

# BIG SPRING HERALD

Reflecting A Proud Community

MONDAY  
May 12, 1997

50 cents

## Circle of friends, sister, Fortiers testifying against McVeigh

DENVER (AP) — Michael Fortier, who admitted he knew of the Oklahoma City bombing plot and didn't tell authorities, will join the parade of friends and family called to testify against suspect Timothy McVeigh. Fortier is considered to be a key witness for prosecutors, who contend he cased the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building with McVeigh in December 1994, four months before the blast. Prosecutors also claim Fortier traveled with McVeigh, who faces the death penalty, to Kansas to pick up weapons that were stolen to finance the April 1995 bombing that killed 168

people and injured hundreds more. The trial was to resume today. A former Army buddy of McVeigh's, Fortier could provide details of what prosecutors say was McVeigh's hatred of the government because of federal raids on the Branch Davidian compound near Waco, Texas, two years before the bombing. One by one, prosecutors have questioned the people who formed McVeigh's circle of friends in their effort to put the largely circumstantial case in perspective. They have lined up at least six witnesses who were once close to McVeigh, including his sister

Jennifer and Fortier's wife, Lori. Mrs. Fortier said McVeigh plotted the blast by selecting a building that was "an easy target," and even used soup cans to demonstrate how he could build a powerful bomb with barrels of fertilizer and fuel. Ms. McVeigh said her brother told her in a letter that he was shifting from propaganda to the "action stage." Both women were granted immunity by prosecutors in exchange for their testimony, deals defense attorneys have emphasized. Fortier, meanwhile, agreed to testify and pleaded guilty in August 1995 to

lesser charges, including failure to report the bombing plot to authorities and lying to the FBI. Fortier faces up to 23 years in prison once he is sentenced after testifying against McVeigh and the other bombing suspect, Terry Nichols, who will be tried later. All three men served together at Fort Riley, Kan. A web of shared views and connections between Fortier and McVeigh led the FBI to Fortier's trailer in Kingman, Ariz., early in the investigation. Fortier helped McVeigh get a job at the hardware store where he'd returned to work, chose him to be best

man at his 1994 wedding in Las Vegas and let him stay at the trailer and use the address as a reference when he signed up for a private mail drop he allegedly used to peddle weapons. Mrs. Fortier recalled meeting McVeigh when her husband took him to Kingman, her hometown, for Thanksgiving dinner in 1988. Others have been like McVeigh. David Darlak, a former high school buddy, told jurors how McVeigh sent him copies of "The Turner Diaries," a racist novel about a plot by militias to blow up a federal building in Washington.

## Early voting in runoff race gets under way

By CARLTON JOHNSON  
Staff Writer

Early voting for the Saturday, May 31 runoff election between Pat DeAnda and Oscar Garcia for the District 2 Big Spring City Council seat began this morning in the finance office at City Hall.

Only residents of District 2 who are registered to vote are eligible to cast ballots in the runoff. Early voting will continue from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. through May 27.

The runoff election will be from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Big Spring High School Cafeteria. Garcia came within a handful of votes of defeating DeAnda and Bob Taylor for the seat outright earlier this month.

A total of 118 votes were needed to avoid a runoff in the District 2 race, but Garcia, who received more votes than DeAnda or Taylor, was 11 votes shy of avoiding a runoff.

Garcia received 107 votes to 88 for DeAnda and 38 for Taylor. When the vote total was announced at City Hall, Garcia



DeANDA



GARCIA

said, "Now we go back to work."

According to Garcia, the outcome of the May 3 election tells him that he needs to go back to the community and talk to the people in the district.

Garcia said he expected a close race earlier this month because DeAnda is the incumbent and she is popular, but beating her vote count gives him momentum going into the runoff.

"I would like to triple my vote count or better," Garcia said.

As for DeAnda, she said the next move for her is to develop a strategy to get her voters to the polls.

Please see RACE, page 2

## BENEFIT BAKE SALE



Teresa Lee (left) picks up some cookies for her grandmother from Kim Howell at the bake sale staged Saturday at the Big Spring Mall to help raise money for the Hangar 25 Restoration Project.

## Owners of missing dogs prepared to face council

By CARLTON JOHNSON  
Staff Writer

The Big Spring City Council will hear from Denise Freeman on the issue of stolen dogs for a second time Tuesday night.

After addressing the council last early month about having one of her dogs stolen, Freeman said she began to get calls from several people who had also had animals stolen, but didn't know which agency to contact about the matter.

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

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.

Freeman added that she also addressed the council before 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 some-

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

-DENISE FREEMAN

where between having your child and your lawnmower stolen."

One of the reasons the Big Spring Police Department said it wasn't aware of a dog theft problem was that people are not reporting stolen dogs to the police department.

Another reason, according to Lt. Terry Chamness, BSPD animal control supervisor, is that people are not registering their animals with the BSPD shelter and when an animal is stolen most owners are not reporting

it to the police.

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.

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

"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.

Freeman said the microchip idea is fine, but what she and other pet owners are looking for is a way to handle the stolen animal issue at the point an animal is stolen, because not everyone will have a chip inserted on their animal.

## Motherless 10-year-old girl found living alone

SAND SPRINGS, Okla. (AP) — The onset of Mother's Day may have been what prompted a tearful 10-year-old girl to find help after four months living alone in a trailer with little food and no water.

Ashton Denise Saylor said she resorted to eating dog biscuits and puppy chow but still attended school after her mother Audrey Saylor left home on the child's birthday Jan. 9.

Police learned about her plight Sunday after she turned to a neighbor, asking if she could stay with him. John Kame said Ashton arrived crying at his door several days before.

Sheriff's Capt. Jerry Griffin said he thought it was the emotions associated with the approaching holiday that sent her to Kame.

Ashton had made her mother a Mother's Day gift for Sunday, Griffin said, but gave the gift to a friend's mother instead.

Ashton's adult cousin also lives with Kame, and knew the girl was living alone. But the cousin, Kima Soles, said she did nothing because she was trying to gain custody of Ashton and didn't want to alert police.

"This is a sweet little girl," Soles told the Tulsa World.

Kame described the girl as hungry and scared.

"She said her mother was nowhere around," he said. "There's no water or gas in the trailer."

Tulsa County sheriff's deputies began investigating after other neighbors called. The trailer, sheriff's reports said, "was found to be filthy with clothing and trash on the floors."

Ashton told police Sunday she didn't want to tell anyone her mother was missing because it might get her in trouble. She said she had seen her mother only once or twice since Jan. 9.

Neighbors said lots of children went in and out of the trailer in an impoverished area near city limits of the Tulsa suburb.

Authorities were looking for Saylor. Neighbors said they had never seen the girl's father. The girl was placed in state custody.

Police Sgt. Larry Early described the girl as intelligent and respectful.

## NEW UNIFORMS



Vickie Walker straightens the tie on Howard County Sheriff's Deputy Cliff McCartney's new uniform. According to Sheriff Bill Jennings, deputies will be wearing the new uniforms this winter.

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### TODAY'S WEATHER

78 ▲ Highs 46  
Lows ▼

Today: Partly cloudy, becoming fair tonight. High in the upper 70s. Low in the 40s.

Tuesday: Mostly sunny. High around 80. Low in the lower 50s.

Extended outlook: Wednesday, a slight chance of showers and thunderstorms. High in the mid to upper 80s. Thursday and Friday, a chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the 80s. Lows in the 50s.

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Call us at:  
(915) 263-7331

## What should be done about the Permian Building?



"It's falling apart. Just wait or tear it down."  
Terry Dammann  
Big Spring



"Fix it or tear it down. I wish him all the luck. He'll need it. I wouldn't want to be in his position."  
Terry Dammann  
Big Spring



"Fix it up, and the Settles, too. We need to build more."  
Terry Dammann  
Big Spring



"I think it should be torn down. I think it's dangerous."  
Terry Dammann  
Big Spring



"Tear it down. It's not doing anything."  
Terry Dammann  
Big Spring



"I think (owner) needs to get it done so we can get more business in here."  
Terry Dammann  
Big Spring



"Tear it down and if nothing else, put in a park there. A place for people to go and hang out."  
Terry Dammann  
Big Spring



"If they're going to put offices there, it would be worth the time and effort."  
Terry Dammann  
Big Spring





# EDITORIAL

## Quote of the Day

"Justice was born outside the home and a long way from it; and it has never been adopted there."  
-Walter Cronkite

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

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## OUR VIEWS

# It's time to finish Kids' Zone work

Happy birthday, Kids' Zone.

A year ago today, at about 6:18 p.m. to be exact, a corps of volunteers completed the basic work on Kids' Zone, our community playground envisioned by Katy McAteer.

Construction Week last year got off to a slow start because of less volunteers and tools than needed, but came together as volunteers from all corners of the community as well as inmates from the Big Spring Wilderness Camp turned out to finish the job on schedule.

We recall that Sunday morning prayer breakfast as preparations were being made for that final push to completion. Looking around the Old Settlers Pavilion and observing the mix of peoples, we remember thinking about the diversity of those who had gathered to make this project happen.

A year distant from that day, there are things that still must be done — among them, the completion of the name boards that some parents and grandparents have waited for a year so that they could show their children and grandchildren.

Another is to make a decision as to whether or not age and size limitations should be placed on those who use Kids' Zone.

We bring this up because of concerns over the size and age disparity of those who use the park.

While some of the younger children take an uncertain approach to things like the balance beam and climbing tires, teenagers and adults, yes, adults, often run past them ... pushing them aside and causing them to find a place to safely sit down.

The older kids and adults — yes, adults — who have a tendency to take over the playground, climb on the outside of everything. The pieces of equipment that are damaged are in such condition because of this misuse.

We suggest a Six Flags-type approach, with a sign showing a certain size — say 48 or 54 or 60 inches — and pointing out that "If you're taller than this, you're too tall to use this playground."

Our final suggestion is for those patrons who use the park to take the time to use the numerous trash barrels that have been placed around the facility.

Perhaps you do throw your trash down in your home, but we'd prefer that you not do that in our playground.

Over the past 12 months, thousands of children from ours, as well as neighboring communities, have taken advantage of Kids' Zone and spent thousands and thousands of hours playing and making new friends.

It's an addition that has a value many times the investment of time, equipment and money that it took to construct the playground.

Let's now complete the name boards, place age and size restrictions to protect the youngsters for whom the park was designed and keep the playground free of trash.

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# Readin', 'ritin', renovation for old school

VEAL, Ga. — You would never notice the small scar above Render Loftin's lip. Time's healing powers have brushed over it like gray over whiskers.

But Render, 70, remembers the day long ago when he and another pupil at Veal School were sent outside to cut firewood. Render Loftin fell on the cross-cut saw and kicked his mouth.

With a bloody face he walked up the road to Dr. J.J. Nutt's clinic and got two stitches. Then he walked back to school.

We are standing in the schoolyard, dark settling like a black blanket over the sweet rolling pastures of Carroll County. Dusk is a good time of day for swapping memories. And there are more memories attached to the old schoolhouse than there are cedar shingles.

"You can see my noseprint in every room," Jimmy Paul Sims says. He keeps a straight face as he tells on himself. But everyone else has a good laugh. "I stood with my face to the wall in every room, and I was whupped in every corner." Jimmy Paul Sims remains mischievous, and he still wears coveralls.

Doris Jones recalls there were only five in her seventh-grade graduation class. Veal School encompassed first through seventh grades until 1950. Then the county's teacher supply ran dry. Veal consolidated with Roopville and Bowdon, and after that the schoolyard was empty.

One year Veal won the county trophy in basketball. The boys wore their brogans to practice on the makeshift court in the yard outside. When they prepared to play for the championship in a real gymnasium, the Veal boys had to buy tennis shoes.

Veal had the first lunchroom in the county. That's a real point of pride. And people you have heard of went to school here — sportscaster Keith Jackson, textile mogul Roy Sewell, many of Lewis

Grizzard's kin. Former Carroll County School Superintendent Comber B. Yates was a student, teacher and principal.

You get the feeling that this memory swapmeet could go on forever. Already the schoolhouse globes that swing from the tongue-and-groove ceiling are bright beacons against a black night.

So we cut to the chase. The community wants to save the old school, organized in 1899, its first room built in 1900. Since 1949, the building's been used sporadically, for first one thing and then another.

It's been a roller rink, a Friday-night movie theater, a community center for all-night gospel sings and cakewalks and taffy pulls. But maintenance has been haphazard. Leaks have caused considerable damage.

The old school bell was sold. Desks are stored beneath the building where the girls used to make playhouses. Windows are missing panes, and the floor in one room has collapsed. Veal School needs work.

And that means, of course, that Veal School needs money. Strong backs would be even

better. Loftin and his cohorts hope former students will read about the community's goal of restoring the school by its centennial (1999) and donate at least a day's work.

The renovated school would be used just as it has been for the last 45 years. There would be community and church functions, reunions and fish suppers. Once again the yard would ring with the laughter of children and bluegrass banjos.

Our country is duly proud of many things: its military, its might, its rivers and canyons and caves. But we've begun to sneer at one of our civilization's most important building blocks: public education.

Old rural schoolhouses are shrines of a sort. They are temples to thought, to hope and enlightenment. The precious few left should be saved.

There's still a lot we need to learn. Donations may be sent to Veal School Restoration, 2938 Roopville-Veal Road, Roopville, Ga. 30170.

c 1997 by Rheta Grimsley Johnson  
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# Government control of Internet just a ploy

The probability is pretty high that the U.S. government is going to try to censor and control the Internet. The government can't stand something it can't control.

I based that statement on the fact that Secretary of Defense William Cohen has now followed FBI Director Louis Freeh in making wild and inflammatory public statements about the Internet. Freeh spoke ominously about how pedophiles use the Internet to lure children into sex acts. Cohen just spoke at a seminar and waved the bloody flag about terrorists using the Internet to tell people how to make bombs.

Technically, both men spoke the truth. Pedophiles do use the Internet, and you can find information on how to make a bomb. The trouble with both statements is that they present a modicum of truth in an exaggerated fashion and are completely out of context.

Pedophiles use any means — video parlors, beaches, youth groups, even churches — to contact children. They also use telephones, private meetings, the post office or whatever. The Internet — just another means of communication — doesn't really change anything about that problem.

And furthermore, pedophiles are fairly easy to catch on the Internet. The FBI has convicted more than 80, and local cops conduct sting operations all the time. The Internet is not nearly as anonymous as it is painted. Everybody who uses it leaves electronic footprints.

As for making bombs, information about that has been publicly available since the 1960s, when President Clinton's leftist buddies were running around making bombs and publishing books on how to blow things up. These books are not clandestine publications. They are sold by public firms that advertise them. It's amazing what amnesia some members of the '60s generation have about their own past.

Furthermore, U.S. govern-

ment manuals on making bombs, booby traps and other such stuff have been on public sale for decades. And I wonder why it has never occurred to Cohen that the Defense Department in the last 50 years has itself trained thousands of people in the use of explosives.

Finally, making a chemical explosive is so simple anybody with more than a double-digit IQ can figure it out just by thinking through the problem. We're not talking about thermonuclear devices here. A chemical bomb is essentially a big firecracker, and who hasn't seen a firecracker?

Now neither Freeh nor Cohen are stupid, and they know the facts I've just pointed out as well as anyone. That's why I think they are just setting the stage to justify government monitoring and censorship of computer communications. Governments always create a bogeyman to save people from, in order to justify expanding their powers.

Any time people in government want to outlaw knowledge or block channels of communication, a free people should be on guard. Censoring the Internet is not going to

eliminate pedophiles or terrorists, and it is certainly not going to stamp out knowledge. Yet these two uglies are probably going to be used as the excuse to limit people's liberty.

I suspect what our government and other governments really want to censor are unpopular political ideas, the very kind of speech our First Amendment was designed to protect. Nobody wants to or will protect a pedophile. They are as devoid of friends as the Ebola virus. Ditto for terrorists.

But government should concern itself with actions, not with speech, ideas, opinions or information. Let people argue history, politics, race or whatever to their heart's content. That is the essence of a free society. That is what makes America, America. Only when someone uses force or fraud against another should the government intervene.

Unfortunately, this is the most anti-Constitution administration in many a year. Every year, Americans become less free. It's definitely a bear market for liberty.

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Mallard Fillmore by BRUCE TINSLEY







MONDAY

MAY 12

Time	KMID (2)	KPEJ (3)	KERA (5)	FAM (6)	KOSA (7)	WFAA (8)	KWES (9)	WTBS (11)	UNI (13)	DISN (14)	NASH (15)	TMC (16)	SHOW (20)	HBO (22)	KMLN (23)	AAE (25)	DISC (26)	TNT (27)	FSN (29)	ESPN (30)	AMC (31)	BET (33)												
6:30	News	Survived a Disaster 2	20,000 Leagues	Under the Sea	News Cheers	Nightline Politically Inc.	Roseanne Bible Lesson	Survived a Disaster 2	20,000 Leagues	Under the Sea	Ent. Tonight	News (22522) Tonight Show	Wild Life Adventures	Al Fimbo de la Noche	Harry V (CC) (6832454)	Prime Time Country	(10) Movie: Down by Law (53928)	(CC) (70783928)	Movie: Twin Sitters (57704015)	Movie: Under Siege 2: Dark Territory (CC) (2284909)	Real Sports (527305)	Movie: Mo' Money (344015)	Movie: Fast (27804160)	Movie: Love Street (14215473)	Movie: Street Law (1890544)	Movie: Sex Bytes 2.3 (975028)	Movie: Van Impe Update News (7373005)	Movie: (35) Movie: (20) Total	Movie: Wings (731812)	Movie: Baby (7078096)	Movie: Stage Fright (512473)	Movie: The Black Swan (813454)	Movie: Talk (480034)	Movie: Planet Groove (556763)

HAGAR



BLONDIE



B.C.



FAMILY CIRCUS



DENNIS THE MENACE



GEECH



WIZARD OF ID



HI AND LOIS



GASOLINE ALLEY



SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILY



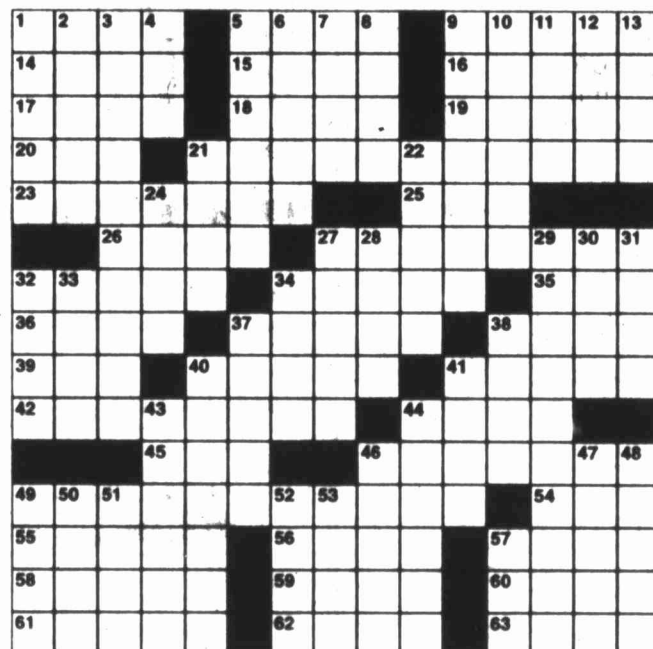
THIS DATE IN HISTORY

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

Today is Monday, May 12, the

THE Daily Crossword

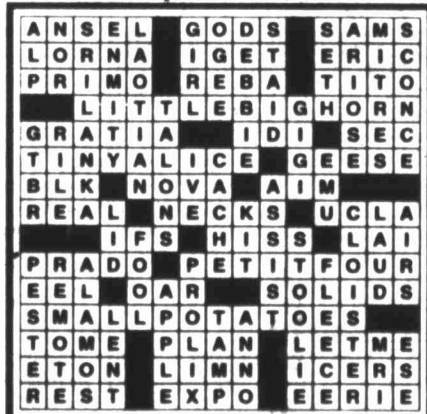
- ACROSS
- 1 Take an oblique course
- 5 Dull pain
- 9 Frighten
- 14 TV personality
- 15 Applaud
- 16 Flynn of films
- 17 Inner: pref.
- 18 Close attention
- 19 Fresh-water ducks
- 20 Cyclops had just one
- 21 Worthy of esteem
- 23 Clergymen
- 25 Popular model
- 26 Labored breath
- 27 Concealed from view
- 32 Myanmar, formerly
- 34 Storage towers
- 35 Historical period
- 36 Egyptian goddess
- 37 Like the ocean
- 38 Chicken coop finds
- 39 — Moines
- 40 Foolish
- 41 Spill liquid
- 42 Toothless
- 44 Pepper's partner
- 45 Kayak necessity
- 46 Young girls
- 49 Class assignments
- 54 Beer kin
- 55 Correct an error
- 56 Boundary
- 57 Proficient
- 58 Photographer Adams
- 59 Genuine
- 60 Touched ground
- 61 Not neat
- 62 Quite a few
- 63 Attorney general, Janet



by Vivian O. Collins

05/12/97

Saturday's Puzzle solved:



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05/12/97

- DOWN
- 1 Take a nap
- 2 Nairobi's land
- 3 "Star Trek" vessel
- 4 Court
- 5 Stress
- 6 Teacher's group
- 7 Instrument
- 8 Sword
- 9 Moves in
- 10 Originate
- 11 Bedouin
- 12 Rock's partner
- 13 Different
- 21 Hollywood's Barrett
- 22 First name of 25A
- 24 Donaldson and Houston
- 27 Move unobtrusively
- 28 Potter's medium
- 29 Open to discussion
- 30 Units of work
- 31 Short race
- 32 Wait
- 33 Partook of
- 34 River sediment
- 37 Headgear for Miss America
- 38 Building extensions
- 40 Majestic
- 41 Talk back
- 43 Bangs and slams
- 44 Sensibly
- 46 Utah city
- 47 Mrs. Irving Berlin
- 48 Take care of
- 49 Quantity of paper
- 50 Sea bird
- 51 Singer Mama —
- 52 Semester
- 53 Brilliant thought
- 57 Swiss river

BIG SPRING HERALD

Reflecting A Proud Texas Community

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132nd day of 1997. There are 233 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On May 12, 1820, the founder of modern nursing, Florence Nightingale, was born in Florence, Italy.

On this date: In 1870, Manitoba entered Confederation as a Canadian province.

In 1932, the body of the kidnapped son of Charles and Anne Lindbergh was found in a wooded area of Hopewell, N.J.

In 1937, Britain's King George VI was crowned at Westminster Abbey.

In 1943, during World War II, Axis forces in North Africa surrendered.

In 1949, the Soviet Union announced an end to the Berlin Blockade.

In 1965, West Germany and Israel exchanged letters establishing diplomatic relations.

In 1970, the Senate voted unanimously to confirm Harry A. Blackmun as a Supreme Court justice.

In 1975, the White House announced the new Cambodian government had seized an American merchant ship, the Mayaguez, in international waters.

In 1978, the Commerce Department said hurricanes would no longer be named exclusively after women.

In 1982, in Fatima, Portugal, security guards overpowered a Spanish priest armed with a bayonet who was trying to reach Pope John Paul II.

Ten years ago: Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir rejected Foreign Minister Shimon Peres' proposal for an international Middle East peace conference, calling it "perverse and criminal." Peres angrily accused Shamir of arrogance.

Five years ago: Four suspects were arrested in the beating of trucker Reginald Denny at the start of the Los Angeles riots. President Bush announced he would travel to the Earth Summit in Brazil. Actor Robert Reed of TV's "The Brady Bunch" died in Pasadena, Calif., at age 59.

One year ago: Authorities in Florida called off the search for possible survivors from the crash of ValuJet Flight 592, a day after the jetliner nose-dived into the Everglades with 110 people on board.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Katharine Hepburn is 90. Journalist Howard K. Smith is 83. Critic John Simon is 72. Baseball Hall-of-Famer Yogi Berra is 72. Composer Burt Bacharach is 68. Talk show host Tom Snyder is 61. Comedian George Carlin is 60. Former White House press secretary Ronald L. Ziegler is 58. Country singer Billy Swan is 55. Musician Ian McLagan (Small Faces; The Faces) is 52. Actress Lindsay Crouse is 49. Singer-musician Steve Winwood is 49. Actor Gabriel Byrne is 47. Actor Bruce Boxleitner is 47. Singer Billy Squier is 47. Country singer Kix Brooks (Brooks and Dunn) is 42. Rock musician Billy Duffy (The Cult) is 36. Actor Emilio Estevez is 35.