Women who experience menstrual pain known as primary dysmenorrhea need not be concerned, but also should not suffer. Typically beginning within two years of the onset of a girl's period, these cramps range from a dull ache to queasy pressure in the lower abdomen and are often accompanied by bloating or low back pain as the uterus contracts to expel menstrual discharge. Primary dysmenorrhea starts in the teenage years, and is usually easily controlled by a number of methods. Secondary dysmenorrhea usually starts significantly later (mid-20's to 30's) and may be a sign of endometriosis, fibroids, or infection. You need to see a doctor for any persistent pain or discomfort with menstrual periods, whatever your age!

Some women sail through their menstrual cycle without skipping a beat. Others have to skip out on their regular routine to deal with the pain and misery of menstrual cramps. This is not necessary! As a specialist, I concentrate on the treatment and diseases of the reproductive organs of women. If you would like more information about this week's column or would like to schedule an appointment to be seen at our new location in Big Spring (at the Medical Care Plaza, 1300 Gregg St., available each Tuesday), please call our main office at (915) 522-2222.

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- BLEACH HYTOP.....GAL. 66^c
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- OCEAN SPRAY CRANSTRAWBERRY.....48-OZ. 1²²
- COTTAGE CHEESE BEST YET.....12-OZ. 10^c

SUPPORT GROUPS

MONDAY

- Al-A-Teen, 7:30 p.m., 615 Settles.
- Turning Point A.A., 8:30 p.m., St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 10th and Gollad. Open to all substance abusers.
- TOPS Club (Take off pound sensibly), weigh-in 5:30 to 6 p.m., Carriage Inn, 501 W. 17th, meeting starts at 6 p.m. Call 263-1340 or 263-8633.
- Project Freedom, Christian support group for survivors of physical/emotional/sexual and/or spiritual abuse. Call 263-5140 or 263-2241 for dates/times of upcoming groups.
- Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon open meeting.
- Encouragers Support Group first and third Mondays each month. First Monday meetings are at a local restaurant at 6 p.m. Third Monday meetings are at 5:30 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church Seventh and Runnels (enter through north door). We have various activities, such as guest speakers, play games, have covered dish supper, visit or go out to eat. For more information call 398-5522 or 399-4369.
- Big Spring Group of Narcotics Anonymous, 6 p.m., St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 1001 Gollad.

TUESDAY

- Support for MS and Related Diseases, 6:30 p.m. second Tuesday of each month, Canterbury South. Public invited. Call Leslie, 267-1069.
- Al-Anon, 8 p.m., 615 Settles.
- Seniors' diabetic support group, 2 p.m., Canterbury South. Call 263-1265.

- Compassionate Friends support group for parents who have experienced death of a child, 7:30 p.m. first Tuesday in February, April, June, August, October and December in the Family Life Center Building, First Baptist Church, 705 West Marcy. Enter by southeast door. Call 267-2769.
- Diabetes support group, second Tuesday of each month, 7 p.m., Scenic Mountain Medical Center classroom.
- Cancer support group, first Tuesday of each month, 7-8 p.m., VA Medical Center room 213. Call Beverly Rice, 268-5077.
- "Most Excellent Way," a chemical dependency support group, Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Living Water Church, 1008 Birdwell Lane. Call 267-1424 after 5 p.m. or 263-3168 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

- Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon open meeting and 8 p.m. closed meeting.
- Family Education and Support, sponsored by Howard County Mental Health Center, meets the fourth Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. at the Corral, 611 E. Third, followed at 7 p.m. by the monthly meeting of the Big Spring Alliance for the Mentally Ill.
- Samaritan Counseling Center of West Texas will have Dr. Ronald Meyer, D. Min., LCDC, LMFT, specializing in individual and marriage counseling, Attention Deficit Disorder and chemical dependency, available for clients at the First Christian Church.

Appointments for counseling services are made by calling 1-800-329-4144.

- Narcotics Anonymous, 6:30 p.m., St. Mary's Episcopal Church.

WEDNESDAY

- Gamblers Anonymous, 7 p.m., St. Stephen's Catholic Church, room 1, 4601 Neeley, Midland. Call 263-8920.
- Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon open meeting and 8 p.m. 12 and 12 study.
- Samaritan Counseling Center of West Texas will have Sharon Beam, who is a licensed professional counselor interim specializing in play therapy for children, adolescent counseling and women's issues, available for clients at the First Presbyterian Church, Runnels and Eighth St. Appointments for counseling services are made by calling 1-800-329-4144.

THURSDAY

- Salvation Army drug education program, sponsored by Permian Basin Regional Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, 7 p.m., Salvation Army building, 308 Aylford.
- Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon open meeting.
- A.D.D.A.P.T. non-profit support and learning organization about attention deficit disorder, learning disorders and dyslexia. Meets second Thursday of September, October, November, January, February, March, April and May, Cerebral Palsy building, 802 Ventura, Midland.
- Grief Support related to the death of a loved one. Call Nurses Unlimited, Inc., at 264-6523.
- Alzheimer's Association Support Group, fourth Thursday of the month, Comanche Trail Nursing Center, 3200 Parkway, 7 p.m.

- Support Group for Depression meets every Thursday at 7 p.m. in the Dora Roberts Rehab Center, Third and Lancaster.

FRIDAY

- Turning Point A.A., 8:30 p.m., St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 10th and Gollad. Open to all substance abusers.
- Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon open meeting and 8 p.m. Big Book Study.

SATURDAY

- Alzheimer's Association Support Group, second Saturday of the month, Carriage Inn Retirement Center, 501 W. 17th, 10 a.m.
- Family support group for current and former patients and their families, 1 p.m. weekly, Reflections Unit of Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Call Beverly Grant, 263-0074.
- Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon, 8 p.m., 10 p.m. open meetings, 615 Settles.

- "So I Forget," Attention Deficit Disorder support group for individuals and couples, first Saturday of the month from 9 to 10:30 a.m., Samaritan Counseling Center of West Texas, Inc., Midland. Call the center at (915) 563-4144 or 1-800-329-4144. Cost is \$15.
- West Texans Living with Chronic Fatigue and Immune Dysfunction Syndrome/Fibromyalgia, 1-3 p.m., on different Saturdays of the month, HealthSouth facility at Hwy. 191 and Loop 250, Midland. Call Joann Carney, (915) 686-7977, or Marsha Brunet, (915) 337-4829 to get the correct meeting date.

SUNDAY

- Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, 11 a.m. closed meeting and 7 p.m. open meeting.

HOME TIPS

Scripps Howard News Service

When planning '97 vacations, consider including a sidetrip to one of North America's great public gardens. Visiting any of these will provide a lovely day in the middle of a trip, and inspire you to greater heights of botanical accomplishment at home.

Some of my favorite ones, so far, are Dow Gardens in Midland, Mich.; Bellingrath Gardens in Mobile, Ala.; Callaway Gardens, Pine Mountain, Ga.; the Japanese Garden, Portland, Ore.; Jangle Gardens, Avery Island, La. (where the McIlhenny family's Tabasco sauce is still aged); and the former quarry, now glorious Butchart Gardens near Victoria, B.C.

Antique experts Ralph and Terry Kovel have advised people to check the bottom of old ceramic garden ornaments, to spot the name of the manufacturer. With luck, it might read Weller Pottery Co. of Zanesville, Ohio, which closed in 1948. Many of the molded-and-colored animals and fantasy figures (such as two elves sitting on a toadstool) made by Weller have appreciated in value.

A slick dustpan trick, suggested by Home & Garden Television (HGTV), a unit of the E.W. Scripps Co.: Before sweeping up, spray your dustpan with furniture wax and rub dry with a paper towel.

Then, when you dump the contents, the dirt will slide right off.

...
Droplets of oil from cooking in the average kitchen eventually form a gummy film on everything. Some decorative items in the kitchen cannot stand harsh cleaning agents to cut this film, so it's best not to adorn kitchen walls with fine collectibles.

One kitchen adornment many people cannot do without is the kitchen clock. But the low price people are willing to pay for said clocks gave rise to a lot of tacky clock designs. Here's an exception. The Umbra line of single battery-driven wall clocks includes many simple-to-read models with clean lines and clean faces, suitable for kitchens.

The clocks, \$10 to \$20, are made in Taiwan and guaranteed for only one year, but kitchen clocks will not be in great shape by that time any way.

Stress

Continued from page A6

Just for a little while.

- Close your eyes. Take a deep breath. Exhale slowly. Repeat 10 times.

- Take time to stretch, starting with your neck and moving down to your feet. Or curl your toes against the soles of your feet as hard as you can for 15 seconds, then relax them. Use the same tense-and-relax technique with the muscles in your legs, stomach, back and shoulders.

- Allow yourself a few minutes to read a chapter of your new novel or to flip through the latest, pristine issue of your favorite magazine.

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Pippen steals show from Jordan

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA ROUNDUP

For the second straight game, Scottie Pippen stole the spotlight from Michael Jordan. Pippen scored a career-high 47 points and Jordan had 24 as the Bulls beat the Denver Nuggets 134-123 Tuesday night.

Hillary Clinton. Dale Ellis scored 27 points for the Nuggets, who have lost four of five games. Elsewhere in the NBA, it was Miami 111, Philadelphia 83; New York 95, Phoenix 94; Utah 113, San Antonio 105; Los Angeles Clippers 87, Dallas 69; and Sacramento 95, Minnesota 84.

including 1-for-14 from 3-point range. Jazz 113, Spurs 105. At Salt Lake City, Karl Malone had 37 points, eight assists and seven rebounds as Utah beat San Antonio. John Stockton added 19 points and 10 assists for the Jazz, who tied the Los Angeles Lakers for the best record in the Western Conference at 37-14.

Are KU's Jayhawks too good to be true?

LAWRENCE, Kan. (AP) — Too good to be true. Talk for any length of time about the Kansas basketball team, and that phrase will come up. Talk about the Jayhawks on the court.

regardless of the record. It starts with Williams, a Dean Smith disciple whose only head coaching job has been at Kansas, which he has taken to two Final Fours.

about this team, it's time to turn to the court. Raef LaFrentz has stepped up in Pollard's absence beyond anything expected of him. The junior has scored at least 20 points in each of the eight games Pollard has missed, a streak that is all the more impressive when research revealed no player under Williams' balanced system had ever gone more than three straight games over 20.

SANDS

Continued from page 1B

outside by the taller Lady Steers, opened the final eight minutes with a three-pointer to reclaim the lead for Sands. The Lady 'Stangs stretched their lead to seven on an Andrea Gillespie three-pointer with 4:24 remaining before Robert Lee made one last charge at the lead. Two of Robert Lee's six-footers — Jennifer Scott and Bree Bolding — scored to cut the lead to three with a minute left, then Kannan Milllican tipped the ball away from a Sands player and appeared to have clear sailing down the right baseline.

FORSAN

Continued from page 1B

tonight." Forsan was led by Robert Hilliger's 11 points. Josh Love, Josh Gaston and Steve Osburn all added eight. "I want to do more," Casey said. "We have lost in bidistrict the last two years to Jim Ned and Stanton. The kids are looking forward to this. I knew we had a good team and we believed all year long."

MAVS

Continued from page 1B

said. "But, if not, I'd rather stay put." Nelson was chuckling over the stir his trades started. "One of the NBA executives going over the contracts wanted to call back to see if I was sane," Nelson said. The New York Daily News didn't think so. "If you're a Mavs fan today, you can't wait for the Cowboys to head to Austin for training camp," the newspaper said.

Score by quarters: Forsan 11 8 10 12 - 41. Ozona 11 11 7 13 - 48. Three-point goals: Forsan 4 (S. Osburn 2, Davis, Hilliger); Ozona 3 (Brown 2, Rodriguez). Fouls: Forsan 11, Ozona 19. Fouled out 0 none. Technicals - none. Records - Ozona 13-17; Forsan 20-11.

sure what to expect next. "Hopefully, this will come to a point in time where we can get settled for the rest of the year," he said. "When you look at what has to be done, what needed to be done, and then it happens all at once, it kind of takes your breath away." On Monday night, Dallas beat Vancouver 100-95 with only eight players. The Mavericks played the Clippers with what they're calling "The Great Eight" — starters Sasha Danilovic, Greg Dressling, A.C. Green, Michael Finley, and Derek Harper and reserves Walker, Martin Muursepp and Erick Strickland.

BRIEFS

Powerlifters compete at C-City meet. The Forsan High School powerlifting team competed at Colorado City Saturday, and Daniel Smith had the best result among FHS competitors. Smith, competing in the 114-pound weight class, finished second with a total lift of 720 pounds.

with a doubleheader sweep of Vernon in non-conference baseball action Tuesday at Jack Barber Field. Both games were close affairs, with the Hawks winning 5-4 in the opener before winning the nightcap by a 3-1 score. In the first game, Corey Martin struck out six and walked only one to improve to 2-0 for the year, but the real fireworks came in true Hollywood fashion.

BORDEN

Continued from page 1B

up. "And when Shelby Isaacs hit that jumper from the key to put us on top..." Borden County now carries a 24-7 record to Levelland while Rotan's season ends at 14-16. The Lady Coyotes open at 5:30 Friday afternoon against the Whiteface Herefords. BORDEN CO. 31, ROTAN 27.

CLASSIFIED ADS GET RESULTS. BORDEN CO. 31, ROTAN 27. ROTAN 27.

Contractor files lawsuit against George Foreman

MARSHALL (AP) — A Louisiana contractor has filed a lawsuit claiming that two-time heavyweight boxing champion George Foreman has refused to pay him nearly \$215,000 for construction of his new million-dollar home in East Texas. The lawsuit was filed against Foreman in Caddo Parish court in Shreveport, La., by Chris Barnette of Bossier City, La.

church, is originally from Marshall. The house was built on a ranch where he has trained for many of his fights. Barnette claims that he agreed to build the house in September 1995 for \$493,500. He said changes made by Foreman drove the cost to \$1.1 million. According to court documents, Foreman has paid Barnette \$892,000 for the house, but Barnette says he's still owed \$214,766.92.

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Hawks sweep twinnbl from Vernon. The Howard College Hawks improved to 7-4.

City Wide Registration. Little League & Girls Softball. At The Big Spring Mall Next to Bealls. Date Time: Saturday, Feb. 22nd 10 am-7 pm; Mon-Fri., Feb. 23rd-Feb. 28th 5:00 pm-7:00 pm; Saturday, March 1st 10 am-7:00 pm. Bring Registration Fee, Birth Certificate & Proof of Residency. International Little League, National Little League, American Little League, Big Spring Girls Softball, Softball Ages 5-19; Little League Ages 5-18.

Player dissatisfaction cited as Orlando gives Hill the boot

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — The worst-kept secret in the NBA became official Tuesday when Brian Hill was fired as coach of the Orlando Magic, a victim of player dissatisfaction.

The Magic won two Atlantic Division titles, reached the Eastern Conference finals twice and made one appearance in the NBA Finals under Hill, but that was when Shaquille O'Neal was still part of the team.

A five-game losing streak since the All-Star break and an overall 24-25 start — minus O'Neal — this season made it difficult to ignore complaints about how Hill was handling the team.

Co-captain Horace Grant said the players held a meeting last week in Minnesota, then related their concerns to general manager John Gabriel during a conversation by speaker phone.

"I understand the NBA and the politics of the NBA ... This is part of sports. We all live with it and move on," Hill said.

Magic assistant Richie Aduabato, Hill's former high school coach, was promoted to interim coach. His first game is at home Wednesday night against Portland.

"The one good thing here, as far as I'm concerned, is the fact I've worked with these players over a long period of time," the former Detroit Pistons and Dallas Mavericks coach said.

Magic players reportedly voted 12-0 to go to management about Hill. Grant called it a "majority" decision, but shrugged off the suggestion the team had lost faith in Hill.

However, he and Penny Hardaway denied reports that one or both of them had gone directly to Gabriel and — as the team's highest-paid players — were responsible for the firing.

"Win, lose or draw it's always going to fall on myself and it's going to fall on Horace. But we just have to take the heat," Hardaway said.

"Whatever comes, comes. But I know it isn't my fault or it isn't Horace's fault the reason why this stuff is happening."

Rumors about Hill's dismissal had been swirling since NBC-TV reported Sunday that he would be fired after that afternoon's game in Chicago.

After Monday night's 124-110 loss at Charlotte, Gabriel left open the possibility that a change would be made.

Hill, who led the Magic to 50, 57 and 60 victories the past three seasons, received a three-year contract extension last season worth \$750,000 a year.

But with O'Neal now playing for the Los Angeles Lakers and injuries to key players like Hardaway and Nick Anderson preventing Hill from using his regular lineup much of this season, the team struggled.

"Brian Hill has done a tremendous job in leading us through one of the most successful periods in Magic history," Gabriel said.

"However, at this time, with this particular team, it was the organization's feeling that in order to take the next step, a change in the leadership at the coaching level was needed."

Aduabato, 106-228 as an NBA coach, said while it was difficult to replace someone so close to him, he supported management's decision.

"We don't deal with kids with crewcuts — like I did when I started — and you tell them to dive through the wall and they do it," the interim coach said.

"They tell you to do it."

Hill became the second coach in the team's history, replacing Matt Guokas on the day of the 1993 draft. He compiled a 191-104 record in three-plus seasons and earned playoff berths each year.

But even though Orlando won the Atlantic Division and reached the Eastern Conference finals the past two years, he couldn't shake a perception that he was only successful because the Magic had so much talent.

Houston swept Orlando in the 1995 NBA Finals. Critics also pointed to Magic's inability to win even one game in a first-round loss to Indiana in 1994.

and last year's Eastern Conference finals against Chicago as examples of Hill shortcomings.

Losing O'Neal to free agency figured to give Hill a chance to prove his critics wrong. But Hardaway missed 23 of the team's first 28 games and the team went 2-12 with the All-Star guard and backcourt mate Nick Anderson sidelined in December.

Between Jan. 1 and the All-Star break, Orlando was one of the most successful teams in the league. The Magic were an NBA-best 9-1 in the 10 games before the break, but haven't won since.

Hill shrugged

ged when asked why the players now felt they couldn't play for him.

"That's the puzzling part for everybody, including myself. How we could come back and everything fall apart so quickly. ... Sometimes players just

need to hear another voice. It might be saying the same thing, but at least it's different."

"I don't think we lost confidence," Grant said. "... We both weren't getting it done. You have to take your hat off to Brian. He gave us some great years. ... I feel bad for him as a person and his family."

The dismissal is the sixth coaching change in the league since the start of the season. The others were in Denver, Phoenix, San Antonio, Vancouver and Washington.

Gabriel did not rule out making another change before the end of the season. He said the team, which also plans to offer Hill an unspecified position within the organization, will weigh its options before deciding when a permanent replacement will be hired.

The general manager declined to accept questions about possible candidates.

Nelson's demolition job buries Mavericks

By JIM LITKE
Associated Press

OPINION

He coached or traded enough of the players invited to the All-Star game in Cleveland two weeks ago to take his own team picture. He never bothered. Being Don Nelson, he knew none of them would have showed up.

A short while later, the rest of us were reminded why.

Nelson became the Dallas Mavericks' general manager 11 days ago. Already, every name on his enemies list has a line through it. On Day 1, he told tubby Oliver Miller to take his meals at someone else's training table. On Day 7, he sacked the equipment manager. Monday night, Nelson shipped every Dallas player who wasn't nailed to the bench, five in all, to New Jersey.

Why? Maybe just to prove he could do it.

"The locker room shocked me," Nelson said. "The things that went on, the things that were said, the negative things coming out from new and old players, were shocking."

"I observed it, I watched it, and basically got sick about it."

Experience says wait before passing judgment on a trade. So here's something to think about for a few paragraphs: Some

guys are tough to get along with. Every place Nelson worked the last couple of years seems to have had a few guys like that. At some point it seems fair to ask: Has Nelson become as much a part of the problem as the solution?

"He's tearing things down," said Eric Montross, part of the New Jersey trade after coming to Dallas from Boston last June and costing the Mavericks their 1997 first-round pick, "and it fell on me and a couple of other guys."

All the other times Nelson had run-ins with players, he deserved the benefit of the doubt. He was an unselfish, uncompromising player himself, someone who figured out what jobs the championship Celtics teams of the late 1960s needed doing and then set out to do them.

Filling the lane on a fast break, taking a charge, grabbing tough rebounds, just sitting on the bench with his mouth shut — so long as Boston won, Nelson didn't care which it was, or what kind of stats it produced. And he couldn't stand players who did.

There probably weren't that many around when he started

coaching in Milwaukee two decades ago. Or even through the first few years at Golden State, where he moved in time to start the 1988-89 season. But a tidal wave of bad attitude was already gaining momentum somewhere out at sea, about to sock the NBA shore.

Chris Webber was the first guy to soak Nelson. What made it look worse is that the Warriors surrendered the draft rights to Penny Hardaway and three No. 1 picks to get him. As soon as Nelson uprooted Webber and shipped him across the continent, up popped Latrell Sprewell as Golden State's next prima donna, like a bad mushroom. Before Nelson could send him packing, a full-scale mutiny erupted and he lost his job.

He resurfaced in New York, as coach of the Knicks for most of the 1995-96 season. There, Nelson collected powerful enemies, including Patrick Ewing, much quicker than friends. He inherited a veteran team, but contended it was already infected with the me-first virus that made today's youngsters uncoachable. Then he threw up his hands and quit trying. That's why Nelson was available when the GM job opened in Dallas.

Now he sees trouble — every-

where. He might be right about many of the kids, especially the ones he found lying around in Dallas. Still, players run things more than ever, Brian Hill's firing in Orlando being only the most recent example.

Some kind of accommodation is necessary. Nelson should have realized by now he can't trade them all. He is trying. That's what makes the decision by the Mavericks' ownership group to hand him the roster card and a pair of scissors at the same time look even worse.

It's not just that Nelson's view of things is distorted; he was never the judge of talent he was reputed to be. Someone went back and counted up: including Tim Hardaway, Webber, Mitch Richmond and Tyrone Hill, et al, Nelson — at one time or another — traded away players who made a combined 11 All-Star and two Dream Team appearances. The consensus around the league Tuesday was that he'd goofed again.

Somehow, the whole thing leaves the feeling there will be another reunion of Nelson's castoffs at next season's All-Star game. And that members of that not-so-exclusive club will welcome new ones with a knowing nod and this greeting: Same old Don.

Questions about Hirschbeck continue to dog Alomar

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

No surprise, Roberto Alomar showed up at spring training, and right away the questions started all over again about umpire John Hirschbeck.

"The only thing I can say about that is it's already over and I don't even want to talk about it," Alomar said Tuesday after reporting to the Baltimore Orioles' camp in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

"I don't want to bring that issue up," Alomar said. "It's already over and I have to move on. I've said what I have to say about that whole situation. I just want to play the game of baseball and have some fun at the game."

Alomar will serve a five-game suspension at the start of the regular season for spitting in Hirschbeck's face last September.

It might be a while, though, before Alomar is playing second base for the Orioles.

Alomar arrived in camp on crutches, nursing a badly sprained left ankle that could keep him sidelined for a week or two.

Hirschbeck is scheduled to work the Orioles' exhibition game against the Boston Red Sox at Fort Myers on March 17, but Alomar's injury might shelve a possible meeting between the two.

Orioles owner Pete Angelos says Hirschbeck owes Alomar an apology, claiming the umpire provoked the second baseman with a profane epithet.

Yankees David Wells' career with New York took a second turn for the worse, and he hasn't even thrown a pitch yet.

Wells, who broke his left hand in a fight outside a bar on Jan. 12, found out that he has gout.

The pitcher, who left

Baltimore and signed a \$13.5 million, three-year contract with the Yankees, thought he had turf toe. But tests performed Monday detected gout, a condition caused by excess uric acid in the blood. It can cause joint inflammation, and the condition sidelined the 248-pound pitcher for two weeks last season.

"It's been a bad year," he said at Tampa, Fla. "I'm frustrated because I want to get out there and participate. It's fun to do that. It's no fun sitting in here icing my foot and talking about my injury. I rather be out there and talking about baseball."

Padres NL MVP Ken Caminiti, still recovering from major surgery on his left rotator cuff, arrived a day early despite taking the long way to camp.

Caminiti's drive from Houston to Peoria, Ariz., was delayed for 17 hours when his pickup broke down in west Texas on Sunday.

Caminiti unloaded his Harley-Davidson motorcycle and drove about 40 miles to the nearest town. The auto parts store was closed, so he had to call an emergency number to get someone to open up and sell him the part he needed.

"I was about ready to pull over to the side of the road, get a flight in here and tell my wife I totaled the truck or something," Caminiti said.

In his first workout in Peoria, the switch-hitter took left-handed swings off tosses from hitting coach Merv Rettenmund, but took batting practice right-handed, sending balls to the fence and over it.

"Left-handed has been giving me a problem," said Caminiti, who also took grounders at third. "Right-handed, I could go out and play today."

Tigers Manager Buddy Bell says his wife wants him at spring train-

ing, but he insists on making frequent trips to their Cincinnati home as she is treated for tonsil cancer.

"I'm glad to be here," Bell said at Lakeland, Fla. "I think I would've driven Gloria crazy if I wasn't (in Florida), but it's good because it gets my mind off the situation for a while. Not completely. It's something I'm always thinking about, but I'm really looking forward to the season, so it's good to get started."

Bell said he expects to miss a day or two out of every 10 during spring training, although that could change.

"If I have to go home, then I'll go home no matter what," he said. "The club has been phenomenal about understanding that."

Bell's wife is expected to have five-days-a-week radiation treatments that are to end around the same time spring training ends. Doctors have told Bell she has an 85 percent chance for a full recovery.

Cardinals Dennis Eckersley worked out again Tuesday, a day after St. Louis closer had an MRI for his sore right elbow. An MRI revealed only swelling.

Trade talk heats up

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Should New Jersey trade Sam Cassell to the Charlotte Hornets or Indiana Pacers?

Should they trade Kendall Gill now that his value is at an all-time high?

Should they trade Jayson Williams now that they have Chris Gatling filling the same role at power forward?

Those were the questions coach John Calipari and general manager John Nash were asking themselves today as Thursday night's 6 p.m. EST NBA trading deadline drew closer.

Other teams tried to acquire Jimmy Jackson, Gatling and George McCloud from Dallas, but general manager Don Nelson sent them all packing to

the Nets in the deal that sent Shawn Bradley, Robert Pack and two others to the Mavericks.

Interest in the ex-Mavs still remains high, and the Nets will have to decide if they want to stay active in the trade market and bring in a center or point guard.

"This is rotisserie basketball at its highest level," Nash said Tuesday. "That's what I get paid to do. We're trying to exercise some patience while trying to put a product on the floor that is competitive."

Elsewhere Tuesday, Chris Mullin, Derek Harper and Sean Rooks were just some of the players wondering whether they'll have new places of work by the time the weekend rolls around.

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WEDNESDAY

FEB. 19

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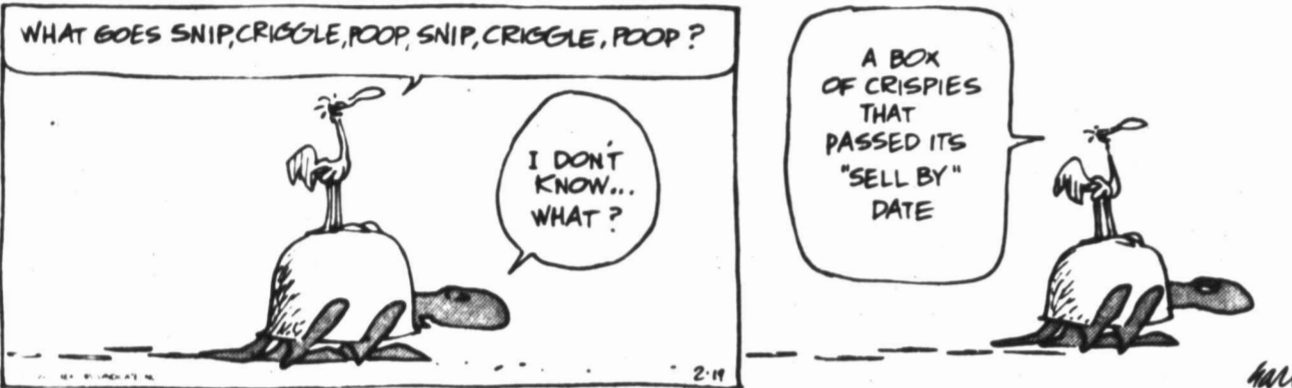
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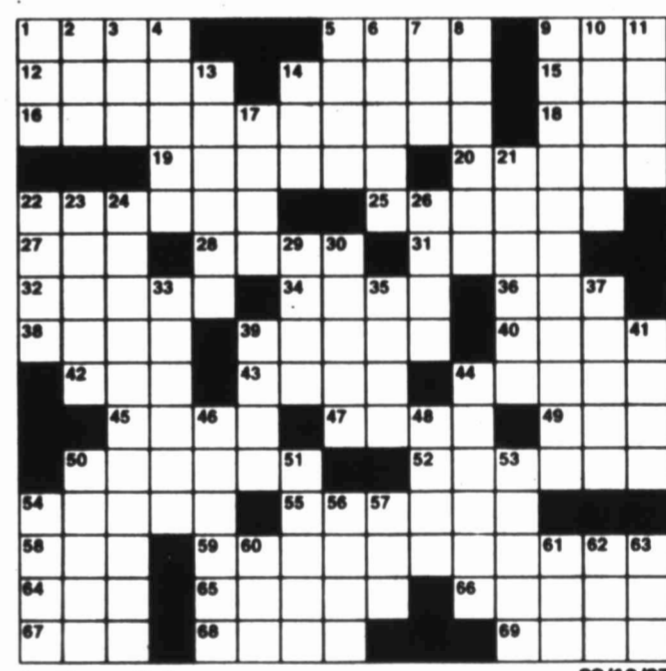
The ASSOCIATED PRESS
Today is Wednesday, Feb. 19, the 50th day of 1997. There are 315 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:
On Feb. 19, 1945, during World War II, some 30,000 U.S. Marines landed on the Western Pacific island of Iwo Jima, where they encountered ferocious resistance from Japanese forces. The Americans took control of the strategically important island after a monthlong battle.

On this date:
In 1473, the astronomer Copernicus was born in Torun, Poland.
In 1803, Congress voted to accept Ohio's borders and constitution. (However, Congress did not get around to formally ratifying Ohio statehood until — believe it or not — 1953.)
In 1807, former Vice President Aaron Burr was arrested in Alabama. (He was subsequently tried for treason and acquitted.)
In 1846, the Texas state government was formally installed in Austin.
In 1878, Thomas Edison received a patent for his phonograph.
In 1881, Kansas became the first state to prohibit all alcoholic beverages.
In 1942, President Roosevelt signed an executive order giving the military the authority to relocate and intern Japanese-Americans.
In 1942, during World War II, about 150 Japanese warplanes attacked the Australian city of Darwin.
In 1959, an agreement was signed by Britain, Turkey and Greece granting Cyprus its independence.
In 1963, the Soviet Union informed President Kennedy it would withdraw "several thousand" of an estimated 17,000 Soviet troops in Cuba.
In 1986, the U.S. Senate approved a treaty outlawing genocide, 37 years after the pact had first been submitted for ratification.
Ten years ago: Taking Democratic leaders and even some of his closest aides by surprise, New York Gov. Mario Cuomo announced during a radio call-in program that he would not run for president in 1988.
Five years ago: Former Irish Republican Army member Joseph Doherty was deported from the United States to Northern Ireland following a 10-year battle for political asylum.
One year ago: Republican presidential hopefuls argued taxes, trade and negative ads in a final burst of contentious campaigning on the eve of New Hampshire's leadoff primary, with Bob Dole the principal target. Baseball showman Charlie O. Finley died in Chicago at age 77.

THE Daily Crossword

- ACROSS
1 Females
5 Return of the — (film)
9 You stand to lose it
12 Planet
14 Dimmed
15 Vigoda
16 Treat with style
18 — is mel
19 Reveled
20 In any way
22 Different ones
25 Reach
27 Marker
28 Reds' state
31 Fix
32 — a gun!
34 Bonito
36 Author John — Fasso
38 Miss Kett
39 Sailors
40 Part of QED
42 Poaed
43 NC college
44 Zeal
45 Stack role
47 Close to
49 Comp. dir.
50 Life is but —
52 Alarms
54 Slip
55 — Way
58 Neighbor of Cal.
59 Compromise system
64 Physician, for short
65 Corundum
66 Sea duck
67 Sign
68 Carry on
69 Strobilus



by Roger Coburn

Tuesday's Puzzle solved:



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Advertisement for Big Spring Herald, including contact information (915-263-7331), office hours, and a list of staff members and their roles.

Advertisement for a product, possibly a snack, with a price tag of \$1.99 and a coupon for a free sample.