

BIG SPRING HERALD

Reflecting A Proud Community

MONDAY
December 1, 1997

50 cents

1997 cotton harvest looks to yield more than 250,000 bales area-wide

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

When all is said and done with the 1997 cotton crop, area farmers should harvest more than 250,000 bales, a dramatic increase from last year.

According to the latest estimates from officials in Howard, Martin and Glasscock counties, around 265,000 bales of cotton should be collected by the time the '97 harvest is complete. That figure is more than six times the figure reached in 1996, when drought ravaged area fields.

Martin County farmers will have the highest yields in the area, with estimates ranging up to 130,000 bales. Howard County is next in line, with an estimated

total yield of 85,000, while Glasscock County farmers are expected to harvest in excess of 50,000 bales this year.

If those estimates hold, area farmers should realize more than \$100 million in direct economic impact from the harvest, with an overall economic impact of about \$700 million to this area, according to Extension Service figures.

While this doesn't represent a banner year for farmers, it's an almost miraculous turnaround from the past few years.

The good news isn't restricted to this area, either. Statewide estimates call for 5.5 million bales of cotton to be harvested in Texas this year, an increase of more than 1 million bales from 1996.

The weather, which was so cruel to farmers the past few years, cooperated this time around.

"We had some rains at the right time, and we had some good September weather. That determines how good the crop will be a lot of times," said Gerald Hanson, who has been closely monitoring the Martin County harvest.

"We had a good, dry September," he added. "And it seems like boll weevils ... didn't do as much damage as we thought they would."

Rob Haney, president of the Howard County Cotton Growers Association, estimated that county farmers reaped between a half-bale and 2 bales per acre this year.

"Everybody I've talked to has been real pleased," Haney said. "It's not an excellent, excellent crop, but it sure made a difference over what we've made the last three or four years."

The good news couldn't have come at a better time for farmers who were in a make-or-break situation, Hanson said.

"If we hadn't made a good crop, there would have been several farmers that wouldn't be able to farm another year," he said. "This is one of the better (crops) we've had in several years."

Hanson said Martin County farmers averaged more than a bale an acre this year. Dryland farmers brought in between a bale and 1 1/2 bales on average, while irrigated fields yielded more than two bales an acre.



HERALD photo/Jonathan Garrett
Big Spring Gln employee Sam Pena moves a bale of cotton into position to be bagged and sampled.

TRIMMING TREES

Richard Wright (left) and Gary Faulkner take their turn working at the Optimist Club Christmas tree lot Saturday. Here they cut the bottom off of a tree and square it up so that it can be placed in water in a tree holder.



HERALD photo/Jonathan Garrett

Election '98

Lockhart, Kilgore decide to seek re-election to court while others play waiting game to announce decision

By CARLTON JOHNSON
Staff Writer

Speculation is that when the first day to file candidacy for local offices rolls around Wednesday, some familiar names will surface as both incumbents and opponents.

Accepting those challenges will be County Judge Ben Lockhart and Precinct 2 County Commissioner Jerry Kilgore, who have indicated they will seek reelection to their positions.

One name that will not be on the primary ballot is that of Precinct 4 County Commissioner Sonny Choate.

Choate says he never intended to stay in office forever and he is returning to civilian life and will spend more time with his family.

Choate ran in 1994 as a conservative, saying the commissioners' court needed a more conservative voice in fiscal matters.

Getting elected to the court in 1994 made Choate the first Republican to be elected to the court in 22 years.

"I didn't hit all of the things I wanted to hit on and part of that is due to the fact that a commissioner is only one voice out of five," Choate said.

"Things definitely look better than they did when I came on the court, but that's not due to anything I did — it has to do with the price of oil," Choate added. "We finally stopped seeing the downward spiral of our tax base."

Another name that will be missing on the primary ballot is that of County Clerk Margaret Ray, who decided earlier this year that she will not seek another term to the position she has held since 1975.

Ray has actually been a part of the county clerk's office since she was 18 years old, and, by the time her term expires in December 1998, she will have served Howard County for 45 years.

Like Choate, Ray believes in giving the voters what they pay for — service, which is why she



LOCKHART



KILGORE



CHOATE



RAY

decided to serve out her current term rather than resign early.

Names have not surfaced yet as to who may seek to fill the Precinct 4 position or the county clerk's position, but both Republicans and Democrats will have their opportunity to pick up the county seat on a commissioners' court which seems to have become more and more conservative in the last four years.

All of the offices up for reelection in 1998, for which candidates will have to declare their intentions to seek beginning Wednesday include district judge, county judge, Precinct 2 and Precinct 4 County Commissioner seats, district clerk, county treasurer and county surveyor.

Also on the ballot will be Justice of the Peace seats for Precinct 1, Place 2 (Marilyn Carson) and Precinct 2 (Jack Buchanan).

Judge Carson and Judge Buchanan have yet to indicate whether they will seek reelection.

Interested candidates for local office will have until Jan. 2, 1998 to declare their candidacy for one of the offices on the primary ballot.

Tickets now available for FUMC's Living Christmas Tree

By DEBBIE L. JENSEN
Features Editor

Free tickets are available as long as they last this week for the Living Christmas Tree, the live musical performance at First United Methodist Church Saturday and Sunday.

Joanne Forrest, who was at the church early today handing out tickets, said the approximately 900 seats for each performance will fill quickly.

"Most of them will probably go by Wednesday," she said. "That's the big crush, at the first part of the week."

But tickets will be given out at the church office as long as they last, she said.

"We'll sometimes have a few left at the end

of the week, but we are giving them out as we speak," Forrest said.

"Tree" performances begin at 8 p.m. The later start time is planned so that Saturday night's audience can enjoy the Big Spring Herald Community Christmas Parade and Trail of Lights.

Organizers and church leaders said the event is much-anticipated by the church and community.

"It's something so special," said Denise Ross, co-director of music at FUMC. "It is truly a gift to Big Spring."

Ross and her husband, John, are directing the choir of about 75, which comes from seven or eight local churches.

"This has been a tradition in Big Spring for nearly 20 years now," said Ed

Williamson, pastor of First United Methodist. "It has served as a focal point for the community's worship, a way of celebrating the true meaning of Christmas, the birth of Jesus Christ."

This year's musical program will include traditional English carols, some with familiar tunes, others more unusual.

Ross said people will recognize many of the songs, such as "O Come All Ye Faithful." In addition to the singers, the program features a full orchestra of various local musicians.

All performers have a busy week ahead, with rehearsals tonight, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday evenings. A full dress rehearsal, Saturday at 2 p.m., is open to the public, and no tickets are required.

Texas inmates lose Supreme Court bid over parole

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court today rejected an appeal by Texas inmates who say their chances for parole shouldn't suffer if they have sued prison officials or if their crime victim opposes parole.

The court, without comment, turned away the inmates' argument that they should not be penalized for exercising their right to sue. The inmates also said crime victims' letters to parole boards often include false information.

The class-action lawsuit, originally filed in 1985, sought an order barring parole officials from considering whether inmates filed lawsuits while in prison. Many prisoners are denied parole at because they have filed legal claims over prison conditions, inmates said.

Inmates also sought to bar parole officials from considering letters written by crime victims or their relatives. Texas law requires parole boards to consider such "victim impact state-

ments."

A federal magistrate judge in Austin barred parole officials from considering crime victims' statements or inmates' activities in filing lawsuits.

The use of victim statements violates inmates' equal-protection rights because those who are the targets of such letters tend to be denied parole, the judge said in 1995. He also said bias against litigious has harmed their access to the courts.

The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals reversed. The policy allowing victim impact statements aims to protect victims' rights, and it applies equally to all inmates, the appeals court said.

It also said inmates who file frivolous lawsuits are not protected from retaliation by parole officials. The lower court judge was ordered to reconsider the case to decide whether any inmates were denied parole for filing valid lawsuits.

WEATHER

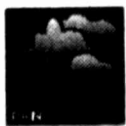
Tonight:



Tue:



Wed:



Thur:



Tonight, a chance of light rain. Becoming cloudy with lows 35-42. Tuesday, a chance of rain. Cloudy with highs from near 50 to near 60. Tuesday night, chance of rain. Lows in the 30s. Extended forecast, Wednesday, a chance of rain. Highs mid 40s to lower 50s. Thursday and Friday, dry. Lows in the 20s. Highs upper 40s to mid 50s.

INDEX

Abby / 7
Classified / 6-7
Comics / 8
General News / 3

Vol. 94, No. 36

Horoscope / 7
Obituaries / 2
Opinion / 4
Sports / 5

To reach all departments, please call 263-7331



24 shopping days left
Snoopy's Christmas Countdown
sponsored by
Barcelona Apartments

WILL YOU BE SPEND MORE OR LESS ON CHRISTMAS THIS YEAR?

 "Lots less, I just bought a new car." Connie Kuykendall She Brown	 "I'm not a big Christmas spender." Barbara Oyster She Brown	 "More, there are more people in my family, I just got married." Linda Lovett She Brown	 "More now that I'm employed full time." Wanda Kase She Brown	 "More, I have my first grandchild." Jane and Thomas She Brown	 "More, I have a new nephew and sister-in-law." Jane and Thomas She Brown
---	---	--	--	---	--

Survey finds growing use of day, night youth curfews in U.S. cities

WASHINGTON (AP) — Using curfews to keep youths off the streets and at home is a growing option for U.S. cities seeking to cut crime and truancy and encourage parental discipline, a new survey finds.

A report being released today by the U.S. Conference of Mayors found that 276 of 347 responding cities had a nighttime curfew. Seventy-six had a daytime curfew as well.

That is an improvement over a similar survey the mayors group did in 1995 when more cities responded, but fewer said they were using curfews. In that survey, 270 of 387 cities had a nightly curfew.

"Curfews are not the end-all. It's just one tool in the toolbox," said Louisville Mayor Jerry Abramson, chairman of the mayors' conference task force on

youth violence. Abramson said curfews should be just one part of a juvenile crime prevention. He cited survey results that showed officials in 247, or 90 percent, of the cities that had curfews, thought it was a good use of a police officer's time. The rest of the cities thought curfew enforcement wasted police time.

In Tulsa, Okla., officials surveyed said there is generally no useful purpose for children to be out late at night. In Charlotte, N.C., officials said the curfew could stop teen-agers from getting into trouble and that many parents did not even know their children were outside the home. Officials in Claremont, Calif., said the city's day and nighttime curfews free up police officers for other work.

Officials in Billings, Mont. com-

plained there was no where to take curfew offenders because parents often aren't home. City officials in Freeport, Ill. said curfew-enforcement turns officers into baby-sitters. Richmond, Calif. officials said curfews treat all youth as if they were delinquents, giving law enforcement a bad image in the eyes of young people who are not troublemakers.

According to the survey, 56 percent, or 154, of the surveyed cities have had a youth curfew for at least 10 years. Officials in half these cities say juvenile crime has dropped since the curfew was imposed; 11 percent say the number of juvenile crimes has remained steady; and 10 percent have had an increase in juvenile-related crime.

Because most of the remaining cities

have had curfews for only a short time, no data on the impact on juvenile crime were available.

The most important reason for a daytime curfew is to ensure teens go to school, but Abramson said there are financial incentives as well. State education funding typically is based on attendance, he noted, and truancy can cost a school system millions of dollars in lost revenue.

But curfews can be expensive.

Twenty-three percent, or 61, of the cities said there were increased costs to enforce curfews. Officials in Chandler, Ariz., cited more paperwork, court appearances and time officers spent dealing with youths. Officials in New Orleans pointed to increased overtime for police. San Jose, Calif. officials said curfew enforcement hiked police pay-

roll costs by \$1 million.

Twenty-three percent of cities reported problems implementing the curfew. Parents in a middle-class Denver neighborhood opposed a proposed youth detention center. Some judges in Chicago did not take curfews seriously. Los Angeles officials said "the problem is convincing liberal politicians that it doesn't violate kids' rights and convincing police officers that it is productive."

Fourteen cities said there had been constitutional challenges to the curfew. The American Civil Liberties Union has fought such laws in a number of cities on the grounds that they impinge on liberties guaranteed by the Bill of Rights. It suggests cities use the money spent enforcing curfews on youth programs instead.

Jury selection set today in former mayor's 2nd trial

CORPUS CHRISTI (AP) — The second capital murder trial of former Ingleside Mayor Mark Crawford was set to start this week with jury selection today in San Antonio.

Crawford is accused of kidnapping business partner Nick Brueggen, 49, of Houston, forcing him into a large metal box and gassing him to death with motor-vehicle exhaust in a warehouse Crawford leased.

The first trial, which lasted about three weeks this summer, ended in a hung jury deadlocked 10-2 for conviction.

Bill May, Crawford's attorney, received a change a venue after arguing that publicity would make it difficult to find qualified jurors in Aransas County.

May says new defense evidence and testimony not heard in the first trial will be presented. May wasn't specific about the new evidence, saying only that he subpoenaed more than 50 witnesses and that it would not change his strategy.

A gag order from District Judge Ronald Yeager, who presided over the first trial and is expected to do so again, forbids attorneys or witnesses from discussing the case.

Although capital murder is punishable by life in prison or death, the prosecution is not seeking the death penalty.

"It shouldn't take as long to pick the jury and we've already been through this once," she said. "But as far as strategy, the facts are no different. There won't be any surprise (state) witnesses or anything like that. We tried it with everything we had and we'll retry it with everything we have."

Crawford also faces a federal indictment, which accuses him of killing Brueggen to prevent his testimony in a federal case involving conspiracy, wire fraud and money laundering.

Reno mulls counsel decision; Republicans predict she'll say no

WASHINGTON (AP) — As Attorney General Janet Reno worked on her final decision, Republicans said it was certain she would reject their demand that she seek an independent counsel to investigate campaign fund-raising activities by President Clinton and Vice President Al Gore.

Reno met with top aides and leaders of her campaign finance task force for 2 hours Sunday. Asked as she left the Justice Department building whether she had made any decision, she replied, "No comment."

She added, "I'd look at Tuesday," the deadline for her to decide whether to inform a special court that activities by Clinton and Gore may warrant the appointment of an outside prosecutor to investigate possible illegalities.

Aides indicated that, as is her practice at pre-decision meetings, Reno asked questions but didn't volunteer her thinking.

But Republicans used appear-

ances on Sunday talk shows to predict that Reno would opt against an independent counsel.

Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, contended on "Fox News Sunday" that she would do so because political appointees in the Justice Department were "politically advising her not to do this rather than advising her to live within the law and do what's right."

Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., said he also was resigned to a negative decision by Reno. "I think she just has a blind spot," he said on ABC's "This Week."

Gore has acknowledged making telephone calls from the White House to solicit contributions for the 1996 election campaign. Clinton has said he may have made calls but doesn't recall having done so.

The Justice Department task force has concluded that the 114-year-old statute that bars solicitation of campaign contribu-

tions in federal offices was aimed at protecting federal workers and was never intended to ban phone calls to private citizens from officials seeking contributions.

Hatch said he agreed with Reno that phone calls alone were not enough to trigger the Independent Counsel Act. "That's a false and bogus issue," he said on NBC's "Meet the Press."

But he said that by focusing on that single issue, Reno was ignoring larger reasons for appointing an independent counsel. He said those include "the misuse of soft money, the misuse of hard money, the collection of hard money in an improper way, the influence of foreigners in our process."

Soft money refers to funds earmarked for general purposes by a political party, while hard money is intended for specific candidates.

Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., argued the Independent Counsel

Act is triggered only when there is specific evidence that a crime has been committed, and that exhaustive investigations by congressional committees have failed to turn up such evidence.

"That have come up with evidence of where we have abuses that require, I think, changes in the law, which paradoxically, of course, most of the Republicans are against," Frank said.

Justice Department spokesman Bert Brandenburg said Reno spent part of Sunday studying the findings of the task force. In mid-afternoon, Deputy Attorney General Eric Holder, task force chief Charles LaBella and several other lawyers arrived for the meeting with Reno.

Brandenburg insisted that Reno's decision would be made based on the evidence. "The attorney general is ready and willing to take any credible allegations forward as she has done on the issue of the phone calls," he said. "Where they are specif-

ic and credible, we will take them forward, where not, we cannot."

Hatch also contended that "war has already broken out" between the FBI and Justice Department attorneys because FBI Director Louis Freeh supports an independent counsel.

"When you have a squabble between the attorney general and the head of the FBI, you know darn well that there's a reason to appoint an independent counsel and to get rid of the conflict of interest," he said.

Freeh and Reno met last week, Brandenburg said, and "the FBI has had every opportunity to make its views known."

Along with the decision on the Clinton-Gore investigation, Reno also must decide by Tuesday whether an independent counsel should investigate allegations that then-Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary solicited a charitable contribution in return for meeting with a group of Chinese businessmen.

DUNLAPS * 'Tis * The Season * *

Open Tuesday 10 am-6 pm

Receive This Beautiful 1997 Collectible Silverplated Santa Bell (2nd Ed.) For Only \$4.99 with Any \$15.00 Or More Purchase! Quantities Are Limited! Comes In Velvet Gift Box *\$15.00 VALUE



The Sights, Sounds, And Smells of Christmas - Tuesday, Dec. 2nd thru Saturday, Dec. 6th! Beat The Christmas Crowds & Shop For That Special Someone Now! This Sale Includes Values Throughout The Entire Store. Packaged Below Are Just A Sampling Of Values.

DOOR BUSTER COTTON CHENILLE Handwoven Throws Reg. 38.00 NOW 14.99 Save 60% 5 Colors 50"X60"	DOOR BUSTER LADIES WASHABLE Silk Bomber Jacket by Bogari® Reg. 38.00 NOW 19.99 S-M-L 6 Colors	DOOR BUSTER ONLY 30! Ladies Pant Sets Reg. 38.00 NOW 9.99 Save 70% S-M-L 5 Colors
LADIES COTTON Turtlenecks by Lisa International® Save 50% NOW 9.99 Reg. 20.00 S-M-L 5 Colors	MATCHING Sheet Sets Save To 60% NOW 9.99-19.99 Reg. 24.00-50.00 Huge Assortment of Styles	NEW SHIPMENT! MEN'S Nylon Windsuits Save 45% NOW 29.99-39.99 Reg. 55.00-58.00 S-M-L-XL
LADIES Nightwear Save To 60% NOW 9.99 Reg. 22.00-25.00 Pant Sets, Night Shirts, Etc.	LADIES Novelty Fleece Tops by Pleasant Shade® Save 45% NOW 14.99 Reg. 28.00 M-L-XL Great Patterns	HUGE NEW SHIPMENT! Patch Leather Handbags Save 55% NOW 14.99 Reg. 35.00 Many Great Styles!
MEN'S TWILL L/S Shirts Save 65% NOW 9.99 Reg. 30.00 S-M-L-XL Great Value!	16 PIECE Christmas Dish Set Save 25% NOW 29.99 Reg. 40.00 Cups, Saucers, Plates	MEN'S ACRYLIC Fancy Sweaters Save 30% NOW 19.99 Reg. 30.00 M-L-XL Beautiful Styles!
NEW SHIPMENT! Belted Dresses by Breil® Save 25% NOW 49.99 Reg. 70.00 8-18 Many Styles!	PRINTED ACCENT Door Mats Save 30% NOW 3.99 Reg. 6.00 Many Different Prints!	Poly Fill Pillows by Rise-N-Shine® ALL SIZES NOW 50% OFF Reg. 12.00-16.00
MEN'S 4 BUTTON Henleys Save 40% NOW 11.99 Reg. 20.00 5 Colors M-L-XL-XXL	LADIES POLY Printed Blazers by Kensington Square® Save 60% NOW 19.99 Reg. 52.00 S-M-L-XL Many Prints	LADIES BRUSHED Satin Pajamas by Sleepclub® Reg. 42.00 NOW 24.99 S-M-L 3 Colors

CALLING ALL HOME MAKERS
Brought To You By ALLAN JOHNSON
DON'T OVERLOOK OCCASIONAL FURNITURE

There are times when rooms are furnished nicely - but they lack "something special", some special pieces of furniture that not only make a room look outstanding but also serve a needed purpose.

That's what so-called occasional furniture can do for you. And by occasional furniture we mean things like curios, etageres, bookcases, secretaries, consoles, portable bars, cabinets, odd chests and any number of other pieces.

This kind of furniture can be a wonderful addition to a room from both a beauty and a practical standpoint.

On the beauty side, such a piece can bring a decorator touch to a room and provide attractive variety.

On the practical side, a piece of occasional furniture can work hard for you, serving a useful function.

One other advantage of occasional furniture is that no matter what kind of basic furniture you have, a piece of occasional furniture in any style can not only fit in, but enhance the overall appearance.

The choice of occasional furniture is practically limitless, and we invite you to come in and browse - and see a wonderful selection of furniture here.

ALLAN'S FURNITURE
202 Scurry Big Spring, Tx. 267-7416
Hrs.: 9 am til 6 pm Mon.-Sat.

DECEMBER 1 1997

EDITORIAL

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."
—FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Charles C. Williams
Publisher
John H. Walker
Managing Editor
Steve Reagan
Copy/Layout Editor
Debbie Jensen
Features Editor

Time's running out for you to help United Way

With two weeks remaining, the 1997-1998 campaign for the United Way of Big Spring and Howard County is at 75 percent of its goal of \$212,500.

That means an average of nearly \$5,000 per day needs to come in for the campaign to meet its goal for the second consecutive year.

Ask anyone associated with the campaign and they will tell you how important it is to meet that goal — especially following the excitement generated when last year's goal was met, breaking a string of not-so-near misses that dated back into the 1980s.

Not only does meeting the campaign goal ensure funds for the 11 member agencies under the umbrella of the United Way, but it also generates excitement across the entire community ... a kind of "we did it" spirit.

As the United Way campaign winds down, things begin to happen at an increasing rate of speed. Next week, the allocations committee will begin meeting and interviewing representatives from the member agencies.

When the campaign closes on Dec. 19, the allocations committee will know how much money it has to work with and will start looking at agency requests compared to available funds.

A campaign that meets its goal means that agencies have money to help in their operations. A campaign that falls short, as ours did for so many years, means not only that the United Way has to cut back in the monies it allocates, but that the member agencies have to cut back the services they provide.

Yes, you can make a donation to an individual agency, but we believe that in a community our size that there is no better way to paint a wide swath of "We care" across town than by giving to the United Way.

There's a lot of ways to say it, but the bottom line is that without the "you" in United Way, it's just not the same.

Please, won't you give to the United Way?

OTHER VIEWS

The criticism of this year's balanced budget deal was that it didn't solve or even attempt to solve the long-term mismatch between projected federal revenues and costs. The response of the politicians to the criticism ... was the same as it almost always is: Trust us; we'll do it later. But they haven't — haven't even begun to lay the groundwork — nor is it clear when they will. To the contrary, having "solved" the problem and with an election year ahead, Congress is preoccupied with how to spend the sugar-plum surplus that members contend they have created. The long-term problem is familiar, and no longer all that far away. As baby boomers begin to retire ... the cost of ... middle-class entitlements will powerfully rise even as, with retirements, income and payroll taxes will in relative terms decline. But who wants to talk about constraining aid to the elderly when there could be another tax cut or highway bill to pass?

THE WASHINGTON POST

The Clinton administration has made a critical and commendable move in deciding to junk its long-term plan for management of 10 national forests stretching more than 350 miles up and down the Sierra Nevada. An independent study team of 11 experts found that the U.S. Forest Service plan allowed levels of logging that were as much as 40 percent too high for the overall health of the environment; it also failed to protect the habitat of the spotted owl and other species. Timber interests are not pleased with

the decision. But the severe degradation of the Sierra environment has been well documented. It is caused by logging as well as livestock grazing and real estate development. Recreation has to become the most important role of the forests in California, both socially and economically ... The Clinton administration happily did not fail to see the forest for the trees.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Fluoridation of the water supply, which has done much to reduce the incidence of cavities in young people, is one of the great public health successes of this century. But 2.5 million people in Massachusetts do not benefit from fluoridated water in their communities, a result of misinformation and superstition that ought to be laid to rest. When fluoridation was first proposed in the 1950s, some opponents considered it a Communist conspiracy to contaminate the water. Now, with 145 million Americans supplied with fluoridated water and fluoride widely available in toothpastes, the fears are less focused but just as unfounded. The Centers for Disease Control, every surgeon general for the last 40 years, the American Dental Association, the World Health Organization ... all support the introduction of fluoride into water supplies. Dozens of studies over a half-century show a dramatic decrease in cavities. In Boston, where the water has been treated since 1978, cavities in teenagers have dropped 47 percent.

THE BOSTON HERALD

Myths, half-truths plague Social Security

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the third in a series of columns by 17th District Congressman Charlie Stenholm on the Social Security system.

For a Federal program that has been around more than 60 years and is considered one of the most successful programs ever enacted by the government, it is surprising that so many myths, half-truths and misconceptions have been around as long as they have. Let's set the record straight on some of those:



Charlie Stenholm
U.S. Congressman

Myth No. 1: When the Social Security system was first established, a contract

was made with the American People, ensuring us that our financial needs would be met in our old age.

Frank Bane, of the original Social Security commission, noted that "We never meant for Social Security to be considered a program to provide for any worker's complete retirement. It was meant to be a cushion, a supplement to whatever a person had, and it was assumed that by retirement all workers had been either able to lay aside a good sum for the years ahead or an accommodated family that would provide for their later years. But over the years the administrators of the program and the politicians lost sight of this fact and somehow the program has become one of provide for the almost complete support of retirees.

Myth No. 2: I have been paying into an individual trust fund account that the government is holding for

me until my retirement.

Many view the government as simply an agent administering an insurance policy, with Social Security taxes flowing into special individual accounts. Such is not the case. The Social Security program works on a pay-as-you-go basis. Taxes paid by today's workers are used immediately to pay benefits for today's retirees. Individual trust fund accounts have never existed.

Myth No. 3: Congress has stolen money from the Social Security Trust Funds.

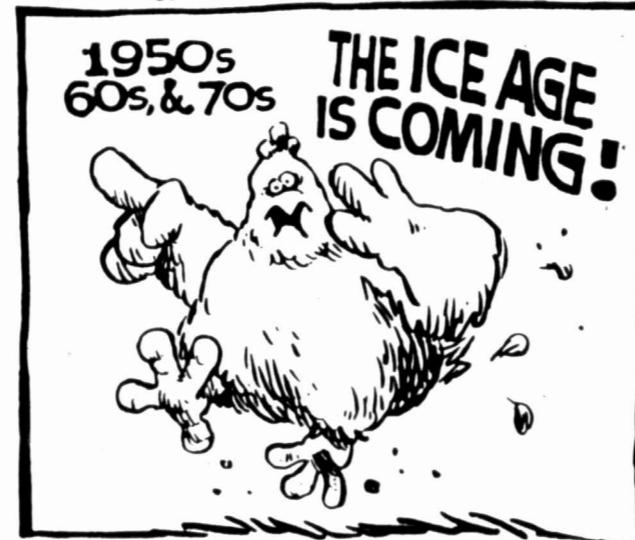
The Social Security Act always has required that surplus Social Security taxes be invested in Government or Government backed securities. This is like buying a U.S. Savings Bond. When people buy bonds, they lend their money to the government in exchange for a promise that the money will be returned with interest. Surplus Social Security taxes are credited to

the Trust Fund accounts. The Treasury then issues bonds to the Social Security Administration. These bonds are promises to repay the money with interest and in fact, the bonds are repaid. Since 1789 the United States Government has never defaulted on a promised payment. It is not about to start doing so now.

Myth No. 4: I'll never get back all that I paid into the Social Security System.

Because the information used to calculate actual retirement benefits vary from person to person, individuals' recoupment time varies as well. However, most retirees who have paid Social Security taxes throughout their working years are able to recoup their contributions within three to six years. When considering this, it is important to remember that it is increasingly possible for an individual to live one-third of their adult life as a retiree — perhaps 20 years or longer.

Chicken Little, Then and Now...



Leaving the senate, tired of money chase

By THOMAS F. EAGLETON
Scripps Howard News Service

Three of the senior Democrats in the Senate are not seeking re-election after four terms. Had the three decided to attempt to stay on, chances are that at least two would have been re-elected: Dale Bumpers, D-Ark. and Wendell Ford, D-Ky.

Sen. John Glenn, D-Ohio, would have faced an uphill battle.

Each had different personal reasons for bowing out, but there was one common theme in their decision-making processes: profound distaste for contemporary campaign fundraising.

Bumpers, Ford and Glenn all came to the Senate in 1974. That was a strong Democratic year. It was the "Watergate Year" as the election followed closely on the heels of President Nixon's resignation.

The Federal Election Act — which passed in the wake of Watergate and imposed limits on campaign spending — was a year old in 1974. Its numerous loopholes and shortcomings were not yet evident. The act was deemed to be operative and functional because Buckley v. Valeo had not yet been decided by the Supreme Court. Buckley — announced in 1976 — was the famous ruling that money equates to free speech and thus is protected from many types of regulation because of the First Amendment. Money always did some talking in American politics, but after Buckley v. Valeo, money became a loud, never-ending shout.

Back in 1974 all three of the senators were elected in landslide in their respective states. Bumpers was a charismatic governor who successfully challenged the powerful Sen. J. William Fulbright in the Democratic primary. Ford, like-

wise, was a popular governor. Glenn was a heroic former astronaut.

Each did a fair amount of polling and bought limited amounts of television commercials that sold their own virtues and did not attack their adversaries. The mid-1970s, when they entered the Senate, were in no way comparable to the late 1990s, when they will be leaving. If they decided to try one more time, each of the three would have had to spend 10 to 12 times what he spent in 1974.

Each would have had to crisscross the country begging for money.

Even senators from politically rich states like California and New York feel compelled to seek funds in other states. Many a travel agency would be thrilled to do the volume of business that would be generated just from handling the airline reservations of all the senators and congresspersons who traverse the country looking for campaign donations.

Bumpers, Ford and Glenn all supported the McCain-Feingold campaign reform bill this year. All three agreed that the adoption of campaign spending reform is a long way off. It probably will take an election even more odious than the 1996 campaign to stir the public to demand reform.

For now, the continuous flow of revelations about the 1996 election doesn't seem to arouse public concern. Probably the best explanation is that the public is so turned off by politics that stories about further campaign misdeeds don't make a dent.

Each of the three stated that they simply would not roam the country begging for millions of dollars. Bumpers said, "The thought of going out with my tin cup was revolting to me."

Ford said, "I spend \$425,000 to

run for the Senate in 1974. If I ran for election next year, it would cost about \$5 million. The money chase was the straw not to seek re-election. I have no doubt that I could have raised the money, but going around across the country didn't sit well with me."

Glenn was on the Senate Committee that just recently concluded its campaign-finance hearings with little or nothing accomplished. Glenn said, "After listening to all of that stuff day after day, it was pretty easy for me to know that I had had it."

Each had additional and different reasons to hang it up. Bumpers commented on the "meanness" of the Senate. Glenn's phrase was that the Senate now suffered from "extreme partisanship" which certainly was not there when he came in 1974. Ford, the guardian of tobacco from Kentucky, found the Senate still to be good at least for tobacco.

After the 1998 elections, new senators will come to the nation's capital from Arkansas, Kentucky, and Ohio. All three will have spent a bundle to get there. The new senators will have learned how "to shake the money tree."

As fresh incumbents they will not favor changing the system that "brings 'em" to Washington. They will soon be "insiders" and as such will want to leave things as they are. They will gripe about it. They may even talk (publicly) against it. But as incumbents, they will vote to perpetuate the awful process they know versus some "reform" process they don't know.

Incumbent senators are for level playing fields — but only in football.

(Thomas F. Eagleton served as a U.S. Senator from Missouri from 1968-1987. He is now a professor of public affairs at Washington University in St. Louis.)



Mallard Fillmore
by
BRUCE TINSLEY

Mac Austin - ing off of towel arou fighter le Mackovic s hand in a while the " Beside hi Texas Lon the cold rai their white ing a 27-16 d As the t Field, hulk Humphrey ed him to w a blockade ment Mack

As V East

The ASSOCI San Franc the playoffs too. Denver season qua City solidifi contender. Things an nicely in t divisions. A more sudd the eastern s While Der Sunday ni handed the l berth at wo rout of the right on De AFC West. were assure round off v begin later t the New Yor en 20-8 by T New York ened the N (the Giants) But Phil shootou lifted it wit York an Washington to St. Louis is still in the The AFC uncertain. I sion agains front-runni tie with England, Dolphins w in nine trie and the Pat 20-17. "That wa We've had p Miami q Marino said

Blue

The ASSOCI The Duke looked so in run thro Invitationa Kansas today spot in the ball poll. Duke (5-0) top-ranked A

HIGH S

Seminole Canyon Ranch 2), 7:30 p.m. Memorial Stadium Region II Final Richardson Lak John Tyler (11-2) Stadium Region III Final Beaumont We Hastings (12-1), 2 Region IV Final SA MacArthur (12-1), 1 p.m. Set

MONDAY DEC. 1

Table with 24 columns representing different TV channels (KMBD, KPEJ, KERA, etc.) and rows representing different time slots (6:30, 7:30, 8:30, 9:30, 10:30, 11:30, 12:30) with program listings.

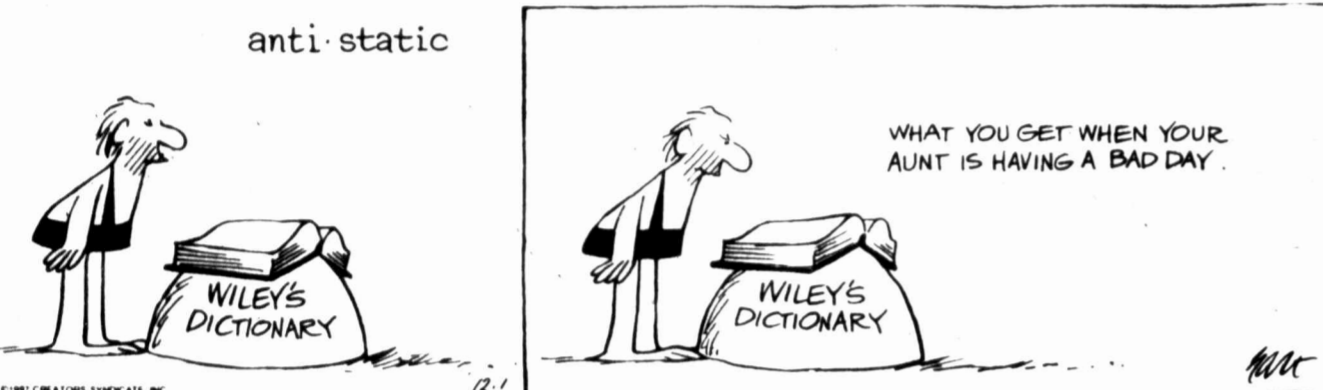
HAGAR



BLONDIE



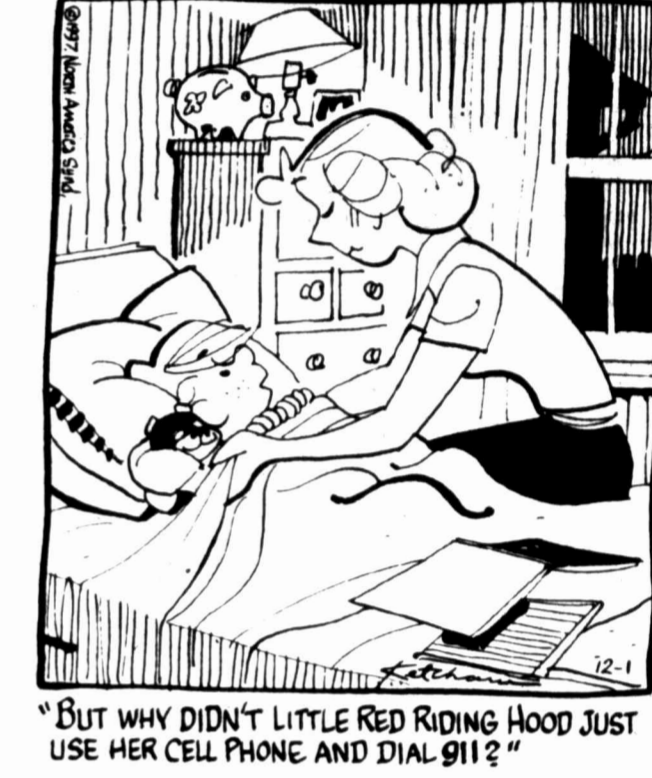
B.C.



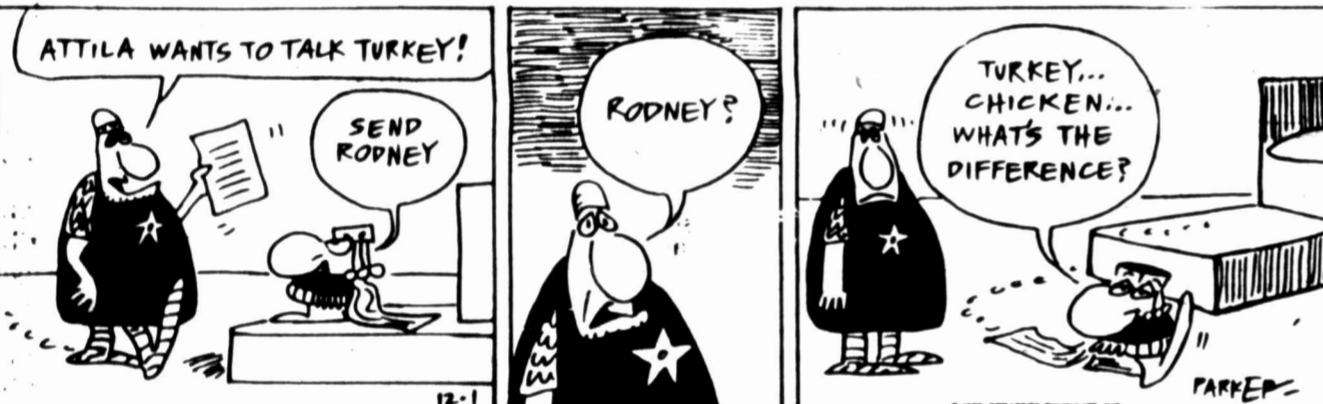
FAMILY CIRCUS

DENNIS THE MENACE

GEECH



WIZARD OF ID



THIS DATE IN HISTORY

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

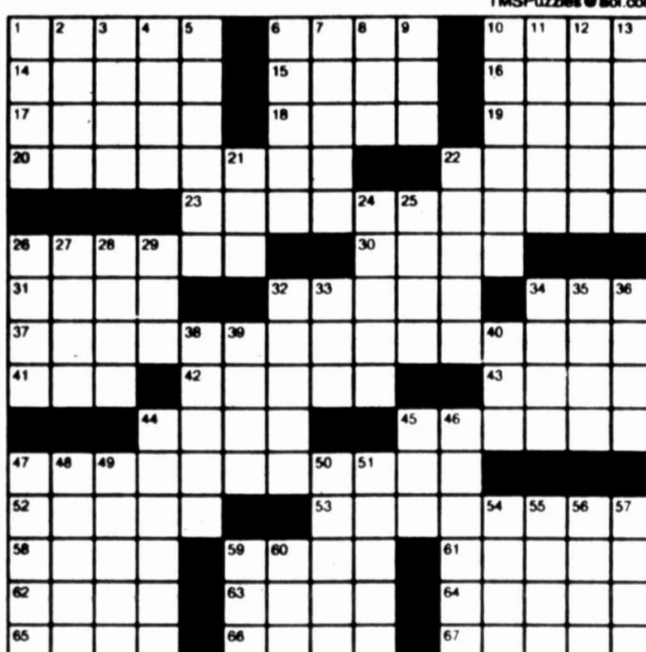
Today is Monday, Dec. 1, the 35th day of 1997. There are 30 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Dec. 1, 1955, Rosa Parks, a black seamstress, defied the law by refusing to give up her seat to a white man aboard a Montgomery, Ala., city bus.

In 1824, the presidential election was turned over to the U.S. House of Representatives when a deadlock developed among John Quincy Adams, Andrew Jackson, William H. Crawford and Henry Clay.

THE Daily Crossword

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams



By Stanley B. Whitten Northbrook, Ill.

Saturday's Puzzle solved. 12/1/97

- ACROSS: 1 Book of maps, 6 Business deqs, 10 Beer ingredient, 14 Reliance, 15 Novelist Murdoch, 16 Spiny African plant, 17 Current craze, 18 Take on cargo, 19 Ski tow, 20 Extending across, 22 Goblet elements, 23 Bagel topper, 26 Coincides, 30 Perfect report card, 31 Heat to vaporization, 32 Pastoral poem, 33 Music collection, in brief, 34 Large art tome, 41 Banned insecticide, 42 Too sophisticated, 43 Opposing position, 44 Experience emotion, 45 Piled up, 47 Made palatable, 52 Proclamation, 53 Fill to capacity, 58 Carvey or Delaney, 59 Questions, 61 More inadequate, 62 Pleased, 63 Book for, 64 Tasty tidbit, 65 Ultimatum word, 66 Church seats, 67 Intuit, 12 Fertile soils, 13 Concise, 21 Tax grp., 22 Flaky, layered rock, 24 Perchance, 25 Summon, 26 Alphabet openers, 27 Well-behaved, 28 Great Valley, 29 Mischievous sprite, 32 Italian novelist, 33 German film, 'Boo', 34 Hit on the head, 35 Overlay the TLC, 36 Wedge for stopping, 38 Chicago-based film critic, 39 Power, in brief, 40 Condemnation from the church, 44 Building front, 45 Risked sum, 46 Grown-ups, 47 Marsh grass, 48 Moe of politics, 49 Lollobrigida and others, 50 To one side, 51 Pieces of work, 54 Seldom seen, 55 Sherman, 56 Helmsley sit-com, 57 Russian-born artist/designer, 59 Small snake, 60 Get the point

HI AND LOIS



GASOLINE ALLEY



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILY



Big Spring Herald advertisement with contact information: 915-263-7331 (Fax) 915-264-7205. Lists staff members like Chuck Williams, John H. Walker, etc.

In 1924, the first drive-in automobile service station opened, in Pittsburgh. In 1942, nationwide gasoline rationing went into effect in the United States. In 1958, the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical "Flower Drum Song" opened on Broadway. In 1959, representatives of 12 countries, including the United States, signed a treaty in Washington setting aside Antarctica as a scientific preserve, free from military activity. In 1965, an airlift of refugees from Cuba to the United States began in which thousands of Cubans were allowed to leave their homeland. In 1969, the U.S. government held its first draft lottery since World War II. In 1973, David Ben-Gurion, Israel's first prime minister, died in Tel Aviv at age 87. In 1990, British and French workers digging the Channel Tunnel between their countries finally met after knocking out a passage in a service tunnel. In 1991, Ukrainians voted overwhelmingly for independence from the Soviet Union. Ten years ago: NASA announced that four companies — Boeing Aerospace, McDonnell Douglas Astronautics, General Electric's Astro-Space Division and Rocketdyne Division of Rockwell International — had been awarded contracts to help build a space station. Five years ago: President Boris Yeltsin survived an impeachment attempt by hard-liners at the opening of the Russian Congress. In Mineola, N.Y., Amy Fisher was sentenced to five to 15 years in prison for shooting and seriously wounding Mary Jo Buttafuoco. One year ago: The Arab League held an emergency meeting in Cairo, after which it warned Israel that peace efforts would be endangered if Israel insisted on expanding Jewish settlements. Today's Birthdays: Former CIA director Stansfield Turner is 74. Singer Billy Paul is 63. Actor-comedian-director Woody Allen is 62. Singer Lou Rawls is 62. Golfer Lee Trevino is 58. Singer Dianne Lennon (The Lennon Sisters) is 58. Comedian-actor Richard Pryor is 57. Country musician Casey Van Beek (The Tractors) is 55.