

BIG SPRING HERALD

Reflecting A Proud Community

WEDNESDAY
January 7, 1998

50 cents

Sands schools earn monetary awards from state

By JOHN H. WALKER
Managing Editor

Sands Elementary and Sands High School are the seventh and eighth schools in the area to receive monetary awards from the Texas Successful Schools Awards System.

The two schools each received \$500 — joining Big Spring's Moss Elementary and Kentwood Elementary schools, along with Elbow Elementary and Forsan Junior High — at that award level. Coahoma Junior High and Coahoma High School each received \$1,000 from the program.

Sands Superintendent Don Bryan said he felt the schools would use the money to

We will direct (the award) back into our instructional program, probably using it in our reading renaissance program

Don Bryan
Sands CISD Superintendent

enhance the district's reading program.

"We will direct it back into our instructional program, probably using it in our reading renaissance program," he said.

Bryan said the district had been successful with the program in a two-tiered approach — prekindergarten through grade five and grades six through 12.

Bryan said the \$500 award to each school was the maximum

amount the district could receive, based on enrollment.

The schools are being recognized for gains in student performance on indicators that are part of the Academic Excellence Indicator System (AEIS), more commonly known as the state's school report card.

The eight local and area schools are among 2,300 cash-winning schools statewide receiving awards for exemplary or recognized performance and

368 schools receiving awards based on comparable improvement.

Cash awards ranging from \$500 to \$5,000 per school were given depending on the number of students served at the school, Bryan said.

In the exemplary category, schools had at least 90 percent of all students and students in each student population group (white, black, Hispanic and economically disadvantaged) passing each section of the TAAS, a 1994-1995 dropout rate of 1 percent or less for all students and each student group, and a 1994-1995 attendance rate of 94 percent or greater.

A total of \$2.5 million is being awarded to schools this year under the program.

Spring semester registration begins Thursday at Howard

By KATHY GILBERT
Staff Writer

Howard College opens its doors for Spring 1998 registration in the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum on Thursday, college officials announced.

Students may register in one of three sessions. Students who have reserved registration times may enroll in classes from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Open registration will be held from 4-7 p.m.; and late registration runs from Jan. 12-15 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Friday, Jan. 16, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. A \$5 late registration fee will be required.

Permission to change from

one class to another will be granted only during late registration, and a \$5 charge will be levied for each class change.

Registration times can be reserved in the admissions office through the close of business today.

College officials said all tuition and fees must be paid at the time of registration. Visa and Mastercard will be accepted. Student orientation will be held on Jan. 11 at 2 p.m. at the student union building. Spring 1998 classes begin Jan. 12.

New students must complete an application before registering for classes, Howard officials said.

BSISD eyes 'possible' litigation over mortar mess

By KATHY GILBERT
Staff Writer

The Big Spring Independent School District (BSISD) Board of Trustees took steps to cement the future of the new Big Spring junior high at a 90-minute special meeting Tuesday.

After a lengthy closed-door executive session, the board took no action and agreed to further discuss the junior high situation with building contractor, Monterey Construction of Lubbock. Monterey officials did not attend the meeting.

BSISD Superintendent Bill McQueary said the board discussed "possible litigation, underline 'possible.'" The board also "gave directions to the architect to pursue options to correct the deficient mortar."

"We talked about the negotiation process and the various options that are to be negotiated," he added, saying that the board will meet with Monterey officials within the next two weeks.

Construction on the junior high building has experienced delays since last September, when stress tests conducted by BSISD found 5 percent of the building's mortar failed to meet stress standards and architectural specifications.

Patches of mortar appear to have dried too quickly, causing them to become brittle and possibly less durable.

No hard and fast solutions exist, officials said. The brittle mortar patches, which affect less than 10 percent of the build-



Felipe Hernandez (left), with J & E Masonry, and Andy Rodriguez, with Monterey Construction, pour mortar into one of the containers used to transport it to the various location it is needed.

ing, can be "offset with other things, allowing you to take a milder approach to this particular problem" said Ron Logback, BSISD's assistant business manager.

"The building has a foundation tied up through every corner wall, a solid pour of concrete all the way up, 18 inches of concrete on the top surface of wall tied in with rebar all the way down to the foundation,"

Logback said. "It's built extra strong at the present time."

A new schedule of completion is expected by the end of the month, Logback said. That schedule will reflect discussions between the board, the architect, consulting engineers Charles Terry and Patrick Moore, and Monterey.

"We're optimistic on opening on time, optimistic about resolving the problem, and opti-

mistic the board is taking the right steps," McQueary said.

Architect Tommy Huckabee of Stephenville said he was pleased with the meeting.

"The board was very receptive to giving us direction to the contractor on the progress of the new junior high school," Huckabee said. "They gave directions on how they wanted the contractor to improve the progress on the property."

Officials still hope project will be done on schedule

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

Big Spring ISD officials are eyeing possible legal solutions to long-running construction problems at the new junior high school.

The new junior high, which is scheduled to open in time for the 1998-99 school year, has been plagued by problems with wall mortar since last September.

The mortar problem, which failed in spots to pass pressure tests, threatens to delay the opening of the new school, officials said.

To further address the problem, the BSISD school board held a 90-minute executive session with its lawyers Tuesday, and instructed them to meet with construction officials as soon as possible.

Officials with Lubbock's Monterey Construction, the project contractor, were not present at the meeting, but are expected to meet with school district attorneys prior to the board's next meeting on Jan. 15.

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New TU manager settles into job

By CARLTON JOHNSON
Staff Writer

TU Electric employees have a new general manager to adjust to, but for TU customers the change will hardly be noticeable, according to Mike Hammock.

Hammock replaces John Toone, who was transferred from Big Spring to a similar

position in Temple in October. TU's corporate office in Dallas named Hammock as Toone's replacement in November,

but Hammock has only been on the job for a few days.

"Customers should not expect any changes because of my presence," Hammock said. "I expect to continue the work John (Toone) did in the community. I look forward to becoming active in the community."

Hammock is still getting adjusted to the Big Spring area after moving in from the Dallas area, where he worked for TU for 16 years in marketing.

"Half of my time there was in the Dallas-Irving area and the other half was in the Nagogoches area," Hammock said.

Hammock said his wife Judi and two sons, ages 10 and 11, have not yet relocated to Big Spring from the Dallas area, but those plans are being made.

Dallas-based. TU is an investor-owned holding company that includes companies engaged in electric utility services, international electric distribution, natural gas transmission and storage, lignite coal mining, telecommunications and other energy-related businesses.

TU provides electric service to 2.3 million customers.

High Plains cotton harvest nears 3 million bale mark

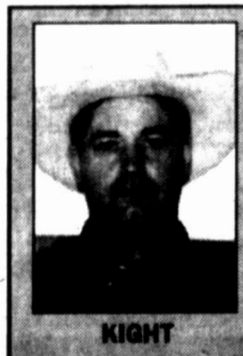
By CARLTON JOHNSON
Staff Writer

As 1997 came to a close, a late season spurt has netted a respectable yield among area cotton producers.

By Christmas, the 25-county High Plains area, which includes Howard, Martin, Dawson and Glasscock counties, was nearing the 3 million bale mark.

The 1997 crop is slightly under the U.S. Department of Agriculture's estimate of 3.5 million bales, but considering the factors that plagued growers, producers and ginners are pleased with the yield.

Just as cotton was beginning to grow in June, a massive dust storm swept through and destroyed about 7,500 acres



Despite the storm, which caused several producers to replant, Howard County Extension Agent David Kight says he thinks Howard County's yield for 1997 will still reach 85,000 bales.

alone in Howard County.

Despite the storm, which caused several producers to replant, Howard County Extension Agent David Kight says he thinks Howard County's yield for 1997 will still reach 85,000 bales.

Several counties in the High Plains area still have modules in the fields waiting to be ginned, which makes it difficult

to know specific yields.

Dawson County has baled 190,577 bales of cotton so far. Borden County Extension Office officials won't make a prediction because ginning operations are still ongoing, but say the 1997 crop will be significantly better than expected.

Ginning operations aren't expected to be complete for another couple of weeks, but

crop watchers for the Texas Agricultural Extension Service are predicting a final yield of about 3.25 million bales. The five-year seasonal bale average for the High Plains area is 2.7 million bales, according to the USDA.

Bad weather and below normal temperatures wiped out some 250,000 acres of the 3.5 million acres planted and yield

WEATHER

Tonight:



Thur:



Fri:



Sat:



Tonight, becoming partly cloudy. Lows 25-30. Thursday, mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 50s. Thursday night, fair. Lows in the 20s. Extended forecast, Friday and Saturday, fair. Lows in the 20s. Highs in the 50s to near 60. Sunday, partly cloudy. Lows near 30. Highs near 60.

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To reach all departments, please call 263-7331

Kilgore to make second run at commissioner's court

By CARLTON JOHNSON
Staff Writer

Precinct 2 Howard County Commissioner Jerry Kilgore is seeking a second term to continue what he says has been significant progress in the way county government operates.

Kilgore faces a challenge from Republicans John Wayne Metcalf and Ken Mayhall in the March 10 primary. The winner faces the Democratic primary winner, either Donnie Reid and Roosevelt Shaw, in the November general election.

In the 1994 Republican primary, Metcalf took Kilgore to a runoff election before losing by only 14 votes.

Kilgore doesn't plan on changing much during this year's campaign and plans to stand on his record.

"I feel Howard County is in excellent condition with the

courthouse renovation bond as our only debt," Kilgore said. "I feel that all of our buildings and equipment are in excellent shape."

He says the current commissioners' court has established a good working relationship with other entities around the city of Big Spring and Howard County.

"This commissioners' court has worked diligently toward attracting business, industry and jobs to assure our future economy and tax base," Kilgore said. "I think we need to continue to work to enlarge the tax

base of Howard County."

For the most part, Kilgore says the county is in good financial shape.

"We are almost debt free," Kilgore said. "We have been successful in attracting jobs, and if we continue to attract jobs and increase the tax base, our future looks great."

As a second-term commissioner, Kilgore said he wants to continue to keep the tax rate as low as possible but allow the county to still function. Also, he wants

See KILGORE, page 2A

JAN 07 1998

Gonzalez may serve remainder of term, observers say

WASHINGTON (AP) — Is he retiring from Congress, as promised? Or isn't he?
Only Henry B. Gonzalez knows for sure.
Weakened by serious illness last summer, the 81-year-old San Antonio Democrat announced in September that he would retire by the end of 1997, grudgingly accepting the advice of doctors and family to bring to a close his storied 36-year congressional career.
But with the start of the 1998 House session just three weeks away, Gonzalez has yet to send Gov. George W. Bush the retirement letter that would trigger a

special election to determine his successor. And, such a letter may not be in the offing. Reports suggest the elderly lawmaker is contemplating serving out a term that runs through the end of this year.
Gonzalez, who has spent little time in Washington since a July hospitalization for an infection that attacked his heart, didn't return a call Tuesday from The Associated Press and has kept publicly mum about his plans.
That silence has congressional aides, aspirants for the 20th District seat and political observers alike wondering what

the famously independent-minded legislator will do.
Even family members are in the dark.
"I am not aware of when my father will tender his resignation. That's the big question right now," said Charles Gonzalez, who is in the thick of a crowded Democratic field vying for the 20th District seat his father has held since 1961. "He hasn't made that clear to any member of the family that I've talked to, including my mother."
One ally of the elder Gonzalez said there may not be a resignation at all, in part because the

politician's health has rebounded.
"The last we heard, he's thinking of finishing out the year," the intimate said, speaking on condition of anonymity.
Gonzalez himself provided an inkling of his improved health at a Capitol Hill tribute in his honor at the end of October.
At that ceremony, where Cabinet members and colleagues alike lavished praise on the House Banking Committee's top Democrat, the one-time boxer took to the dais and danced to the festive music of a mariachi band.

"I feel as fine as I did 30 years ago," he told reporters. "I still have a few more rounds."
Beyond his health, some suggest that Gonzalez is heeding the advice of Democratic party leaders who fear a special election could prove detrimental to the party.
In the event Gonzalez resigns before the end of his term, Bush would call a special election that could not coincide with the regular primary.
Some agree a special election, which is open to voters of all party affiliations, could provide a foot in the door for a Republican in the solidly

Democratic district. One such believer is St. Mary's University political science professor Larry Hufford, who contends the large number of Democrats interested in replacing Gonzalez could split the Democratic vote, making it far easier for a Republican to emerge on top.
Special election or not, Gonzalez won't be on the ballot for another term.
He is not among those who filed for the regular March 10 primary. The field does include his son, Charles, a former state judge; and seven other Democrats.

Algerians reject call for commission

ALGIERS, Algeria (AP) — Despite some of the worst brutality of the six-year Islamic insurgency — with reports today of 27 more people slaughtered — Algeria has rejected a U.S. call for an international inquiry.
The latest reports from survivors and hospital sources indicate armed men killed 20 people Monday night in Bakhoucha, 40 miles west of the capital, and a family of seven in Laghouat, 190 miles south of Algiers. Most recently, reports Tuesday said about 200 people were slaughtered Sunday in mountain villages.
Many of the victims were hacked to death, and bodies were mutilated or burned, survivors said.
Various Algerian newspapers put the death toll in the mountain attacks at 150-300. The latest killings bring the number of deaths to more than 1,000 since the Dec. 30 start of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, a time of prayer and fasting. Muslim militants are suspected in the attacks.
Terrorized villagers have fled their homes, flooding big-city public squares to seek a safe haven from the attacks.
The Algerian government

made clear in a statement Tuesday evening by the state news agency that it would not accept any international inquiry into the violence. European and American diplomats said they wanted to help, but were pessimistic about the possibilities.
"There seems to be very little one can do in concrete terms," said Klaus van der Pas, chief spokesman for the European Commission.
The government of this North African nation, which has insisted that only "residual violence" remains from the Islamic insurgency, was silent about the various weekend attacks revealed Tuesday.
But it rejected remarks by State Department spokesman James Rubin urging Algiers to allow international inquiries into the violence.
The United States has proposed involving nongovernmental organizations or U.N. human rights experts in reviewing human rights issues.
The U.S. ambassador, Cameron Hume, was summoned by the Algerian Foreign Ministry for an "explanation" of Rubin's comments, the official Algerian news agency reported.

Later, the news agency issued a statement saying the ambassador had been "reminded of the categorical rejection by Algeria of any idea of an international commission of inquiry, no matter where it comes from or whatever its form or nature."
Algeria long has bristled at what it considers attempts to intervene in its domestic policy.
Survivors of the bloody attacks in five mountain villages made their way to Chekala, the county seat about 150 miles west of Algiers, taking refuge in mosques and stores. Forty miles north of Chekala, 412 people were reported killed on the first day of Ramadan.
Survivors questioned by The Associated Press said the attacks Sunday in the Chekala region, killing some 200, took place in the isolated mountain hamlets of Dahmania, Beni Moussa, Kelaa, Oued Maamar and Somara.
One survivor said about 40 armed men descended on Dahmania in the evening, knocked on doors and said: "Don't be afraid. We haven't come to kill you."
They then slaughtered those they had gathered in the road, with the head of the woman slitting the throat of a woman and

her four children — one, an infant, was killed with an ax.
The survivor, like many others interviewed, feared reprisals and spoke on condition of anonymity. He had holed up at the Chekala mosque. Others took refuge in a mosque or stores in Mekkassa, a nearby community where 117 people were killed Sunday night.
No one has claimed responsibility for the slayings, which come during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.
But Algeria's frequent bombings and massacres mostly are blamed on Islamic militants intent on toppling the military-backed secular government in favor of a regime run according to a strict interpretation of Islamic law.
Algeria's Islamic insurgency was sparked by the military's decision to cancel a 1992 election runoff that Muslim fundamentalist parties were poised to win. The violence, which has claimed 75,000 lives, typically intensifies during Ramadan.
There has been speculation that the government, while ostensibly waging an offensive against the extremists, has looked the other way as a means of drumming up anger against the insurgents.

Prospector heading to lunar rendezvous

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — A little drumlike spacecraft called Prospector hurtled toward the moon today, its task to search for water, minerals and gases during NASA's first lunar mission in 25 years.
"It certainly feels good to be going back," program scientist Joseph Boyce said after Tuesday night's flawless launch. "I couldn't be more excited, more happy."
The unmanned Prospector, due to arrive at the moon on Sunday, carries five science instruments that will search from lunar orbit for evidence of frozen water at the shadowy poles as well as for minerals and gases. Such resources, especially water, could be used by human settlers.
The 4-foot, 650-pound spacecraft also contains an ounce of the ashes of Eugene Shoemaker, a planetary scientist who trained the Apollo astronauts in lunar geology in the 1960s and early 1970s and always yearned to fly to the moon.
"He's going to be the man in the moon to us," his widow, Carolyn Shoemaker, said with

a smile after witnessing the launch with her children and grandchildren.
A half moon gleamed in the sky as the Athena rocket blasted off at 9:28 p.m., one day late. Monday's launch attempt was foiled by the failure of Air Force radar needed to track the rocket; the problem was fixed in time for Tuesday's effort.
Launch controllers cheered and applauded at liftoff and again at each milestone. An hour into the flight, an attached motor promptly fired, propelling Prospector out of low-Earth orbit and toward the moon 240,000 miles away. Aside from initial communication snags, everything went well.
"We feel like we have taken a giant step forward toward returning to the moon," mission manager Scott Hubbard said. "A great ride. A healthy spacecraft. And very shortly we will start to do a whole series of other things that will continue to demonstrate that we're going back to the moon and taking some important measurements."

Weddington: Balanced budget could affect GOP

AUSTIN (AP) — The prospect of a balanced federal budget under a Democratic president will affect Republican congressional candidates, who traditionally have campaigned on the issue, the head of the Texas GOP says.
"It's been difficult for Republicans lately at the congressional level to distinguish themselves from Democrats because Clinton is an expert at sounding so Republican and positioning himself on issues that have traditionally been Republican issues," state GOP leader Susan Weddington said Tuesday.
"The end result of a lot of those policies have not been the kind of policy that Republicans really advocate, but they have not done, I think, a good job making their case in really distinguishing themselves. So yes, I think that that has an impact on those congressional races," she said at a meeting with reporters.

Ms. Weddington said, however, that she believes Republicans will maintain their 13 seats in the 30-member Texas congressional delegation and perhaps pick up a slot or two.
State Democratic spokesman Rafe Bemporad said the issues pushed by Democrats reflect their long-held core beliefs.
"I think that the Democrats are going to have success at the congressional level in 1998 because Bill Clinton and congressional Democrats have done exactly what they said that they would do."
"They delivered the first balanced budget in a generation, cut the deficit by more than half, delivered tax cuts for middle-income families and made a significant investment in education and health care for children," Bemporad said.
"The Republicans talked about balancing the budget for decades, and it took a Democratic president to get the job done."

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SPORTS EXTRA

BOWL GAMES

Saturday, Jan. 10
East-West Shrine Classic
At Stanford, Calif.
East vs. West, 3 p.m. (ESPN)

Sunday, Jan. 17
Senior Bowl
At Mobile, Ala.
North vs. South, 1:30 p.m. (TBS)

Sunday, Jan. 18
Hula Bowl
At Walluku, Maui
South vs. North, 3 p.m. (ESPN)

ST. LOUIS CARDINALS—Agreed to terms with RHP Kent Bottenfield on a one-year contract.

NEW JERSEY NETS—Wanted C Jack Haley and F Xavier McDaniel.

NEW YORK KNICKS—Signed G-F Anthony Bowie. Wanted G-F Pete Myers.

TORONTO RAPTORS—Signed F Bob McCann and G Lloyd Daniels to 10-day contracts.

FOOTBALL
National Football League
DALLAS COWBOYS—Signed OL Larry Allen to a six-year contract.

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS—Signed WR Jermaine Ross, DT Dwayne Robinson and S Trey Thomas.

OAKLAND RAIDERS—Fired Joe Bugel, coach.

NATIONAL HOKEY LEAGUE
DETROIT RED WINGS—Recalled LW Darryl Lapeyre from Adirondack of the AHL. Assigned RW Alexandre Jacques to Toledo of the ECHL.

EDMONTON OILERS—Claimed C Tony Hecox off waivers from Dallas.

LOS ANGELES KINGS—Assigned G Fredric Chabot to Houston of the IHL.

NEW JERSEY DEVILS—Recalled C Sergei Brylin from Albany of the AHL.

OTTAWA SENATORS—Recalled D Radim Bicanek from Manitoba of the IHL.

Green Bay at San Francisco, 4 p.m. (FOX)

Super Bowl
Sunday, Jan. 25
At San Diego
AFC champion vs. NFC champion, 6 p.m.

Pro Bowl
Sunday, Feb. 1
At Honolulu
AFC vs. NFC

COLLEGE SCORES

WASH STATE 55, UTAH 55
UTAH 55, WASH STATE 55
UTAH 55, WASH STATE 55

WASH STATE 55, UTAH 55
UTAH 55, WASH STATE 55
UTAH 55, WASH STATE 55

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL
American League
CLEVELAND INDIANS—Agreed to terms with 2B Carlos Garcia on a minor league contract. Sold RHP Travis Driskill to the Yakult Swallows of the Japanese Central League.

MINNESOTA TWINS—Agreed to terms with RHP Ricky Bones on a minor league contract. Named Randy Poppo strength and conditioning coach and Hector Otero Puerto Rico area scout.

OAKLAND ATHLETICS—Named Larry Davis head trainer and Stephen Sayles assistant trainer.

TEXAS RANGERS—Purchased the contract of RHP Jeff Zimmerman from ownership of the Northern League.

NATIONAL LEAGUE
ATLANTA BRAVES—Agreed to terms with LHP Pedro Borbon on a one-year contract.

MONTREAL EXPOS—Agreed to terms with OF Derek May on a minor league contract.

PITTSBURGH PIRATES—Purchased the contract of 1B David Kennedy from St. Paul of the Northern League and assigned him to Nashville of the PCL.

NFL PLAYOFFS

Divisional Playoffs
Saturday, Jan. 3
Pittsburgh 7, New England 6
San Francisco 38, Minnesota 22

Sunday, Jan. 4
Green Bay 21, Tampa Bay 7
Denver 14, Kansas City 10

Conference Championships
Sunday, Jan. 11
Denver at Pittsburgh, 12:30 p.m. (NBC)

NBA

Tuesday's Games
Phoenix 81, Indiana 80
Cleveland 100, Houston 70
L.A. Lakers 100, Vancouver 87
Chicago 90, Boston 79
Dallas 108, Denver 90
Utah 98, Philadelphia 95, OT
Seattle 102, Charlotte 81
Sacramento 105, L.A. Clippers 89

Today's Games
Boston at Washington, 6 p.m.
Orlando at Toronto, 6 p.m.
New Jersey at New York, 6:30 p.m.
Chicago at Miami, 7 p.m.
Phoenix at Minnesota, 7 p.m.

SPORTS BRIEFS

From staff and wire reports

Registration for youth league continues
The Big Spring YMCA is taking registrations for a its youth basketball league. The registration deadline was Dec. 6, but late registrations are being accepted with a \$5 additional fee.
No tryouts will be held for the league, which organizers say will have an emphasis on participation and fundamentals, not winning.
Practice began this week and the first games will be played on Saturday, Jan. 17.
For more information, call 267-8234.

Lady Steers Booster Club sets meeting
The Big Spring Lady Steers Booster Club will meet at 5:30 p.m. Thursday at the BSHS Athletic Training Center.
Anyone wanting to support the Lady Steers basketball, softball, track and volleyball programs, as well as the cheerleaders, trainers and managers, is urged to attend.
For additional information, contact Shirley Johnson at 267-1541 or Kelly McBeck at 393-5672.

USA Volleyball clinic scheduled
USA Volleyball, the West Texas Girl Scout Council and Nike will bring the Nike Volleyvan to Big Spring High School's Steer Gym on Saturday, Jan. 17.

to Big Spring High School's Steer Gym on Saturday, Jan. 17.
A clinic for girls in the fourth, fifth and sixth grades will be conducted to stress the importance of enjoying the game, as well as receiving basic skills work.
For more information, contact BSHS head volleyball coach Traci Pierce by calling 264-3641.

Umpires for high school baseball needed
The Permian Basin chapter of baseball umpires is seeking individuals interested in becoming high school baseball umpires.
An orientation meeting has been scheduled for 2 p.m. Saturday at the Bonham Junior High School library in Odessa.
Anyone with previous high school umpiring experience that has recently moved to the Permian Basin is urged to attend.
For more information, contact Denny Garcia at (915) 689-1518 or (915) 332-2555.

Local chapter needs softball umpires
The Permian Basin chapter of the Southwest Softball Umpires Association needs umpires to work high school softball games throughout West Texas, including the Big Spring area, this spring.
For more information, contact Mack Gipson at (915) 505-6671 or Freddie Ezell at (915) 520-6502.

Bad meets worse:
Mavericks knock off Nuggets
in battle of the losing streaks

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA ROUNDUP

There was so much going on in the NBA — the buildup to tonight's Bulls-Heat game, Shaquille O'Neal's return to the starting lineup and Charles Barkley's latest injury — that it would be easy to overlook the Denver-Dallas game.

But in terms of rarities, a team with a 15-game losing streak playing against one with a 13-game streak made it, oddly enough, one of the most compelling of the season.

"Any time you've lost as many as we had, and are playing a team worse than you, it's a must-win game," Dennis Scott said after the Mavericks outclassed (yes, even Dallas can outclass Denver) the Nuggets in a 108-90 victory.

It was the first win for the Mavericks since Dec. 4 — the night Don Nelson took over for the fired Jim Cleamons.

Dallas had lost 15 straight since then, but the Mavs hadn't had the good fortune of having the Nuggets on their schedule.

In other games, Chicago defeated Boston 90-79, the Los Angeles Lakers beat Vancouver 100-87, Cleveland crushed Houston 100-70, Seattle topped Charlotte 102-81, Utah edged Philadelphia 98-95 in overtime, Phoenix nipped Indiana 81-80 and Sacramento defeated the Los Angeles Clippers 105-89.

Scott scored 28 points, shot 5-for-8 from 3-point range and 11-for-15 overall. Michael Finley and Hubert Davis had 20 points each as Dallas surpassed 100 points for only the fifth time this season and kept the Nuggets winless in 17 road games.

The Mavericks also hit 50 percent of their field goal attempts, their best since last March 16, set a season-high for points and had their largest margin of victory.

"I can't express how we feel," said Mavericks forward Samaki Walker, who had 14 points and

"I think it was good that we criticized each other, got guys mad and got them playing harder. That was good for us," O'Neal said. "And that's what Rick did. He called some guys out."

Bobby Jackson scored 17 points and LaPhonso Ellis and Eric Washington added 15 each for the Nuggets, whose record fell to 2-29.

With seven more losses, the Nuggets would break the NBA record of 20 consecutive defeats in one season by the 1993-94 Mavericks. The overall record losing streak is 24 by Cleveland at the end of the 1981-82 season and the start of the 1982-83 season.

Bulls 90, Celtics 79

Dennis Rodman grabbed another 20 rebounds and Toni Kukoc scored nine of his 19 points during a decisive second-half run as Chicago won its 13th straight home game.

Next up for the Bulls is a game tonight at Miami, where coach Pat Riley has been carping about a double standard among referees who won't call fouls against "His Majesty Jordan."

"It's not just a game," Jordan said. "We're not going down there to lose."

Antoine Walker and Ron Mercer had 10 points apiece for the Celtics, who are 1-13 against Chicago since the start of the 1994-95 season.

Lakers 100, Grizzlies 87

At Vancouver, O'Neal had 25 points, 14 rebounds and five assists in his first start after missing 20 games because of an abdominal strain.

Los Angeles erased a nine-point halftime deficit by hitting 10 straight shots to open the third quarter and held the lead the rest of the way.

Rick Fox, who had 16 points and eight rebounds, berated his teammates at halftime for their poor play.

Cavaliers 100, Rockets 70

At Cleveland, Barkley was unable to play on an injured foot, and Houston lost by 30 — its most lopsided defeat of the season.

Barkley left the game with 3:27 remaining in the second quarter. X-rays on his right foot were negative, but the 11-time All-Star said the injury could be a stress fracture of the middle toe.

"I got hurt last night (at Toronto). I tried to play, but I couldn't," said Barkley, listed as day-to-day after going 1-for-5 with three points and four rebounds. "I'll have more tests (today) to know exactly what it is. Right now I can't play. I can't do anything."

Sonics 102, Hornets 81

At Seattle, Aaron Williams had a career-high 20 points, and Gary Payton added 18.

The Sonics won their sixth in a row and for the 12th time in 13 games to improve their NBA-best record to 27-6.

Vlade Divac scored a season-best 25 points and Glen Rice had 19 for Charlotte, which beat Seattle twice last season.

Jazz 98, 76ers 95

At Salt Lake City, Greg Ostertag blocked 11 shots and Karl Malone scored 21 points and hit four free throws in overtime.

Allen Iverson banked in a 3-pointer with 2.8 seconds left in regulation to tie the score at 88, capping a 21-5 run by Philadelphia in the final 9:40 of the fourth quarter.

Jeff Hornacek added 21 points, while John Stockton had 16 points and a season-high 14 assists.

LITKE

Continued from page 1B
another championship would really begin.
He was right. Whatever else one has diminished, it has not affected the Bulls' desire for revenge. Just as they dismantled the Celtics, beat the Heat, humiliated the Lakers and helped send the Hawks into a tailspin from which they have yet to recover. And Pippen, still at least two weeks from practicing full time, is no longer the only major star sidelined.

The Knicks' Patrick Ewing is lost for the season. Orlando's Penny Hardaway and Houston's Hakeem Olajuwon are still MIA. The Lakers' Shaquille O'Neal is gingerly making his way back. Everybody is trying to cope, but the Bulls have already made their adjustments.

Rodman, instead of being bored, is leading the league in rebounding and temptations resisted. Jordan, who started off shooting poorly and shot free throws even worse, is gradually rounding back into form. Toni Kukoc, Ron Harper and Luc Longley have made up only half of Pippen's 20 points-per-game average, but the Bulls have covered up for the lack of the others by giving up fewer to opponents.

Strangely enough, the person who clamors most for Pippen's return is assistant coach Tex Winter. He devised the triangle offense that has become famous during the Bulls' championship runs, and he winces watching others try to make it go — at least from a theoretical standpoint.

"Scottie was the guy who could handle the ball, see the possibilities and initiate so much," Winter said.

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WEDNESDAY

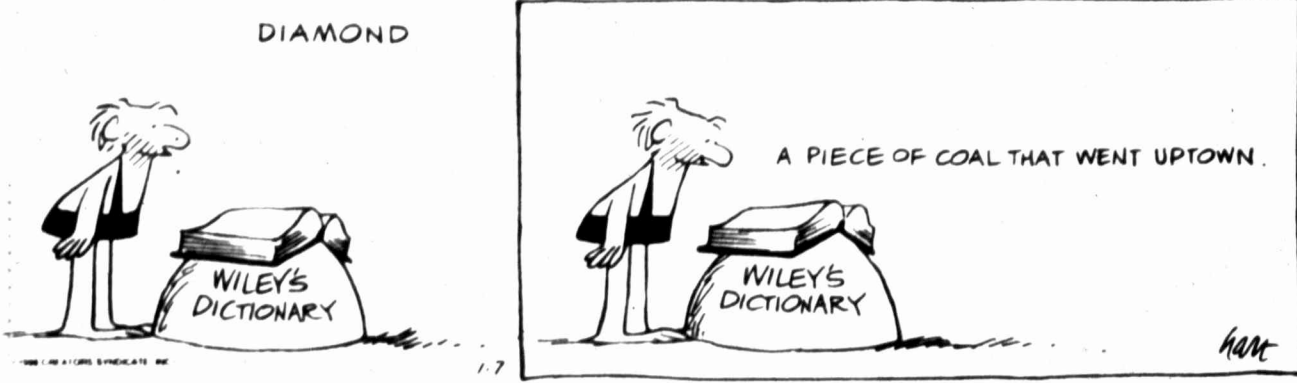
JAN. 7

Table with 24 columns (KMD, KPEJ, KERA, FAM, KOSA, WFAA, KWES, WTBS, UNI, DISH, NASH, TBC, SHOW, HBO, KMLM, AAE, DISC, TNT, FSN, ESPN, AMC, BET) and 7 rows of program listings.

HAGAR



B.C.



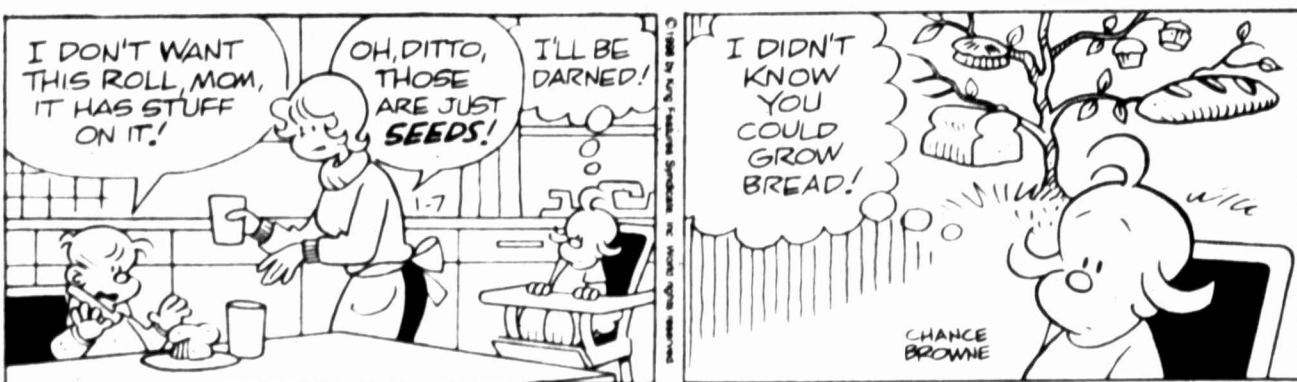
GEECH



WIZARD OF ID



HI AND LOIS



GASOLINE ALLEY



SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILY



BLONDIE



FAMILY CIRCUS



'Mommy said to tell you she's tryin' to sing us a lullaby.'

DENNIS THE MENACE



'Football's the best because neatness doesn't count.'

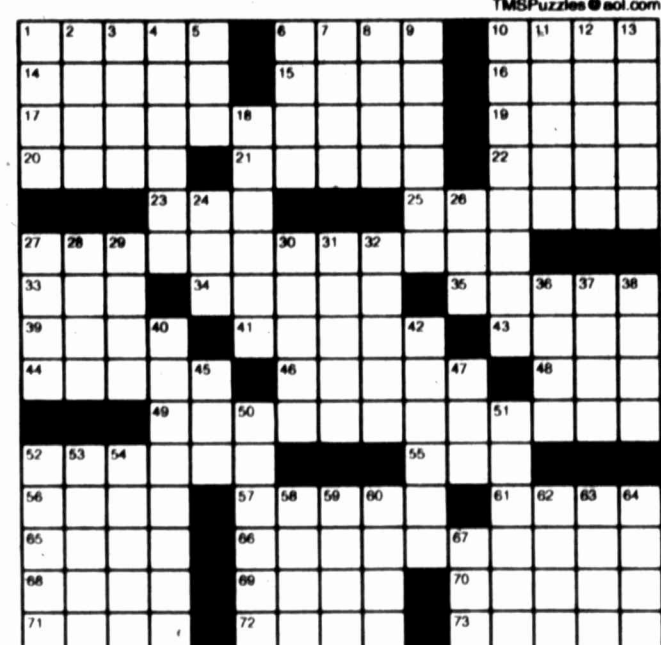
THIS DATE IN HISTORY

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

Today is Wednesday, Jan. 7.

THE Daily Crossword

- ACROSS
1 Put up with
6 Quasi-religious group
10 Seth's pop
14 Botherations
15 Gobi's continent
16 'Persistence of Memory' painter
17 Breathing room?
19 Shaped like a flat egg
20 'Gomer' USMC
21 Selling point
22 Hoarfrost
23 Math subj
25 Noted speaker
27 Weapon of mass destruction
33 Shemp's tormentor
34 Brown tint
35 Shepard and King
39 Algerian port
41 'Divine Poems' poet
43 Lamb's pen name
44 Passover meal
46 Has an opinion
48 Prefix for puncture
49 Hunting dog
52 Actress Mason
55 Marker
56 Classic saga
57 Guy with bread
61 Pairs
65 Pro
66 Emergency air supply
68 Italian treats
69 podrida
70 Ball attendee
71 Evaluation
72 Potential plant
73 Love-it



By Stanley B. Whitten Northbrook, IL

- DOWN
1 Resting on
2 Too squared off
3 Pastoral poem
4 Turned-down corner
5 Suffix for a language
6 'Memory' musical
7 Various functions
8 Queue
9 British military spectacle
10 Charming
11 Nautical crane
12 Crockett's Waterloo
13 Bannister or Coe, e.g.
18 Pestered
24 Alamos, NM
26 Sandhurst sch.
27 Healthcare grps.
28 Time long past
29 Unusable
30 Old-style poetry
31 San Fran griddler
32 Deadly poisons
33 Jai
37 French city
38 St. Paul, once
40 Informative TV
42 'The ___ Strikes Back'
45 Bleacher bleat
47 ___ Paulo, Brazil
50 Forbidden acts
51 Mace source
52 Deserve
53 Swiftly
54 Sacred acts
58 Wheel shaft
59 Auto racer
60 Mild oath
62 Room maker
63 Capital of Norway
64 Slant
67 Cagers' org.



Tuesday's Puzzle solved.
RABAT ATARI GYM
ELENA MODEM OGO
BALANCEBEAM EGO
ANTIGONE PEP SIS
SCENES WEBSITES
LIVID HATLE EXT
OVEN FALSE BATE
BIN COSTS CADRE
SCHWARTZ BUNYAN
AIMEE PARK
TENNIS LASTRADA
OLD LEVEL HEADED
ABE LEANS STALE
DAD ANTSY YEMEN

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the seventh day of 1998. There are 358 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Jan. 7, 1789, the first U.S. presidential election was held.

Americans voted for electors who a month later, chose George Washington to be the

nation's first president.

On this date: In 1610, the astronomer Galileo Galilei sighted four of Jupiter's moons.

In 1800, the 13th president of the United States, Millard Fillmore, was born in Summerhill, N.Y.

In 1894, one of the earliest motion picture experiments took place at the Thomas Edison studio in West Orange, N.J., as comedian Fred Ott was filmed sneezing.

In 1927, commercial transatlantic telephone service was inaugurated between New York and London.

In 1942, the World War II siege of Bataan began.

In 1953, President Truman announced in his State of the Union address that the United States had developed a hydrogen bomb.

In 1955, singer Marian Anderson made her debut with the Metropolitan Opera in New York, in Verdi's 'Un Ballo in Maschera.'

In 1959, the United States recognized Fidel Castro's new government in Cuba.

In 1972, Lewis F. Powell Jr. and William H. Rehnquist were sworn in as the 99th and 100th members of the Supreme Court.

In 1979, Vietnamese forces captured the Cambodian capital of Phnom Penh, overthrowing the Khmer Rouge government.

In 1989, Emperor Hirohito of Japan died at age 87; he was succeeded by Crown Prince Akihito.

Ten years ago: Secretary of State George P. Shultz, seeking to smooth a rift caused by a United Nations vote, told reporters that overall American support for Israel remained 'unshakable.'

British actor Trevor Howard died in England at age 71.

Five years ago: U.S. forces in Somalia unleashed tank, helicopter and rocket fire on two clan camps in Mogadishu where snipers had been taking potshots at the troops.

A preliminary report prepared for the European Community said Serb fighters may have raped about 20,000 women in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

One year ago: Newt Gingrich overcame dissension in GOP ranks to become the first Republican re-elected House speaker in 68 years.

Today's Birthdays: Author William Peter Blatty is 70. Country singer Jack Greene is 68. Pop musician Paul Revere is 56. Magazine publisher Jann Wenner is 52. Singer Kenny Loggins is 50. Singer-songwriter Marshall Chapman is 49. 'Today' show co-host Katie Couric is 41. Country singer-David Lee Murphy is 39.