

BIG SPRING HERALD

Reflecting A Proud Community

THURSDAY
April 24, 1997

50 cents

Woman tells council that dog thefts becoming a problem

By CARLTON JOHNSON
Staff Writer

A problem that city officials, including the Big Spring Police Department (BSPD), may not be aware of — dog theft — was brought to the attention of the Big Spring City Council during Tuesday's council meeting by local resident Denise Freeman.

Freeman addressed the council about her Basenji, which was stolen while she was away on her honeymoon.

"I know someone had to climb over my fence to get my dog," Freeman said. "There is a bad problem with dog theft in Big Spring. I came to the city council to see if there was something that can be done."

Freeman has a \$100 reward posted for

the return of her Basenji, which answers to the name "Missy."

According to Freeman, the Basenji is a rare dog that does not get very big and does not bark, which is where it gets its nickname "barkless dog." The Basenji makes a sort of whining sound, and if registered can carry a value of up to \$4,000, according to Freeman.

Until the theft of her dog, Freeman has six of the rare Basenjies.

"I have rescued these dogs and have found homes for them or have kept them myself," Freeman said.

Freeman said her stolen dog is not registered, but the value of the dog is not the issue with her.

"My pets are a part of my family and I love them," Freeman said. "A \$35 dog is worth as much to an owner as a dog

that costs \$1,000."

Freeman also addressed the council because she wanted to make people aware of the problem of dog theft.

"When you have a community problem, you go to your community representatives," Freeman said. "This is somewhere between having your child and your lawnmower stolen."

According to Freeman, she knows of at least eight people who have had dogs stolen within the last six or seven months.

"I would not have gone to the council if a lot of people hadn't told me about their lost animals," Freeman said. "People just don't know who to contact about stolen animals."

Freeman said she simply wants a coordinated effort among the various

entities that deal with animals.

According to BSPD Chief Jerry Edwards, whenever the department gets a theft report it is investigated as thoroughly as possible.

"We don't have an animal theft problem as far as I know," Lt. Terry Chamness, BSPD animal control supervisor, said.

Two reasons for the BSPD not being aware of a dog theft problem is that people are not registering their animals with the BSPD shelter and many are not making police reports when an animal is stolen.

According to Chamness, the BSPD averages about one animal registration per month, but registering animals and reporting incidents of theft will go a long way in assisting the BSPD in their

investigations.

"One thing people can do to help prevent animal theft is have a good fence around their yard with the gates locked," Chamness said.

Veterinarians have the technology to insert a microchip under a dog's skin, making it easier to track animals.

According to Chamness, officers in his department have also been trained in how to insert these microchips.

"When we have an animal come into the shelter, we scan (if they have the chip) the animal and can instantly tell who owns the animal," Chamness said.

Registration also allows officials to have a good description of animals as well as the ability to trace animal ownership from collars and identification tags.

Hangar 25 display set for Saturday

Antique autos, model contest part of activities

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

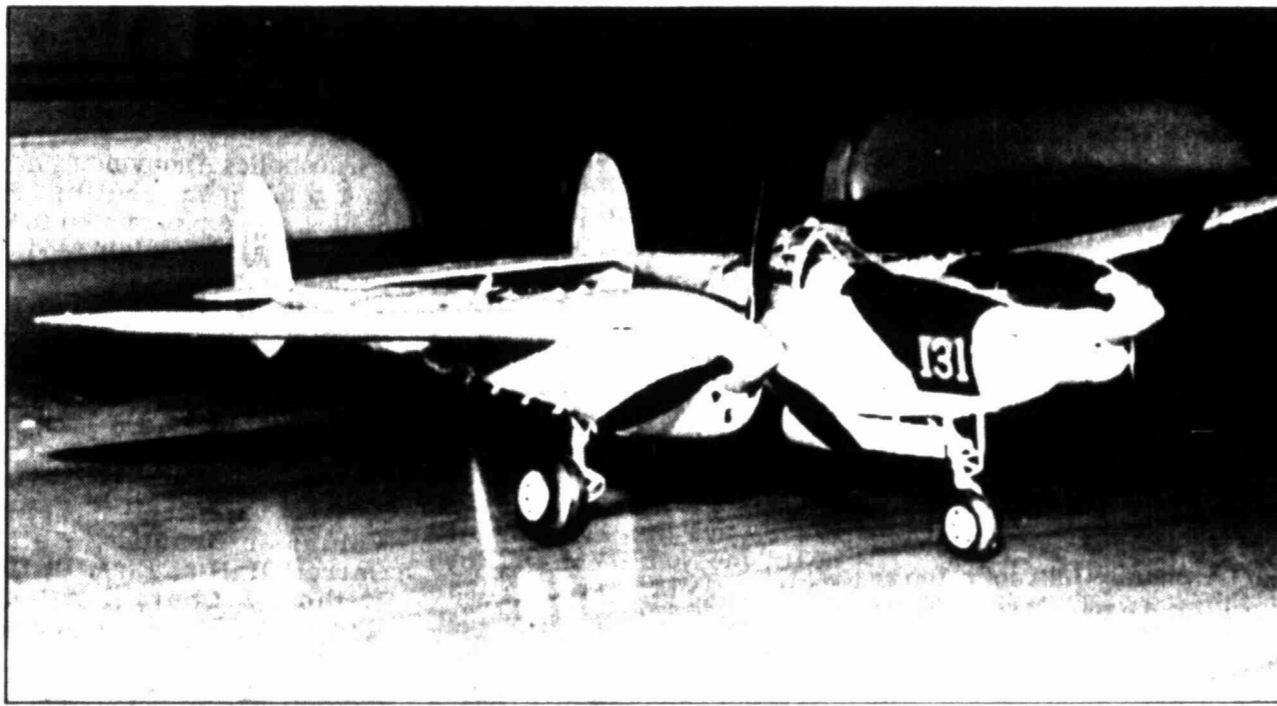
At about 3 p.m. Friday, area residents will know that the inaugural Hangar 25 Static Display is soon to begin.

It will be at that time that the deep, rumbling roar of a C-130 Hercules aircraft will be heard over Big Spring, as the aircraft from Dyess Air Force Base in Abilene flies over the city prior to landing at McMahon-Wrinkle Airpark.

The event will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday at the airpark. There is no admission, although donations to help in the Hangar 25 renovation project will be accepted.

The Hercules, a workhorse Air Force cargo plane for the past three decades, will be one of several aircraft on display at the Hangar 25 event, according to airpark manager Nelda Reagan.

Also at the event will be a C-46 Tinkerbell, as well as sever-



This model P-38 Lightning is one of the planes that actually flew at Webb Air Force Base. It was left behind by the personnel. Other models have been built by local residents in a contest being held in conjunction with Saturday's inaugural Hangar 25 Static Display.

al World War II-vintage aircraft.

Festivities begin Saturday morning with the presentation of the colors by a U.S. Air Force honor guard and the singing of the national anthem by local resident Kristie West.

A group of skydivers from Stanton will hold demonstrations throughout the day, Reagan said.

Also on hand will be a collection of antique cars and radio-controlled airplanes. In conjunction with the event, the air-

park has held a model airplane contest, with the top finishers in each division winning cash prizes.

Food and other refreshments will be available throughout the day for those attending the inaugural event, Reagan said.

HERALD photo/Jonathan Garrett

Corps of Engineers gives OK to resume Beals Creek project

By CARLTON JOHNSON
Staff Writer

The city of Big Spring has been informed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers that the Corps will issue a notice to proceed to the contractor next week to resume construction on the Beals Creek project.

The city will also receive some of the relief it was looking for to help offset the increased costs of the project.

The relief will come in the form of a credit for the city's allowing its landfill to be used for disposal of the additional soil contamination found at the project site.

The exact dollar amount of the credit is not known at this point, but Community Development and Utilities Director Todd Darden said the city hopes it can receive a credit of around \$1.4 million.

As a result of the Corps talking to the contractor, \$1 million has been cut out of the overall

cost of the project.

The initial soil contamination found a few years ago was thought to be minimal and isolated to one spot, and borings done at various locations of the site did not reveal any additional contamination.

The additional amount of contaminated soil the Corps, the city and the contractor are dealing with now is the equivalent of a football field 13 1/2 feet high.

Instead of the original project cost estimate of \$5.73 million — \$4.24 million being paid by the corps and \$1.49 million by the city of Big Spring — the additional contamination has increased the estimated cost to \$10,885,800. However, that estimate has been decreased slightly as a result of the Corps' negotiations with the contractor.

According to Darden, the contaminated soil that has to be removed adds up to approximately 130,000 cubic yards — all

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Dodds continuing bid to 'Let Freedom Ring'

By CARLTON JOHNSON
Staff Writer

The same community service spirit that earned Big Spring resident Mamie Lee Dodds the chamber of commerce's Woman of the Year Award in 1994 has guided her to continue the tradition of the annual Fourth of July "Let Freedom Ring" pageant.

This year's pageant is scheduled for 8 p.m. July 4 in the amphitheater at Comanche Trail Park.

Dodds recently addressed the Big Spring City Council about the Let Freedom Ring program and asked for the council's support in promoting the pageant to the public.

"The chamber's Convention and Visitor's Bureau has given me a budget of \$300 for this year's program," Dodds said. "Everyone is invited to the pageant this year and is encouraged to bring a bell."

The bells will all be rang in unison at the conclusion of the

program.

Also during this year's program, Midland-based Sons of Confederate Veterans will present the colors and fire a cannon.

Dodds first did the program in Big Spring in 1964. She did the program herself until the chamber's Cultural Affairs Committee decided to help tackle the project a few years later.

According to Dodds, President Lyndon Johnson, in the mid 1960s decided America needed to celebrate the fourth of July in a different way and issued a proclamation to let freedom ring in celebration of the nation's birthday, which is where the ringing of bells simultaneously comes from.

"Many communities didn't have fireworks, so bells, especially church bells, rang in unison to celebrate the Fourth of July," Dodds said.

The program itself, which does include speaking parts which have already been cast for the most part, according to

Dodds, traces the ethnic history of America, including history on American Indians, Spaniards, the pilgrims, slavery and the Declaration of Independence, according to Dodds.

In 1977, Dodds, then a school teacher, took her fifth grade class and presented the program to the Disabled American Veterans (DAV).

The theme of the production was "What Is America?" and according to Dodds, the children dressed as the Statue of Liberty as she presented the program.

One of the freedoms mentioned in the Declaration of Independence is liberty.

To symbolize liberty and the famed Liberty Bell in Philadelphia, Dodds said the Steer victory bell at Big Spring High School has come to serve this purpose and is still a part of the program today.

Dodds was honored by the

Please see DODDS, page 2A

SIGNAL'S FIRST

SIGNAL HOME #1



The first home to come off the Signal Homes plant line in Big Spring was bought by Bill and Carol Beville (center) who posed with Signal representatives Mike Brignole (left) and Bud Ledingham when the home was rolled out Wednesday afternoon. Company officials have prepared a special ceremony this afternoon as the home is trucked away from the plant. In addition, Signal officials indicated that the first few homes constructed in the Big Spring plant will be "prototype homes" that will be used to fine tune operations prior to the start of full production at the plant.

HERALD photo/Jonathan Garrett

Bill focuses on unreturned library books

By CARLTON JOHNSON
Staff Writer

Not returning your library book on time could cost library patrons up to \$500 as well as a misdemeanor charge of theft of service if the Texas Legislature passes House Bill 237.

The bill is sponsored by Rep. Tony Goolsby, R-Dallas, who equates not returning public library materials to someone walking into your home and stealing something.

HB 237 puts library materials

under the theft of service section of the state's criminal code, treating the materials like video rentals.

Dora Roberts Howard County Reference Librarian Rebecca Taylor said Big Spring is no stranger to materials not being returned.

"We do have a considerable problem with late items," Taylor said. "From what I understand, this would be a law that would contact people under criminal pursuit, which might be a deterrent to keeping borrowed materials."

According to Taylor, unreturned materials are a real problem for most public libraries.

"I think this (HB 237) would be a good way to get people to return things," Taylor said.

Some of the items the library has had trouble in getting returned are things like test books, books on divorce and GED books, for which a deposit is now required.

Taylor said many libraries also put their best sellers on deposit.

"Theft or not returning items

is one of the reasons we put in theft detection systems," she said.

Currently, local library patrons pay a per day fine for overdue books of five cents; 10 cents for audio tape materials; and \$1 for video materials.

Texas libraries lose about \$14.5 million in books not returned each year, according to a Texas Library Association survey.

A House committee has already approved HB 237 and the full house is expected to vote on the bill this week.

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TODAY'S WEATHER

90 ▲ Highs 45
Lows ▼

Today: Cloudy with a chance of thunderstorms. Tonight, showers or thunderstorms likely, some possibly severe. Lows in the mid to upper 40s.

Friday: Cloudy with a chance of showers or thunderstorms. Highs in the mid to upper 60s. Friday night, cloudy with a chance of showers and lows in the mid 40s.

Extended outlook: Saturday and Sunday, cooler with chance of showers.

TEXAS BRIEFS

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

Grandmother receives deferred adjudication

WHARTON — A woman whose 2-year-old grandson was decapitated by her car's air bag has been given two years' deferred adjudication after she accepted a plea bargain and pleaded no contest to child endangerment.

The prosecution dropped charges of intoxication manslaughter, manslaughter and a second charge of endangerment against Ruby Mae Fields, 35, of El Campo.

Fields has filed a wrongful death lawsuit against General Motors Corp., the manufacturer of her 1995 Geo Metro, in connection with the Dec. 22 death of Montrey Jones, 2.

A Wharton County grand jury indicted Fields in January. The woman told police the air bag deployed when she swerved to avoid another car as she was driving her grandson and a 6-year-old nephew around to view Christmas decorations.

Attorney seeks to reinstate lawsuit against Van Cliburn

FORT WORTH — A former longtime business partner and companion of Van Cliburn is attempting to have his lawsuit against the renowned pianist reinstated.

Thomas E. Zarembo claims that State District Judge Fred Davis improperly dismissed his lawsuit last July. Zarembo's attorney, Katherine Kinser of Dallas, argued his case Wednesday before a three-judge panel of the 2nd Court of Appeals.

Zarembo's lawsuit sought "multiple millions" in cash and property. He alleges that Cliburn breached an oral agreement to share his income in exchange for Zarembo performing business manager duties over a 17-year relationship.

The attorney said Zarembo, a licensed mortician who now lives in Center Line, Mich., performed "17 different types of services" and took "care of (Cliburn's) business, so to speak, while he was free to perform."

Water-use fees likely to be included in House bill

AUSTIN — Texans would pay a fee if they used more than 7,000 gallons of water per month under an amended House bill that would give Texas its first-ever water conservation and drought management plan.

The House Natural Resources Committee approved an amendment by Rep. Ron Lewis, D-Mauriceville, that would add water-use fees to the bill. The measure still faces a final vote by the committee, most likely next week.

If the committee approves the bill, as expected, the measure would go to the full House for consideration.

"If the small- and medium-sized cities don't have access to funds outside of their tax base to pay for infrastructure for new water sources, the small- and medium-sized cities of Texas will die," Lewis said Wednesday.

Senate votes to ban investment in some music companies

AUSTIN — Taking a stand against songs they say poison young minds by degrading women and promoting violence, the Texas Senate has voted to bar state investment in companies promoting "gangsta rap" and similar music.

"We can't censor this kind of music," said Sen. Bill Ratliff, bill sponsor. "But we can say that we're not going to stand by and let the funds of the taxpayers of the state of Texas be invested in this kind of trash."

Recording Industry Association of America spokeswoman Alexandra Walsh said she knows of no state with such a law on the books.

House OKs property tax amendment

AUSTIN (AP) — Having approved a proposed constitutional amendment allowing the state to lower local school property taxes by raising and expanding a host of state taxes, the Texas House today is expected to begin work on a bill to do those things.

The House Wednesday night voted 114-35 for the constitutional amendment. It makes way for a nearly 400-page bill to lower local school property taxes by about 50 percent.

To pay for the cuts, the bill would expand the state business tax, add to the number of goods and services subject to the state sales tax and increase some other taxes. A separate measure would dedicate an additional \$1.3 billion in state funds for

education. The entire package would cut local and state taxes about 2 percent for many Texans. Wealthier and poorer Texans would get slightly more cuts than those in the middle class.

Parts of the bill, including the business tax expansion, would be unconstitutional unless voters approve the proposed amendment. It now goes to the Senate and would go to voters on Aug. 9.

The bill would not take effect if voters rejected the constitutional amendment.

House approval of the proposed amendment came after more than eight hours of debate. Several attempts were made to lower the overall impact of the bill.

Rep. Paul Sadler, D-Henderson, chairman of the committee that wrote the constitutional amendment and the accompanying bill, called the entire package a sweeping change in state tax policy.

"There will be fights, but in the end this body knows it has to put together a package," Sadler said.

Bush called the vote in favor of the constitutional amendment a major step, but also said more work remains.

Nearly 200 amendments await the bill. Some would expand the tax savings while others would pare down the list of goods and services that would be added to the state sales tax. Debate was expected to last through Friday. The constitutional amend-

ment would: — Bar school districts from imposing a business property tax for school operation and maintenance.

— Allow the state to impose a business property tax for school operation and maintenance.

— Limit to \$1.05 per \$100 in value the maintenance and operation tax on residential and business property.

— Allow the state to limit the number of times residential property can be appraised and the percentage property value rates can raise after each appraisal.

— Allow the state to expand the state business tax — often called a business income tax — to all companies except sole proprietorships.

Four accused in bombing, robbery plot

DALLAS (AP) — Four people accused of plotting to blow up a natural gas plant and rob an armored car had acquired and tested weapons and were ready to "wipe out half of Wise County," a federal agent says.

The suspects — three men and a woman — were arrested by the FBI Tuesday in Fort Worth and Boyd, 41 miles northwest in rural Wise County, after about six weeks of surveillance that stemmed from an informant's tip.

Shawn Dee Adams, 37, of

Boyd; his 35-year-old wife, Catherine Dee Adams, 34-year-old Edward Taylor Jr. of Bridgeport; and Carl Jay Waskom Jr., 34, of Boyd were charged with federal conspiracy to commit robbery. U.S. Attorney Paul Coggins said he would seek further charges from a grand jury.

A detention hearing for the four was set for Monday. They appeared Wednesday before U.S. Magistrate Judge Charles Bleil, who ordered them held without bail.

FBI agent Robert Garrity said the group planned to blow up the Mitchell Energy & Development Corp. natural gas processing plant in Bridgeport, about 15 miles from Boyd.

The suspects also planned "four or five" secondary explosions timed to kill law-enforcement officials responding to an initial bomb threat, Garrity said.

According to FBI affidavits, the group hoped the explosions and release of toxic gas from fuel tanks would trigger a cata-

strophe. "They anticipated they might wipe out half of Wise County," Garrity said.

The suspects then planned to take advantage of the chaos to rob an armored car outside the First National Bank of Bridgeport with hopes of yielding \$2 million.

Garrity said group members wanted ultimately to fund future terrorist acts, but he and other federal authorities refused to describe the group's political bent.

Oklahoma City bombing trial gets under way

DENVER (AP) — An audiotape captured the deafening explosion that brought the Oklahoma City federal building down on hundreds of unsuspecting occupants. Videotapes recorded horrified victims, falling ash, burning cars.

Government prosecutors intend to convey the death and destruction from the worst terrorist attack on American soil with vivid sounds and images when they open their case today against Timothy McVeigh.

McVeigh's attorney, Stephen Jones, planned to assert that the

government's case was flawed from the very beginning, when investigators started collecting evidence on April 19, 1995, in that swirling mass of confusion.

Both sides should take at least half a day to present opening statements, after which prosecutors planned to call their first witnesses.

One of the early prosecution witnesses will be Lou Klaver, an attorney who can authenticate the audiotape of the explosion.

Klaver was at a meeting across the street from the

Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building when the bomb went off at 9:02 a.m. His voice can be heard on the tape, followed by 14 seconds of the concrete and metal being ripped apart.

Prosecutors also plan to play dramatic news videotape of the explosion's frantic aftermath.

Television viewers saw bleeding children, frantic parents and throngs of people fleeing in terror as car alarms blared and thick, black smoke billowed from what only moments before was the federal building.

Rescue workers carried

stretchers covered with bloody sheets. A little boy sat dazed and shivering as he was comforted by a rescuer.

Sources close to the case said prosecutors plan to present victims to give jurors a firsthand account of the tragedy.

Marsha Kight, whose 23-year-old daughter died in the bombing, said victims and their families were told about the prosecution's plans in advance. Some relatives went to the coroner's office to see photos of their loved ones so they wouldn't be shocked during the trial.

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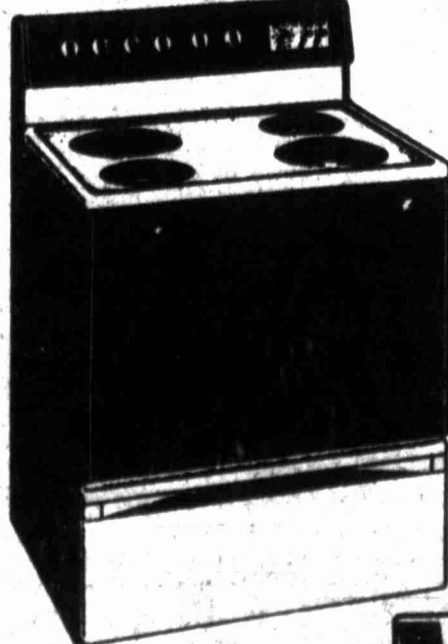
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EDITORIAL

Quote of the Day

"A government which robs Peter to pay Paul can always depend on the support of Paul."

George Bernard Shaw

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OTHER VIEWS

Here are excerpts from recent editorials in newspapers in the United States and abroad.

Israel's top prosecutors spared Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu the embarrassment of a criminal trial and the instant collapse of his government Sunday. They found insufficient evidence to sustain a police recommendation to indict him for fraud and breach of trust in a political corruption scandal.

But the prosecutors' announcement, which also cited their "tangible suspicion" that Mr. Netanyahu misbehaved, damaged him politically and left the fate of his Government and the peace process in doubt. His hasty proclamation that the affair is now behind him was unrealistic. ...

THE NEW YORK TIMES

To the question of whether Binyamin Netanyahu, Israel's embattled prime minister, can retain power, the official answer now is yes. A police investigation had recommended his indictment for appointing as attorney general someone who was going to go easy on three influential political figures facing charges of criminal misconduct. But a divided prosecutors' team decided the available evidence was insufficient. The prime minister admitted he had "erred" in making the appointment but said that the criminal allegations against him were strictly political. The prosecutors rendered an administrative decision that is subject to Supreme Court review, but the legal threat against Mr. Netanyahu is thought to be ... at an end.

Mr. Netanyahu, nonetheless, has been hurt. The result almost surely will be to embolden his political adversaries and perhaps to incline him to rely a bit more on his nationalist and ultra-Orthodox constituencies. ...

THE WASHINGTON POST

This baseball season is all the more special because it marks the 50th anniversary of Jackie Roosevelt Robinson's breaking the color line with the Brooklyn Dodgers.

It's hard to imagine the grand old game being deprived of spectacular talents such as Willie Mays, Roy Campanella, Bob Gibson, Hank Aaron, Rod Carew, Frank Robinson, Willie McCovey, Tony Gwynn, Ken Griffey Jr. and Frank Thomas.

But that is precisely what could have been, were it not for a visionary owner and a gifted athlete who went through a great deal of grief to prove he belonged in the big leagues. ...

DAILY RECORD
ROSWELL, N.M.

The folks in Washington just don't seem to get it. They keep acting as if money were the solution. But money is not the solution, money is the problem.

Newt Gingrich, the speaker of the house, got into hot water with the House Ethics Committee because of the way he exploited the power of his position to raise money, then misled the committee about what he'd done.

The Ethics Committee's answer was to fine the speaker \$300,000. Only on Capitol Hill would anybody think to punish improper fund-raising by sentencing the miscreant to raise funds. ...

Now, in yet another bizarre turn of events, Gingrich has announced that he has a moral duty to pay the fine out of his own pocket, which he'll fulfill by paying it out of Bob Dole's pocket. ...

Money explains everything in Washington politics today. This scheme to make Gingrich's present financial problem seem to go away does not do that at all. It merely creates a bigger financial problem down the road.

NEWS & RECORD
GREENSBORO, N.C.

Akron (Ohio) Beacon Journal, on Speaker Gingrich's loan:

Newt Gingrich is nothing if not resourceful, at least, politically speaking.

In January, the speaker received a stiff \$300,000 penalty from the House Ethics Committee. The committee concluded that he had misled the House about his use of tax-exempt funds to support a college course that carried an obvious partisan flavor.

Gingrich understood that paying the penalty with campaign funds would "cause an uproar" as U.S. Rep. John Boehner (R-Ohio) put it. News reports have suggested the speaker's wife was less than thrilled about reaching into family funds.

How did Gingrich resolve the dilemma? He plans to borrow the money from Bob Dole.

No matter how politically clever the deal may appear, it carries the stench of Washington insiders designing another arrangement that would hardly be available to the typical American.

BEACON JOURNAL
AKRON, OHIO

DOFF THE DES MOINES REGISTER



Big news seems to be bad news for girls

The news affects more people than a plane crash or mass suicide. But as stories go, this one was a blip on the radar screen.

"U.S. Girls Reaching Puberty Early" wasn't a sexy enough headline to warrant much discussion.

A study out of Chapel Hill found that nearly half of all black girls and 15 percent of white ones are beginning to develop sexually by age 8. That means many second- and third-graders are having to deal with puberty at the same time they are learning to read. They are simultaneously buying Barbies and bras, struggling with curvaceous and curves. They are filling out before they can grow up.

So far, nobody knows exactly what's to blame. It might be "environmental estrogens," caused by everything from pesticides to plastic wrap. It might be real estrogen used in some beauty products. The study simply concludes more research is needed.



Rheta Johnson
Syndicated
Columnist

Please, get on with your research. To rob a girl of that rare and wonderful pre-pubescent freedom is a horrible thing.

It's the tomboy period for most girls. Tomboy. That's what we call a little girl who had rather climb a tree than host a tea party, who on a dare will try anything, especially if it bests a boy.

Before a female knows she's put on this earth to appeal to men, before she checks her reflection 1,000 times a day, before she ever hears of a Mommy Track or Glass Ceiling — before all of that — she gets a couple of years of true freedom. Yes, male-like freedom.

I think of them as the Lumberjack years. My daddy was in the grocery business, and a bacon company gave him a big box of T-shirts touting its

meats. On the front of the shirt was a lumberjack hefting his ax.

This was long before T-shirts and their slogans were ubiquitous. But I loved the shirts and wore one almost every day.

I also gave one of the prized shirts to my best friend Patricia Yancey. (In pre-pubescent girlhood it's perfectly OK to dress alike.) The shirts and jeans were our uniform; there was no mistaking our gang of two.

We spent a lot of time negotiating the storm sewers of Montgomery, Ala., wading barefoot through the concrete maze, squeezing ourselves through the occasional corrugated pipe for the thrill of it. On weekends we rode horses, jumping from their bare backs into the creek for a swim.

Unfettered fun didn't last long even then. So soon we were faced with junior high.

With change. Freedom was replaced with worry, a desperate kind, and a dread of inadequacy that never quite leaves a woman.

Suddenly I worried about everything. About boys. About the bumps on my face. I worried my feet were too long, my dress too short.

My hair got oily, and my perpetually skinned knees — not long before a point of pride seemed horrendous. All of this happened overnight, too, with no warning, at age 14. I can remember as if it was yesterday, sitting in my eighth-grade class, looking out the window at another class marching to the lunchroom. All of the kids in that ragtag line looked so happy, so carefree. I couldn't believe we were the same species.

The pain of puberty doesn't last forever, of course. But an extended one could really do you in, I'm afraid.

Once again high technology seems to have low-down results. Chemicals are abroad that rob girls of girlhood. And, trust me, that's a real crime.

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CLACK CLACK
CLACKETY
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When group politics prevails, we lose individuals

Years ago, I gave a ride to a black man who was obviously distraught and was standing on the side of a residential street.

He told me he had just gotten out of prison. He was trying to make his way home. He had stopped at a house and asked for food. A woman had made him a sandwich, but she gave it to him on the back steps.

"She wouldn't even hand it to me," the ex-con said. "He was both angry and hurt. Tears ran down his ebony face. 'She put the plate on the steps, like I was a dog. But I'm not a dog. I'm a man — a man among men.'"

He seemed to be talking more to himself than to me, but I said, "I know you are."

I drove him out to the highway where he could thumb a ride and never saw him again. But I've never forgotten him either. More than likely the woman who had made the



Charley Reese
Syndicated
Columnist

sandwich for him was more afraid of him than disdainful. He wasn't what you'd call a fashion model.

But fear can cause us to hurt people, and a hurt is a hurt regardless of the motive that produced it. And it is easy to be afraid when we see people as an abstract symbol rather than as individual human beings.

It is easy to think of people in the abstract. That's what this group politics so many people are playing these days encourages us to do. It encourages us to talk about people as a class — criminals, whites, Hispanics, blacks, elderly, rich, poor, generation-this or generation-that.

But all people are individuals. We are not group-born. We are born individually, we live individually and we die individually. And every man or woman, every boy or girl, has individual emotions and feelings.

That ex-con looked like a pretty tough guy, and maybe he was, but he wasn't so tough he couldn't be wounded by a gesture. A person's dignity is a precious thing, and it should never be taken away.

To shed my usual diplomatic

language, I can't stand people who think in the abstract and play group politics. I've noticed that no matter how much they claim to be compassionate or concerned about some group, they usually have darned little contact with individuals in that group.

The only way this country has a chance is the old way — for people to think of themselves as individual Americans and to deal in realities, not in abstractions. Group politics will eventually Balkanize us, and the country will break up.

The federal government itself plays group politics with a vengeance. We have groups now competing with each other for the prize of most victimized. That's a really stupid argument — whose ancestors were the most badly treated.

There's something sick about anybody who revels in being a victim in the abstract while in their individual flesh and blood they are living the good life.

A centralized government with unlimited powers creates that kind of situation. It rewards political clout and punishes lack of political clout. So people tend to form groups — or gangs — to wrestle favors from the government and to

avoid being punished. So you end up with a sort of gang warfare on a national scale.

The only answer is limited government, as our forefathers intended. When government has no favors to give, then there will be no need for gangs.

But there are probably too many people with a dependency mind-set, too many people who have built power bases based on group politics.

On the other hand, every sunrise is a new day and a new opportunity. Nobody has to be trapped by the past, which is gone and unchangeable.

Nobody has to live up to expectations put on them by some demagogue. Nobody has to accept the status quo. Nobody has to accept the fashionable delusions of the day. All of those are decisions we make. We can choose to make different decisions.

Let us therefore concern ourselves with individuals and not with abstractions, which exist only in our heads. You can't touch an abstraction. You can't touch a person.

Charley Reese's e-mail address is OSOREESE@aol.com.
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BRUCE TINSLEY

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Spurs coach signs new pact with team

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Coach Gregg Popovich figures his first season at the helm of the San Antonio Spurs is ancient history and his second season is well under way.

"I'm thrilled to move forward," Popovich said Wednesday after signing a new multi-year contract that has him returning as general manager and coach despite compiling the worst record in franchise history.

Spurs president Jack Diller said the decision to keep Popovich as coach was an easy one.

"Gregg did a great job with the team this season. Even though our record was one we would like to forget, the way the team played under Pop was a style which was impressive," Diller said.

Popovich fired Bob Hill on Dec. 10 and appointed himself coach.

Then he oversaw a season filled with player injuries and one that ended with a 20-62 record. The Spurs were 17-47 under Popovich.

With the third worst record in the NBA, San Antonio has a good chance of drawing the No. 1 draft pick in the NBA lottery.

"We all suffered through a tough season," Popovich said. "But that's gone. It's over."

REGION

Continued from page 1B
Brian Fielder was downed by No. 2 seed Caleb Asley of Canadian 0-6, 6-0, 6-3, while Gary Simer and Cade Park lost to a team from Seagraves in the first round of boys' doubles.

Stanton's Jake Reid won his first round match, 6-3, 7-6 over Jake Laredo of Post before dropping a 6-1, 6-2 decision to top seeded Kareem Abdullah of Clarendon.

Region I-1A golf

LEVELLAND — Borden County's girls golf team is in sixth place after the first round of the Region I-1A golf tournament at Sundown Municipal golf course Wednesday.

Vega leads the tournament with a team total 385, while Shamrock is second at 406. Borden's girls are well back with a team total 468.

The top two teams advance to the Class 1A state golf tournament May 5-6 in Austin.

CHARLES

Continued from page 1B
ings between the clubs, the Timberwolves led in three of those contexts in the second half before crumbling.

"We need to have the ability to win the game," Saunders said.

"I hope we will put ourselves in the situation where we can win the game," he said.

"And that's what we need to do," he said.

"I hope we will put ourselves in the situation where we can win the game," he said.

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Higher and Higher ... Viewing the Earth From Above

People have always wanted a better view. They have invented many ways to get a look at their world from on high.

• Early people climbed hills.

• Or, they climbed trees.

• Later, people built towers.

• Photographers went up in balloons (1850s). They might have had views from 1,200 feet up.

• Pigeons flew up with tiny cameras tied to their chests. The cameras automatically took pictures every 30 seconds (1903).

• Seventeen kites carried a camera above San Francisco to record damage from the 1906 earthquake.

Airplanes have carried cameras since the first successful flights in 1903. Today, planes can give us views from about six miles up.

• The first artificial satellite, Sputnik, was launched in 1957. Many of the 4,600 satellites now in space send us pictures from as high as 22,300 miles.

• Astronauts take pictures of Earth from the space shuttle about 200 miles above.

This is the first known successful balloon photo taken in the United States. It is of Boston in 1860.



Cyclone Danella off the west coast of Africa.

Space is a great place for observing the Earth. We can discover facts hidden to us on the planet. This knowledge has helped us in many areas. Some are:

Weather

- warnings of violent storms to save many lives
- flood damage
- drought-destroyed crops
- storm damage to beaches

Environment

- tracking Earth's disappearing forests
- land erosion from volcanoes
- pollution
- the ozone hole
- loss of wildlife habitat

Our past

- once-hidden spots, such as Mayan ruins buried deep in the jungles
- signs of collisions 650 million years ago between ancient supercontinents
- meteorite craters with clues to the end of some previous life on Earth

MIGHTY FUNNY'S Mini Jokes

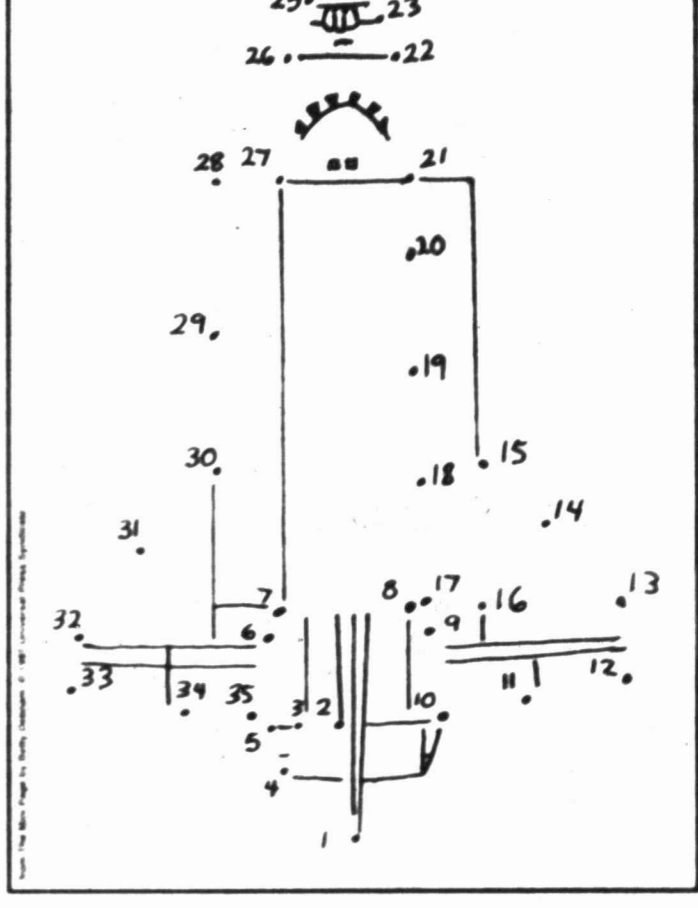


WHAT DID THE MONSTER SAY AFTER THE DENTIST PULLED HIS TOOTH?
THE DENTIST!

THAT'S MIGHTY FUNNY!
Richelle: Knock, knock.
Angie: Who's there?
Richelle: Jamaica!
Angie: Jamaica who?
Richelle: Jamaica good grade on your math test?
(Both jokes sent in by Emily Melson)

The Mini Page Map of the U.S.A. is a colorful 23-by-35-inch map that includes state capitals, state birds and state flowers. For your copy, send \$3 plus 75 cents postage and handling per copy to Mini Page Map, Andrews and McMillan, P.O. Box 419242, Kansas City, Mo. 64141.

Go dot to dot and color.



Rookie Cookie's Recipe Mexican Ensalada

You'll need:
• 6 cups lettuce, shredded
• 1 avocado, chopped
• 1 onion, chopped
• 1 16-ounce can black beans, drained
• 1 red pepper, chopped
• 1 cup of your favorite salad dressing
• 1 cup cheddar cheese, grated
• 3 cups corn chips

What to do:
1. Place first five ingredients in a large salad bowl.
Mix well.
2. Add dressing and mix well.
3. Sprinkle cheese and corn chips on top. Serves 6.

An Astronaut's View of Earth

Astronaut Kent Rominger has flown on two shuttle missions. He is a Navy commander and test pilot and served in Operation Desert Storm. He has a master's degree in aeronautical engineering. He and his wife, Mary Sue, have one daughter, Kristin, age 3.



Kent Rominger said, "I wanted to fly since I was 5 years old. I went flying in an airplane with my father and I absolutely loved it."

Advice to kids
The astronauts all have a major or science background. It's important to study hard in school. Work real hard and get along with people.

"People tend to think that being technically smart is the most important thing, but it's not. It is most important to be able to work well with people, get along with friends, play well in recess, be able to work as a team member."

"When you find something you like to do, work hard at pursuing it. Don't be a doctor because your parents want you to or your best friends want you to. I'm here because I have to fly, and I pursue flying with all my heart."

"Women can do everything in space as well as men. Girls and boys now have all the same opportunities."

The view from space
The view of the Earth is just an incredible sight, that you really only can imagine about until you see it. Even the photos you get back don't do it justice.

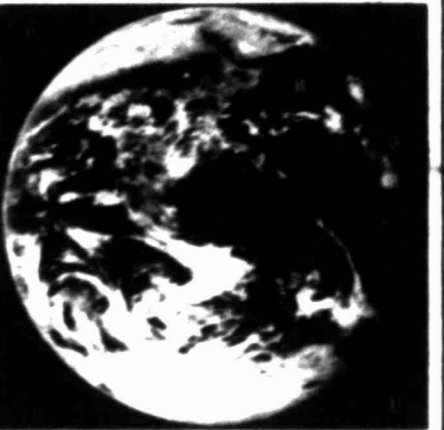
"Something that really stood out to me is when the Earth is lit, depending on the part of the country, it's just a beautiful array of colors — blues, greens and a lot of white."

There is a lot of white cloud cover as well as snow.

"The contrast between the beautiful colors of Earth and the blackness of space is just incredible."

"You also get a very great appreciation for our atmosphere, which looks very small from where we are a couple 100 miles up."

"The Earth at night is a beautiful sight. It is gorgeous seeing these city lights. Times are much easier to see at night than during the day."



Kent Rominger said, "We can learn a lot by watching Earth from space. We take thousands of photos of the Earth. In my two missions, we brought back possibly 11,000 photos of Earth." This photo was taken by Apollo 17 astronauts.

Learning about our planet
You can see the pollution of the Earth. On my first flight it was a beautiful day across Mexico from the Pacific. Then when we got to Mexico City, there was just this huge brown cloud. It was all smog. You could see what all the smog was doing to Mexico City.

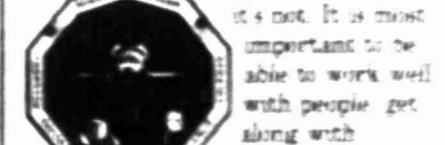
"You can see burning of the rainforests in South America. China in winter ... is a dirty-looking climate from above. They probably heat with a lot of wood and coal. The Earth is a fragile place."

Mini Spy ...

Mini Spy is working on a satellite that helps us see the Earth better. See if you can find:



• word MINI • 2 letter E's • flashlight



Look through your telescope for stars about our fragile planet and its environment.



Next week The Mini Page celebrates Be Kind to Animals Week.



Answers: 1. Florida 2. San Francisco 3. Hawaii 4. Chicago 5. New York 6. Washington, D.C. 7. Miami

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THURSDAY

APR. 24

Table with 34 columns representing different TV channels (KMGD, KPEJ, KERA, etc.) and rows for time slots from 6 PM to 12 AM, listing various programs and their genres.

HAGAR



BLONDIE



B.C.



FAMILY CIRCUS



DENNIS THE MENACE



GEECH



"This little pig had roast potato...he was a vegetarian."

"YUCK! COFFEE JUST ISN'T MY CUP OF TEA!"

WIZARD OF ID



THIS DATE IN HISTORY

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

Today is Thursday, April 24, the 114th day of 1997. There are 251 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On April 24, 1800, Congress approved a bill establishing the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. On this date: In 1792, the national anthem of France, "La Marseillaise," was composed by Capt. Claude Joseph Rouget de Lisle, an officer stationed in Strasbourg.

In 1898, Spain declared war on the United States after rejecting America's ultimatum to withdraw from Cuba. In 1915, the Ottoman Turkish Empire began the brutal mass deportation of Armenians during World War I. In 1916, some 1,600 Irish nationalists launched the Easter Rising by seizing several key sites in Dublin, including the General Post Office. The rising was put down by British forces several days later. In 1953, British statesman Winston Churchill was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II at Buckingham Palace. In 1968, leftist students at Columbia University in New York City began a weeklong occupation of several campus buildings. In 1970, the People's Republic of China launched its first satellite, which kept transmitting a song, "The East is Red." In 1980, the United States launched an abortive attempt to free the American hostages in Iran, a mission that resulted in the deaths of eight U.S. servicemen. In 1986, Wallis Simpson, the Duchess of Windsor, for whom King Edward VIII gave up the British throne, died in Paris at age 89.

THE Daily Crossword

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words.

HI AND LOIS



by Roger Jurgovan 04/24/97

Wednesday's Puzzle solved:

Solved crossword puzzle grid with words filled in.

GASOLINE ALLEY



DOWN

- 1 Clear wrap 2 Overused 3 Blissful 4 Victory goddess 5 Congeal 6 Gather 7 Performs 8 Eggs 9 Lamps 10 Map collection 11 Something useful 12 Spill 13 Weeps 14 Fateful day 15 Dizzy or Daffy 16 Pitch 17 Ribald 18 Dole 19 Model wood 20 City on the Oka 21 Flower 22 Wise owl 23 Splitter group 24 Destinies 25 Binge 26 Tangled 27 Pert Girl 28 Certain times 29 Brooches 30 Declares 31 Scapegoat 32 Vaults 33 Admission 34 NCOs 35 Golf club 36 Sutherland forte 37 Unit 38 Short trip

SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILY



Big Spring Herald advertisement including contact information, staff list, and publication details.

Today's Birthdays: Critic Stanley Kauffmann is 81. Actress Shirley MacLaine is 63. Author Sue Grafton is 57. Actress-singer-director Barbra Streisand is 55. Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley is 55. Country singer Richard Sterban (The Oak Ridge Boys) is 54. Rock musician Doug Clifford (Creedence Clearwater Revival) is 52. Actor-playwright Eric Bogosian is 44.