

BIG SPRING HERALD

MONDAY

December 15, 1997

Reflecting A Proud Community

50 cents

Despite setbacks, BSISD officials remain confident junior high will open on time

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

Big Spring school officials are still confident the new junior high will open as scheduled in August, but recent construction delays have them weighing their options.

Construction at the new junior high — which is scheduled to open in time for the 1998-99 school year — is behind schedule because of weaknesses discovered in the wall mortar. The mortar, which is supposed to withstand 1,800 pounds of pressure, has tested out to less than half that amount in certain areas.

While other aspects of the construction project are proceeding as scheduled, the mortar problem has school officials concerned about whether Monterey Construction — the building's contractor — will meet its July 24 target date for completion of the new school.

"This will throw the project behind schedule," said assistant

business manager Ron Logback. "Whether they can catch up ... remains to be seen."

The school board even met with district lawyers in executive session Nov. 30 to discuss possible litigation. But no action was taken, and BSISD Superintendent Bill McQueary said the district still has faith in Monterey's ability to finish the job on time.

"We were considering legal action in case we came to an impasse," McQueary said. "But the contractor has shown some good faith in rectifying the problem, although a solution has been slow in coming."

There is a solid economic reason, McQueary and others remain confident the project will be finished on time.

"On July 24, (Monterey) starts paying a penalty if the building's not completed," McQueary said. "We're still confident, but we still don't know how long it will take to solve the wall problem."

Monterey has consulted with

a construction engineer over the problem, and is scheduled to present district officials with a remedial plan this week.

With the new school year starting around Aug. 15, Monterey needs to complete construction around Aug. 1 for the transfer to be accomplished smoothly, McQueary said. Completion after that date, however, may throw a few plans into turmoil.

McQueary said he has discussed contingency plans with other district officials over what to do if the new school isn't ready on time. Among the options are delaying a move into the building until the Thanksgiving or Christmas holidays, or holding off until the start of the next school year.

Further complicating matters is the scheduled moving of College Heights Elementary students to the Goliad Middle School building and several personnel moves that will come as a result of that relocation. Those actions can't be under-



HERALD photo/Jonathan Garrett
The Settles building is visible through the steel of the superstructure at the new junior high school. In this photo, steel beams are being erected for the seats in the gymnasium.

taken until the new junior high is ready for occupancy.

For the time being, however, school officials can do little except wait and hope that con-

struction gets back on schedule.

"We're not ready to get into the planning stage with any of this," McQueary said. "I think that my the middle of March,

we should have a real good idea where we stand. We don't want to over-react ... but if it's not ready, we want to look at a Plan B."

DRCC fete to benefit civic center

By DEBBIE L. JENSEN
Features Editor

For supporters of the Dora Roberts Community Center, it's party time!

Friday beginning at 9 p.m., members of the DRCC Gala Committee will host a fundraising dance at the center. Tickets, available at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, Kothmann's Klassic Kleaners at 2107 Gregg, and at the door, are \$20 a person or \$30 a couple.

A pre-party is planned for benefactors, patrons and sponsors, who contributed in support of the community landmark.

"It's such a good cause," said Beverly McMahon, an organizer of the dance. "I can't begin to tell you how many people use the center every week. If you can call anything in Big Spring a success story, in terms of how much it's used, the center is a success story."

Money raised by the dance will go toward day-to-day operating expenses, including salary of Kathy Lusk, who manages the building. There are also long-term plans to make improvements, McMahon said.

"We are hoping to do some major landscaping," she said. Included among plans is the construction of a pavilion on the lake side of the facility.

Another goal of the fundraising effort is financial stability, and independence, for the community center.

"If we only make enough money to be sure the building doesn't get in (financial) trouble, that's enough," McMahon said. "Be we want to establish a fund that will take care of the facility for the future. We want to know that it will always be taken care of."

Operated through the chamber, the building is supported by a group of about 20 local residents who plan fundraising events such as the Friday dance.

Volunteers began a campaign

See DRCC, Page 2

CHRISTMAS STAR

Katherine Calvert puts the star on top of the Community Christmas Tree in the park Saturday in Coahoma.

The placement of the star was just part of Saturday's "Winter Wonderland" celebration in Coahoma.

HERALD photo/Jonathan Garrett



Southern Mesa Ag Conference set for Lamesa in January

By CARLTON JOHNSON
Staff Writer

With the 1997 cotton crop harvest all but complete, the focus for many are producers will now shift to next year, meaning the Southern Mesa Agricultural Conference in January.

According to Dawson County Extension Agent John Farris, the conference scheduled for 8 a.m. Monday, Jan. 19, is a direct result of producer requested educational programming and will focus on regulation and policies affecting Texas agriculture.

The conference will also focus

The nine-county meeting is a direct result of producer-requested educational programming and will focus on regulations and policies affecting Texas agriculture.

on the best management practices (BMPs) for cotton, grain sorghum and peanut production.

The program is being sponsored by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service (TAES) offices in Dawson, Howard, Martin, Borden, Scurry, Mitchell, Lynn, Garza and Midland, and will feature information on the latest production technology for crop production,

insect control, and weed control of cotton, grain sorghum and peanuts, according to Farris.

Risk management and production outlooks will be discussed and top speakers from across the state will make presentations concerning current research production trials.

Speakers will include Mindy Shugart, Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA); Drs. Randy Bowman, Robert Lemon, Mark

McFarland, Jackie Smith and Peter Dotray; TAES agents Farris and Tommy Doederlein; and Dr. Wayne Keeling with the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station.

Producers will have the opportunity to discuss their experiences with experts, specialists and other growers and will be able to visit commercial booths throughout the day.

Five Continuing Education

Units (CEUs) will be provided for private, commercial and non-commercial applicators for attendance at the conference. Producers wanting their updated CEU information may contact TDA at (800) 835-5832.

Registration fees for the conference will be \$15 if paid before Jan. 15 and \$20 after Jan. 15. The fee includes technical sessions, door prize tickets, lunch, educational materials and access to exhibits.

Registration forms and fees, payable to "Dawson County Ag Fund," should be mailed to the P.O. Box 1268, Lamesa, 79331.

See PROMOTIONS, Page 2

WEATHER

Tonight:



Tues:



Wed:



Thur:



Tonight, mostly clear. Lows 30-35. Tuesday, partly cloudy. Highs 60-70. Tuesday night, partly cloudy. Lows from the upper 20s to the mid 30s. Extended forecast, Wednesday, partly cloudy. Highs from near 60 to the mid 60s. Thursday, fair. Lows in the lower to mid 30s. Highs in the 60s. Friday, fair. Lows near 30. Highs from near 68.

INDEX

Abby / 7
Classified / 6-7
Comics / 8
Horoscope / 7

Vol. 94, No. 48

General News / 3
Obituaries / 2
Opinion / 4
Sports / 5

To reach all departments, please call 263-7331

Pollen used as forensic tool at A&M

HOUSTON (AP) — Pollen, the bane of allergy sufferers, is a friend to a Texas A&M scientist who is helping to pioneer a new technique for helping to solve some of the most inscrutable crimes.

Vaughn Bryant is the head of A&M's anthropology department and one of the nation's leading exponents of forensic palynology — the study of pollen to help solve crimes.

The 57-year-old pollen expert has helped the FBI, the federal Drug Enforcement Administration and many local

law enforcement agencies in pollen cases.

Bryant believes the microscopic particles ultimately could be as valuable a detection method as DNA testing.

"When it works," he said, "it works marvelously."

In Germany, the technique is credited with getting one murder confession. When the suspect was confronted with the fact that his muddy boots had trapped pollen from plants that grew only near the murder site, his denials of guilt buckled.

Bryant, who entered the field

about 20 years ago as a honey expert, can tell dozens of stories of how palynology has solved a case or provided key evidence.

However, he knows full well that persuading detectives to routinely test for pollen is an uphill battle.

The state's top medical examiners said it is done rarely.

Dallas County Medical Examiner Jeffrey Barnard likened the procedure to studying insects found at a crime scene, a field called forensic

See POLLEN, Page 2



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OBITUARIES

Lloyd H. Duncan

Lloyd H. Duncan, 74, Big Spring, died on Sunday, Dec. 14, 1997, in a Lubbock hospital. Service will be 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 17, 1997, at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with Roderick Duncan, pastor at Birdwell Lane Church of Christ, officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.



DUNCAN

He was born on Dec. 29, 1922, in Wagoner, Okla., and married Willie Jo Hamner on Oct. 25, 1941, in Monahans. She preceded him in death on April 12, 1995.

He came to Big Spring in 1962 from Wink. He worked for Amoco Production Company for 41 years, retiring as Senior Field Foreman. He was a member of Birdwell Lane Church of Christ. Mr. Duncan was a member of Masonic Lodge #1302 AF & AM in Wink. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II. Survivors include three daughters and two sons-in-law: Rosalie and Robert New of Snyder, Linda and Richard McCormick of Levelland and Peggy Jo Duncan of Hurst, one son and daughter-in-law, Buddy and Ann Duncan of Big Spring, a twin brother, Floyd Duncan of Snyder, one sister, Ethel Ramsey of Carlsbad, N.M., nine grandchildren, Bob New of Tulsa, Okla., Belinda Kerr of Snyder, Wesley Griffith of Levelland, Lori McCormack of Arlington, Brant Ince of Las Colinas, Brad Ince of College Station, John Hatch of Buda, Heather Duncan of Lubbock and Neeley McCormick of Irving and eight great-grandchildren.

Pallbearers will be Wayne Griffith, Bob New, Wesley Griffith, Brant Ince, Brad Ince and John Hatch. The family suggests memorials to American Cancer Society, c/o Lucy Bonner, P.O. Box 2121, Big Spring, Texas. Arrangements under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home. Paid obituary.

Bonnie Reid Mims

Service for Bonnie Reid Mims, 69, Big Spring, will be 4 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 16, 1997, at the First Presbyterian Church with Rev. Flynn Long, retired Presbyterian minister, officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park. Mrs. Mims died Saturday, Dec. 13, in a local hospital. She was born on Sept. 7, 1928, in Coahoma, and married Bill G. Mims on July 4, 1947.

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL 24th & Johnson 267-4238 Carroll T. Cannon, 66. Services Pending.

NALLEY-PICKLE & WELCH Funeral Home Trinity Memorial Park and Crematory 906 Gregg St. (915) 267-6331 Bonnie Reid Mims, 69, died Saturday. Services will be 4:00 PM Tuesday at First Presbyterian Church. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park. Lloyd H. Duncan, 74, died Sunday. Services will be 3:30 PM Wednesday at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

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Ethel Glass

Service for Ethel Glass, 91, Sweetwater, was 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, 1997, at Cate-Spencer & Trent Funeral Home Chapel, Sweetwater, with Rev. Lyndel Hix officiating. Mrs. Glass died Thursday, Dec. 11, at Rolling Plains Memorial Hospital, Sweetwater. She was born on Aug. 9, 1906, in Hamilton County. She was a long time member of the Broadway Baptist Church. She had been a resident of Sweetwater since 1955 and was a homemaker. Survivors include: two daughters, Ivy Graham, Sweetwater, and Pasty Stanley, Big Spring; one son, Marshall Burrus, Snyder; 12 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews. Arrangements under the direction of Cate-Spencer & Trent Funeral Home, Sweetwater.

Joyce Wells

Service for Joyce O'Brian Wells, 73, Stanton; will be 3 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 16, 1997, in the First Baptist Church with Rev. David Harp officiating. Interment will be in the Evergreen Cemetery, Stanton. Mrs. Wells died Sunday, Dec. 14.

She was born on Jan. 28, 1924, in Fisher County and moved to Stanton 61 years ago. She married Billy Joe Wells on Sept. 11, 1943, in Big Spring. He preceded her in death on Aug. 31, 1989. She was a homemaker and a member of the First Baptist Church of Stanton. She served in numerous organizations. Survivors include two sons, Johnny Wayne Wells, Midland, and Theodore Wells, Stanton; three daughters, Linda Shanks, Midland, Eastberry, both of Stanton, and Nelda Evans, Midland; two sisters, Reba Johnson, Odessa, and Dixie Townsend, Midland; two brothers, Robert, Seattle, Wash., and Walter Lewis, Big Spring; 4 grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren. Memorials may be made to the Library of the First Baptist Church, Stanton, Texas. Arrangements under the direction of Gubrecht Funeral Home, Stanton.

Carroll T. Cannon

Service for Carroll T. Cannon, 66, Ruidoso, N.M., formerly of Big Spring, is pending with Myers & Smith Funeral Home & Chapel. He died in Ruidoso, N.M.

Minnie Lee Jones

Service for Minnie Lee Jones, 78, Stanton, is pending with Gilbreath Funeral Home, Stanton. She died Sunday, Dec. 14, 1997.

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POLLEN

Continued from Page 1

entomology and one that has gained acceptance only in recent years.

"It takes a while to break ground, for a procedure to become popular," he said. "It's not going to be used on every case, but it certainly has great potential."

However, Vincent DiMaio, chief Bexar County medical examiner, laughed when asked about it.

"I've never heard of it," he said.

Bryant admitted the forensic study of pollen can be daunting. Pollen from the crime scene must be well-preserved, then compared to other known pollen microscopically. Bryant estimates there are more than 1 million plant species worldwide.

Still, he blames "laziness" as a possible reason for law enforcement's slow adoption of the procedure.

He remembers a case he worked on, involving a man found stabbed to death beside a remote West Texas highway. Labels were ripped from his clothes, and his hands and feet hacked off to obscure his identity.

"All the deputies knew," Bryant said, "was that this guy had been stabbed a number of times and that he was Hispanic. They didn't know if he was a drifter, an illegal alien or what. They tried all the normal forensic techniques, then after six months they decided to go the pollen route."

Examining dust from the victim's clothing under an electron microscope, Bryant — who also holds degrees in botany and geography — found large amounts of marijuana pollen and pollen from plants that grow primarily in the Midwest.

Although the case remains unsolved, investigators have turned their inquiry away from South Texas, where they had been drawn by the victim's ethnicity, and are looking closer at a Kansas City drug gang.

DRCC

Continued from Page 1

five years ago to renovate the building, starting with a fundraising "sock hop." In 1994, a grand opening showcased the center's new look, and supporters of the project said use of the facility has been steadily growing since.

"We've really been shocked at the numbers," McMahon said.

Friday's gala has a serious purpose, but is expected to be a lot of fun as well, with music by The Shades, who will play an eclectic mix of music styles for dancing.

A cash bar will also support the fundraising drive, and other refreshments will be available.

"We're going to have a great time," McMahon said.

For more information about the dance, call the chamber of commerce at 263-7641.

PROMOTIONS

Continued from Page 1

with his officers. "I have been able to take part in the testing of the officers recently promoted, so I know what they have had to go through," Smith said. "These people aren't new, but in moving up, they will have new responsibilities as well as a new level of accountability."

As an added benefit for his new supervisory team, Smith says he plans to get some additional supervisory training started.

"I have the utmost confidence in this group of supervisors," Smith added. "I have the confidence that they will make a good transition and bring a new level of enthusiasm and newness to the department."

As for how he plans to run the department, Smith said, "I believe in trying to treat people the way you would want to be treated. I won't hold my staff to a level of expectation that I wouldn't uphold myself."

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A BIG SPRING AROUND THE TOWN

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RECORDS

Sunday's high 65, Sunday's low 27, Average high 55, Average low 28, Record high 78 in 1933, Record low 13 in 1985, Precip. Sunday 0.00, Month to date 0.39, Month's normal 0.34, Year to date 19.34, Normal for the year 18.25, **Statistics not available

POLICE

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 2 p.m. Saturday and 8 a.m. Monday: -KEITH CRANE, 32, was arrested for assault/family violence.

-RICHARD KNIGHT, 18, was arrested for public intoxication.

-JOHNNY LOPEZ, 18, was arrested for public intoxication.

-EUGENE ZAPATA, 21, was arrested on local warrants.

-THEODORE DIAZ, 24, was arrested for public intoxication.

-REBECCA ENRIQUEZ, 32, was arrested for public intoxication.

-DEL SCHEIBER, 27, was arrested for theft over \$50 and under \$500.

-NORMA SCHEIBER, 39, was arrested for theft over \$50 and under \$500.

-MICHAEL PETERSON, 24, was arrested for class C assault/family violence.

-ELLEGE HUCKMAN, 38, was arrested on local warrants.

-THEFT in the 2300 block of Wason; 300 block of S. Gregg; 1600 block of Martin Luther King Boulevard; 400 block of Johnson; 2500 block of S. Gregg; and the 1700 block of E. Marcy.

-BURGLARY OF A BUILDING in the 1700 block of Wason; and the 3000 block of W. Hwy 80.

-ASSAULT in the 1500 block of Johnson.

-CLASS C THEFT in the 900 block of Willia.

Local International Flight School Seeking accommodations with private family, for foreign student Please Call 264-7335

Big Spring Specialty Clinic of ORU ODESSA REGIONAL HOSPITAL Tuesday, Dec. 16th. Randy Pat Russell, MA, CCC-A Audiologist. Tuesday, Dec. 16th. Dr. Bueno/Pediatrician. Wednesday, Dec. 17th. Dr. David Morehead, OB/GYN. Thursday, Dec. 18th. Dr. Brown, Neurologist. Call us for An Appointment 267-8226 Childbirth Classes will begin Dec. 15th. 616 So. Gregg St. • Big Spring, Texas

-BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE in the 3800 block of W. I-20.

-BURGLARY OF A HABITATION in the 700 block of E. 14th.

-CRIMINAL MISCHIEF in the 1900 block of Owens.

-DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE in the 100 block of Whipkey.

-DEADLY CONDUCT in the 1500 block of Vine.

-CLASS C ASSAULT in the 700 block of W. 18th.

FIRE/EMS

Following is a summary of Big Spring Fire Department/EMS reports: Friday

7:40 a.m. — 3200 block Parkway, medical call, patient transferred to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

9:45 a.m. — 3200 block Parkway, medical call, patient transferred to SMMC.

10:27 a.m. — 4700 block Chaparral, medical call, patient transferred to SMMC.

10:27 a.m. — 4700 block Chaparral, structure fire, extinguished by responding units.

3:52 p.m. — 300 block Runnels, trauma call, patient transferred to SMMC.

4:20 p.m. — 3800 Gail Road, rubbish fire, extinguished by responding units.

6:35 p.m. — 1600 W. Fourth, structure fire, extinguished by responding units.

2:31 a.m. — 700 block E. 14th, medical call, patient transferred to SMMC.

10:00 a.m. — FM-700 and N. Highway 87, medical call, patient transferred to SMMC.

11:52 a.m. — 4000 block Connally, medical call, patient transferred to SMMC.

Sunday 6:39 a.m. — I-20 and Highway 87, medical call, patient transferred to SMMC.

8:49 a.m. — FM-700 and Birdwell, traffic accident, service refused by three persons.

2:38 p.m. — MM 194 of I-20, traffic accident, patient transferred to SMMC.

1:58 p.m. — 3200 block Parkway, medical call, patient transferred to SMMC.

8:13 p.m. — 1900 block Wason, trauma call, patient transferred to SMMC.

Scenic Mountain Medical Center 1601 W. 11th Place 263-1211

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In assessing what kind of chair or chairs you should be looking for, you might consider the following different needs that different chairs can give you: Assuming that your basic chair requirements are taken care of, you might want, for example, one or more easy-to-move chairs to give your room more versatility.

Or you might feel you could use just one more out-and-out comfortable chair for special lounging.

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Or you might simply want one or two more additional seating pieces here or there to take care of friends who drop in.

Or you might want to think about some combination of several of those needs. In any event, trying to find the right chair or chairs can be enjoyable because there's such a wonderful choice today. Chair-shopping can be fun-shopping for whatever needs you have, and we give you an invitation to browse to your heart's content here. If you do need more chairs, we offer a fine selection. This ad Facts and P.O. Box 599 FLAME is a trademark of the research and publishing company that produces this magazine. We have educational work for

Snow

JACKSON storm dumped Louisiana and power and left some took terrible weather. "My kids h o'clock this m going to fre Wright said her sons Bri an igloo in Jackson hom "They've n before. They

'Carlos on U.S.

PARIS (AP) Jackal insists CIA and Isra mitted the kil is being tried quit in protes refused to or gation. The court pended the trial. When i an hour later, was empty a real name i Sanchez, was from the dock

Presiding, Corneloup of lawyers to st anyway and c nary measure French law r ence of a law y final trial. Earlier, the motion by Ra free because c captured by F agents in 199 on the run by wanted terror Cold War.

The court is 1975 killings intelligence Lebanese colle allegedly Ramirez susp police inform "These poli to the slaught agents," the

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Snow buries Mississippi, Alabama in record weekend storm

JACKSON (AP) — A record-breaking storm dumped snow on Mississippi, Louisiana and Alabama, knocking out power and leaving icy roads even as some took time to play in the rare winterlike weather.

"My kids have been outside since 8 o'clock this morning. I'm afraid they're going to freeze to death," Angela Wright said Sunday as she watched her sons Brian, 10, and Hunter, 7, build an igloo in the front yard of their Jackson home.

"They've never seen snow like this before. They think it's magic."

Up to 10 inches of snow covered parts of south-central Mississippi in the state's biggest December snowstorm on record. It also was the heaviest snowfall since Jan. 22, 1982, when 5.5 inches fell.

Scattered power outages, downed trees and traffic accidents were blamed on the storm, which gave way to a late-afternoon thaw.

"I'm loving it," Cari Price of Madison, Miss., said as she used a broom to push several inches of snow off her car windshield. "It's so beautiful. I wish we got this every year."

While parts of Louisiana were recording more than 4 inches of snow, parts of the often frigid and snowy Midwest were basking in warm weather. While it was 35 degrees with freezing rain in Birmingham, Ala., it was 66 in Rapid City, S.D., and 53 in Bismarck, N.D., under fair skies.

In west-central Alabama, Teri and Lindsay Holliman used plastic bags as makeshift sleds near Brookwood High School's football field.

"We were so excited because it hasn't snowed in such a long time," said Lindsay, 15.

The storm tapered off in most areas by Sunday evening, replaced by an overnight freeze that threatened to make morning commutes dangerous for drivers. Schools were closed today in several Alabama counties.

Emergency shelters in Jackson were opened for people who had lost electricity in their homes. Entergy Mississippi Inc. reported that 18,000 customers had lost power at one point.

Alabama Power spokesman J.G. Brazil said fewer than 2,000 outages were reported in the Tuscaloosa area, with most in Sumter and Greene counties.

The company expected to have all power restored by today.

Maj. Jimmy Dees of the Mississippi Highway Patrol in Jackson said state troopers had responded to dozens of accidents. At least one traffic death in Alabama was blamed on weather-related drying conditions.

The storm surprised even the National Weather Service in Alabama.

"It kind of slipped up on us, the heavier snow anyway," meteorologist Jim Smith said. "It had been calling for snow all week and we were about to give up on it."

'Carlos the Jackal' blames crimes on U.S. CIA and Israel's Mossad

PARIS (AP) — Carlos the Jackal insisted today that the CIA and Israel's Mossad committed the killings for which he is being tried, and his lawyers quit in protest when the court refused to order a new investigation.

The court temporarily suspended the 2-day-old murder trial. When it resumed nearly an hour later, the defense table was empty and Carlos, whose real name is Ilich Ramirez Sanchez, was defending himself from the dock.

Presiding Judge Yves Corneloup ordered Ramirez's lawyers to stay, but they left anyway and could face disciplinary measures for breaking a French law requiring the presence of a lawyer during a criminal trial.

Earlier, the court rejected a motion by Ramirez to set him free because of the way he was captured by French intelligence agents in 1994, ending decades on the run by one of the most-wanted terrorist suspects of the Cold War.

The court is trying him in the 1975 killings of two French intelligence agents and a Lebanese colleague of Ramirez, allegedly killed because Ramirez suspected he was a police informant.

"These policemen were sent to the slaughterhouse by Israeli agents," the Venezuelan-born

Ramirez told the court loudly in Spanish-accented French, adding profanities.

Lawyer Isabelle Coutant-Peyre told the court she and two other attorneys were quitting because the court refused to rule right away on the defense's request to order a new investigation.

"They want to hide the truth from us," Coutant-Peyre said outside the courtroom. She said the court declined to make French intelligence services turn over the names of sources who provided information on Ramirez.

The court opened the trial's second day by rejecting Ramirez's argument that he was arrested illegally when French agents spirited him out of the Sudan in 1994.

Coutant-Peyre said Ramirez had been "illegally kidnapped."

The court also put off a decision on Ramirez's request to remove a terrorists' victims association, SOS-Attentats, from the trial. The group is a civil party to the case against Ramirez and as such can participate.

Ramirez denounced what he called the "incestuous relations" between the judges and SOS-Attentats.

Ramirez gained international notoriety as the alleged mastermind of deadly bombings, assassinations and hostage dramas.

Kentucky couple eludes yearlong international manhunt

MADISONVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Nearly a year ago, David and Martha Crowe disappeared in a rented U-Haul, leaving behind frustrated authorities and convictions for a pyramid scheme that raked in millions of dollars.

The Crowes were allowed to remain free after a federal judge sentenced them to jail for mail fraud and money laundering, an arrangement authorities say is routine for some white-collar crimes.

The Crowes simply never showed when they were to report to prison.

Since then, the couple from a quiet community in western Kentucky has eluded authorities in a year long international manhunt.

"We don't think they're here anywhere in this country," George Walsh, a supervisor for the U.S. Marshal's Service in Louisville, said last week.

During a trial in Owensboro last summer, prosecutors described the family's Gold Unlimited Inc. as a pyramid scheme with 96,000 customers across the country

and Canada. Company assets reportedly ranged from \$8 million to \$13 million.

Participants could buy a \$400 coin or invest in the company. They could earn commissions on products they sold and get the gold coin if they brought more people into the company.

But payouts were based largely on others paying in, and the government said two-thirds of Gold Unlimited's customers failed to make a profit.

"It was their version of the American dream, paid for with other people's money," said Assistant U.S. Attorney Bill Campbell, who helped prosecute the case. "It was a scam."

The defense described Gold Unlimited as a legal sales company. The jury disagreed.

In November, U.S. District Judge Joseph McKinley sentenced the couple to more than 10 years in prison each on seven counts of mail fraud and eight counts of money laundering.

They were allowed to remain free on bond until Jan. 21, the day they had been

ordered to report to separate federal prisons. They never showed. The couple's \$277,000 home was bare.

"Obviously, in retrospect, you would treat these people differently," said Kent Wicker, another assistant U.S. attorney. "At the time, they were treated just like 95 percent of other white-collar offenders."

In a letter mailed to their hometown newspaper the day they disappeared, the couple maintained their innocence: "I hope that every day, something will remind you of how you have destroyed our lives." The letter also was sent to prosecutors and apparently to at least some jurors.

How can the fugitives evade an international manhunt that's included the work of federal marshals and Interpol?

"It's not as difficult as you think it is, OK?" Walsh said. "These people obviously have connections, and they're able to hide. Who's to say they don't have the money to obtain some sort of other identity, some other legal means to get to another country? They certainly have the money."

Police investigating baby beauty pageant after no trophies presented

HOUSTON (AP) — A police investigation is under way after unhappy parents complained about not getting trophies that were promised to participants in a baby beauty pageant.

Many of the 200 parents who attended the pageant at The Braeswood Hotel and Convention Center on Sunday had sold hundreds of dollars worth of raffle tickets to qualify for free trophies for their babies.

When it came time for the trophy presentation there were no trophies and the 1997 Annual Houston Area Baby Pageant & Diaper Derby was canceled.

A pageant promoter says it was a "mixup" and promised that the trophies will be given out.

The pageant is under investigation, according to Houston Police Sgt. D.W. Hallene.

"I know the hotel received their money," Hallene said.

The parents left puzzled and unhappy.

"I never thought this was a big hoax. Now I have to go back and explain to those who bought raffle tickets that we all got ripped off," said Kim Cooper, 33, of Suburban Spring.

She said she spent four weeks selling the tickets to raise \$275 for her 6-month-old son Bryce, who would have received a \$40 trophy.

The size of the trophy was

based in part on the number of raffle tickets sold by parents, parents said.

Joel Guajardo, who manufactured the trophies in Brownsville, was at the hotel, but said he did not hand over the trophies because they were not paid for.

Pageant representatives told him they were leaving the hotel to get the \$2,800 to pay for the 300 trophies and 200 ribbons. They never returned, he said.

You deserve a factual look at... Judea/Samaria (the "West Bank") Can Israel survive without it?

There is incessant agitation for Israel to turn over most or perhaps even all of Judea/Samaria (the "West Bank") to the PLO. Such a move would inevitably lead to the creation of a Palestinian State—perhaps even with Jerusalem as its capital. Can Israel survive this dismemberment? Is it in the best interests of the United States?

What are the facts?

The Root of the conflict. The conflict between Israel and the Arabs is not about borders and not about the Palestinians. The conflict is not about the size of Israel. It is about Israel's very existence. Israel, of whatever size and within whatever boundaries, is unacceptable to the Arabs. In surrendering strategic territory, Israel is gambling with its very life. The PLO still adheres to its infamous "phased plan." It calls for first creating a Palestinian state on any territory vacated by Israel and then using that state to foment a final allied Arab assault against the truncated Jewish state.

The Importance of territory. Many believe that in this age of missiles, territory is of little importance and that Israel should therefore not hesitate to relinquish "land for peace." But that is not the case. The Arab states have acquired over \$50 billion of the most advanced armaments since the end of the Gulf War. And those are not just "conventional" weapons—enormous quantities of tanks, aircraft of all kinds, and much more. The Arab state possess large arsenals of chemical and biological weapons, and all of them work feverishly on the development of their nuclear potential. All of those weapons have only one single purpose: the destruction of the state of Israel. And that goal is not being cancelled for any agreements that Israel may make with the Palestinians.

For both "conventional" war and for war of mass destruction, territory and topography are critical for self-defense and deterrence. The mountainous territory of Judea/Samaria (the "West Bank") is an indispensable line of defense, especially for a country as small as Israel. It totally controls access to Israel's heartland from the east. Israel needs this high

ground for defense, to be able to peer deeply into the enemy's territory and to get early warning of any attack. The high ground allows Israel to detect missiles while they are still in the launch stage and to destroy them, with the Arrow or other sophisticated anti-missile systems. Unlike the U.S., Israel cannot maintain a fleet of nuclear submarines for "second strike" deterrence. But it can maintain dozens of mobile missile launchers safe in underground tunnels hewn into the rock of the Judean mountains.

Would the "West Bank" be demilitarized? Even those who want Israel to retreat to its pre-1967 borders are agreed that the evacuated areas must be demilitarized. But that would be useless. Because the Palestinians will have thousands of trained soldiers, camouflaged as their police force. In case of war against Israel, these troops could be helicoptered in minutes to their positions, with armored forces reaching them within the same night. In any case, it is highly doubtful that the surrounding hostile Arab nations would allow such a military vacuum to exist. And finally, there is the matter of terrorism. There are over fifteen Palestinian terror organizations that neither Yasser Arafat nor any other Palestinian authority can control. There would be a constant rain of Katyusha rockets launched into the Tel Aviv area and into the entire coastal plain, which is only nine miles wide at its waist. It contains 80% of Israel's population and of its industrial and military potential. Ben Gurion airport, every incoming and outgoing flight, would be subject to mortar fire or shoulder-held Stinger attack. Does anybody doubt that the Arabs would not exploit that irresistible opportunity?

Without the "West Bank" Israel would be totally indefensible. That is the professional opinion of over 100 U.S. generals and admirals. Israel's strong defensive posture makes it most inadvisable for Israel's enemies to attack her. But once this defensive strength is removed, a coordinated war against Israel can only be a matter of time. The example and fate of Czechoslovakia, which preparatory to the Second World War was dismantled and shorn of its defensive capacity, insistently come to mind. What does all this mean to the United States? In a part of the world in which our country has the most far-reaching geopolitical stakes, Israel is the only democracy, the only country that is unquestionably aligned with us. It is the guarantor of American interests in the area. With Israel in a position of weakness, the role of the United States in the area would collapse and radical states such as Syria, Iraq and Iran would dominate. That is why, despite the heady prospect of "peace in our time," neither the purposes of Israel nor those of the United States would be served by Israel's relinquishing control over the "West Bank."

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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.

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OTHER VIEWS

The suspicion against Henry Cisneros was that he had not told the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth to the FBI about a former girlfriend. For that reason, an independent counsel was named, a two and one-half year investigation was undertaken and \$3.8 million was expended. It all culminated the other day in an indictment on 18 felony counts. If convicted, Cisneros could face as much as 90 years in prison.

The charges are conspiracy, obstruction of justice, perjury and fraud. Essentially, the indictment alleges, Cisneros lied and got others to lie about his past love affairs and payments to a mistress. This supposedly occurred in 1993, when Cisneros was being considered for a job he later obtained, housing secretary in the Clinton administration.

Cisneros has yet to have his day in court, and the worst of the allegations may be dispelled. There is, however, a serious element to them. Those deciding on prospective Cabinet members need to have the truth. Suppose, for instance, that a nominee for secretary of state did not disclose past financial ties to China. Misinformation makes bad judgments more likely and could put national security at risk.

But Cisneros had previously admitted some facts about his relationship with a woman named Linda Jones. Even if he were hiding additional details, trying to appear more nearly pure than he was, would there be any impact at all on the performance of his duties as secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development? An important question that arises is whether Americans want a government that undertakes exhaustive criminal probes under such relatively harmless circumstances.

Cisneros — a man once thought of as being of presidential caliber — is politically finished, whatever the outcome of the trial. He has already suffered embarrassment and appears to have left his job as secretary earlier than he wished. He has had to spend huge amounts of money on legal bills. These are matters, it seems to us, that the independent counsel should keep in mind as the case proceeds.

—SCRIPPS HOWARD NEWS DIGEST

Both parties take risk in Lee's nomination

By RON FOURNIER
AP Political Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton says it's this simple: Bill Lann Lee will be the nation's top civil rights officer because he's the right man to make the American dream "come alive for all Americans."

Yet it's never that clear-cut with Clinton. There's another reason the 48-year-old son of Chinese immigrants is likely to become the assistant attorney general for civil rights: The politics of race almost require it.

The president is prepared to appoint Lee to the post without Senate approval to galvanize minority voters in his party. Republicans are just as eager to clash with Clinton to impress their party's core conservatives.

Both sides are risking a great deal on their racial gambits.

After largely uneventful confirmation hearings, Republicans argued that the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund attorney is a champion of affirmative action. They fear he would bring a heavy bias for racial preferences to his Justice Department job.

Nine of the Senate Judiciary Committee's 18 members announced they would oppose Lee — enough to block a full Senate vote. Republicans thought the case was closed, nomination dead.

Then the president ordered his political team to consider the pros and cons of appointing Lee while the Senate is in winter recess. Though specifically allowed in the U.S. Constitution, the so-called recess appointment has long been considered a proverbial finger in the Senate's eye. It would give Lee the job through 1998.

Clinton has decided to go ahead with the recess appointment as early as Friday — unless he can rally enough votes to confirm Lee. The Republican majority says there won't be a vote, and they promise trouble if Clinton appoints Lee without Senate confirmation.

"This would be a declaration of war," said Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Ky.

Republicans could smother future presidential appointments and initiatives, jeopardizing Clinton's efforts to secure a legacy. Any semblance of bipartisanship would disappear, Republicans warned this week.

At the White House, Clinton aides quietly lent the president's support to coast-to-coast rallies for the nominee. "We demand simple justice for Lee," Alma Henderson of the People for the American Action Fund said in Cleveland.

White House officials portrayed the news conferences and related events in Washington this week as a last-ditch attempt to swing a confir-

mation vote. "Some senators are squirming a little bit," presidential spokesman Mike McCurry said.

But senior Democrats said privately the drumbeat is no longer about a Senate vote that Clinton knows he won't get. Instead, Democrats are making their case to Asian-Americans and, less directly, other minorities critical to Democratic candidates in low-turnout midterm elections.

The goal: Portray Republicans as intolerant. "When faced with the son of Chinese immigrants ... (Republicans) attack the very excellence and hard work they say they espouse," said Rep. Maxine Waters, D-Calif., who chairs the Congressional Black Caucus.

Republicans, meanwhile, believe Lee's nomination is a perfect opportunity to underscore the difference between GOP and Democratic positions on race. They want to make Lee a symbol of the quota system — the kind of race politics that drove suburban voters, particularly men, out of the Democratic Party in the 1980s.

"At a time when America badly needs racial healing, President Clinton seems bent on pursuing a polarizing nomination," said Clint Bolick of the conservative Institute for Justice in Washington.

A policy-making Democratic official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the party already fares poorly among

white men and cannot dramatically improve its stronger showing among white women. That means a key for Democrats in 1998 will be a large turnout of minority voters.

Asian voters are gaining strength on the West Coast, but are also emerging forces in states like Texas, New York and Virginia. Democrats believe standing up for Lee will impress Asian voters, as well as sympathetic leaders in the Hispanic and black communities.

"I don't think Republicans will look so well in the eyes of Asian-Americans by blocking Bill Lee," said Stewart Kwoh, executive director of the Asian Pacific American Legal Center of Los Angeles.

He said Asian-Americans already feel singled by congressional hearings on fund-raising abuses, which focused on some Asian-American donors.

Wendy Tam, a political science professor who specializes in Asian-American issues, said Asian-Americans are less partisan than blacks and Hispanics. Their votes are up for grabs in 1998.

But she warned Republicans: Asian-Americans won't stand for political slights.

"They better be pretty careful with Bill Lann Lee," she said in a telephone interview from the University of Illinois. "Asian-Americans have a lot of loyalty to their own group and their own people."

YOUR VIEWS

To the Editor:

Recently a grass fire spread across a CRP field west of us and into our pasture.

After all of the excitement and hard work was over I found I did not know who had turned in the 911 call or the names of the Coahoma Volunteer Fire Dept. or the other two units that responded to our need.

They were all well trained, efficient, hard working and caring people.

Our many thanks to all of those and our neighbors who came. If the fire had not been stopped it could have destroyed several of our homes, barns and some cattle.

This area should be proud to know we have people trained and willing to give help when needed.

LELAND WALLACE
Big Spring

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• Sign your letter.

• Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.

• Faxed or computer-generated letters must be signed and also provide telephone number and address.

• We reserve the right to edit letters for style and clarity.

• We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.

• Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered for publication.

• We do not acknowledge receipt of letters.

• Letters from our circulation area will be given preference.

• Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721.



The thoughtfulness of giving beats gifts

By SHARON RANDALL
Scripps Howard News Service

My mother always said that gifts don't matter, it's the thought," she'd say, "but I wish you had thought harder."

Having been on both ends of disappointing gifts, I'd much rather get than give one.

My daughter was 7 the year Cabbage Patch dolls possessed the souls of countless little girls and whipped parents into a mass hysteria trying to buy them in time for Christmas.

As with last year's Tickle Me Elmo and this year's Beanie Babies, demand for the dolls far exceeded supply, not to mention the manufacturer's wildest dreams. But who knew? Who could've guessed a doll that ugly would top every little girl's Christmas list?

Especially a little girl of mine. I had tried to spare my children from being corrupted with commercialism by limiting their TV time to educational programs. Usually. Except when I left the room. Then they'd switch channels

and watch "The Price Is Right."

I knew the dangers of TV advertising. I myself had been seduced by the Vegemite. few. Pretty soon, you're talking major infestation.

The day my daughter said she wanted a Cabbage Patch doll for Christmas, life as I had known it ceased to exist. Over the next two months, I would phone, write or visit in person every toy vendor in the free trade world, only to have them laugh in my face.

Finally, in desperation, I crawled into a craft store and bought a kit to make a doll SIMILAR to the one my daughter had set her heart upon. Except its head was cloth, not vinyl. And its rear end wasn't autographed by Xavier Roberts. And instead of being ugly in a Cabbage Patch kind of way, it was, well, just plain ugly.

I nearly lost my religion making that doll. But two weeks before Christmas, I finally finished it and signed my name on its rear end.

Next day, when a local toy store received a last minute

shipment, my daughter emptied her piggy bank and bought the doll of her dreams — a bald, chubby Cabbage Patch boy she named Joshua.

Right, I thought. An evil twin. Still, I hoped somehow she might come to love my lowly Cabbage Patch wannabe the same way she loved J.J.

But she didn't. She loved them differently — just as I loved her and her brothers — equally, but not the same.

She named the doll Amanda. And from that Christmas to this, Amanda and J.J. were twins.

I found them this morning in the attic where my daughter stashed them when she went off to college. I just might give them to her for Christmas.

They're old and worn and unbelievably dirty, but I could clean them up. Besides, it's not the gift, but the thought, that really counts.

(Sharon Randall is a winner of the American Association of Sunday and Feature Editors and the Best of the West contemporary awards.)

Mallard Fillmore
by
BRUCE TINSLEY



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Reality sets in for Cowboys with 31-24 defeat at Cincinnati

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

CINCINNATI — As soon as Troy Aikman's desperate, last-second pass deflected off a final set of hands and landed harmlessly in the end zone, reality hit the Dallas Cowboys.

"No more playoffs," linebacker Vinson Smith said.

A team that has won three Super Bowls in the 1990s won't get a chance at a fourth. A 31-24 loss Sunday to the Cincinnati Bengals eliminated the Cowboys (6-9) from playoff contention and doomed them to their first losing season since 1990.

The saddest part is that the record fits.

"Let's not sit here and fool each

other and say what would happen if we got into the playoffs," receiver Michael Irvin said. "We're not playing good football, and that's the bottom line."

Instead of making a late run at a wild-card berth, the Cowboys have lost four consecutive games for the first time since 1989, when quarterback Troy Aikman was a rookie.

That was the first year in coach Jimmy Johnson's rebuilding program that ultimately produced those three Super Bowl titles. This skid is something very different.

"There are so many factors, and you just couldn't put your finger on it," safety Bill Bates said. "If you could have done that, we would have done it the second game of the season."

"Sometimes you just have seasons like this. In my 15 years, I've had seasons like this where you know you're good enough to win, you just can't turn it around."

The Bengals (6-9) have proven over the past month that they had enough talent to make the playoffs, if they could have turned their season around sooner. Instead, they're in a familiar position — looking good when it no longer matters.

"The same thing happened last year," said cornerback Ashley Ambrose. "You think you might've made the playoffs, but you can't worry about it."

The Bengals had something different in mind Sunday: wrecking the Cowboys' slim playoff chances. There

was no sympathy for Dallas.

"A lot of people ask me if I feel sorry for the Cowboys," quarterback Boomer Esiason said. "What are they thinking?"

"The Cowboys get everybody's best games. They're like the New York Rangers in hockey or the Yankees in baseball. The owner and the coach are always on TV. You want to give your best effort to beat that kind of team."

The Cowboys put in one of their best efforts in weeks during the first quarter, which they dominated behind Aikman, Smith and Irvin. Dallas went ahead 10-0 as Smith picked up 56 yards on nine carries, Irvin had six catches for 69 yards and Aikman completed eight of 13 passes for 83 yards. Then the Bengals took over. Esiason

threw touchdown passes of 48 and 32 yards as Cincinnati scored 31 straight points.

The Cowboys made it close when Aikman threw a pair of touchdown passes to David LaFleur in the fourth quarter, but came up short on their two final possessions. Aikman was intercepted to end the first chance to pull even, and his desperation pass closed out the game and got the Cowboys thinking of next year.

"Everybody who has been with us during the tough times will still be there," running back Sherman Williams said. "If anybody has anything negative to say about our team, we really don't need them anyway. Everybody who loved us before will love us tomorrow."

Defensive stand keyed Buff win

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

With 10 minutes remaining in their Class 2A semifinal playoff game with Italy Saturday, the Stanton Buffaloes had a lead that was anything but secure.

Although holding a 21-7 advantage, the Buffs were unable to stop Italy, as the Gladiators marched swiftly and surely toward another touchdown. If Italy scored at this juncture, the lead would be down to seven points, and it would be anyone's ball game.

The Buffs weren't thinking about advancing to the state championship game. At this point, they were merely thinking about survival.

"I looked for it to be a defensive game — maybe I just hoped it would be," Stanton coach Mark Cotton said. "We didn't want to get into a track meet with them, by any means. (Italy) had such great athletes, that if we got into a track meet with them, we were in trouble."

But when the Gladiators earned a first-and-goal at the Stanton 4, trouble was knocking on Stanton's door. The Buffs' defense, which had played heroically up to this point, had to be a wall one more time.

"We knew that if we let them score, they'd be right back in the game," defensive lineman Chad Smith said.

On first down, Italy's Randy Johnson gained a yard to the 3. On the next play, Edwin Wallace swept right and gained another yard, setting up third-



HERALD photo/Jim Fiero

Stanton quarterback Kyle Herm (3) breaks loose from an Italy defender during the second quarter of Saturday's Class 2A state semifinal game. The Buffs took a 35-7 win over the Gladiators and now face Rogers in a showdown for the state championship.

tripped up behind the line for a two-yard loss. Then, on fourth-and-goal, linebacker Jody Lauder intercepted DeJuan Davis' pass at the 1-yard-line, denying the Gladiators.

After the defense put a huge dent in Italy's championship hopes, the Buffs' offense crushed them altogether two plays later.

Stanton quarterback Kyle Herm ran an option-keeper play to the left on second down from the 3. Seeing an opening, he cut back up the middle, followed a clearing block from

and-goal from the 2. That's the closest Italy got. On the next play, Johnson was

tripped up behind the line for a two-yard loss. Then, on fourth-and-goal, linebacker Jody Lauder intercepted DeJuan Davis' pass at the 1-yard-line, denying the Gladiators.

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1980 Z28 Camaro dependable transportation, new tires tag & sticker, looks good \$1700 Call 264-6099

'96 Corsica. Loaded, 25,000 miles. \$7,250. Factory warranty left on. Must Sell!! 264-0623

1986 DODGE COLT AC, 4-spd stereo, good tires. \$1000.00 267-5024.

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'95 Ford Taurus GL. Loaded. 49,000 actual miles. \$7,250. 264-0623.

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FOR SALE. 1996 MERCURY SABLE 25,000 miles. Great condition After 6:00pm 393-5746.

1969 Volkswagen Karmen Ghia, Hard top Runs dependably. \$2500 267-5549.

1995 Dodge Neon. Dk. Green. 4-dr., Automatic, AM/FM Cass., 40K. Clean! 267-2107 after 5pm.

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1992 Ford Explorer. Excellent condition: Red. Take up payments or \$10,000. Call 457-2233

1995 Chevrolet Pickup for sale. Will finance w/ approved credit - low finance charge. 263-3442 or 267-6060.

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Caring in love couple with gentle Golden Retriever wish to share their love with newborn. Expenses Paid. Call Shelley & Steve. 1-800-835-9218

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We can give your infant love and security. You can help make us a family. Expense pd. Please call Pete & Dee toll free: 1-888-866-6440.

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Video taping your events for \$10.00 & up. Call pager # & leave your #. Call 1-915-742-0272.

Sandra Johnson & Sandy Garcia formerly of Regis now at Smart Sets. 207 W. 9th. Tue. - Sat. Late appt. accepted. Walk Ins welcome. Call 267-1544

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International Company seeks part-time full-time help. WORK FROM HOME possible. No exp. necessary. Will train. \$700/week possible. Call 1-888-274-9118.

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IMPORTANT NOTICE:
ABC'S D' MORTGAGE, Inc. of Texas
E-Z or No Qualifying Loans!
Regardless of credit history "YOU" can have a real estate loan "IF" you know where to apply! **NOW YOU KNOW!** good or Bad Credit. Foreclosures, Bankruptcy, etc.
Even if you've been turned down by others. We Can Help!
Self-employed, high debt ratios, O.K. Refinancing. Debt Consolidation. Purchase, Stop Foreclosure, or Just Plain Cash! Contact for Dead refinances! Residential/Investment. **WE BUY REAL ESTATE NOTES ANNUITIES.** **APPLY by Phone! 263-1319.**

HELP WANTED

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Need Drillers & roughnecks for Sharp Image Energy, Inc. (Big Spring) Call 915-270-8214.

BOOKKEEPER / RECEPTIONIST
Immediate need for full-time Customer Service individual. Good phone skills & bookkeeping expertise. Quick-Books. Pro a plus. Qualified applicants only. 800-404-1190.

AVIS LUBE FAST OIL CHANGE 24 HR. JOB HOTLINE 1-800-583-4063 X371

DRIVERS - TST Paraffin Service Co. (Div. of Yale Key) Looking for Truck Driver with CDL Licensed with less than 3 tickets in 5 years. Will have to pass DOT Physical and Drug Test. Must be 21 years old. Will take applicants at the Stanton and Lamesa offices or call 1-800-522-0474 or 756-2975. Benefits include: Health Insurance, Uniform's furnished, Profit Sharing Plan, 1 week vacation, after 1 year employment, 2-week vacation after 2 year employment. Will train qualified applicants with oil field experience.

Full or Part time drivers. Must be able to work weekends.
Domino's Pizza • 2202 S. Gregg

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APPLY: WEST TX. CENTERS FOR MHMR 409 Rumsels Big Spring, TX 79549 915-264-2650

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It's your life. Whatever you want to do. Air Force training, experience and education can help you reach your goals. Find out more. **CALL 1-800-423-USAF.**

CAMPUS CHILD CARE CENTER ATTENDANT
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DRIVE
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AVON \$8-\$18/hr. No Door-to-Door, Quick Cash, Fun & Relaxing 1-800-361-0466.

Food server needed. Must be 21 yrs. old. Must be dependable & have transportation, & able to work split shift. Apply at Casa Blanca, 1005 N. Lamesa Hwy. NO PHONE CALLS!

Receptionist - Temporary during busy season. Must be organized, pleasant and have basic office skills. Send resume in c/o POBox 3709, Big Spring TX 79721.

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Sales specialists needed to do demonstrations in major grocery chains. Dependable, sales minded, part time, Friday, Saturday & Sunday, \$7.00 per hour. 1-800-580-3367.

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THE CITY OF BIG SPRING is accepting applications for the position of Plant Tech I. To check minimum qualifications and receive more information contact City Hall Personnel at 310 Nolan, Big Spring, TX 79720 or call 915-264-2346 by Wednesday, Dec. 17, 1997. The City of Big Spring is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

WEST TEXAS CENTERS FOR MHMR

QUALIFIED MENTAL RETARDATION PROFESSIONAL position available in the Big Spring Area. Will provide coordination of services to individuals with mental retardation. Coordinate and monitor individual Service Plans for assigned case load. Must have a Bachelor's degree from an accredited college with a major in a human services field, plus one (1) year of experience working with persons with mental retardation or other developmental disabilities. Must meet requirements for driving an agency vehicle. Salary \$1032 bi-weekly. Will office in Big Spring, TX.

ATTENTION BIG SPRING "POSTAL JOBS"
\$12.68/hour to start, plus benefits carriers, sorters, clerks, computer training experience. FOR APPLICATIONS AND EXAM INFORMATION, CALL 1-800-267-5715. EXT 550. 8AM-8PM. 7 DAYS.

Full-time LVN position, Otolaryngology office, Mon-Fri. Apply at Malone & Hogan ENT office.

MECHANIC w/tools. Bring resume to Westex Auto Parts, Inc. 1511 Hwy. 350 North. EOE. No phone calls!!

Need a maintenance man and must have a little experience in plumbing, electricity, and ground work. Please apply in person at Days Inn, 300 Tulane. No Phone Calls

"POSTAL JOBS"
\$17.21/HR Guaranteed Hire. For App and Exam info, call 1-800-626-6618 Ext. 2340, 8am-9pm 7 days.

Registered Nurses
Needed For Adolescent and Adult Units in the leading Free-Standing Psychiatric Facility in the Southwest Houston, TX area. Applicants must have previous adolescent / adult inpatient psychiatric experience. All shifts, all days available.

All positions offer competitive salaries and flexible working hours with rotating schedules. A relocation package will be considered for the right candidates. Our work environment is diverse and dynamic. We offer an excellent benefits package to all Full-Time employees. For consideration, please mail or fax resume to: West Oaks Hospital, 6500 Homewood, Houston, Texas 77074, Fax: (713) 995-5249, Job Line: (713) 778-5276. EOE.

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DOGS, PETS, ETC

Shear K-4
We can now take care of all boarding & grooming needs. 915-756-3850

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Ceramics for Sale: Greenware, Bisque, & Finished. Wed. Dec. 17 Thurs: 18th. Fri. 19th. 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. 3510 Old Gall Rd. Call 263-2596.

WANTED WANTED
Cash For "Old" Concrete yard ornaments - Birdbaths, flower pots, urns, animal figures, etc. Also "Old" clawfoot cast iron bath tubs. Call 263-6068 if no answer leave message.

For Sale: 2 Mauve swivel chairs, one blue hide a bed couch, & a wicker furniture set. Call 264-0725

New Super Single waterbed with headboard & drawers underneath \$200. New green machine vacuum & shampooer \$50. 7th. Christmas tree used 1 year \$30. 399-4535.

Videos of X-Mas parade for sale: \$10.00 each. Call pager # & leave your #. 1-915-742-0272.

CREATIVE CELEBRATIONS
Our 20th Anniversary Discounts
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HELP WANTED

Secretary / Receptionist (school hours) needed to join CPA Firm. Experience required: word processing, 10-key, computer data entry, phone etiquette. Mail resume to: P.O. Box 949, Big Spring, TX 79721.

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Receptionist - Temporary during busy season. Must be organized, pleasant and have basic office skills. Send resume in c/o POBox 3709, Big Spring TX 79721.

NEED Welders & Mechanics. Apply in person at Price Construction, Big Spring. No Phone Calls.

Sales specialists needed to do demonstrations in major grocery chains. Dependable, sales minded, part time, Friday, Saturday & Sunday, \$7.00 per hour. 1-800-580-3367.

MAINTENANCE MAN needed for apartment complex. Must have own tools, able to do make ready, and all types of maintenance. Must have a/c & heating knowledge. Can be part-time. Send resume to P.O. Box 710, Big Spring, Texas.

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR TUESDAY, DEC. 16:

Centering is important this year, as you go to bat over money, security and desires. You will win, or rather, twist another's arm to think like you. You are simply too persuasive to be refused! You offer a lot to others: energy, creativity and a natural gift to make money. How you view yourself and your assets will change. If you are single, romance is likely to be intense. 1998 holds special closeness on the home front. If attached, your ability to communicate is highlighted. Next year, you will want to add to your family. LEO brings passion into your life.

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)
Take a deep breath rather than react. How you view a professional matter could change. You are challenged to your limit. It will take all your diplomatic skill to handle what comes down the path. Put on

your creative thinking cap. Tonight: Be a wild thing.***
TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
You gladly play the ostrich. You have many opinions, confusing plans and different directions. You can see several diverse viewpoints, and that, in itself, is really the issue. You have some heavy thinking to do. Tonight: Hang out.***
GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
Use extreme caution with your money, be it your wallet, checking account or credit cards. Being direct with others about expectations poses a challenge. Listen to opinions, and refuse to get cornered. Tonight: Talk over a problem with a friend.***

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
You are personality-plus. Discussions are animated. Others seem to want to play devil's advocate. Be aware of why others are contentious: They are teasing you. Don't get uptight; rather, flow with the moment. Tonight: Do some holiday shopping.***
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
Take a second gander at what

HOROSCOPE

is going on. Your perspective could change substantially after reviewing others' opinions. Co-workers have a lot to share, and their opinions are grounded. You feel more in control as the day gets older. Tonight: Just ask for what you want.***
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
Aim for goals; you are more successful during the day. Your determination is key because it seems as if others are full of opinions. Discussions are intense yet informative. Take your time when making a decision. Tonight: Be mysterious.***
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
Take the lead at work. You create a lot of flak without realizing it. Family and matters related to the home are confusing at best. Your heart strings feel like they are being tugged. A partner makes a statement about how he feels things should be. Tonight: Consider working late.***
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
It is wise to pull back, to view the big picture. You could easily get plugged in to seeing another point of view. Your sense of humor comes out with a demanding friend or neighbor. Recognize that a lot of people react differently to the holidays. Tonight: Head out and about.***
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
You might be shocked by the demands that others make upon you. Don't worry, you can handle them. You are right on target about what you want. Don't back off, even when criticized. One-to-one relating takes up a lot of time; still, view the long term. Tonight: Go carol-

Blind lead way with some commonsense suggestions

DEAR ABBY: You recently ran a letter from a woman who gave a few tips on what sighted people should do when they meet a blind person. As president of the American Foundation for the Blind, and a blind person myself, I believe I can add a few more points of etiquette your readers may find helpful:

1. Speak to people who are blind or visually impaired using a natural conversational tone and speed. Do not speak loudly and slowly unless the person also has a hearing impairment.

2. Address blind people by name when possible. This is especially important in crowded places.

3. Immediately greet blind people when they enter a room or service area. This lets them know you are present and ready to assist.

4. Indicate the end of a conversation with a blind person in order to avoid the embarrassment of leaving a person speaking when no one is actually there.

5. Feel free to use words that refer to vision when conversing with blind people. Words such as "look," "see" and "watching TV" are part of everyday communication. The words "blind" and "visually impaired" are also acceptable in conversation.

6. Do not leave a blind person standing in "free space" when you serve as a guide. Also, be sure that the person you guide has a firm grasp on your arm or is leaning against a chair or a wall if you have to be separated momentarily.

7. Be calm and clear about what to do if you see a blind person about to encounter a dangerous situation. For example, if the person is about to bump into something, calmly and firmly call out, "Wait there for a moment; there is an obstruction in your path."

Abby, thanks for giving me the opportunity to provide this information. If your readers have any questions about blindness and visual impairment, the American Foundation for the Blind has a toll-free information line, (800) 232-5463, and a Web site, www.afb.org. — CARL R. AUGUSTO, PRESIDENT, AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR THE BLIND, NEW YORK

DEAR CARL: Thank you for the excellent input. I'm sure

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

You put out a lot of energy, trying to convince others that you are right. Is this what you want to do? Pull back, and talk to a partner who cares a lot about you. Close relating adds a sense of support and fulfillment. Brainstorm together. Tonight: Go for togetherness.***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
Get to the bottom of what is going on with you. Though you are focused on others, co-workers and the pressures of the season, you might be reacting more on an emotional level than you realize. Honor a premonition, and act accordingly. Tonight: Be among the crowds.***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
You are surprised by what a friend offers. Consider your limits when presented with this seemingly too-wonderful opportunity. Be realistic about work. Make time, however, for an office Christmas party, and do a little networking at the same time. Tonight: Run errands.***

BORN TODAY
Former baseball player Mike Flanagan (1951), journalist Lesley Stahl (1941), actress Liv Ullmann (1939)
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DEAR ABBY: In addition to your letter, I also heard from David M. McGown, executive director of the Guild for the Blind in Chicago, offering pointers for the general public when interacting with blind people:

— Address the person directly, and not through someone else.
— If you think a person needs assistance, ASK FIRST. Don't assume you should help. Let the person choose to accept help or not.
— When offering assistance, never take someone by the arm who is blind or visually impaired; and never take hold of a white cane or guide dog. If you offer your arm instead, the person can follow a half-step behind and anticipate changes.
— When guiding someone to a chair, place his/her hand on the back of the chair.
— Remember, people who are blind or visually impaired are people first — people who have feelings and lives just like you do. Many of them like movies and sports and have interests of their own. Treat a person who has a visual disability with the same courtesy and respect you would give to anyone else.

For more information about the Guild for the Blind and its services, write: 180 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 1700, Chicago, Ill. 60601-7463 or call (312) 236-8569.

DEAR ABBY: As a public service, please print my letter.

If you put an ad in the lost-and-found section of the newspaper, chances are it will end up on the Internet. When it does, rest assured someone will contact you and offer to return your lost item — if you wire money to pay for the shipping costs.

Do not, I repeat, DO NOT fall for this scam! Chances are, the crooks do not have the item and never did. They see an opportunity to cheat you. They are counting on your emotional attachment to the lost item. They'll rip you off and laugh all the way to the bank.

How do I know? Our daughter lost her beloved dog. She was ripe for this scam, and fell for it.

If people get a response to their lost-and-found ad, they should "accept" the offer, obtain the name and location of where the crook will claim the money, then notify police. At the very least, the police should be asked for advice. These people must be stopped. — VICTIM'S MOM, SUN CITY WEST, ARIZ.

DEAR VICTIM'S MOM: Thanks for the warning. It seems that we must all be on our toes these days to protect ourselves.

National Classifieds

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MONDAY DEC. 15. TV schedule table with columns for station, time, and program name.

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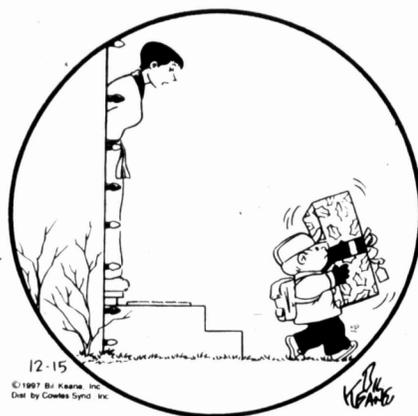
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THIS DATE IN HISTORY

The ASSOCIATED PRESS Today is Monday, Dec. 15, the 349th day of 1997. There are 16 days left in the year.

On Dec. 15, 1791, the Bill of Rights, the first 10 amendments to the U.S. Constitution, took effect following ratification by Virginia.

In 1916, the French defeated the Germans in the World War I Battle of Verdun.

WIZARD OF ID



THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words.

HI AND LOIS



GASOLINE ALLEY



Answers to the crossword puzzle, including words like 'Twining growth', 'Speed-skating gold-medallist', and 'Mure of poetry'.

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