

BIG SPRING HERALD

Reflecting A Proud Community

TUESDAY

January 13, 1998

50 cents

Howard County sales increase slightly

By **CARLTON JOHNSON**
Staff Writer

Second quarter 1997 sales from 721 business outlets in Howard County were \$150,619,646, or 1.3 percent more than the same period in 1996.

The data was collected by the State Comptroller's Office and was released its 1997 second quarter State Sales and Use Tax Analysis Report.

While total sales were up on a quarter-to-quarter basis, there were 138 less business outlets in 1997 than in 1996. During the second quarter of 1996, 859 outlets reported total gross sales of \$148,625,030.

Use tax purchases for Howard County in the second quarter of 1997 totaled \$570,485 and the total amount of second quarter sales subject to the State Sales and Use Tax was \$42,124,046.

Surrounding counties reporting second quarter sales in 1997 include:

Andrews with 393 outlets reporting sales of \$52,952,199; Borden with four outlets reporting sales of \$112,898; Dawson with 310 outlets reporting sales of \$48,608,184; Ector with 3,464 outlets reporting sales of \$822,396,842; Glasscock with 18 outlets reporting sales of \$1,875,538; Martin with 86 outlets reporting sales of

\$27,124,633; Midland with 3,490 outlets reporting sales of \$1,145,504,405; Mitchell with 187 outlets reporting sales of \$14,686,274; and Scurry with 415 outlets reporting sales of \$75,717,877.

Statewide, second quarter gross sales for 1997 totaling \$137,305,907,566 were reported by 360,316 outlets, which represents a 5.9 percent increase over second quarter sales from 1996 reported by 435,895 outlets totaling \$129,682,194,708.

In the retail trade division, Howard County had a total of 399 outlets report gross second quarter sales of \$66,796,276, or a 1.7 percent decrease over 1996.

Junior Livestock Show starts Wednesday

By **JOHN H. WALKER**
Managing Editor

A total of 178 youngsters will exhibit 328 animals this weekend as the annual Howard County Junior Livestock Show gets under way at 3 p.m. Wednesday.

The Howard County show is the second of the area shows, following Glasscock's last weekend and beginning a day ahead of shows in both Martin and Borden counties. Members of the Junior Livestock Association will begin setting up for the show tonight.

First animals scheduled to arrive will be barrows at 3 p.m.

Wednesday, followed by goats at 4. Lambs and steers are both scheduled for 8 a.m. arrivals on Thursday, followed by capons at 8 a.m. on Friday.

Barrows, capons and goats will be weighed and classified as they arrive, while lambs and steers will be weighed and classified from 3 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. Thursday.

The first animals to be shown in competition will be goats at 7 p.m. Wednesday, followed by barrows at 5 p.m. Thursday. Capons will be shown at 10 a.m. Friday, followed by lambs at 1 p.m. that same day. Steers will wrap up the show schedule at 8 a.m. Saturday.

The annual buyer's barbecue will be held beginning at 12:30 p.m. Saturday, followed by the awards program at 1:30 p.m. The premium auction will be held immediately following the awards program.

The premium auction allows businesses and individuals to show their support of the youngsters and their efforts by bidding on, but not taking possession of the animals. The animals are not sold as such, but remain in the possession of the youngsters so that they may be shown at other shows around the state.

See **SHOW**, Page 1

Old cornerstone returns home to courthouse

By **KATHY GILBERT**
Staff Writer

Like a prodigal child, Howard County's 1908 courthouse cornerstone has finally returned home. The stone moved about the county for nearly a half-century before a place was made for it adjacent to the present courthouse building last month.

"We're proud of the stone and we hope that people will come and visit it," County Commissioner Bill Crooker said. "We're glad to have a little bit of history preserved here at the courthouse."

In spite of its hefty weight of between 400 and 500 pounds, the cornerstone has moved around a fair amount in its 90-year history. Its journey began when the 1908 sandstone courthouse was demolished in the early 1950s. Somehow the cornerstone ended up in the county landfill.

John R. Wheeler, a Howard County employee at the time, was alerted by a landfill worker that the cornerstone (which included a Masonic inscription) was in a rubble pile and scheduled to be covered over with caliche. Wheeler, a devoted Mason rescued the stone and kept it until his death in 1955.

"We always intended to give it back, when a proper place could be found for it," Wheeler's son Bob, owner of Big Three Auto Salvage and a long-time Howard County resident, said.

Bob Wheeler, the stone's guardian for almost a half-century, expressed his pleasure in donating the monolith to the county. "We used to have a lot of people who came out to look at it. Now it'll be preserved and it's where people can look at it when they're at the courthouse; and if we ever have a historical tour in Howard County, it'll be easily accessible."

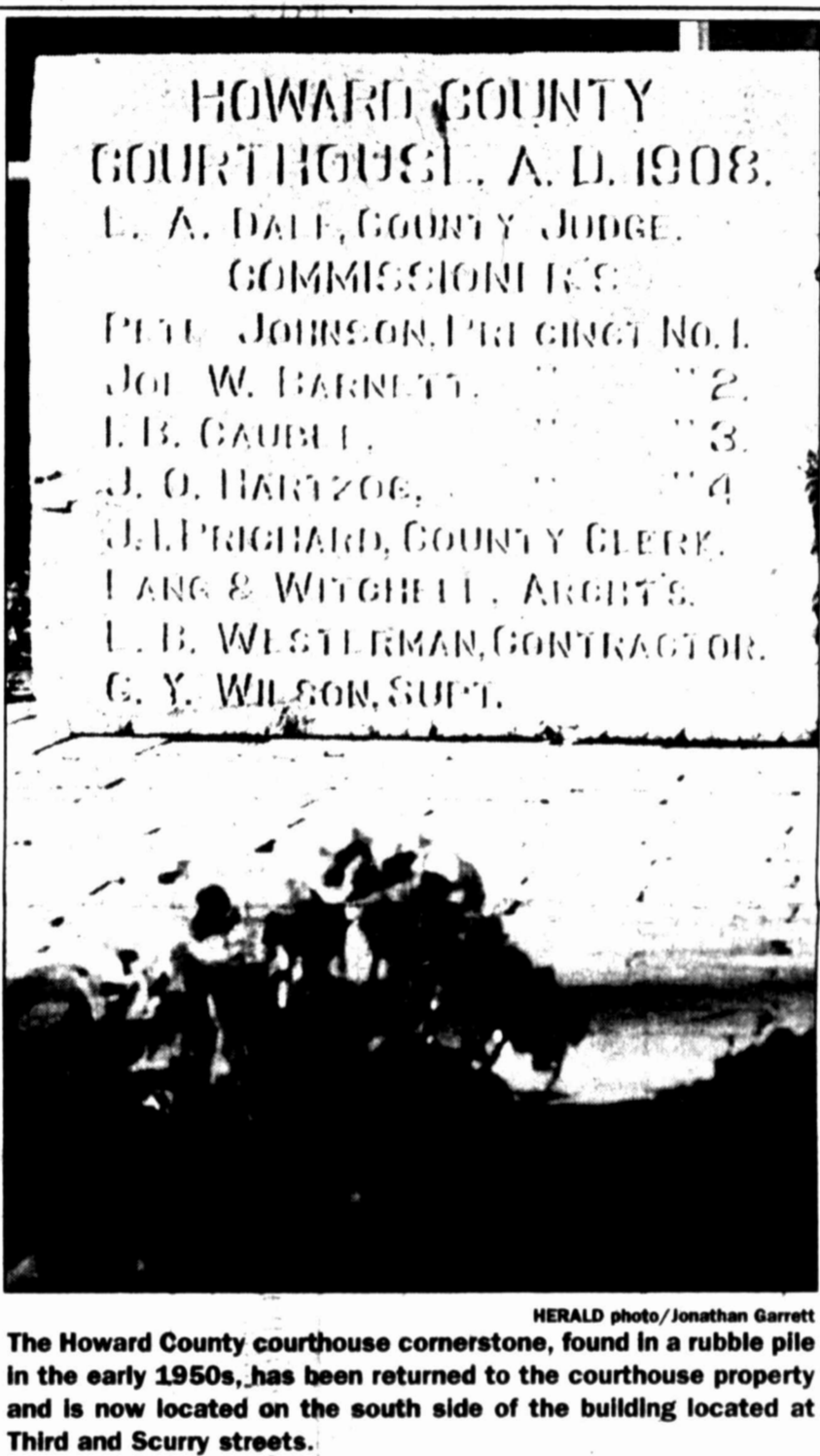
Bob Wheeler, a member of one Howard County's founding families and long-time Mason, worked with Flovella Thomas, Ozella Long, the late Polly Mays and other members of the Howard County Historical Commission to find an appropriate location for the stone.

"We talked about putting it in the museum, on the patio, but that didn't work out," Wheeler said.

The historical commission contacted Crooker, who suggested the courthouse.

"When I found out the corner

See **STONE**, Page 2



The Howard County courthouse cornerstone, found in a rubble pile in the early 1950s, has been returned to the courthouse property and is now located on the south side of the building located at Third and Scurry streets.

Frank pushes court to hold night meetings

By **CARLTON JOHNSON**
Staff Writer

After several unsuccessful attempts to get on the Howard County Commissioners' Court agenda, county employee Fredi Frank, also a candidate for the Precinct 4 commissioners' seat, finally got to appear before the court Monday.

Frank addressed commissioners on the issues of holding night meetings as well as access to the commissioners' agenda.

Frank recently approached Precinct 4 Commissioner Sonny Choate about bringing up the night meetings issue as a way to encourage more citizen participation in county government, according to Choate.

"We discussed this before," County Judge Ben Lockhart said. "I've been here eight years and I have not had a request for a night meeting."

"I don't see a need for it," Commissioner Jerry Kilgore said. "The cost is prohibitive. We would have to deal with overtime and it would take everyone we deal with on a daily basis to have a night meeting."

Choate was the only member

of the court to show some interest in the idea.

"That (referring to overtime) is not an insurmountable problem," Choate said. "I have about one request a month for a night meeting."

Frank told commissioners that she works in the basement of the courthouse and can't always get free to attend commissioners' court meetings which are at 10 a.m. on the second and fourth Mondays of each month.

"If the city can have night meetings, we should (be able to)," Frank said. "People should be able to have their voices heard." Most people can't get off work on Mondays.

Frank asked commissioners what it would take to convince them that people in Howard County want to be at commissioners' court meetings and want to be heard.

Lockhart said he's not totally opposed to night meetings, but he doesn't see a need for them on a regular basis.

"If an issue comes up and we need a night meeting, we will have one, but not as a regular item," he said.

See **COURT**, page 2

Stenholm in Big Spring to launch re-election bid

By **CARLTON JOHNSON**
Staff Writer

Twenty-year veteran Congressman Charles Stenholm, D-Stamford, was in Howard County today to announce his bid for an 11th term as representative of the 17th Congressional District, a position he has held since 1979.



STENHOLM

Stenholm stopped at the Cochoma Community Center at 10:30 a.m. and was at the Dora Roberts Community Center in Big Spring at 11:30 a.m. to speak to supporters.

Early indications are that the

race between the Stamford veteran and San Angelo dentist Rudy Izzard will be a heated one.

Izzard took Stenholm to the wire before losing in 1996 and hit the campaign trail early in 1997 as he again seeks to unseat Stenholm.

Last month, Stenholm challenged Izzard to run a campaign based on facts and issues.

"In the last campaign, Dr. Izzard misrepresented my voting record and played free and loose with the facts," Stenholm said. "I intend to hold Dr. Izzard to a higher standard during this campaign, and any efforts to mislead the public will not go unchallenged."

Also, Stenholm has called into question Izzard's failure to file required campaign finance

See **STENHOLM**, Page 2

CVB, TxDOT team up on tourist sign project

By **JOHN H. WALKER**
Managing Editor

Motorists driving around Big Spring — both visitors and local residents alike — will now have an easier time finding tourist attractions and facilities following the placement of a number of directional signs around town.

The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce's Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) and the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) worked together on the project, which is still under way.

"This was something we felt we had to do," explained former CVB chairman Mel Prather.

Prather said CVB felt it needed to get rid of all of the old, wood signs around town — most of which dated back to the mid-1970s when Webb Air Force Base was still operational.

"We wanted to do that

because of the maintenance and appearance," Prather explained, adding that a change in state law helped speed up the process.

"A new state law requires TxDOT to use breakaway posts, so TxDOT is concentrating on

At right, Johnny Moore (foreground) and Mel Prather look at a new directional sign erected for the Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT). Moore is the area supervisor for TxDOT and Prather is the former chairman of the CVB.

HERALD photo/Jonathan Garrett

getting the wood signs down," Prather said.

Big Spring TxDOT Area Supervisor Johnny Moore is

See **SIGNS**, Page 1



WEATHER

Tonight:



Wed:



Thurs:



Fri:



Tonight, mostly cloudy. Lows 35-45. Wednesday, partly to mostly cloudy. Highs 55-65. Wednesday night, partly cloudy. Lows in the 30s. Extended forecast, Thursday through Saturday, fair. Lows in the 30s. Highs in the 60s.

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Former police chief Cook vies for county judge position

By **CARLTON JOHNSON**
Staff Writer

Experience is a major reason Joe Cook thinks he has the right qualifications to serve as county judge.

Cook, a Republican, will face incumbent Ben Lockhart, who has switched to the Republican



COOK

and not against anyone in particular," Cook said. "I have no ax to grind, but one of the things I can bring to the office is the ability to fully represent the county as the position dictates."

Cook has been a resident of Howard County for 11 years and has a total of 22 years in criminal justice experience and formal education. Experience at the local, state and federal level is something Cook believes will help him during the campaign.

"I thought about running for county judge while I was police

party after being elected twice on the Democratic ticket, in the March 10 primary.

Cook served as Big Spring police chief for almost seven years and as an instructor and coordinator of Howard College's Criminal Justice Department for the last four years.

"I'm running for the position

See **COOK**, page 2

OBITUARIES

Van Dixon

Van Dixon, 22, Big Spring, died Friday, Jan. 9, 1998, in Ruidoso, N.M. Service will be 2 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 14, 1998, at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with Rev. Jess Colegrove, pastor of Birdwell Lane Baptist Church, and Rodney Tedford, minister of Christ, officiating. Additional services will be 2 p.m. Friday, Jan. 16, 1998, at Madden Funeral Home Ashdown Chapel, Ashdown, Ark. Interment will follow at Alleene Cemetery, Alleene, Ark.



DIXON

Van was born on April 10, 1975, in Baton Rouge, La., and married Kim Raczka on May 20, 1995, in Big Spring. He had lived most of his life in Big Spring and graduated from Big Spring High School in 1993.

He was a member of Birdwell Lane Church of Christ. Survivors include: his wife, Kim Dixon of Big Spring, his unborn daughter due in February; his parents, Gary and Joyce Dixon of Ashdown, Ark.; his maternal grandparents, Bee and Gladys Walker of Ashdown, Ark.; his paternal grandmother, Coral Jean Riddle of Centerville, Miss.; his niece, Evelyn Delana Dixon of Ashdown, Ark.; and his mother-in-law and father-in-law, Carol and Joe Raczka of Big Spring.

He was preceded in death by his sister, Shannon Dale Dixon in November 1994, and his grandfather, William Mitchell Riddle in April 1994.

Arrangements under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home.

Paid obituary

John W. Lackey
Service for John W. Lackey, 76, Big Spring, is pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home.

He died Tuesday, Jan. 13, 1998, in a local hospital.

John W. Lackey

Service for John W. Lackey, 76, Big Spring, is pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home.

STONE

Continued from page 1
stone was available I contacted Bill Wheeler and had a couple of visits with him," Crooker said. "And he agreed that bring-

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Nathaniel "Nat" Warren, 85, died Wednesday. Funeral services were 12:00 noon Tuesday at Mt. Bethel Baptist Church with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park. Willadeane Garrett died Monday. Services are pending in Amarillo, Texas.

NALLEY-PICKLE & WELCH

Funeral Home
Trinity Memorial Park and Crematory
906 Gregg St.
(915) 267-6331

Van Dixon, 22, died Friday. Services will be 2:00 PM Wednesday at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel. Additional services will be 2:00 PM Friday at Madden Funeral Home Ashdown Chapel in Ashdown, Arkansas. Interment will follow at Alleene Cemetery, Alleene, Arkansas.

John W. Lackey, 76, died Tuesday. Graveside services will be at 10:30 AM Thursday at O'Donnell Cemetery, O'Donnell, Texas.

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ing it to the courthouse would be the thing to do.

"We made a place on the south side of the courthouse when we put in our brick patio area," Crooker explained. "I felt that would be an excellent place to exhibit the cornerstone."

Cavan McMahon of McMahon Concrete helped move the unwieldy stone. It was loaded onto a four-wheel dolly, wheeled into position, and a makeshift crane lifted it and placed it onto the specially prepared brick footing on the south side of the courthouse.

"Being a commissioner and seeing the names of those commissioners and the county judge I had, one might say, an appreciation of what they did and the work they must have done in order to succeed in constructing a new courthouse," Crooker said. "And I'm also a history buff, I guess."

The historical commission has filed an application with the Texas Historical Commission to place a historical marker alongside the cornerstone. According to members of the commission, it takes several months to receive notification that a marker has been approved.

STENHOLM

Continued from page 1
reports with the Federal Election Commission (FEC).

"When first questioned about these delayed reports, Izzard maintained that he had received an extension but later admitted this was not true," Stenholm said. "Dr. Izzard's campaign literature says he spent \$192,082 in his first campaign, but the facts don't bear this up. In fact, his own FEC reports show that he actually spent \$311,201 in the 1996 campaign. Additionally, he doesn't discuss what his own party spent on his behalf."

Izzard told several Big Spring Republican supporters in December he believes Stenholm's influence has diminished and that experience is not as much a factor as one would think.

The 17th Congressional District stretches across 32 West Texas counties and is dominated by oil, gas, agriculture, military interests and small business.

Counties in the district include Borden, Brown, Callahan, Coke, Coleman, Comanche, Concho and Dawson.

Also, Eastland, Erath, Fisher, Haskell, Hood, Howard, Jack and Jones.

Also, Kent, Martin, Mitchell, Nolan, Palo Pinto, Runtells, Scurry and Shackelford.

Also, Somervell, Stephens, Stonewall, Taylor, Throckmorton, Tom Green (partial), Wise and Young.

SIGNS

Continued from page 1
coordinating the project from TxDOT's end and has been working with Prather and the CVB to get them up as quickly as possible.

Moore said TxDOT is purchasing materials for the signs from two local companies.

"Hwycom (pronounced hi-com) makes fiberglass posts and Universal Anchor Systems makes the footing and anchor systems to connect the posts," he said.

"We had a number of places without directional signs... places like the Dora Roberts Community Center, Amphitheatre and Historic Spring," Prather said, adding that he felt the addition of the signs helped with holiday events, such as the lights at the Historic Spring.

"We had documented traffic counts of more than 5,100 vehicles in six nights at the spring and it would have been hard for people from out-of-town or

out-of-state to find it, despite all of the publicity, without the signs," Prather said.

Prather said the CVB goal for the project is the placement of between 30 and 35 signs around town.

"Johnny Moore and I are going to ride around town and look at signs that need to come down and go from there," he said.

CVB budgeted up to \$30,000 for the project, but a major portion of the cost is now being borne by the state because of the new state law.

"We've been working with the state in trying to replace the old, outdated signs and I feel it would have been around \$15,000 for the signs and \$15,000 to install them had CVB had to do them all," Prather said.

Prather said that while the old signs gave many years of service to the community, the new brown signs with white lettering are more visible and easier to read for passing motorists.

COURT

Continued from page 1

Frank told commissioners she felt the current meeting schedule was for their convenience and not for the convenience of county residents.

"I have been commissioner for many years and I haven't had a request for night meetings," Commissioner Bill Crooker said. "We have the same problem with voting. People don't turn out."

"There would be a tremendous amount of inconvenience to have night meetings," Crooker added. "People aren't that interested, or we'd have a 50 percent to 60 percent voter turnout at elections."

Frank also challenged the idea of meeting on just one day to conduct county business.

"You can meet up to five days a week (by statute) to take care of county business," Frank said. "You're not limited to meeting just one day. With things being approved after one reading on one day, how do you know you're hearing what people have to say?"

Referring to the opportunity to be heard by the court, Frank told commissioners she was disturbed as to how a couple of incidents were handled involving the Volunteer Fire Department and the employees of the Road and Bridge Department.

With the exception of Choate, commissioners showed no interest in considering moving one of its two meetings per month to a night schedule.

Crooker drew fire from Frank when he suggested she was only addressing the court to draw publicity for herself and her bid for a seat on the court.

"I resent you saying that," Frank told Crooker.

Frank said her goal is to see that people can get on the commissioners' agenda with any issue they wish and that she wants to make sure taxpayers have their voices heard.

SHOW

Continued from page 1

Following this week's shows, major shows will be upcoming in Fort Worth, El Paso, San Antonio and Houston before winding up the last weekend in March in San Angelo at the San Angelo Stock Show and Rodeo.

Officials for this year's junior show include barrows superintendent Kirk Allen and judge Kenny Strube, capons superintendent Perry Gamble and judge Chris Koontz, lambs superintendent Mike Yeater and judge Miles Dabovich.

BIG SPRING AROUND THE TOWN

Texas Lottery

PICK 3: 9,4,1
CASH 5: 8,14,19,21,35

SHERIFF

The Howard County Sheriff's Office reported the following incidents between 10 a.m. Saturday and 8 a.m. Tuesday:

- JOHN JOSE PEREZ, 23, was arrested on Jan. 9 for burglary of vehicle, criminal mischief, and theft.
- JOHN BAKER FOWLER, 40, was arrested on Jan. 11 for assault, class A.
- ANDREW AGUILAR, 29, was arrested on Jan. 9 for driving while license suspended/invalid.
- LARRY DALE PAYNE, 35, was arrested on Jan. 11 for public intoxication.
- ROBERT MARVIN CARSON, 30, was arrested on Jan. 11 for criminal trespass.

POLICE

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following incidents between 10 a.m. Saturday and 8:00 a.m. Tuesday:

- MARIE BUSTAMANTE, 22, was arrested on local warrants.
- DAVID REBOLLER, 34, was arrested for theft of service.
- STEVEN BATEMAN, 18, was arrested for driving while under the influence.
- TREVAN BAXLEY, 25, was arrested for running a stop sign.
- ROBERT CARSON, 30, was arrested for criminal trespass.
- DAVID PERRIN, 36, was arrested for driving while under the influence.
- SANTIAGO MORALES was arrested for public intoxication.
- CHARMAYNE RUSHING, 34, was arrested for failure to identify.
- DISORDERLY CONDUCT reported in the 1300 block of Princeton, and the 400 block of Aylesford.
- BURGLARY OF A BUILDING reported in the 500 block of S. Gregg, and the 1400 block of Owens.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF reported in the 400 block of Young; the 400 block of E. 4th; and the 1500 block of Vines.
- ASSAULT reported in the 1700 block of Virginia.
- ASSAULT CLASS A reported in the 400 block of E. 4th.
- ASSAULT CLASS C reported

Junior Livestock schedule

Schedule for the annual Howard County Junior Livestock Show, Wednesday-Saturday:

- ARRIVALS
Barrows — 3 p.m., Wednesday
Goats — 4 p.m., Wednesday
Lambs — 8 a.m., Thursday
Stears — 8 a.m., Thursday
Capons — 8 a.m., Friday

- SHOW:
Goats — 7 p.m., Wednesday
Barrows — 5 p.m., Thursday
Capons — 10 a.m., Friday
Lambs — 1 p.m., Friday
Stears — 8 a.m., Saturday

BUYER'S BARBECUE:
12:30 p.m. Saturday

AWARDS/SALE:
Awards at 1:30 p.m. Saturday with premium auction to follow.

COOK

Continued from page 1

well as after the election," Cook added. "I like to try to find out what the problems are and do my part to solve them. Having been at Howard College, I think I have a better perception of what due process, fairness and consistency is all about."

One of the issues brought before the commissioners' court on more than one occasion is the idea of having one evening or night meeting to allow citizens more access to the court.

"This is not an easy question, but I believe in access," Cook said. "As county judge, I would try my best to make the court accessible to those who want it. People may not always call you with a problem, but they will tell you what they think face to face."

Cook is also concerned about county roads.

"I was raised in the country so I understand how vital roads are to rural residents and rural business people," Cook said. "I don't intend to be a judge who sits in the office all the time. Sometime you have to go out and look things over. As judge, I would be able to assist commissioners and the county road administrator in this area."

On the county jail, Cook said he wished there was a magic bullet to take care of that problem.

The easy way out is to build a new jail, but that requires permission from the citizens as well as tax dollars, according to Cook.

"I came here 11 years ago and did not know the problems of the community, so I rolled up my sleeves and went out and talked to people," Cook said. "That's how I would approach problems as county judge."

"I would truly like to be county judge because the people of the community have been super to me in the time I've been here," Cook added.

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Iraq

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Nation health tops \$

WASHINGTON spending for growing at t nearly four t insurance c to pick up st ument say

Although ical costs to 1996 for the spending we cent from 1: smallest in Health and Department track of pu spending on aspirin to op 1960.

American s care average in 1996, and percent shar booming eco ment said in released Mon

Low inflati managed car ment spendi contributed sion of the m: bills after growth of 11 out the '80s, t

But will the Double-digi expected bac said Kathari tor of HHS's Statistics Gro

But "the things should and at the sar side ... should said Levit.

Private-sec: accounts for American he and in 1996, a it, or \$37.3 b health insura Insurance \$292.3 billion up 3.4 perce ance premium cent, to \$33 other out-of-f by consume insurance de payments — percent to 17

"That is employers v plans that pr rate of health es" through n Levit. Many insur promises are ward position have been squ — a trend ma must lead to if it continues

Meanwhile, spending rest Congress — the balanced expected to growth of go care bills ov years.

Medicare's citizens' heal 8.1 percent to 1996, compare increase in 19

The strong t helped reduce low-income A for Medicaid. expenditures grew by just 5 the smallest ever, to \$147.7

Overall, alm America's he bought perso services and s Doctors and ting a smaller however — 54 compared to 1990.

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Iraq prevents American-led weapons inspectors from working

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Iraq today made good on its threat and prevented an American-led weapons inspection team from doing its work, defying the United Nations once again.

Iraqi authorities said Monday they would bar access to the team led by Scott Ritter, saying it included too many Americans and Britons and was prolonging the U.N. arms inspection program.

Three carloads of other inspectors left the headquarters of the U.N. Special Commission to visit sites. Afterwards, U.N. spokesman Allan Dacey told The Associated Press those inspections went smoothly.

The Iraqis did not provide Ritter and his team with escorts, which are needed to get past security guards at suspected weapons sites.

"We will report this to the executive chairman in New York," Ritter said, referring to commission chief Richard Butler, who is due in Baghdad next week.

Ritter said the refusal to provide escorts amounted to "a failure of Iraq to comply with its obligation to carry out the provisions of Security Council resolutions."

The inspectors are trying to verify that Iraq has destroyed its weapons of mass destruc-

tion, a condition that must be met before the United Nations will lift trade sanctions imposed on Iraq after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

The Iraqi action set the stage for a repeat of last October's confrontation, when the government prevented Americans from taking part in inspections, accusing the Americans — and Ritter in particular — of being spies.

An Iraqi newspaper Babil, owned by the eldest son of President Saddam Hussein, Odai, blasted Ritter's team today, saying its "domination by Americans" showed a bid by the United States to "injure the

dignity of Iraq and humiliate it."

Iraq says Ritter's team includes nine Americans, five Britons, a Russian and an Australian.

As in the earlier crisis, Iraq said other inspectors would be allowed to continue work. In October, U.N. officials insisted Iraq could not dictate who would make inspections and withdrew all inspectors.

That led to a three-week halt in the search for weapons of mass destruction and a U.S. military buildup in the Persian Gulf.

Ritter, a 36-year-old former Marine captain, heads so-called

concealment investigations that often target sensitive sites such as Saddam's palaces, which were at the center of last fall's controversy.

Iraq's declaration brought immediate response from U.N. and American officials who said the inspection program would not be altered because of the Iraqi threat.

Defense Secretary William Cohen said in Malaysia that the United States would continue to pursue diplomatic initiatives and had no plans to send more troops. "We have a very robust presence there," he said.

France today also objected, with Foreign Ministry

spokesman Yves Doutriaux calling on "Iraqi authorities to reconsider their decision."

Bill Richardson, the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, said the Iraqi move would be discussed by the Security Council on Thursday.

"I can tell you, patience is running out in a lot of Security Council capitals," Richardson said today on ABC's "Good Morning America."

The Iraqi statement saying the composition of Ritter's team should be changed, carried by the official Iraqi News Agency, came after the team reportedly visited a hospital and a prison in Baghdad.

National health spending tops \$1 trillion

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. spending for health care is growing at the slowest pace in nearly four decades but private insurance costs may be about to pick up steam again, the government says.

Although the nation's medical costs topped \$1 trillion in 1996 for the first time, total spending was up just 4.4 percent from 1995. That was the smallest increase since the Health and Human Services Department started keeping track of public and private spending on everything from aspirin to open-heart surgery in 1960.

American spending on health care averaged \$3,759 per person in 1996, and held a steady 13.6 percent share of the nation's booming economy, the department said in an annual report released Monday.

Low inflation, more people in managed care, and new government spending curbs all have contributed to slower expansion of the nation's health care bills after average yearly growth of 11 percent throughout the '80s, the report said.

But will the good news last? Double-digit increases aren't expected back any time soon, said Katharine R. Levit, director of HHS's National Health Statistics Group.

But "the private side of things should be reaccelerating and at the same time the public side ... should be decelerating," said Levit.

Private-sector spending accounts for 53.3 percent of all American health care dollars, and in 1996, about two-thirds of it, or \$337.3 billion went to pay health insurance premiums.

Insurance companies paid \$292.3 billion in medical bills, up 3.4 percent. Health insurance premiums grew by 3.2 percent, to \$337.3 billion. And other out-of-pocket costs paid by consumers — including insurance deductibles and co-payments — grew by only 2.7 percent to \$171.2 billion.

"That is largely due to employers who sought out plans that promised to slow the rate of health care cost increases" through managed care, said Levit.

Many insurers who made the promises are now in an awkward position. "Their profits have been squeezed," said Levit — a trend many analysts agree must lead to higher premiums if it continues.

Meanwhile, low inflation and spending restraints enacted by Congress — most recently in the balanced budget act — are expected to moderate the growth of government health care bills over the next few years.

Medicare's budget for senior citizens' health care increased 8.1 percent to \$203.1 billion in 1996, compared to a 10.6 percent increase in 1995.

The strong economy also has helped reduce the numbers of low-income Americans eligible for Medicaid. Federal and state expenditures for the program grew by just 5.3 percent in 1996, the smallest percentage jump ever, to \$147.7 billion.

Overall, almost 88 percent of America's health care dollars bought personal health care services and supplies in 1996.

Doctors and hospitals are getting a smaller share of the pie, however — 54.1 percent in 1996 compared to 57.6 percent in 1990.

Tobacco trial having little impact on Wall Street

DALLAS (AP) — Talk of a settlement between the state of Texas and the tobacco industry is having little impact on the stock market, primarily because Wall Street is already expecting a national deal, analysts say.

"Everybody's sights are set on the national settlement. Settlements in Texas will be viewed in light of what they mean to the national settlement," said Marc Cohen, an analyst with Goldman Sachs.

Philip Morris Companies had the best showing at Monday's close, trading at 46 3/8 on the

NYSE, up 1 3/8.

B.A.T. Industries, the parent company of Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corp. and American Tobacco Co. Inc., and Brooke Group, parent to Liggett Group Inc., were both down slightly.

Most movement was considered relatively minor, analysts said.

"The bigger move will be when the national settlement might occur," said Martin Feldman with Smith Barney.

The national pact, which requires congressional approval, would eliminate most

pending class-action lawsuits against Big Tobacco and give the industry some protection from future lawsuits in exchange for \$368.5 billion and new restrictions on nicotine and cigarette marketing. The states would split the money over the next 25 years, divided according to each state's share of Medicaid expenditures.

But until Congress decides whether to approve the national pact, the states are continuing their own battles with the tobacco industry.

The fight between the Lone Star State and Big Tobacco is

mostly over, sources say. According to insiders, a settlement is likely to be announced Tuesday, a day before jury selection is scheduled to begin in U.S. District Court at Texarkana.

Texas has sued eight tobacco companies and three trade groups for about a total of \$14 billion in reimbursement and damages involving Medicaid funds spent on smoking-related illnesses.

The settlement is likely to be between \$14 billion and \$15 billion, paid over 25 years, sources say. The tobacco industry also

would fund new anti-smoking programs under the deal.

The deal, which would cost the tobacco industry about the same as its combined payout to Florida and Mississippi, is more than the \$13 billion that Texas would get under the national deal.

"The reality is that settlements that are within a few hundred million of what the states would get under the national settlement would not be viewed out of line," Cohen said.

In all, 40 states have sued the tobacco industry.

Testimony gets under way in Mowbray murder retrial

BROWNSVILLE (AP) — Implying jurors to "join us in the journey for the truth and for justice," prosecutors have begun presenting evidence in the retrial of a woman accused of killing her husband a decade ago.

Susie Mowbray, 49, went back on trial Monday in the Sept. 16, 1987, death of her husband, Bill Mowbray, a Brownsville Cadillac dealer.

Mrs. Mowbray was convicted in 1988 of shooting her husband

in his sleep for \$1.8 million in life insurance money.

After serving nine years of a life sentence, she was released from prison last year when an appeals court ruled prosecutors suppressed blood evidence contradicting their homicide theory.

Mrs. Mowbray has insisted all along that her husband killed himself because of emotional and financial troubles.

As the second trial got under way, prosecutors disputed that

story, calling Mrs. Mowbray a liar who has changed her version of what happened the night her husband died.

"You're going to learn that when Susie Mowbray talks about what happened on Sept. 16, 1987 ... that she tells lies," Cameron County Assistant District Attorney Bill Hagen told jurors in his opening statement.

"There were only two people in that room when the shot was fired: Bill Mowbray and the

defendant ... Bill did not fire that gun," Hagen said.

But defense attorney Jim Shaw described Bill Mowbray as a man who "was totally at the end of his rope" because of financial troubles at his car dealership and an IRS investigation.

"Their finances were abysmal," Shaw told the jury. "He took his own life."

The trial resumes this morning with testimony from Cameron County Deputy

Constable Johnny Cavazos, one of the first investigators on the scene the night Mowbray died.

Cavazos testified Monday that he arrived at the Mowbrays' Los Fresnos home at about 2:45 a.m. Mrs. Mowbray, dressed in a nightgown and slippers, was waiting outside with a cigarette in one hand and a glass in the other, he said. She gestured toward the house.

Cavazos said he found Mowbray in the couple's bedroom, "moaning and gurgling."

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JAN 13 1998

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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OUR VIEW

High-flying HC teams back home

Howard College's Hawks and Lady return home to the friendly confines of Dorothy Garrett Coliseum on Thursday night in the first home game of 1998. It will also be the first home conference game of the season for both teams.

By the time the Lady Hawks take to the floor, Coach Matt Corkery's squad could well be the No. 1-ranked team in America — and if not the top-ranked team, at least one of the top four.

The Lady Hawks have recorded wins over then-No. 4 Weatherford College at Dorothy Garrett in December and over then-No. 3 Central Arizona 10 days ago in a tournament in Scottsdale, Arizona.

The Lady Hawks will face a Western Texas College team they have already beaten once this year, in the season opener for both teams. While it was clear at that point that Howard was the clearly superior team, there is a danger in playing an opponent two or three or even four times in a season.

But we don't feel that Corkery's team is one of those squads that is lulled to sleep simply because of an easy win earlier in the season. This is a team that has talent and depth at every position. It is a team that mixes the wily cunning of its sophomores with the unafraid brashness of a talented freshman class.

It is, we believe, a team to be reckoned with.

For the Hawks, the season has not been as kind. While pre-season legal problems decimated Coach Tommy Collins' starting line-up, the Hawks have continued to battle what is obviously an uphill battle.

There have been both close wins and close losses, both at home and on the road as the team seeks to find itself.

On Thursday, the Hawks face the challenge of New Mexico Military Academy in what promises to be a physical game — as most contests with NMMA are.

Both the Hawks and Lady Hawks are now in their second season, so to speak. For the Lady Hawks, it's more of a keep on keeping on approach while, for the Hawks, it's the job of looking straight ahead and keeping your eyes on the basket.

We encourage you to welcome both the Lady Hawks and Hawks back home on Thursday by packing Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

No, there's no championship at stake at this point in the season, but the fact that our home town teams are back and ready to take the court should be special enough to get you out to the coliseum for the game.

We hope to see you there!

OTHER VIEWS

The Super Bowl — this one is XXXII — is more than just America's annual reintroduction to the joys of Roman numerals.

It will mark the official end of the 1997 Sporting Year, and families will reunite, at least until the 1998 Sporting Year kicks off with the Daytona 500, NCAA Final Four and the Augusta Masters.

The Jan. 25 meeting of the Denver Broncos and the Green Bay Packers will be one of those one day Myths of the Moment we love so much.

The story line here, as the TV hypners would have it, is the quarterback everybody loves facing the team everybody loves.

For John Elway, 37, a talented and durable survivor of the Class of '83, the greatest draft of quarterbacks to come into pro football, the Super Bowl may be his Last Hurray, or Last Hail Mary.

For a technologically savvy people, we secretly suspect the existence of jinxes, and maybe the Broncos are jinxed. They have appeared in four Super Bowls, three with Elway, and lost badly each time.

After a 1990 shellacking, disconsolate Bronco graffitiists rewrote Colorado road signs to read, "Speed Limit 55, Broncos 10."

These Broncos labor under a double jinx.

The AFC has lost the last 13 Super Bowls, and the odds

makers say it will again, by two touchdowns.

The defending champion is the Green Bay Packers, the beloved underdog regardless of what the bookies think, a small-market, community-owned team that plays outdoors in bad weather on real grass, and whose name, taken from its original meat packer sponsor, is redolent of pro football's rough, blue collar origins.

What's not to like about a team whose quarterback, Brett Favre, breathes fresh life into the cliché, Reckless Abandon, and whose fans, the Cheeseheads, wear headgear of foam rubber Cheddar?

No matter that the Packers, and the Broncos, are part of a huge business empire about to sign a TV deal that could reach \$15 billion over eight years.

Or that Super Bowl Sunday is an immense commercial bonanza, the Great Unveiling of new products, when sponsors vie to see who can produce the gaudiest, most lavish commercials.

Super Bowl Sunday is many things. One of them is a ball game, seldom the best of the year.

But maybe this year it will be, and even if it isn't, this hugely popular American ritual is going to last a long, long time.

Dale McFeatters
Scripps Howard

Memories can be set in concrete, it seems

By SHARON RANDALL
Scripps Howard

The birdbath was here when we bought the place some 20 years ago. Its bowl was green with algae, its base was sunken into the ground as if it had sat there a very long time, perhaps even since 1913, the year the house was built.

I liked thinking about it. I especially liked thinking about the people who'd put it there — all the families before mine who'd called this house their home, who'd welcomed friends through its door, baked bread in its kitchen, nursed babies in its bedrooms, pulled weeds in its garden — long before my husband and I were even born.

What were their lives like, those people? Were they happy? Were they in love? Did they delight in their children? Who planted the azaleas? What kind of birds bathed

here then? Strange how a birdbath can raise so many questions and offer so few answers.

We often talked about replacing it, but somehow it seemed there were always bigger fish to fry.

So the birdbath remained, standing guard like a sentry, filled with rainwater in winter, sprinkler water in summer, or when the kids got creative, mud.

Then one day I read that birdbaths need to be cleaned regularly lest they become breeding grounds for bacteria that could wipe out every bird on the block.

"Hmm," I thought. "Maybe I'll just make it a planter." I filled it with daffodils in spring.

Marigolds in fall. Stiff dead stalks in winter. Actually, stiff dead stalks were my specialty.

But once in a while, I'd get lucky and the birdbath would

bloom like a fountain.

It was really something to see. Or it was until last week when I broke it. Never mind how. Suffice it to say my life often seems like a scene from "I Love Lucy."

If I had a friend named Ethel I'd be dangerous.

The worst part was having to face Ricky.

"What?" said my husband. "I broke the birdbath."

"You broke it?"

"It was an accident."

"You broke it?"

"And it can't be fixed."

"Don't be silly," he said. Then he saw the pile of birdbath rubble and headed off to find a new one.

I told him he should try to think of it as an adventure; he told me I should try not to break the next one.

Soon he found a birdbath that met his high standards (sturdy and cheap), dragged it home and filled the base with wet cement to make it harder

for me to tip over, he said.

Before it dried, he carved an inscription in the base and summoned me to come see.

It looks just like the old one except, of course, it's new.

And not broken yet.

And it will make a fine birdbath or planter or whatever.

One day, years from now, after we are gone and another family has taken our place, someone may tip it over and read the inscription, four initials carved in a heart.

If they know nothing else about us — we, who raised three children in this house and witnessed many wonders within its good, strong walls — they will, at least, know this: Once, long ago, in 1992, R.R. loved S.R. enough to write it in wet cement.

I hope they'll like thinking about that.

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

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A bibliophile comes out of the closet

By BILL MAXWELL
St. Petersburg Times

SOUTH HILL, Va. — During my recent travels to southern Virginia, I realized anew that, as surely as some people are addicted to drugs, I am hooked on books.

Indeed, I am a bibliophile, a lover of books. My bibliophilia has driven me to strange places, introduced me to interesting people and forced me to commit acts that might call my sanity into question. I am also a bibliomaniac, one preoccupied with collecting books.

If I had enough money, I would become a bibliophile, a dealer of rare and curious books. Alas, my journalist's salary will not let me become a bibliophile. Just the other day, I considered buying an autographed copy of Truman Capote's "In Cold Blood". I left this gem on the shelf because it would have set me back more than a month's rent.

Of course, I am a bookworm, a person devoted to reading and study. One of the world's best-known bookworms was author Katherine Mansfield. In 1922, while battling tuberculosis, she described her loneliness in terms of reading, expressing an ambivalence about the urge to read and her desire for human companionship. "Should I be happy with anyone at my side? No. I'd begin to talk, and it's far nicer

not to talk." "No one should take reading for granted, for it is a complex process. Listen to Laura Furman and Elinore Standard, editors of the book "Bookworms," describe book lovers and their obsession:

"For the true bookworm it is sometimes hard to distinguish between what one has experienced and what one has read. We know that this is odd and even a little demented... We are uneasy in a void with no book."

"Reading is a socially accepted form of hallucination. Through words we react to the ideas, memories and fantasies of people we'll never meet, whom we believe we know."

Reading, moreover, is powerful and inscrutable, so much so that dictators commit unspeakable crimes against writers (remember Russia's Alexander Solzhenitsyn, who was exiled for his books depicting life in the Soviet Union?); powerful enough to cause seemingly normal Americans to ban books from public schools and libraries.

My love of books also reconnects me with my past. In Exmore, on Virginia's Eastern Shore, the South Star Flea Market, a barn-like hulk that seemed vaguely familiar, caught my attention. There, among farm implements, cobwebs and military gear, I found Cynthia Pearl Maus' 1947 book

"The World's Great Madonnas," one of the most beautiful books I have ever seen.

Thumbing through it, I became certain that I had been in this building before. More than 30 years ago, it had been a packing house where, as a child farm worker, I had graded potatoes, where, during breaks, I had found quiet places in this drafty structure to read Richard Wright, Ring Lardner and John Steinbeck. The current owner, Tom Carrick, confirmed that the building had been a packing facility.

My best find was Noah Webster's "The Elementary Spelling Book," written in 1886. My schoolmates and I had used this text, dog-eared discsards from the white school, during the 1950s in Crescent City.

Jerrie Emory, the owner of Our House, saw my delight and told me that other books were beneath a table in back. "If you feel like crawling around and digging out the books, you're welcome to do it," she said.

For nearly an hour, I crawled on the floor, unstaked and restacked old volumes. Leaving Our House, I could barely wait to read Noel Sainsbury Jr.'s "Cracker Stanton." This 1934 novel about a young Georgia Cracker baseball player gave me a candid view of the enduring significance of class distinction among poor whites.

LETTER-TO-THE-EDITOR POLICY

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- We do not acknowledge receipt of letters.
• Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721.



Mallard Fillmore
by
BRUCE TINSLEY

MY PROFESSORS TALKED INCESSANTLY ABOUT "MCCARTHYISM," AN ERA WHEN DEMAGOGUES REPLACED DEBATE...
...WITH THE FEAR OF BEING ON THE "WRONG SIDE" OF AN ISSUE.
MUST BE WHERE THE IDEA FOR PLAYING THE RACE CARD CAME FROM...

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By JOHN Sports E

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SPORTS

Big Spring Herald
TUESDAY, JAN. 13, 1998

SCOREBOARD

College Basketball
Purdue at Illinois, 6:30 p.m., ESPN, Ch. 30
 Baylor at Texas Tech, 7 p.m., FXS, Ch. 29
 South Carolina at Kentucky, 8:30 p.m., ESPN, Ch. 30

High School Basketball
Big Spring at Sweetwater, VG-VB, 6 p.m.; Coahoma at Roscoe, VG-VB, 6:30 p.m.; Winters at Forsan, VG-VB, 6:30 p.m.; Irwin at Stanton, VG-VB, 6:30 p.m.; Sands at Garden City, VG-VB, 7 p.m.; Grady at New Home, VG-VB, 7 p.m.

Got a story idea or a sports news tip?

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5

Steers, Lady Steers face tough road tests at Sweetwater tonight

By JOHN A. MOSELEY
Sports Editor

While Big Spring's Lady Steers have opened District 4-4A in just the manner most expected — with wins over San Angelo Lake View and Fort Stockton — tonight's first league road game in Sweetwater begins what coach Ron Taylor says is a pivotal week.

Tonight also marks the start of 4-4A boys' play with Gary Tipton looking for a big turnaround from his Steers.

Girls' action is slated for a 6 p.m. start with the boys' game set for a 7:30 tip.

"We've got Sweetwater on the road, then come back home with Andrews coming in here Friday ... and those two

are going to go a long way to determining who the team to beat in this district really is," Taylor noted.

The Lady Steers at 12-7 on the year and 2-0 in district play are tied atop the early district standings with Andrews in their bid for a seventh consecutive 4-4A championship, but Sweetwater is just a game back at 1-1 in district play.

While Taylor admitted it was somewhat of a surprise that Andrews beat the Lady Mustangs as badly as they did last week, there's plenty of reason for the Lady Steers to take Sweetwater seriously.

"I think most everyone thought they (Lady Mustangs) would probably give us the toughest challenge for the district championship," Taylor explained.

"They've got all their starters back from a team that went to the playoffs last year, as well as their best reserves from last year. And playing them in their gym isn't going to make it any easier. We've got our work cut out for us."

Plagued by injuries and the decision by three players to leave the team — the most recent by Travis Womack — the Steers will try to forget a miserable 3-16 start as they step onto the home court of perhaps the district's most talented team.

However, Tipton maintains those first 19 games have no bearing on what his team will attempt to accomplish in the next five weeks.

"As of right now, we're 0-0 and so is

everyone else in the district," Tipton explained. "We're going to play 10 games in district and we're going to base this team on those 10 games ... just like every other team I've had here."

Tipton says Womack's decision not to play the remainder of the schedule adds pressure on seniors Greg Wollenzien, a 6-foot-4 post, and Justin Myers, a 6-2 forward, to provide the leadership necessary for the Steers to make a run for the playoffs.

"Justin and Greg started on a team that got into the playoffs last year and on another one their sophomore year when they got beat in a one-game play-off to see who advanced to bi-district," Tipton said. "They know what a dis-

trict race is all about and they're going to have to step forward and give us senior leadership. I believe they will."

Sweetwater comes into tonight's game with a 10-8 record. Led by senior forwards Derrick Franklin and Brett Bishop, both of whom played on the Mustangs' 25-12 team that reached the Class 4A state tournament a year ago and have produced 60 percent of the team's total offense this year.

The Mustangs struggled early in the season, primarily the result of having to wait for a number of key players to finish Sweetwater's lengthy run in the football playoffs.

Since the Christmas break, however, the Mustangs are 6-1 and building momentum.

Howard teams take WJCAC openers

Lady Hawks, now at No. 4, big winners

By JOHN H. WALKER
Managing Editor

ODESSA — It took a while for Howard College's Lady Hawks to get going, but when the nation's No. 4 team finally kicked it into gear, it was all over in a hurry for the Odessa College Lady Wranglers.

Howard (17-0, 1-0 in WJCAC) went on a 19-0 run to break open a three-point game en route to a 91-37 drubbing of the hapless Lady Wranglers (7-7, 0-1). The Lady Hawks now return home to face Western Texas Thursday night.

The Lady Hawks got balanced scoring as nine players scored, including five in double figures. Howard's defense also forced 39 Odessa turnovers that led to 27 points.

It was an effort that left head coach Matt Corkery smiling.

"We like to play aggressive defense and Odessa likes to put the ball on the floor and try to penetrate ... we just stayed after them and kept doing what we like to do," he said.

Shawnta Johnson led all scorers with 25 points for Howard, but it was a trio of freshmen who worked over Odessa's defenses.

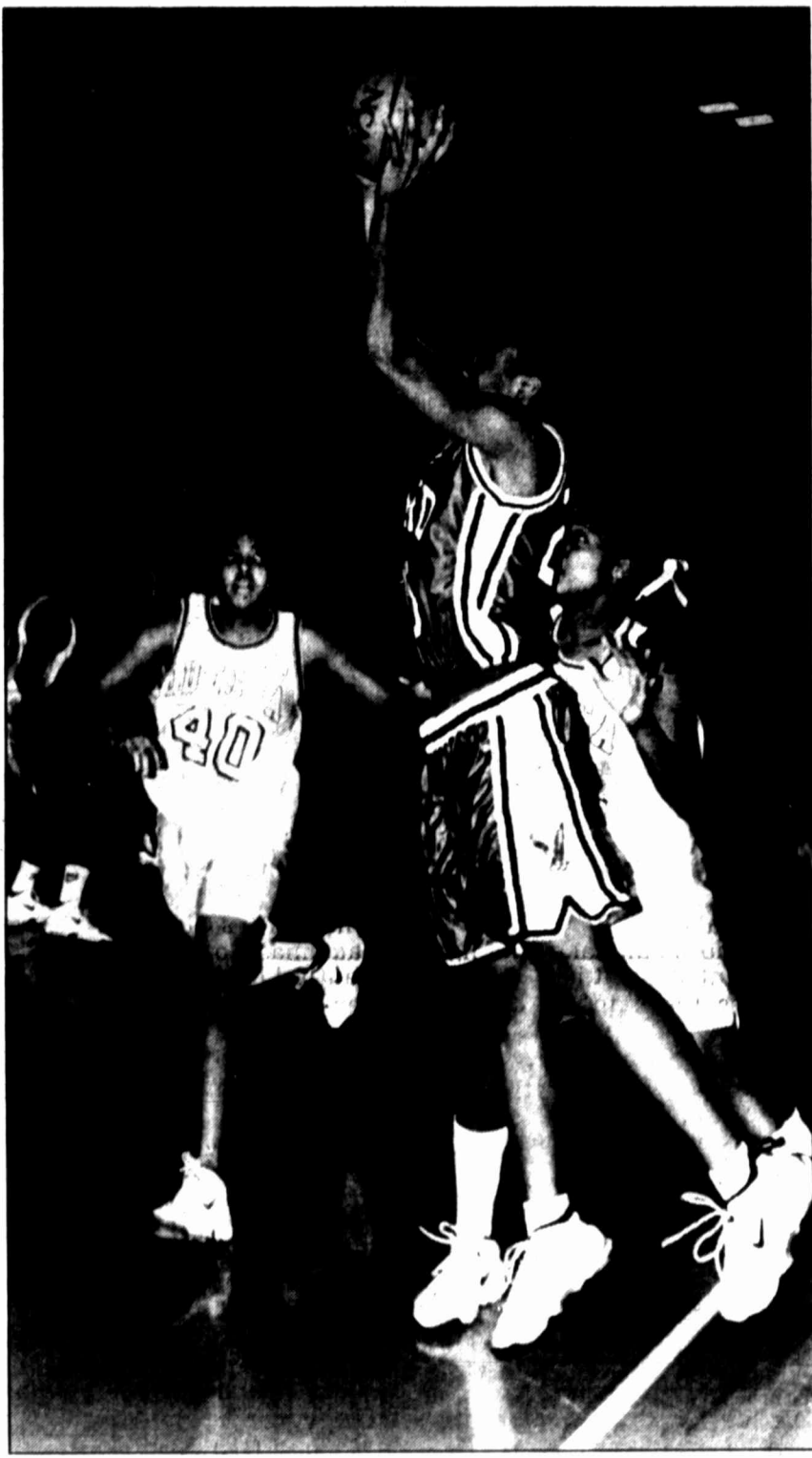
Ricka McKee's 13 points, along with 11 points from Jovanae St. Cyr and 10 from Jennifer Vinum — as well as sophomore Latraica Spencer's 10 points — sparked the Howard effort.

Odessa's Pashon Murray, one of the Western Junior College Athletic Conference's (WJCAC) leading scorers coming into the game, was held to 10 points — more than seven points below her average. Seven of Murray's points came after Howard had put the game away.

Corkery said he thought the Lady Hawks, who had just seven turnovers at the half, "did pretty good in the first half" but added that he felt the team made "too many unforced errors in the second half."

Howard, which rose to No. 4 in the national polls on Monday, never trailed, Odessa was able to tie the game at 4-4 with 16:16 left in the first half and trailed by just three points, 14-11, when Crecy Vaughns hit a jump shot with 10:12 left in the first half.

McKee answered with a three to make it 17-11 before Spencer scored two from inside the paint to make it 19-11. The Lady Hawks got their first double-



Howard College's Shawnta Johnson goes to the basket for two of her 25 points in the Lady Hawks' 91-37 rout of Odessa College Monday night in Odessa. Defending for Odessa is Rose Dunn (40) and Crecy Vaughn. Howard, ranked No. 4 in the nation, opens its home Western Junior College Athletic Conference schedule Thursday night against Western Texas.

digit lead of the game when Latasha Moore hit a jumper to make the score 21-11 with 7:09 left in the half.

OC would wind up going scoreless for eight minutes and 50 seconds before Vaughns connected on a basket with 1:22 left to make it 33-13.

Johnson finished the half with three baskets in the final 57 seconds to open a 39-13 lead and two quick baskets by Spencer to open the second half sparked the Lady Hawks to a 10-0 run before OC could respond again.

HOWARD NOTEPAD ... Big Spring freshman guard Kim Robertson is out after damaging ligaments in her right

Hawks overcome slow start for 79-65 win over Wranglers

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

ODESSA — It might seem strange to consider the first conference game of the season a must-win situation, but that's exactly what the Howard College Hawks faced Monday night.

The road-weary Hawks, playing their 14th straight contest away from home, dug themselves a huge hole against Odessa College, then dug and clawed their way to a 79-65 victory in the Western Junior College Athletic Conference opener for both teams at the OC Sports Center.

Howard (8-9 overall, 1-0 in WJCAC play) looked to be in need of a faith healer after falling behind 19-2 in the first seven minutes of the game.

The Hawks were ice-cold during the opening stretch, hitting only one of seven shots and turning the ball over seven times. The way head coach Tommy Collins saw it, his team was simply trying to do too much in the early going.

"We certainly didn't come out ready to play," Collins said. "You probably could have put five chairs out there and had the same offense that we had ... When we got behind by nine, it felt like they were trying to score nine points at once ... I just told them to take their time, and get a little bit of it back at a time."

The Hawks responded, gradually crawling back to within two points (29-27) at halftime. Then, in an example of turn-about being fair play, proceeded to bury Odessa in the opening minutes of the second half.

Led by sophomore guard Clifton Cook, who ended the night with 24 points, the Hawks went through a stretch where they hit 10 straight shots — and 11 of 13 overall — over a seven-minute span to go up 50-40.

"I wanted to start (our rally) off with my defense, but when I saw that the offense was getting it going, I just started feeding off my offense," Cook said. "Clifton's an outstanding player," Collins said. "He's our catalyst, and he's so good defensively, he makes the job easier for other people."

The Wranglers (6-8, 0-1), pulled to within five points twice in the second half — the last time on Terry Odom's three-pointer with 6:47 remaining that made the score 61-56.

But Cook responded with a pair of short jumpers and a three-pointer, and then fed Don Peace for another basket, stretching Howard's lead to 70-58 three minutes later, and the Hawks coasted from there.

Despite it being the first conference game of the season, Collins said it was one the Hawks could ill-afford to lose, especially considering that they blasted OC by 23 points in a non-conference game in November.

"It really doesn't matter where we were playing — this was a must-win game for us," Collins said. "If we didn't win this game, we probably wouldn't have recovered."

The long road trip has beaten the team down a bit, but the Hawks return to the friendlier environs of Garrett Coliseum Thursday, when they host New Mexico Military Institute in an 8 p.m. game.

"This was very big for us," Cook said. "We were coming in with a losing record ... so we wanted to develop some confidence and show the other teams that we've come to play."

HOWARD 79, ODESSA 65
HOWARD (79) — Clifton Cook 8-6-25; Lamont Roberts 5-0-0-10; Elmer Brown 3-0-0-6; Don Peace 2-0-0-4; Nathan Clover 7-0-3-14; Joe Robinson 0-0-2-0; Alex Dencor 2-2-2-6; Myron Brown 4-0-2; totals 31-8-16-79.
ODESSA (65) — Michael Jacques 0-1-2-1; Quentin Lewis 4-0-3-8; Will Mayfield 0-4-4-4; Bobby Dancer 1-0-0-2; Leo McCallister 1-2-3; Terry Odom 5-3-6-14; Stan Blackmon 4-6-8-14; Jacoby Johnson 3-1-2-7; Jhametric Hammond 3-1-1-7; totals 21-17-28-65.
Halftime — Odessa 29, Howard 27.

WJCAC STANDINGS

WJCAC Women	Conf.	Season W L	WJCAC Men		
			Conf.	Season W L	Season W L
Howard	1-0	18-0	Midland	1-0	15-0
Midland	1-0	11-5	New Mexico	1-0	10-5
Clarendon	1-0	8-1	Howard	1-0	8-8
New Mexico	1-0	7-4	Frank Phillips	1-0	8-8
South Plains	0-1	10-6	Odessa	0-1	7-7
Odessa	0-1	7-7	Clarendon	0-1	8-3
Frank Phillips	0-1	4-7	South Plains	0-1	9-8
Western Texas	0-1	5-12	NMMI	0-1	5-10

Monday's Results
Howard 91, Odessa 37; Midland 81, South Plains 71; NMJC 77, Western Texas 71; Clarendon 73, Frank Phillips 52.
Thursday's Games
Western Texas at Howard; Midland at NMJC; Frank Phillips at South Plains; Odessa at Clarendon.

Monday's Results
Howard 79, Odessa 65; Midland 93, South Plains 63; New Mexico JC 78, NMMI 71; Frank Phillips 105, Clarendon 76.
Thursday's Games
New Mexico Military at Howard; Midland at New Mexico JC; Frank Phillips at South Plains; Odessa at Clarendon.

NBC, ABC fighting over broadcast rights for Monday Night Football

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — When the NFL's version of musical chairs ends, either NBC or ABC will be left without a seat in the broadcast booth.

CBS made sure it wouldn't be the odd network out again, buying its way back into the NFL on Monday night with a stunning \$4 billion, eight-year deal to televise the AFC package formerly held by NBC, a source told The Associated Press. The CBS deal more than doubles the rate per season that NBC paid in 1997.

Earlier Monday, Fox and the

NFL settled on a \$4.4 billion, eight-year contract that allows the network to keep the Sunday afternoon NFC deal.

TNT and ESPN are expected to retain their Sunday night cable packages, but at close to double the price. ESPN paid \$524 million and TNT paid \$496 million in the previous deal.

That leaves "Monday Night Football," which ABC has held since its inception in 1970. But NBC, which also has been broadcasting NFL games for 28 years, has made a bid to challenge ABC for the Monday night package, said a source familiar with the negotiations.

In 1993, ABC paid \$920 million over four years for "Monday Night Football," a 2 percent increase over the previous four-year deal. It will cost much more to keep it this time, maybe more than double the previous price. A contract could be reached as early as today.

"Even though the Monday night ratings are off a little bit, it is still one of the top ranked programs in prime time every year," said Ron Frederick, a media buyer at J. Walter Thompson advertising agency. "It is three hours of guaranteed quality programming. The

question is how much is ABC prepared to ante up to keep one of the cornerstones of its prime time schedule."

ABC and NBC each have one game left in the current contract — the Super Bowl on NBC on Jan. 25 and ABC's Pro Bowl coverage on Feb. 1. The network that loses out on "Monday Night Football" will be out of the NFL for at least five years.

If NBC wins the bidding war, the No. 1 network in prime time would get another night of dominance at a crucial time for the network. NBC's Thursday night schedule for next fall is

unsettled, with "Seinfeld" ending production and the contract for "ER" expiring at the end of this season.

From a football standpoint, the new contract will result in an increase in the salary cap. And while the smallest increase will be next year, it's still likely to be in the area of \$10 million, allowing teams hard pressed under the salary cap to retain important free agents.

Among them are Dorsey Levens, Green Bay's star running back, and Dana Stubblefield of San Francisco, the NFL's defensive player of

the year.

CBS was shocked when Fox wrestled the NFL away from it in 1993. But it pulled off almost as stunning a move Monday, when it agreed to pay \$500 million a year for NFL games, a source said. NBC paid \$217 million per season in the last agreement.

Fox will pay \$550 million per season for eight years, an increase of 39 percent from \$395 million. That is a larger increase than had been projected because Fox was already paying 71 percent more than the second most expensive deal, ABC's Monday night package.

Herald Classifieds

AUTOS FOR SALE FOR SALE: 1985 380SL Mercedes 39,360 original miles. Hard & soft tops. Excellent condition. \$20,000. Call 354-2569. NEW 1997 ASPIRE \$186 ⁹⁰ MO. 60 MOS. @ 7.5% APR W.A.C. BOB BROCK FORD 500 W. 11TH	AUTOS FOR SALE 1979 El-Camino. Looks good runs great. New chrome wheels and tires. Must sacrifice. \$1850. Call day 264-5383, night 267-6675. 94 Cadillac Eldorado Touring Coupe: Loaded, Bose, CD & tape player, sunroof & North Star System. All highway miles. Call 264-6402.	AUTOS FOR SALE '91 Aeroast Van. Very clean. Runs great. 263-8411 (w), 267-7878 (h). OIL EQUIPMENT 1982 Chevy one ton truck with welding bed and big 80 Miller welding machine. Both run good. \$3500. Call 393-5672 day, 263-2306 nights. Can see on Hooser Rd. in Sand Springs.	VANS Very good high mileage. 1991 Dodge Caravan very low price \$3,750. 263-1135. PERSONAL HUSBANDS/WIVES, BOYFRIENDS/GIRLFRIENDS, FRIENDS: Do you want a very special gift to give to your loved one for Valentines Day? Call pager 1-915-742-0272 & leave #.	PERSONAL START DATING TONIGHT Play the Texas Dating Game 1-800-Romance EXT. 7593 LOSE WEIGHT FAST Cookie Co. invents lazy way to lose weight. Complete info. send \$1 to Cookie Diet Plan, Dept. 51558, 1101 N. Ave G, Lamesa, TX 79331	BUSINESS OPP HOME MAKERS DELIGHT Home based business. \$500-\$1500 Part time. \$2,000-\$4000 Fulltime. 1-888-274-9118. Coke/Pepsi vending route. Many high traffic sites. \$2500 a/wk potential. 1-800-342-6653. DOG GUARD Pet Fencing Exclusive territory 1.800.865.0495 ex. 12 FINANCIAL GUARANTEED Two Unsecured Major Credit Cards send \$2.00 for info to: 1413 W. Gore Blvd Lawton, OK 73501 (405)248-1912	HELP WANTED Comanche Trail Nursing Center Is seeking a Morning cook. Please apply in person at 3200 Parkway or contact Mariselda Carrillo 263-4041. DIRECTOR OF FINANCE Fast-paced non-profit community action agency seeks Director of Finance. This position entails the fiscal management of numerous Federal, State and private contracts and management of accounting Department. The successful applicant will have a minimum of BS in Accounting with 5+ years experience in Fund accounting, and 2+ years supervisory level experience CPA preferred. Must be proficient with general accounting software, networking knowledge a plus. Benefit package available. Salary DOE. Please send resume and references to: Gladys Grest, Executive Director People for Progress, Inc. 301 W. Arkansas Street Sweetwater, TX 79556 915/235-8455 or 1/800-592-7433 Faxed resumes will be accepted at 915/235-4950. Position is open until filled. DISPATCHER The City of Hobbs will conduct pre-employment testing on Saturday, February 7, 1998. Must have HS diploma or equivalent, no felony convictions and minimum of two years responsible work experience. Salary \$8.82 per hour to \$12.88 per hour depending upon experience. An applicant packet can be obtained by contacting the Personnel Department, 505-397-9230. Closing date for application submission is 12:00 pm on 02/04/98. EOE M/F/H/V Needng exp. individuals. Must be able to work all phases in Grocery business. Call 267-7437. 310 Owens: Ad pd. for by employer. POSTAL WORKERS No exp necessary \$13.61/hr. to start, plus benefits. Application/exam info available. Call 8am-8pm only. Open 7 days /week. 1-800-267-5715, ext. 230. Telemarketing Pt/evening. M-F \$5.25-\$7.00 pr. hr. 268-9542 The City of Big Spring will be testing for the position of Certified Police Officer at 8:30a.m. on Wednesday, February 4, 1998 in the Dora Roberts Community Center. Applications will be accepted through 5:00pm, Friday, January 10, 1998. For detailed qualifications and further information contact City Hall Personnel, 310 Nolan, Big Spring, TX 79720 or call 264-2346. The City of Big Spring is an Equal Opportunity Employer. We are looking for a Front Desk person. Apply in person to Best Western, 700 W. I-20, Big Spring, Tx.
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Requirements include a minimum of five (5) years of machinist experience and good mechanical skills. Must have knowledge of hand and power tools, as well as alignment and balance training, and MSDS. Experience with mechanical seals and bearing installation and an excellent safety record with PPE are essential.

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Requirements include a minimum of five (5) years welding experience. Qualified applicants should be certified in P-1 Carbon Steel/Stainless Steel and have chrome experience. Also, must have minimum pipefitting skills with ability to expand knowledge. Safety conscious and PPE knowledge required. Qualified applicants can mail/fax a resume to:

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MISCELLANEOUS Used carpet over 1,000 yd. for sale. 393-5314. WANT TO BUY: Good used electric water dispenser, hot & cold water; used cook stove in good condition; also an upright freezer.

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DEAR ABBY: Adultery seems to be an accepted fact of life these days. Everybody's doing it. No problem. It's no problem, that is, until you are the injured party. Then it's a very big deal. The hurt is so deep, it's hard to believe that someone who claims to love you has intentionally and selfishly inflicted this pain on you.

TUESDAY

JAN. 13

	KMD (2)	KPEJ (3)	KERA (5)	FAM (6)	KOSA (7)	WFAA (8)	KWES (9)	WTBS (11)	UNI (13)	DISN (14)	NASH (15)	TMC (16)	SHOW (20)	HBO (22)	KMLM (24)	AME (25)	DISC (26)	TNT (28)	FSN (29)	ESPN (30)	AMC (31)	BET (33)
6:30 PM	News (CC)	Simpsons	Science Guy	Walters	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	Andy Griffith	Emeralds	Oliver & Company	Dukes of Hazzard	(1:10) Movie: Liger	Young (CC)	Duplantis	Law & Order	Grave	Babylon 5	Last Word	ESPN News	(1:15) Movie: Lullaby of	Planet Grove	
7:30 PM	Grace Under	To Wong Foo,	Days-Shook	Rescue 911	JAG (CC)	Grace Under	Mad Abc. You	(06) Movie: Maria Isabel	(1:15) Movie: Trivia Tilt: A	Movie: Vegas	Movie: Above	Movie: Light of	Movie: Vegas	Movie: Above	Movie: Light of	Movie: Vegas	Movie: Above	Movie: Light of	Movie: Vegas	Movie: Above	Movie: Light of	Movie: Vegas
8:30 PM	Home Imp.	Everything	Science	Diagnosis	Michael	Home Imp.	Fraser (CC)	Down Under	Alguna Vez	World's Man	Movie: Kingpin	(4:45) Movie: Balance	(4:45) Movie: In the	Movie: Ghost	Movie: Machine	Movie: Escapes	Movie: Bulls (CC)	Movie: House	Movie: Fox Sports	Movie: Kentucky	Movie: Bagdad	Movie: 227 (CC)
9:30 PM	NYPD Blue	Pensacola-	(CC)	Hawaii Five-0	Delaventura	NYPD Blue	Detective (CC)	(06) Elvis on	Primer	Growing Pains	Movie: Merle	Movie: Red Shoe	Movie: Tracy Takes	Movie: Good Today	Movie: Law & Order	Movie: Justice	Movie: Fox Sports	Movie: Fox Sports	Movie: Fox Sports	Movie: Fox Sports	Movie: Fox Sports	Movie: Fox Sports
10:30 PM	News (CC)	Home Imp.	News-Lahrer	700 Club	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	P. Impacto	Walt Disney	Dallas	(05) Movie: Red Shoe	Movie: Tracy Takes	Movie: Good Today	Movie: Law & Order	Movie: Justice	Movie: Fox Sports	Movie: Fox Sports	Movie: Fox Sports	Movie: Fox Sports	Movie: Fox Sports	Movie: Fox Sports
11:30 PM	Nightline	Vibe	American	Bonanza-Lost	Show (CC)	Married... With	Ent. Tonight	(CC) Late	(05) Movie: The Deep	Al Ritmo de la	Zorro (CC)	Dukes of Hazzard	(CC)	Beverly Hills	Movie: Ask Joe	Movie: Biggamy	Movie: Wild	Movie: Fox Sports	Movie: Fox Sports	Movie: Fox Sports	Movie: Fox Sports	Movie: Fox Sports
12:30 AM	Ivory Wayne	Martin (CC)	Paid Program	Late Late	News	Ent. Tonight	Night (CC)	Gayle King	Club America	Movie: Polyanna	Movie: Workin' Man	(11:55) Movie: Drunks	(12:15) Movie: Light of	Movie: Ghost	Movie: New	Movie: Summer	Movie: Fox Sports	Movie: Fox Sports	Movie: Fox Sports	Movie: Fox Sports	Movie: Fox Sports	Movie: Fox Sports

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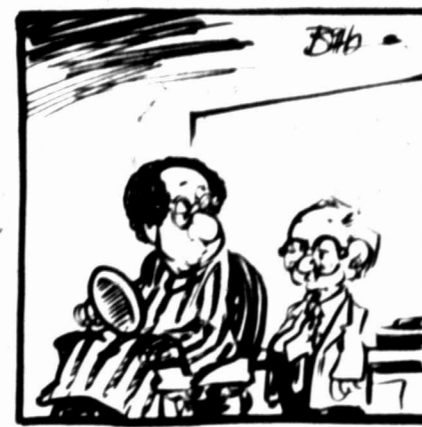
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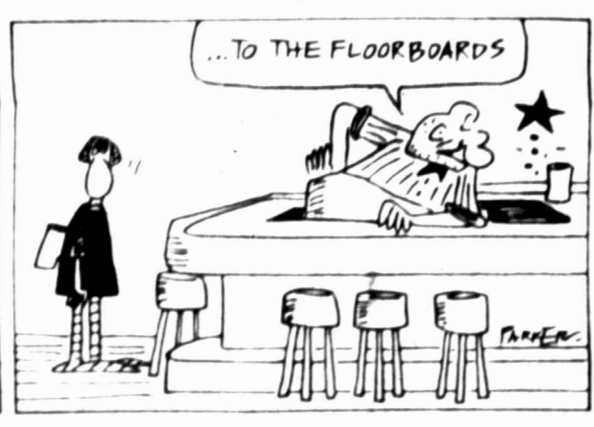
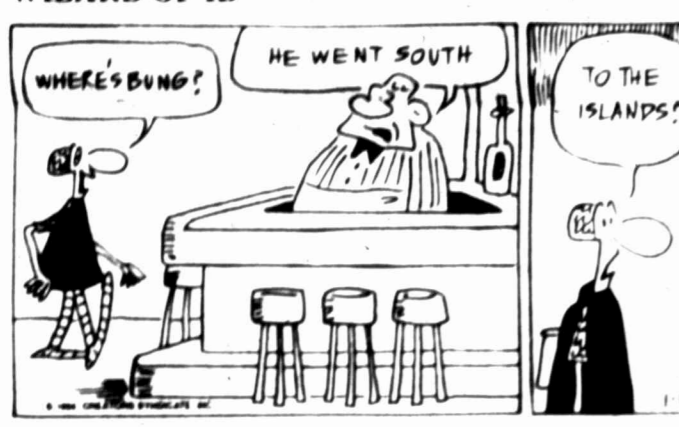
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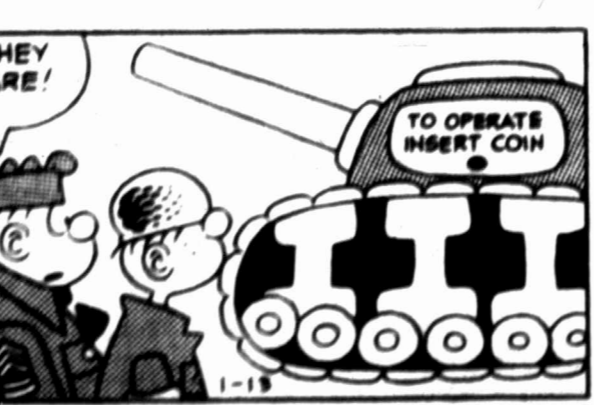
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SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILY



THIS DATE IN HISTORY

The ASSOCIATED PRESS
Today is Tuesday, Jan. 13, the

13th day of 1998. There are 352 days left in the year.
Today's Highlight in History: One hundred years ago, on Jan. 13, 1898, Emile Zola's famous defense of Captain Alfred Dreyfus, "J'accuse," was published in Paris.

On this date:
In 1794, President Washington approved a measure adding two stars and two stripes to the American flag, following the admission of Vermont and Kentucky to the union.
In 1864, composer Stephen Foster died in a New York City hospital.
In 1941, novelist James Joyce died in Zurich, Switzerland.
In 1962, comedian Ernie Kovacs died in a car crash in west Los Angeles.
In 1966, Robert C. Weaver became the first black Cabinet member as he was appointed Secretary of Housing and Urban Development by President Johnson.
In 1978, former Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey died in Waverly, Minn., at age 66.
In 1982, an Air Florida 737 crashed into the capital's 14th Street Bridge after takeoff and fell into the Potomac River, killing 78 people.
In 1992, Israeli, Palestinian and Jordanian negotiators began talks in Washington on Palestinian autonomy.
In 1992, Japan apologized for forcing tens of thousands of Korean women to serve as sex slaves for Japanese soldiers during World War II.
Ten years ago: The Supreme Court ruled 5-3 that public school officials had broad powers to censor school newspapers, school plays and other "school-sponsored expressive activities."
Five years ago: American and allied warplanes raided southern Iraq. Marine Pvt. 1st Class Domingo Arroyo became the first U.S. serviceman to be killed in Somalia. The space shuttle Endeavor blasted off from Cape Canaveral.
One year ago: Seven black soldiers received the Medal of Honor for World War II valor; the lone survivor, former Lt. Vernon Baker, received his medal from President Clinton at the White House. Supreme Court justices aggressively questioned both sides in a battle over whether a sexual-harassment lawsuit should be allowed to proceed against President Clinton while he was in office. (The following May, the justices ruled unanimously that it could.)

THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

ACROSS

- Boat's spine
- Manufacturer
- Uneven cut
- Verne's captain
- Tolerate
- Vocal inflection
- Stoltz of "Mask"
- "The Prisoner" of
- Russian river
- Sweats
- Corn servings
- Casablanca's country abbr.
- down (gobbles up)
- L.A. to N.Y. direction
- Weekday abbr.
- Scandinavian poet
- Well worker
- Ship in the stars
- Three-foot lengths
- Pleasant city in France?
- Artifact
- Fragrant bed
- Soggy ground
- Slatternlike
- Delon and Resnais
- Very dry, as wine
- Graceful bird
- Sweats
- Jai
- "Taxi" dispatcher
- Gardner and others
- Mark Baker
- Rectify
- English elevator
- Concludes
- Time charges
- Dates
- repeatedly
- Impertinent
- Kitchen gadget
- Saxon
- "Crazy Legs" Hirsch
- Tacks on
- Mystery Excuse
- Army lookahe briefly
- Bottom of the barrel
- Seniors' grp.
- Foul-weather wear
- Alga
- "Carry on"
- Chair piece
- Eyelike
- Records
- Pigs
- Corduroy ribs
- Ken or Lena
- Ayn, the writer
- Musante's TV series
- Tallow base
- Actress Arden, casually
- Vault
- Mech+ jets

Monday's Puzzle solved.

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

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Today's Birthdays: Actor Robert Stack is 79. Hollywood columnist Army Archerd is 76. Actress-singer-dancer Gwen Verdon is 73. Actress Frances Sternhagen is 68. Actor-director Charles Nelson Reilly is 67. Comedian Rip Taylor is 64.

Thought for Today: "The whole secret of life is to be interested in one thing profoundly and in a thousand things well." — Horace Walpole, Fourth Earl of Orford, English author (1717-1797).