

BIG SPRING HERALD

Reflecting A Proud Community

THURSDAY
May 1, 1997

50 cents

AG, gasoline jobbers reach \$300,000 agreement

By CARLTON JOHNSON
Staff Writer

Six local companies and three individuals scheduled to stand trial on May 5 in Sweetwater's 32nd District Court for allegedly conspiring to fix retail gasoline prices in Big Spring have avoided trial by settling the case out of court with Texas Attorney General Dan Morales.

The suit was filed by Morales' office last spring.

According to AG Spokesman Ward Tisdale, representatives from the AG's office and defendants in the case entered into mediation in Midland on April 14 on the order of 118th District Judge Robert Moore, which resulted in

the case being settled.

Under the agreement, the defendants (as a group) must pay the state \$300,000, not engage in any activities violating the state's antitrust laws and report any attempts from competitors to fix retail gasoline prices.

Ben Bancroft, attorney for defendant Charles Wesley Dunnam, president of Ackerly Oil Company, said there is more to the settlement than what's on the surface.

"There was no admission of liability and no penalties assessed," Bancroft said. "The state did not have a case against these defendants and, in fact, the state spent a lot more than it got back."

According to Bancroft, the amount

his client agreed to pay as part of the overall settlement amounted to no more than what it would have cost for Bancroft to take the case to trial anyway.

In March, Moore turned down a defendant motion for summary judgment in the case.

In the motion, defendants contended there was not enough evidence for the case to go to trial.

According to Tisdale, the AG's office maintained the same goals (as far as penalties were concerned) in mediation as it would have asked for during a trial, but sometimes that's not the case, as with this particular case.

According to guidelines of the Texas Antitrust Act, the defendant compa-

nies faced maximum penalties of \$1 million per violation and individuals faced a maximum penalty of \$100,000 per violation had they been convicted.

In announcing the settlement Wednesday, Morales said, "In a large state like Texas, where consumers rely heavily on the automobile, it is imperative that competition in the retail gasoline market remain vibrant."

"We are pleased that we were able to reach a favorable settlement in this particular case," Morales added. "We will not hesitate to file suits when we uncover conspiracies to fix gasoline prices."

The defendants in the case included Big Spring Fuel Company; Southwest Convenience Stores Inc. of Odessa;

Charles Byron Harris, doing business as Desert Oil Company of Big Spring; Parks Fuels Inc. of Big Spring; Ackerly Oil Company Inc. of Big Spring; Town and Country Food Stores Inc. of San Angelo; Robin Dijon Stanford, vice-president of Big Spring Fuel Company; and Bob Charles Parks, vice-president of Parks Fuels Inc.

The suit alleged the defendants agreed to raise the retail price of regular unleaded gasoline by 4 cents per gallon in April 1994. The suit said this antitrust agreement resulted in regular unleaded gasoline prices increasing from \$1.059 to \$1.099 per gallon at nearly all of the retail outlets in Big Spring between April 12 and April 14 of that year.

Today named National Day of Prayer

Special to the Herald

America's heritage is rich with expressions of faith in God. Indeed, the desire for religious freedom was one of the chief reasons that early settlers risked their lives to come to this land. In 1775, the first Continental Congress first proclaimed a National Day of Prayer. Because of the faith of our founding fathers, national days of prayer have a long history in America.

In 1952, Congress passed a joint resolution (signed by President Harry Truman) officially establishing the annual National Day of Prayer. The law was amended in 1988 and signed by President Ronald Reagan, permanently setting the day as the first Thursday in May as the National Day of Prayer.

On May 4, 1995, local, state and federal observances were held from sunrise in Maine to sunset in Hawaii, uniting Americans in prayer for our country. Prayers for this national were never more poignant than after the recent Oklahoma City bombing tragedy.

At state capitols, country court house and city hall steps, in schools, businesses, churches and homes, people stopped their activity and gathered for prayer. Prayer gatherings, breakfasts, luncheons and evening prayer services were attended by hundreds of thousands of people.

Today's National Day of Prayer theme is "Let Freedom Ring," urging Americans of all ages to give the glory, reverence and thanksgiving that is due God, who has blessed our nation so abundantly.

Rumor mill's wrong; camp being repaired

By CARLTON JOHNSON
Staff Writer

The rumor mill was in full swing Wednesday as word got around that the inmate work camp at Big Spring's McMahon/Wrinkle Airpark was being closed down.

The camp, also nicknamed the "Wilderness Camp," is not in operation now, but will be back up and helping take care various city cleaning and maintenance needs Monday.

The reason for the rumor and confusion is because Friday's wind storm did some damage to the inmates' living quarters at the airpark.

Another rumor was that the city did not receive another extension to keep the inmate work camp in Big Spring.

"We will have to get another extension in June when the current contract is up," Assistant City Manager Emma Bogard said.

The city has to request an extension every six months because the state does not like to grant extensions for any longer than six months at a time.

"The fact of the matter is that last Friday's wind storm damaged the facilities the inmates are housed in and the inmates were taken back to Colorado City until we get things fixed," Bogard said. "We are repairing the damage now and will have things fixed by Monday."

Bogard said she had received several calls about the program as rumors spread.

Please see **CAMP**, page 2A



HERALD photo/Jonathan Garrett
Kras Abshiar starts the process of tearing down the west wall of the Big Spring Inmate Work Program building which has to be replaced due to damage which occurred during storms last week.

Texas boll weevil program ruled unconstitutional

By CARLTON JOHNSON
Staff Writer

The wait for Texas farmers for a decision on the state's boll weevil eradication program ended Wednesday when the Texas Supreme Court declared the program unconstitutional.

Today, a spokesperson for Abilene-based Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation (TBWEF) said the foundation's lawyers are currently reviewing the court's decision to determine its next course of action.

"In the meantime, we will continue our normal activities," a spokesman said.

Area producers also met earlier today at Big Spring's St. Paul Lutheran Church to discuss the ruling.

Howard County farmer Donnie Reid said he is extremely disappointed in the ruling and feels like the program is now in jeopardy across the state.

"As far as I see it, each individual farmer will now have to fight the boll weevil on his own at a much greater expense and with far fewer results," Reid said.

"I thought the program was organized really well in the High Plains area," Reid added. Shawn Wade, spokesman for Lubbock-based Plains Cotton Growers (PCG) Inc., said, "PCG does not know how to react to Wednesday's decision because of the uncertainty of how it will affect the future of agriculture."

Harlingen cotton grower Lamar Smith, one of 120 Rio

Grande Valley farmers who sued the Abilene-based Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation reacted when Wednesday's decision was read.

"Hopefully, it means that we're out from under this fiasco that they call the boll weevil eradication program," Smith stated.

His lawsuit was one of two filed against the foundation contending its method of assessing fees for the pesticide-spraying program was unconstitutional. The other was filed by 10 Hale County cotton growers.

In both cases, state district judges invalidated the assessments and stopped their collection.

The state's high court, considering an appeal from the foundation, upheld the lower court rulings.

In the majority opinion, Supreme Court Chief Justice Tom Phillips said the Legislature violated the state constitution by delegating broad governmental authority to the private foundation.

The boll weevil eradication act "as a whole represents an overly broad delegation of legislative authority to a private entity. ... Therefore, the act cannot stand," Phillips wrote.

As for the court's dissenting opinion, Justice John Cornyn said the ruling could set a dangerous precedent.

"The prospect of invalidating a delegation on this basis jeopardizes innumerable other statutes covering a multitude of subjects," Cornyn wrote.

McLaren, state troopers appear headed for protracted faceoff

FORT DAVIS (AP) — Optimism is fading that the armed standoff between Texas separatists and police will end anytime soon. Talks have broken off, bloodhounds have been brought in and authorities apparently have cut off power to the renegade group's "embassy."

As the standoff entered a fifth day today, self-styled Republic of Texas leader Richard McLaren was not talking with either his attorney or police negotiators and hadn't since Tuesday.

The silence came as attorney Terry O'Rourke and authorities

both thought they had an agreement with McLaren to end the siege.

"For those of you who are not from Texas, we have a little expression here: 'Sometimes a wheel falls off.' Unfortunately, we've lost a wheel," said Mike Cox, spokesman for the Department of Public Safety.

Late Wednesday night, police decided to cut off electricity to the headquarters trailer McLaren calls his "embassy," O'Rourke said.

Cox would not discuss the state's tactics, saying that "the most important thing is for us to hear from Mr. McLaren. We

can't make any progress at all until he gives us a call."

Earlier, O'Rourke told reporters that he hadn't talked to his client since Tuesday night, but he believed the agreement, which all parties refused to discuss in detail, was still intact.

"Here in Texas you don't have

to sign agreements to have a deal. I would say that there's an understanding. And here, you know, they say a handshake is a deal and your word is your bond," he said.

Police, using one of two armored personnel carriers at the scene, delivered a "diplomatic pouch" of documents pre-

pared by O'Rourke to McLaren's headquarters Wednesday evening.

Another batch of documents was being prepared for another delivery, said the attorney who represents both McLaren and his wife.









Cox even went so far as to say authorities might be willing to

allow a face-to-face meeting between O'Rourke and McLaren if the Republic leader would only make contact.

O'Rourke said McLaren, who faces state charges of engaging in organized crime, is not seeking diplomatic immunity but

Please see **STANDOFF**, page 2A

What's your opinion of the Republic Of Texas: Have they finally gone too far in taking hostages?

 "I think they should fight it in Washington and that we should back them up." Gary Jones Big Spring	 "I think they stepped over the line in doing what they did in taking the hostages." Stan Brown Big Spring	 "A lot of people are dissatisfied with the government but taking it into your own hands is wrong." Tomer Harris Big Spring	 "I believe that they're going about things the wrong way. I do not agree with the way they are taking things into their own hands." James McCune Big Spring	 "I think they're crazy. I hope it won't be another Waco." Davis Pardo Big Spring	 "The government should have done something about them a long time ago." Ora Foster Big Spring	 "Texas is more a part of the United States than anyone else. We just talk a little differently." Chris Rouse Big Spring	 "No need to resort to violence." Ann Chastain Big Spring
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INDEX	TODAY'S WEATHER
Abby.....2B Classified.....3-4B General News.....3A Horoscope.....5B Life.....5-6A Opinion.....4A Sports.....1-2B	87 ▲ Highs 58 Lows ▼
Vol. 93, No. 171	Today: Partly cloudy and breezy. High in the upper 80s. Low in the upper 50s. Friday: Partly cloudy, windy and cooler. High in the lower 80s. Low in the upper 40s. Extended outlook: Saturday, mostly sunny. High in the upper 70s. Low near 50. Sunday, fair. High in the upper 80s. Low in the 50s. Monday, continued fair. High in the lower 90s. Low in the 50s.
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EDITORIAL

Quote of the Day

"Every man in the world is better than someone else and not as good as someone else."

-William Saroyan

Opinions expressed on this page are those of the Editorial Board of the Big Spring Herald unless otherwise indicated.

Charles C. Williams
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Managing Editor

John A. Moseley
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Christmas in April needs 'steady' help

Rainy weather might literally have dampened the spirits of those volunteers who were ready to go on last weekend's Christmas in April project, but here's hoping that the community will be able to get the work done this week.

As one of the volunteering organizations, we're well aware that plans change from week to week and that, with the change in schedule, we will lose a number of people who said they would help.

That's why it's important that we reconnect with all of those who have said they will help, because numbers are needed to ensure the success of this project.

Christmas in April is one of those community projects that truly helps make a difference in the quality of life for those people on whose homes the volunteers will work.

Perhaps the best way for us to view this is to place ourselves in that Cherokee saying and try to realize what it would be like to walk a mile in the shoes of those who aren't in a position to help themselves.

We believe that the Jaycees Creed says it best: "Service to humanity is the best work of life." Please ... take the time to help your neighbors who can't afford to help themselves.

OTHER VIEWS

A sampling of editorial comment from Texas newspapers:

Some Texas legislators believe they have a way to help Texas keep more minority students going to college here, not out of state. Their plan will require budget writers' help, however.

Because of a court ruling, race can no longer be used as a factor in recruiting or admitting students to state universities. Race cannot be used in determining financial aid either.

That unfortunate ruling sent lawmakers scrambling to prevent a "brain drain" as this legislative session began. Minority applications already are down sharply at several Texas colleges. That's troubling for a state whose population soon will become a majority of minority citizens.

While not perfect, a plan from Sens. Royce West, D-Dallas, and Teel Bivins, R-Amarillo, could help stop an exodus. The Texas Senate recently passed the package, which awaits House consideration. Under the plan, 50 percent of university classes in the eight Texas schools that use elective criteria would gain admission through traditional means: class standing, grade point averages and standardized test scores.

Forty percent would enter using additional factors. They include the applicant's socioeconomic background and school activities. Schools likewise could examine whether the applicant's school is "low-performing."

Also, if a student finishes in the top 10 percent of his or her high school graduating class, he or she would be automatically eligible for college admission in Texas. Some graduating classes are not very competitive. Perhaps legislators should limit this category to the top 5 percent of students, making the prize a greater honor.

The reforms in this bill use factors other than race in evaluating students. Whether they will expand minority enrollments is uncertain. But Texas must do something.

That's why the Texas House should pass this bill, or fold it into a similar bill by Rep. Irma Rangel, D-Kingsville.

Budget writers also must appropriate enough financial aid to make this approach work. The proposed state bud-

get falls short here. Sen. Bill Ratliff and Rep. Bob Junell, the top budget writers, should rectify this problem. Without adequate help, Texas universities will lose both students of color and those without the means to attend college. Both would be deplorable for a state in evolution.

THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

As if to reaffirm the obvious, yet another study by Medicare trustees has reported that the program's hospital trust fund is headed toward insolvency by 2001.

A similar report last year reported the same findings, so by substituting more study for corrective action, Congress has squandered a year. Last year's presidential election virtually assured that nothing would get done, but this year offers no such excuse.

Adjustments are required both in the short term, which amounts to the four years before the hospital fund runs out of money, and in the long term. Beginning in 2011, the huge baby boom generation will begin to retire and draw on Medicare benefits. Fundamental adjustments will be necessary if the system is not to be overwhelmed before 2025.

In the next five years, if nothing is done, the trust fund will contribute \$148 billion to the budget deficit, according to the trustees report. President Clinton has proposed to cut about \$100 billion in payments to providers during that period, which he argues would provide some breathing room until 2008 to revise the program for long-term viability.

One promising administration proposal would remove homecare services from the hospital trust fund and finance them much like doctor and laboratory services by drawing at least in part on general revenues, which is a sound starting point.

Financing now comes from payroll taxes paid into the Social Security system.

The White House and Congress have dodged, delayed and "meddled" the issue. Time is running out. Adequate, affordable health care for generations of elderly to come is at stake.

FORTH WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM

Then:



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Now:



Who should be barred from having a baby?

WASHINGTON — Would you give birth to a baby knowing that you would be 80 or 81 years old by the time that child was ready to go to college?

I suppose if you wanted a baby badly enough to spend \$50,000 to get a young woman to provide an egg and to get doctors to fertilize it in a laboratory and put it in your uterus, you would never think about the likely consequences for the child — or society.

That's the story of Arceli Keh, the California woman who just set a record by achieving science-aided motherhood at the age of 63. Here is a case where the baby could be an orphan before it is a teen-



Carl Rowan
Syndicated
Columnist

er, and in any case will never know the kind of parenting that nature intends by invoking menopause to prevent child-bearing beyond a certain age.

This case has provoked a rash of arguments about whether it is "wrong" or "harmful" or "unethical" for scientists to use new technologies to help postmenopausal women defy nature and bear children.

"There oughta be a law," a lot of people are saying.

That's when you get a litany of the categories of women that some people would like to bar from having children, such as those who:

- Are known alcoholics or drug addicts.
- Are mentally retarded.
- Are at high risk of producing a genetically abnormal baby.
- Are afflicted with AIDS.
- Are hemophiliacs likely to produce a child with the same disease.
- Are chronic welfare recipients with several children and

no visible non-welfare way to support another one.

But in this society most people cringe at the thought of totalitarian laws that forbid motherhood, even in the kinds of cases just cited. Most of us insist that there is no role for government in deciding these most personal questions of ethics and reproduction.

Most of us shudder at the thought of government-forced sterilizations, state-decreed abortions or laws restricting rigidly what doctors and scientists may do regarding in vitro fertilizations and other aspects of reproductive technology. Some ethicists say that the doctors and scientists must police themselves — that surely if most doctors won't perform abortions as a matter of conscience, they also can say that there are circumstances where they will not help to circumvent menopause.

The doctors at the University of Southern California who helped Mrs. Keh to have her baby say they have an age cut-

off of 55 for aiding recipients of donor eggs, but that Mrs. Keh got into the program by lying about her age. How does any clinic set and enforce an age limit that does not offend community standards — if community standards really should prevail?

I am acutely aware that I'm near the end of this column without touching the issue of old men becoming fathers. That raises different problems, since old men usually are impregnating young women, ensuring the child one parent with whom to grow up.

Is this an issue worthy of national torment? Or should we just halt the anguished hand-wringing and concede that there are some serious ethical problems that a fundamentally free society cannot wipe away with rules, regulations or laws?

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Growth is the wrong policy for this country

Growth doesn't pay for itself. If the average American really wants to understand how badly he's been screwed by the corporate-government establishment, he needs to recognize that hard fact.

To quote a new study by the Carrying Capacity Network: "The tax burden on existing residents increases because the cost of expanding publicly funded infrastructure and services to accommodate new growth is greater than the tax and assessment contributions of the new residents."

These additional costs, computed for a number of cities, can range from \$4,400 per added person to \$18,700 per added person. The difference is the variation in the expense of providing the infrastructure and services. It's much higher, for example, in San Francisco than in Ocala, Fla.

The Carrying Capacity report is based on a study done in

Oregon in which the costs of eight growth-related facilities and services were quantified. These were schools, sanitary sewers, transportation, parkland, water systems, recreation facilities, storm water drainage and fire protection/emergency medical facilities. There are other costs involved, too, but they were not included in the Oregon study.

Growth, which is cited as the answer to all problems, has always been a win-lose proposition. People in a position to profit from the growth — builders, bankers, real estate salesmen, media, etc. — win while people who have to pay for growth — existing residents — lose.

They lose not only money in the form of increasingly higher taxes, but also in the loss of quality of life: more crowded roads, more crowded schools, more crime, more pollution, more inflated property values, more loss of farmlands and more loss of wildlife habitat.

Americans will have to impose a new paradigm on their governments, from the courthouse to the White House, and they will have to do it by brute force at the ballot box. They will get no help from the profiteers of growth, who

defend growth the way munition makers defend war.

Local officials are going to have to realize that the old paradigm puts them on a treadmill. They are short of tax revenues so they seek growth. But the growth generates a greater need for even more tax revenues than it supplies. So the local official, doing what he thinks best, never catches up and finds that as the need for more taxes continuously increases, the quality of the community continuously decreases and the shortage of infrastructure stays well ahead of his efforts to catch up.

The U.S. population is growing at the rate of about 3 million a year, and 60 percent of that is immigration. We are now at 270 million people. Just 47 years ago, in 1950, we had only 150 million. The Carrying Capacity Network estimates that if present growth rates continue, the United States will have a half-billion people by 2050 — only 53 years away.

It's quite obvious we're on the wrong path if we just look around. The United States in 1950 was an infinitely better country than it is today. There was less crime, less illegitimacy, less taxes, less welfare, less government, less pollution, less

crowds, less drugs, better schools, better communities, more open spaces. It was so much better in most respects that it seems like an entirely different country to those of us old enough to remember it.

The question, however, is not, Can we go back to what the United States used to be? We can't. The question is, Are we going to become a country far, far worse than we are now — a country with far more people, more pollution, more poverty, more crime and more authoritarian government, all in a more degraded environment?

That will happen if we do not build a political constituency that recognizes that growth doesn't pay for itself. Growth, in the late 20th century, is the wrong policy in the wrong place at the wrong time for the wrong reasons (the greed of the few at the expense of the many).

You can reach the Carrying Capacity Network and get a copy of its report by calling (800) 466-4866.

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Mallard Fillmore
by
BRUCE TINSLEY



Big Ra B almost Concer Contes Divisic areas o In fa Rocky distric honor l Band a High B Divisic reading "This band p up," He only a march from e ignatic being s then n bands, and we get a I "Tha

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SLICE of Life!

YOUTH

Continued from page 1B
by Mohon and Williamson, but have provided coach Wes Overton with consistent mound work.

The arrival of six freshmen this season really got the Lady Kangaroos rolling. The six first-year players, led by shortstop Sara Williamson, have energized Weatherford's attack.

The Lady Kangaroos are hitting for a team average of .376. Sara Williamson leads the team with a .488 batting average. She has 29 RBI this season and a slugging percentage of .744. Freshman third baseman Lacie Newsom is next on the team with a .430 batting average.

BULLDOGS

Continued from page 1B
No matter, coach Nichols said.

"The playoff was exciting," he said. "The guys handled themselves real well. We just had a couple of lip-hanging putts that didn't go in."

When the season began, Nichols and some team members weren't sure they'd be in this position.

"I wasn't sure we'd shoot the way we were capable of shooting," Nichols said. "I knew we had a strong district ... but the kids rededicated themselves and showed that they were better than they shot at district."

Josh Collum, the squad's lone senior, is happy to be going to state, although it's in a different sport than he first visualized.

"During basketball season, that was our goal — to get to

BANQUET

Continued from page 1B
at Division I Tennessee Tech University.

Named as Friends of the Program Award recipients were Clois and Peggy Snell of Coahoma.

MEN'S BASKETBALL — James Hilliard — Unsung Hawk; Elmer Brown, Akron, Ohio — Top Gun (offense);

Debt created by easy credit is harder and harder to pay

DEAR ABBY: I am a mortgage broker, and it is my job to review people's credit history. I am disturbed by the number of people who are mired in credit card debt.

I just talked to a couple with four children who had more than \$100,000 in credit card debt with an annual salary of \$75,000.

This is an extreme case. However, it is not uncommon for people to be caught up in the vicious cycle of paying for things on credit and being able to afford only the minimum monthly payments of these cards. I feel the credit card companies are to blame for all their gimmicks of "preapproved" junk mail, and the consumer is to blame for not being able to throw this mail away instead of signing up. Credit cards encourage people to live beyond their means, creating financial stress in families.

If people are in that situation, I encourage them to call the credit card company to close their account and cut up their cards, except one with a low interest rate or one that is due monthly. If there isn't enough cash to pay for it — don't buy it!

Use the card for emergencies only. Even though they may have to do without the new outfit or the larger television set, consumers will be happier without the stress that credit card debt can cause. Are there support groups available for "credit junkies"? — FREE AND CLEAR IN FLORIDA

DEAR FREE AND CLEAR: I don't know about support groups for credit junkies, but consumer credit counseling services are available in most major metropolitan areas. To locate one, look in the Yellow Pages.

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In comparison, the Lady Steers, though in their first year of UIL-sanctioned games, are a fairly veteran unit. Third baseman Melissa Martinez, catcher Jessica Cobos, shortstop Brenda Austin and several other players have given the team consistent, veteran play.

On the flip side of that equation, the freshman hitters and senior pitchers have made an interesting mix this season, Ross said.

"The six freshmen came in this year, and everything was new and exciting to them," he said. "That, combined with our senior leadership, has made this a fantastic season."

state," Collum said. "After we lost in the playoffs, I was really down for a couple of days. To be honest, I wasn't looking forward to golf. Now, though, I'm excited. Our goal is to win the first team championship in school history."

This marks the third straight season a team from Coahoma has qualified for state play in Austin. Two years ago, the baseball team made the UIL final four, while the softball team took its turn in 1996.

Now, golf reigns in Coahoma. "It was like a dream come true," said sophomore Blake Nichols, coach Nichols' son and the district medalist. "Regi and I promised everybody we were going ... but no one took us seriously. The popular response was, 'They have state in golf?'"

Yes they do — and the Bulldogs are living proof of the fact.

Chris Martinez, Hoboken, N.J. — Chairman of the Boards (rebounding); Fred Lewis, Baltimore — Mr. Defense; Nathan Clover, Beaumont — Most Improved; Samuel Maroney, San Marcos — Hustle and Scholarship.

Named as Friends of the Program Award recipients were Robbie and Kim Cooksey of Big Spring.

According to the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, in 1996 a record 1.1 million individuals filed bankruptcy — up 27 percent from the previous year.

Your "credit card cut-up" is a step in the right direction, but major creditors also want to toughen the nation's bankruptcy code to make it more difficult to simply erase debts without further payment.

DEAR ABBY: "Loving Daughter in Lakeland, Fla." wrote that her father had a college ring he never removed, but at his death she took the ring off to keep in his memory. She asked, "Did we do the right thing?" Your reply, "Yes, without a doubt."

You were wrong. My late wife never wanted her wedding ring removed. When she underwent serious surgery, she said, "Don't let them take the ring off." As death neared, she was concerned that the funeral directors might do so.

When the time came to close the coffin, I leaned down for one last kiss, placed my hand over her cold one, touched the ring and said, "You got your wish. That ring never left your finger since I put it on, years ago."

The body disintegrates after death, but gold is eternal. As long as our civilization survives, in that grave will be a circle of gold, memorializing a love that once existed.

"Loving Daughter's" father must have had a similar bond to his college. The ring should have remained with him throughout eternity. — ALONE WITH MEMORIES

DEAR ALONE: Please accept my sympathy on the loss of your beloved wife. You were honoring your wife's wishes by seeing that she was buried with her ring. "Loving Daughter," however, had never heard her father express such a sentiment. For her to have buried the ring, rather than keeping it to cherish, would have benefited no one.

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FAMILY

SEVERE WEATHER PLAN



NewsWest 9's StormTracker Team:



Chief Meteorologist TOM TEFERTILLER

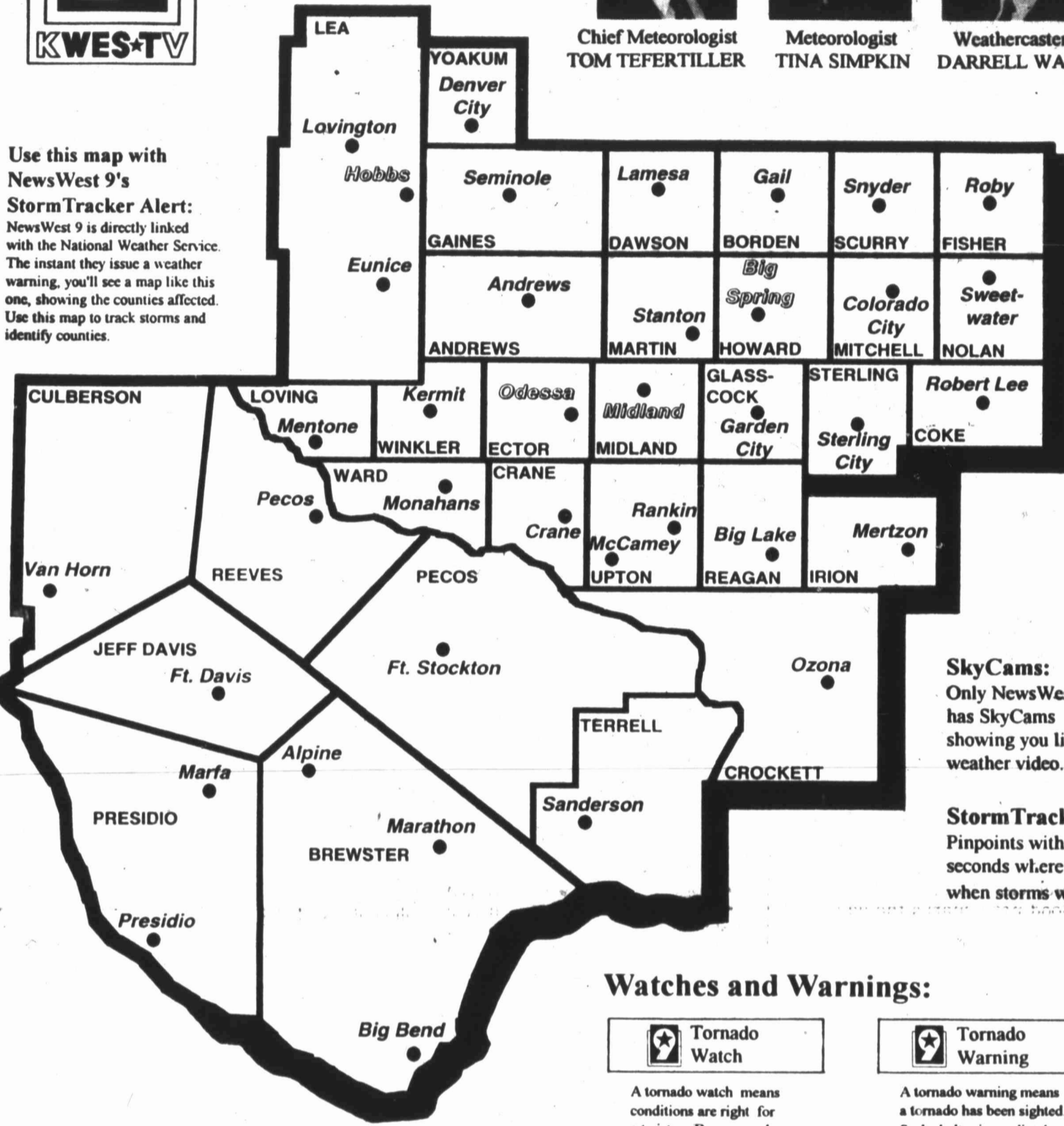


Meteorologist TINA SIMPKIN



Weathercaster DARRELL WARD

Use this map with NewsWest 9's StormTracker Alert: NewsWest 9 is directly linked with the National Weather Service. The instant they issue a weather warning, you'll see a map like this one, showing the counties affected. Use this map to track storms and identify counties.



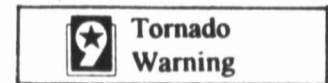
SkyCams: Only NewsWest 9 has SkyCams showing you live weather video.

StormTracker: Pinpoints within seconds where and when storms will hit.

Watches and Warnings:



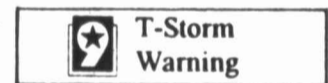
A tornado watch means conditions are right for a twister. Be prepared to take cover.



A tornado warning means a tornado has been sighted. Seek shelter immediately.



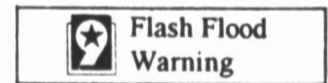
When a severe thunderstorm watch is issued, get set.



If a severe thunderstorm warning is issued, go to safety immediately. Stay away from windows and protect yourself from lightning.



A flash flood watch means heavy rains may soon cause flash flooding.



A flash flood warning means that flash flooding is occurring and precautions should be taken. Stay away from low-lying areas.

Are You Ready?

Thunderstorms are intense local storms averaging 20 miles across and reaching as high as 10 miles. A tornado is a violently rotating column of air that occurs on the updraft side of a thunderstorm. The updraft side is the back of a thunderstorm and is the most dangerous. Wind speeds in a tornado can exceed 300 miles an hour. Be prepared by having family members discuss the activities on the checklist below.

Pick a safe place in your home where family members can gather during thunderstorms. This should be a place where there are no windows, skylights, or glass doors. Location of safe place: _____

Pick a safe place in your home in case of a tornado. The safe place you picked for a thunderstorm may not be the safest place to be during a tornado. If you hear a loud roar or a tornado warning, go to a storm shelter, basement, or the lowest floor of your home, preferably an interior room with no windows or glass doors. Location of safe place in case of tornado: _____

Assemble a Disaster Supplies kit.

- Some items to include are: Water, Food: Ready to eat canned meats, fruits & vegetables, Non-electric can opener, Canned juices, milk, First Aid Kit, Location of Disaster Supplies Kit: _____, Battery operated radio, Flashlight, Extra batteries, Other: _____

LIVE Doppler Radar:

All TV Stations have Doppler Radar, but only NewsWest 9 has LIVE Doppler Radar. Their radar has to travel half-way across the country before it gets here, making it 5 - 15 minutes old. Only NewsWest 9 has LIVE radar so you know what's happening to the second, and seconds save lives.

Street Level Mapping:

Part of the Doppler System includes Street Level Mapping...radar pictures so detailed, you'll see weather, right down to the street it's on.



What to do:

Before Lightning Strikes:

If you can hear thunder, you are close enough to be struck by lightning. Go to safe shelter.

When a Storm Approaches:

Find shelter immediately. Telephone lines and metal pipes conduct electricity. Unplug appliances. Avoid using the telephone or any electrical appliances. Stay away from water sources.

If Caught Outside:

Go to a low-lying place that is not subject to flooding. In case of lightning, squat low to the ground. Place your hands on your knees with your head between them. Make yourself the smallest target possible.

Big Thu... FRID... Yo... what... thin... rhy... pow... Th... Day... Post... Diff... AR... Co... behi... llabl... or to... one... whe... Obs... Toni... TA... Ha... You... you... resol... frien... toget... light... into... its... begir... GE... Ma... profi... to yo... the... Cha... proje... sprit... out w... CA... Cr... Han... diplo... sivel... lem... frien... vacat... work... LE... Ma... cuss... situa... Expe... Take... tive... caref... ing... later... date... VII... Sha... a fri... recei... energ... tive... dista... joy... Over... Toni... LIE... Cha... done... what... to dis... ner... tant... for... Toni... SC... Let... and... want... so... Together... part... you... indu... love... great... SA... 21)... Ma... great... out... your... sonal... exarr... red... work... ideas... happ... CA... 19)... Tal... with... explic... erin... abou... resp... might... persc... ation... pals... AQ... Yo... feed... You... are... easy... feel... other... a chu... treat... PIS... You... other... You... er... p... mind... Press... time... able... Curb... ask... 400*

HOROSCOPE

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FRIDAY, MAY 2:

You might be taken aback by what another offers you. Don't think it just happened without rhyme or reason; your drawing power is extraordinary.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
Consider what is going on behind the scenes. You are liable to overreact. Buy a card or token of affection for a loved one. Intuition is right on; use it when dealing with others. Observation is important. Tonight: Take a night off.***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
Handle a troublesome matter. You have a lot to clear up, and you have the creativity to resolve any problem. Listen to friends. Make plans for a get-together, and keep everything light. A little flirtation mixed into your day adds to your spirits. Tonight: The party begins.****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
Maintain a high professional profile, and keep your emotions to yourself. The less said now, the better off you will be. Channel some energy into a project at home. It's time for spring cleaning. Tonight: Go out with co-workers.****

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
Create a new beginning. Handle conversations like a diplomat. If you behave aggressively, you could trigger a problem. Look to the future. A friend cares. Make plans for a vacation soon. Tonight: Escape work ASAP.*****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
Make time for a business discussion. How you perceive a situation changes dramatically. Expenses are a bit outrageous. Take your bows, and be positive. A boss smiles on you. Be careful about excessive spending. You could pay for frivolity later. Tonight: Make a date.*****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
Share what is happening with a friend. The feedback you receive is key. You have high energy; use it in the most positive way possible. Make a long distance-call, to spread your joy. Good news marks the day. Overindulgence prevails. Tonight: It's party night.*****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
Charge in, and get your work done. You are distracted by what you hear, and may want to discuss the problem. A partner makes you feel very important. Sharing is key. Make time for a doctor's appointment. Tonight: Get a massage.***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
Let your imagination loose, and create more of what you want. A friend likes your idea so much, he pitches in. Together, you make changes. A partner cannot do enough for you; consider letting him indulge you. Make time for a loved one. Tonight: Have a great time.*****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
Make your home life a greater priority, and mellow out. Pressure is high. Balance your work life with your personal life. Discussions need to examine ways to simplify the red tape in your life. A co-worker is full of wonderful ideas. Tonight: You are most happy at home.***

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
Talk about what is happening with a loved one. You find exploring other options empowering. Another deeply cares about you, and will readily respond to your request. You might decide to indulge this person to express your appreciation. Tonight: Visit with pals.*****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
You finally get important feedback from an associate. You are loving with those who are close to you. Sharing is easy. There is abundance; you feel you cannot do enough for others. Studying finances aids a change. Tonight: It's your treat.****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
You don't have to do much; others make the first move. You are pleased by what another puts on your plate. Your mind is racing with good ideas. Present your thoughts one at a time; otherwise, no one will be able to absorb your message. Curb indulgence. Tonight: Just ask.*****

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Especially for kids and their families
The Mini Page
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By BETTY DEBNAM

Stop Before You Adopt
Pause Before the Paws

Most of us have a warm, fuzzy feeling when we think of the love and friendship offered by a four-footed member of the family. But stop and think again. Above the paws is an animal with a head that needs feeding, and a tail that needs cleaning up after, and a body that needs grooming. You might want to consider adopting an older pet like those in this issue. They are from an animal shelter. These animals are often easier to handle and do not need the "basic training" that puppies and kittens do.

If you and your family can put a check in all of these boxes, then applause, applause. You might be ready for some wonderful paws!

Think about it. Do you have:

- Commitment?** Is the whole family willing to take on the responsibilities?
- Space?** You would not want to try to keep a big dog in a small apartment.
- Time?** Pets left alone for too long can get bored and become destructive. Some need exercise and can get fat and lazy if they don't get it.
- Permission?** Are pets allowed where you live? If you find a stray animal, call your local animal shelter.
- Money?** It costs money to feed a pet and keep it healthy.
- Other pets?** Can they get along? Can you handle all of their care? Do they all have their shots, too?

Will you always be able to give your pet:

- respect and patience?
- exercise?
- good food?
- toys?
- clean water?
- grooming?
- a clean place to live?
- medical care?

Photos of animals: Poodle/corgi mix, Domestic shorthair, Wolfhound mix, Maine coon, Chihuahua mix, Domestic shorthair, Shepherd/beagle mix, Domestic shorthair, Basset hound mix.

MIGHTY FUNNY'S Mini Jokes

WHY DON'T BANANAS GET LONELY?
BECAUSE THEY HANG AROUND IN BUNCHES!

Q: What is as big as an elephant, but doesn't weigh an ounce?
A: An elephant's shadow!
(both sent in by Ashton Gauling)

Q: Why did the elephant cross the playground?
A: To get to the other slide!
(sent in by Roxanna Michael)

Meet Chris Kratt

Chris Kratt loves animals! He is one of the hosts of the show "Kratt's Creatures."
Chris, 31, grew up in Warren, N.J. His love of animals started in nursery school when he brought home some baby ducks. He also liked the animals he saw when his family would go on camping trips to Vermont.
He later studied biology in college. While in college, Chris and his brother, Martin, would make videos of animals to show to kids. They later formed a company that made and sold the videos.
When it comes to being kind to animals, Chris says, "Animals are our friends, and we all need to be kind to our friends."
He likes doing outdoor activities.

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Please send copies of Help for Planet Earth from # 4316-17 at \$5.95 each, including postage and handling. Bulk discount information available upon request.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Rookie Cookie's Recipe
Super Spinach Casserole

You'll need:
• 2 teaspoons butter or margarine
• 1/4 onion, chopped
• 2 eggs
• 1/2 cup milk
• 1/3 cup Parmesan cheese
• 1 cup cooked rice
• 1 10-ounce box frozen chopped spinach, thawed and drained

What to do:
1. In a skillet, melt butter or margarine.
2. Add onion. Cook 5 minutes or until soft.
3. In a medium bowl, combine eggs, milk and Parmesan cheese. Mix well.
4. Add remaining ingredients. Mix well.
5. Pour into a greased casserole.
6. Bake in a preheated 350-degree oven for 35 minutes. Serves 6.

PETS TRY 'N FIND

Words about pet care are hidden in the block below. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally. See if you can find: CAT, DOG, PET, CARE, FOOD, WATER, LOVE, EXERCISE, PLAY, SLEEP, EAT, BRUSH, COMB, FUR, TOYS, COLLAR, LEASH, TAGS, PUPPY, KITTEN, OWNER, WALK.

A F O O D L D S V I O F O S V
P L A Y B M X O L W T W U J T
C N C A T T E P G E A A N R Y
D B M O C L E A S H E T G E P
N E T T I K F O P T Z P E S R
G R R A L L O C U O C W B R E
H S E V O L C K P Y A A P U A
J H S U R B T D P S R L L O T
E S I C R E X E Y K E K U E M

Mini Spy ...
Mini Spy and her friends are visiting an animal shelter. See if you can find:

• letter T
• banana
• ruler
• football
• word MINI
• lima bean
• ice cream cone
• letter C
• lips
• letter E
• pig's face
• number 8

What Pet Should We Get?

Which pet would fit into your lifestyle?

Dogs and guinea pigs
This adorable puppy will need to be housebroken, exercised and trained in obedience. The guinea pig will need a large cage, special guinea pig food, and gentle handling so it will be friendly.
Here are some other pets and some of their special needs.

Cats
• a clean litter box (or they might stop using it)
• a scratching post to exercise their claws and paws

Rabbits
• a litter box
• chew toys to keep their teeth short

Gerbils
• exercise wheels
• a clean cage
• regular handling

Hamsters
• a clean separate cage for each one. (They are solitary animals.) They sleep during the day and are up at night.

Birds
• clean cages
• lots of attention (parrots will scream if they are lonely)

No wild animals, please!

How to adopt a pet
Each animal shelter has its own rules, but here are steps your family might take.

1. Discuss and agree on your pet choice.
2. Visit the animal shelter with the entire family and select your pet.
3. Fill out an application and talk with a staff member.
4. Most shelters require that you agree to have your pet spayed (female) or neutered (male) if it is old enough. These are simple operations so your pet will not be the mother or father of any more animals.
Each year, about 8 million healthy animals have to be put to sleep because there are not enough homes.
5. Visit a local veterinarian to have your pet completely checked so it can get the shots it needs. While the exam might be free, the shots are not.

The week of May 4-10 is Be Kind to Animals Week, sponsored by the American Humane Association.
The Mini Page thanks Arna Cohen and Terry Harris of the Animal Welfare League of Arlington, Va., and Megan Brooks of the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria, Va. Photos are by Laura Kipp of the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria unless otherwise noted.

Look through your newspaper for stories or ads about animals.
Next week, celebrate Mother's Day with a story about mother and baby farm animals.

PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

Tomorrow's workforce is in today's classrooms.

The Mini Page
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THURSDAY												MAY 1											
KMD	KPEJ	KERA	FAM	KOSA	WFAA	KWES	WTBS	UNI	DISH	NASH	YMC	SHOW	HBO	KMLM	AAE	DISC	TNT	FBN	ESPN	AMC	BET		
Midland	Odessa	Dallas	Dallas	Odessa	Dallas	Midland	Atlanta	Spanish	Premium	Headline	Premium	Premium	Premium	Odessa	New York	Discovery	Atlanta	Sports	Sports	Classic	Black Est.		
6:30 PM News Wt. Fortune	Simpsons Home Imp.	Science Guy	Wallace (703178)	News (913) Ent. Tonight	News Wt. Fortune	News (826) Seinfeld	Home Video Home Video	Luz Clarita (18159)	Charlie Brown and Snoopy	Dukes of Hazzard	(25) Myster: (36503623)	Music (70049536)	Light of the Southwest	Law & Order	Wings (527710)	In the Heat of the Night	FOX Sports News	(579491) Star Bay	Movie: Wake Island (924817)	Hi Lit (924817)			
7:30 PM High Incident (CC) (8604)	Martin (CC) (27284)	Nat'l Geo. on Assignment	Highway to Heaven	Diagnosis Murder	High Incident (CC) (81604)	Friends Suddenly	NBA Basketball	Te Sigo Amando	The Rescuers	Championship Bu! Riding	L.A. Story (95807791)	Movie: Cimron Tids (CC) (705230)	Movie: Heat TBA	(196710) TBA	Biography (622804)	Wild Discovery	NBA Basketball	Major League Baseball	Dog Show Gymnastics	(22988) Movie: The Planet Groove (301642)	Planet Groove (301642)		
8:30 PM Shining (CC) (8468)	New York Undercover	Mystery! (CC) (82352)	Rescue 911	Touch'd by an Angel	Shining (CC) (81468)	Seinfeld Fired Up	Playoffs: Teams to Be	Tu y Yo (94894)	Scooby Doo Meets the	Prime Time Country	White You Were	(CC) (705230)	263284	Bishop Jesus John Osteen	Ancient Mysteries	Mystery Univ. Movie Magic	Playoffs: Teams to Be	Baltimore Orioles at Minn.	Rock 'n' Roll Challenge	Wellbarn (8816285)	Wellbarn (8816285)		
9:30 PM News Cheers	Mad Abo. You in the Heat of	Nova (CC) (370159) News-Lahrer	Three Stooges	News Late Show	News Nightline	News (44456) Tonight Show	Harley Davidson and the	P. Impacto Noticias Uni.	Mother's Day on Wallon's	Dallas (155265)	Night Terrors (51544536)	(558555) Red Shoe	Shock Video 2: Crime	(89836) Law & Order	Heaven Terra X	Basketball Playoffs:	FOX Sports News	Sportscenter	Arms (CC) (84818246)	Talk (213013) Thea			
11:30 PM Nightline Politically Inc.	The Night Martin	World at War (834388)	Carson Carsoh	Married... with	Ent. Tonight (36) Riochids	Late Night	Marlboro Man (53246)	Al Rimo de la Noche	Mountain Gentleman's	Dukes of Hazzard	(25) Night of	Compromising (48) Private	Tales-Crypt Best of the	Biography (485772)	Mystery Univ. Movie Magic	Teams to Be Announced	FOX Sports News	Baseball Drag Racing:	Movie: Wake Island (84818246)	Rap City (89655)			
12:30 AM Roseanne Bible Lesson	Universe H Patrol	Paid Program World at War	Late Late Show	Late Late Show	(5295159) Politically Inc.	Quintel	Movie: Fighting Back (870420)	Junicos-No	Agreement (CC)	Prime Time Country	The Demons (3316285)	Lessons II (2458284)	Best 3: No Turning Back	Peace Makers Update News	Ancient Mysteries	Jerusalem - City of	Inside-NBA Movie: Jacob	Rodeo: Builders Only	NHRA Unbelievable	(540284) Movie: The			

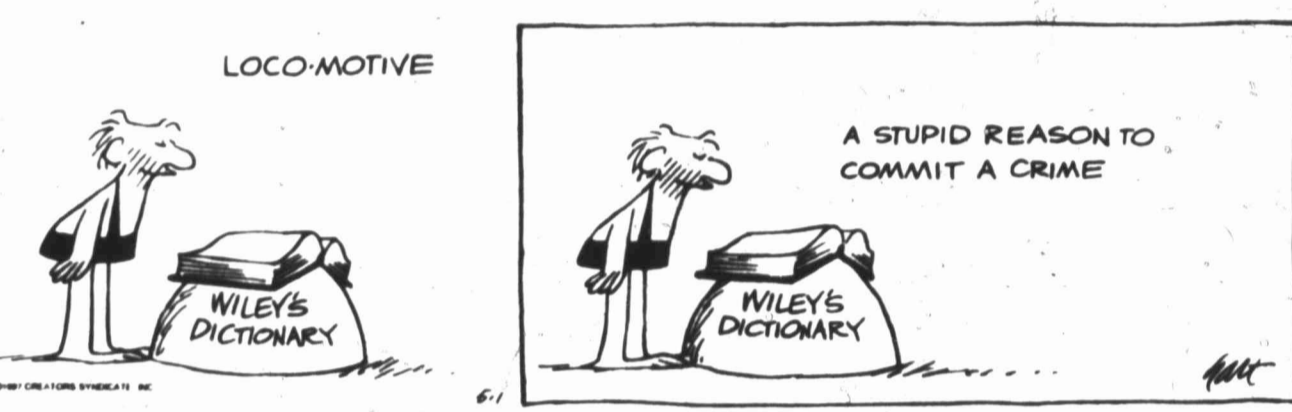
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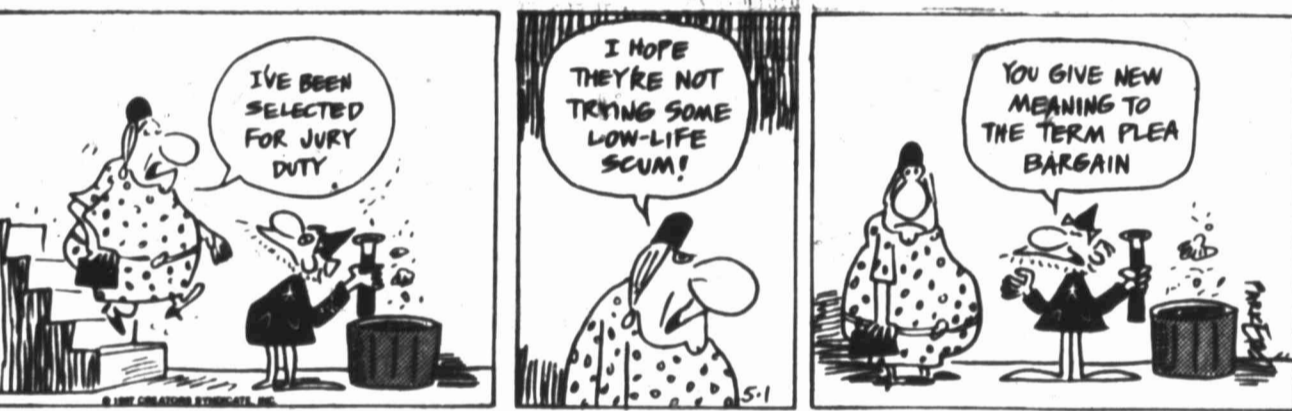
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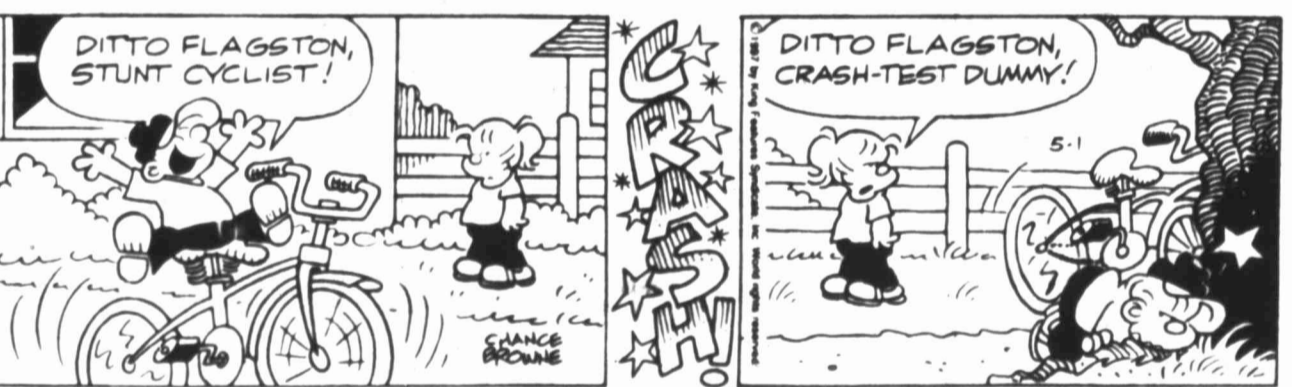
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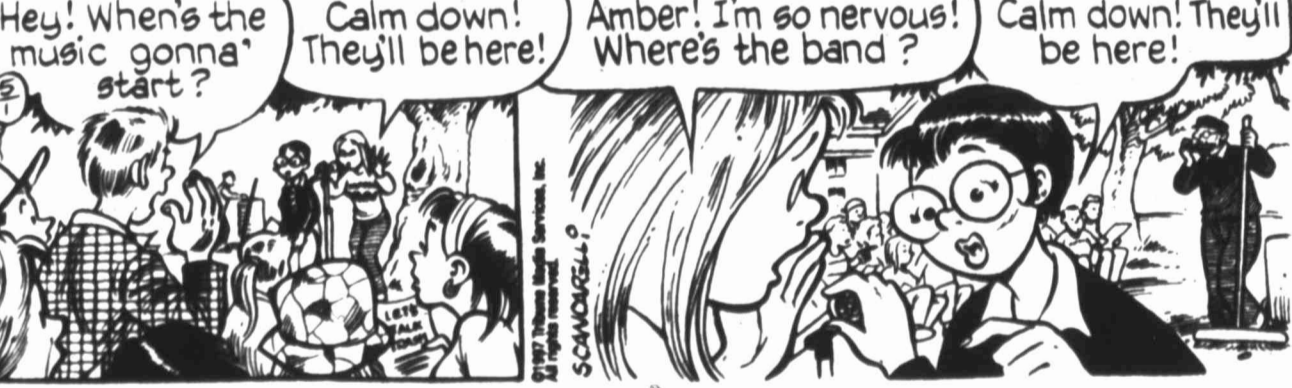
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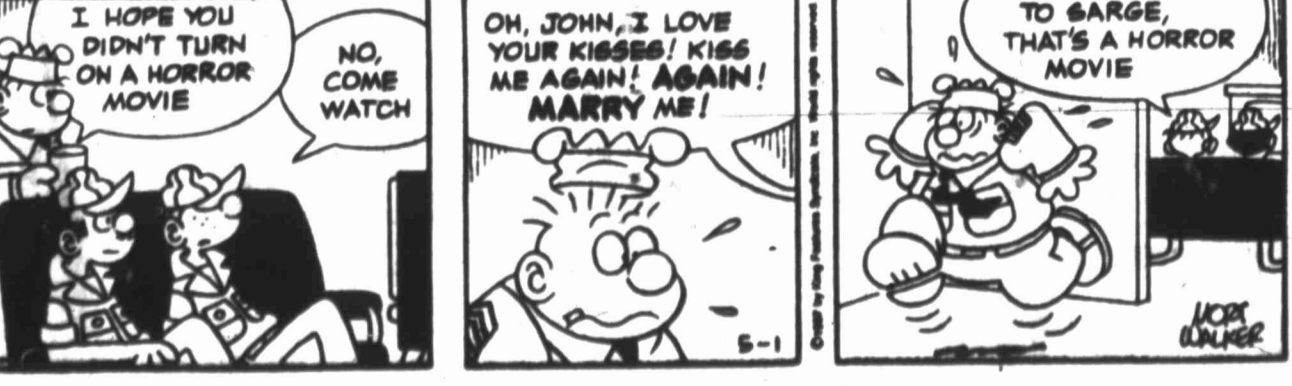
GASOLINE ALLEY



SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILY



THIS DATE IN HISTORY

The ASSOCIATED PRESS
Today is Thursday, May 1, the 121st day of 1997. There are 244

days left in the year.
Today's Highlight in History:
On May 1, 1898, Commodore George Dewey gave the command, "You may fire when you are ready, Gridley," as an American naval force destroyed a Spanish fleet in Manila Bay.
On this date:
In 1786, the opera "The

Marriage of Figaro," by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, premiered in Vienna.
In 1893, the World's Columbian Exposition was officially opened in Chicago by President Cleveland.
In 1931, New York's 102-story Empire State Building was dedicated.
In 1931, singer Kate Smith began her long-running radio program on CBS.
In 1941, the Orson Welles motion picture "Citizen Kane" premiered in New York.
In 1945, a day after Adolf Hitler committed suicide, it was announced that Admiral Karl Doenitz had succeeded Hitler as leader of the Third Reich.
In 1948, the People's Democratic Republic of Korea (North Korea) was proclaimed.
In 1960, the Soviet Union shot down an American U-2 reconnaissance plane near Sverdlovsk and captured its pilot, Francis Gary Powers.
In 1967, Anastasio Somoza Debayle became president of Nicaragua.
In 1967, Elvis Presley married Priscilla Beaulieu in Las Vegas. They divorced in 1973.
In 1971, Amtrak, which combined and streamlined the operations of 18 intercity passenger railroads, went into service.
In 1978, Ernest Morial was inaugurated as the first black mayor of New Orleans.
Ten years ago: During a visit to West Germany, Pope John Paul II beatified Edith Stein, a Jewish-born Carmelite nun who was gassed in the Nazi concentration camp at Auschwitz.
Five years ago: On the third day of the Los Angeles riots, beaten motorist Rodney King appeared in public to appeal for calm, asking, "Can we all get along?" President Bush delivered a nationally broadcast address in which he vowed to "use whatever force is necessary" to restore order.
One year ago: PLO leader Yasser Arafat received a statesman's welcome at the White House, where he met with President Clinton for 45 minutes, then lashed out at Israel for keeping its borders closed to Palestinian workers.

THE Daily Crossword

ACROSS
1 Straight-laced
5 Karemina and Moflo
10 — homol
14 Prohibit
15 Inclined
16 Joint affliction
17 Hardy heroine
18 Ziti, e.g.
19 Spiritual guide
20 Spurious
22 Supply holder
23 Got under the
24 Goat cheese
25 Chilled
27 Female kangaroo
28 Cheese type
31 Ratal
33 Chipper's concern
34 Bush challenger
36 Paris subway
39 Baltic feeder
41 Yield
43 Vamoose
44 Pie nut
46 Following
48 Cuckoo
49 Drop
51 Fast, careenwise
53 Australian bird
55 "I Love —"
57 Steak order
58 Highway division
60 Alphabet run
61 Papal vestment
63 Preened
64 Detached
66 Give out cards
68 Wheel cover
69 Issei progeny
70 Abstract being
71 "Airplane" pilot
72 Chris of tennis
73 Charles' dog

DOWN
1 G.I.
2 Ridge of rocks
3 Trite comeback
4 Islam adherent
5 Modified
6 Gun gp.
7 Trite comeback

8 Ludicrous act
9 Enthroned
10 Breakfast dish
11 Trite comeback
12 Trinket
13 Piano composition
21 Phase
26 Block up
28 Recline quickly
29 Senator's helper
30 Neighborhood
32 — publica
35 Nice noggin
37 Indian prince
38 Auricular
40 Butt
42 Modify original parts

45 Nothing
47 Bring up
50 Southern university
52 Rumanian city
53 Israeli port city

54 Santa —
56 954
59 Looks over
62 Certain region
65 Atop, to Keats
67 Meadow

by Anthony R. Mupo 05/01/97

Wednesday's Puzzle solved:

OPEC GALS ODAE
DIVA ABIE RALES
ITEM LOOM INANE
CALIFORNIA SUITE
SORT ROB
ASHORE FATNEANT
SCALA RARE NEW
HONEY SUCKLER ROSE
END HIEL GESTE
RESIDENT SAGEST
NAB ANDI
SACCHARINE DMILE
ARAIL EDGE ELAN
CENTI DEER NINO
ASEA DALY TADS

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Office Hours are 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday

The Herald is a member of the Associated Press, Audit Bureau of Circulation, Texas Press Association, Southern Newspaper Publishers Association & West Texas Press.

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Today's Birthdays: Actor Glenn Ford is 81. TV personality Jack Paar is 79. Actor Dan O'Herlihy is 78. Author Joseph Heller is 74. Former astronaut Scott Carpenter is 72. Country singer Sonny James is 68. Singer Judy Collins is 58. Singer Rita Coolidge is 52. Singer-songwriter Ray Parker Jr. is 43. Former jockey Steve Caution is 37. Rock musician Johnny Colt (The Black Crowes) is 31. Country singer Tim McGraw is 30. Rock musician D'Arcy (Smashing Pumpkins) is 29.