

BIG SPRING HERALD

Reflecting A Proud Community

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Officials getting the word out about 26th annual county fair

By **CARLTON JOHNSON**
Staff Writer

It may seem a bit premature to be talking about the Howard County Fair in January, but the Aug. 31 opening day will be here in a hurry, according to Howard County Fair Association board member Tammy Watt.

"This year will be the 26th annual fair and it will be here before you know it," Watt said.

Watt and several fair board members recently attended the

Texas Association of Fairs and Exposition convention in Houston and returned with several new ideas for the Howard County Fair.

"This year we're going to open the fair on Monday, Aug. 31 and close it on Saturday, Sept. 5," Watt said.

"Several factors contributed to this decision including the Permian basin Fair in Odessa, which is usually around the same time as our fair."

"We will be closing our fair on Labor Day weekend instead of

starting, which will still give people Sunday and Monday to celebrate the Labor Day holiday," Watt said.

"I'm also excited because we will have a new carnival this year, which was highly recommended to us."

The new carnival is Tip Top Amusements out Las Cruces, N.M. and Monahans and is an up-and-coming attraction, according to Watt. Tip Top will be replacing the Gene Ledell Carnival.

"We're luck to have them,"

Watt said. "There will be some different things with this carnival that we've never had before."

"We brought back a lot of new ideas and saw many new and exciting things we hope to incorporate into the Howard County Fair this year," Watt added.

Last year, the fair board began the fair on opening day at 4 p.m. because it was the silver anniversary of the Howard County fair.

This was Watt's second time going to the convention.

Board members hear a lot of great ideas from people who operate fairs on a much larger scale, but some of the ideas can be scaled down to fit what Howard County does, according to Watt.

"We had a good convention," Watt said. "Our primary focus was to find a new carnival and we did."

"We would still like to have everything lined up for the fair by mid April," Watt said.

"We have a lot of attractions returning and what we need to

do now is get things lined out. Some things we can't set up that fast, but we're still going full speed ahead."

One of the new board members this year is Debby Valverde, who attended her first fair board meeting this week as well as attended the Houston convention.

"What I tried to stress to the board was how important it is to not only involve children in the fair, but teens as well because the fair really is a family event," Valverde said.

How to avoid those ol' 1040 blues

What's the best tip? Be prepared

Tax season does not have to be a frightening experience, but knowing what tax law changes are for 1997 filings could help.

It pays to be prepared well in advance of the April 15 deadline, according to Big Spring accountant Glen Fillingim.

"People should make sure they have 1099s from the financial institutions they do business with and have all deductible expenses together, such as credit card bills and returned checks from banks," Fillingim said.

Fillingim added people should very carefully analyze their expenses and income for the taxing year.

"If people find out they are having trouble preparing a return, it may be time to have someone else look it over or have a professional do it," Fillingim said. "Honest mistakes are made, but there is a big difference between tax avoidance (which is legal) and tax evasion (which is not legal)."

Here are some changes and some advice from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) that could help:

Free Tax Help -

Are you aware of all the resources the IRS makes available to you? To get the inside scoop on all free IRS tax services, order Publication 910. It describes year-round services, tax time assistance and frequently requested publications. To order Publication 910, use the order form in your tax package or call 1-800-829-3676. Here are some highlights.

Braille and Large Print Materials -

Federal tax materials in Braille are available at Regional Libraries for the Blind and Physically Handicapped in conjunction with the Library of Congress. These materials include Publication 17, Your Federal Income Tax; Publication 334, Tax Guide For Small Business (for Individuals Who Use Schedule C or C-EZ); and Forms 1040, 1040A and 1040EZ, and Schedules A and B, with instructions. Large-print copies of Form 1040, its



schedules and instructions are in Publication 1614. Large-print copies of Form 1040A, Schedules 1, 3 and EIC, and their instructions are in Publication 1615. The copies can be used as worksheets to figure your tax.

Do you or someone you know need help with your basic tax returns?

If so, the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) or Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) may be of service to you. Both provide specially-trained volunteers to prepare basic tax returns. VITA and TCE volunteers help older individuals, those with disabilities, and non-English speaking taxpayers with their taxes in locations convenient to their customers. Call the IRS office for the nearest location.

Tax Problems - Do you have a problem with the IRS that has yet to be resolved? The Problem Resolution Program (PRP) can help resolve problems that you haven't been able to settle through normal channels. Call the IRS and ask for PRP.

Errors Slow Refunds -

Mistakes on an income tax return can slow down processing while the IRS writes to ask for corrections or missing tax schedules. Any refund that is due will also be slowed down. Many of the more common errors could easily be eliminated if people took the time to double check tax returns.

After completing the return, review each line to be sure that the right information is on the right line. Double check math to avoid mistakes in figuring total income, taxable income, balance due or refund amounts. Make sure that name(s) and Social Security number(s) are correctly written on each form and schedule. Also check the address. Changes can be made right on the label.

Many people make the mistake of using a tax amount from the wrong column in the tax table, or they forget to sign and date the return.

One last reminder to those rushing to meet the tax deadline on April 15th at midnight, put the correct postage on the envelope before dropping

See **BEST TIP**, page 3A

Tax time doesn't have to be too taxing — if you take time to prepare and follow a few tried-and-true rules

In Today's Herald:
Tax Time '97
A special guide to tax changes and how they might benefit you



Taxes may be constant, but tax laws change

Tax law changes could affect the bottom line of your 1997 income tax return. Here are some changes you should know about from the Internal Revenue Service.

Each year, there are changes to the tax rules, some due to new laws, some to changes provided for in previous laws. The following are some of the more common changes that could affect most people's income tax returns.

Individual Changes -

Personal exemptions are worth \$2,650 for 1997 returns.

For people who do not itemize their deductions, the standard deduction has increased. The new amounts are \$4,150 for single people who cannot be claimed as another person's

dependent; \$6,050 for heads of households; and \$6,900 for married people filing jointly or qualifying widow(er)s. People who are at least 65 years old or blind get an extra amount added to their standard deduction. The standard deduction is limited to the larger of \$650 or earned income for people who can be claimed as dependents by another, and to \$3,450 for married persons filing separately.

The earned income tax credit (EITC) increased in 1997 for working people who qualify. The amount a person can earn and still be eligible for the credit increases, too.

Another change to the EITC relates to people with investment income, such as interest, dividends, rents and royalties.

No one who has more than \$2,250 in investment income may claim the EITC.

And finally, the EITC will be denied to any individual who is not authorized to work in the U.S. In order to claim the credit, the taxpayer (and spouse, if married) must have a valid Social Security number.

A valid taxpayer identification number will be required for each dependent or qualifying child as a condition for claiming a dependency deduction or a dependent care credit for the child.

Other changes affecting this year or future tax years will affect punitive damages received for personal injury or sickness, qualified state tuition programs, individual retire-

ment account (IRA) contributions for spouses who do not work, a nonrefundable credit for certain adoption expenses, and medical savings accounts.

Business Changes -

The 1997 standard mileage rate for using one's car for business is up a half cent to 31.5 cents a mile. The special rate for rural mail carriers is up to 47.25 cents a mile.

And for 1997, the maximum wages and self-employment income subject to Social Security tax is \$65,400.

Employers who were to begin making tax deposits electronically as of January 1, 1998, now have until July 1 to begin using the Electronic Federal Tax

See **CHANGE**, page 3A

WEATHER

Today:



Mon:



Tues:



Wed:



Today, mostly sunny. Highs 65-70. Sunday night, fair. Lows 30-35. Monday, mostly sunny. Highs 65-70. Monday night, fair. Lows 30-35. Extended forecast, Tuesday through Thursday, partly cloudy. Lows 30-35. Highs 60-65.

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Cotton named Martin County C of C man of the year

By **DEBBIE L. JENSEN**
Features Editor

Stanton High School Athletic Director Mark Cotton, whose Buffalo football team took the state 2A Championship title, was named Man of the Year Thursday.

Martin County Chamber of Commerce gave Cotton the title



COTTON

at its annual banquet, which also honored longtime residents Bob and Dorothy Deavenport for community service.

"He was very humble about it all," said Paul Evans, chamber board president. Cotton was presented with a plaque, after an introduction that built suspense about the secret honoree.

"I got a lot of biographical information from (Cotton's) wife, Brenda," said Reggie Franklin, chamber board member who served as master of ceremonies for the banquet.

"He was real shocked,"

Franklin added. "I don't think he ever knew this was going to happen."

"I never expected," confirmed Cotton. "It was a very humbling experience."

Evans said Cotton's dedication to the young athletes he coached was a big part of the decision to name him Man of the Year.

"I try to treat them like I treat my own children," Cotton said. "I think that's true for the whole coaching staff."

Also at the banquet, Bob Deavenport, longtime Martin

County Judge, and his wife, Dorothy, were honored.

"They've both done a lot for Martin County," Evans said.

Franklin said the Deavenports always went "the extra mile" in many projects for the chamber of commerce.

Overall, the banquet, which is the chamber's way of celebrating its accomplishments of the last year, was probably the best ever, Evans said.

Cotton said he is not sure how he can top his award.

"I'll probably have to retire," he joked.

CHANGE

Continued from page 1A
Payment System.

Other business changes for this year or future tax years affect depreciable property, work opportunity tax credit, orphan drug tax credit, excise taxes and health insurance deductions for self-employed persons.

For more information on tax changes, call 1-800-829-3676 and get Publication 553, Highlights of 1997 Tax Changes.

The IRS has tax forms, publications and other information

available on-line. Access through the internet via the World Wide Web (<http://www.irs.ustreas.gov>); file transfer protocol (<ftp://irs.ustreas.gov>); or Telnet (<telnet://irs.ustreas.gov>). To access by modem, dial (703)321-8020.

For those with access to a fax machine and not a computer, IRS can provide the most commonly used forms, many of the instruction sheets and the TeleTax topics. Dial (703)487-4160 from the fax machine.

-CARLTON JOHNSON

BEST TIP

Continued from page 1A
it in the mail.

For those expecting a refund this year, there is Direct Deposit, which means a faster tax refund.

People who choose Direct Deposit can have their income tax refund deposited directly into their savings or checking accounts. Direct Deposit is more secure because there is no check to get lost, and takes the Treasury less time than issuing a check. So people may get their refund sooner and they don't have to make a trip to the bank.

Direct Deposit is available to people who file their federal income tax returns electronically, use Form 1040PC or send their returns to IRS through the mail. Those who file by mail should fill in the "Refund" area

of their tax return.

People should check with their financial institutions to make sure they accept Direct Deposit, including joint refunds into individual accounts. They can also verify the correct routing transit number and deposit account number.

There are some limitations. Direct Deposit cannot be used when filing a prior year return. Also, Direct Deposit will not occur if the name on the tax return and bank account do not match. Nor will there be Direct Deposit of refunds into foreign bank accounts. If the Direct Deposit cannot be done, the IRS will send a check instead.

Direct Deposit is available for use on Form 1040, 1040A, 1040EZ, 1040NR or 1040NR-EZ.

-CARLTON JOHNSON

Tax changes could effect business' bottom line

By **CARLTON JOHNSON**
Staff Writer

Several tax law changes could affect the bottom line of your 1997 income tax return and some of those changes include those effecting businesses, changes for reporting large cash sums and changes involving educational assistance. Here are some of those changes to look out for.

New Law Gives Tax Refunds to Some Employees:

Employees who participated in employer-provided educational assistance plans from 1995 through 1997 could be entitled to refunds because of recent tax law changes. The Internal Revenue Service has set up special procedures to make it easier to get these refunds and to expedite the processing of refund claims sent to the IRS.

The new law reinstates Internal Revenue Code Section 127's annual exclusion from income of up to \$5,250 of educational assistance benefits, retroactive to January 1, 1995. However, the new law does not extend the tax benefit to graduate-level courses that begin after June 30, 1996.

Employees who paid income taxes for 1995 on excludable

educational assistance benefits are entitled to refunds. Employees can claim these refunds from the IRS by filing a Form 1040X, "Amended U.S. Individual Income Tax Return," if they have already filed a 1995 tax return. To do this, the employee needs to obtain from the employer a Form W-2c, "Statement of Corrected Income and Tax Amounts," showing the corrected wages for 1995, and needs to attach the Form W-2c to the Form 1040X.

To expedite the processing of these amended returns, taxpayers should print "IRC 127" in the top margin of the Form 1040X. If this is the only adjustment to the original return, taxpayers will need to put only their name, address, Social Security number and tax year on the Form 1040X, sign the form, and attach the Form W-2c. The IRS will compute the refund based on the Form W-2c data provided and will process these amended returns as quickly as possible.

Employees who previously paid Social Security and Medicare taxes in 1996 or 1997 will usually get these tax refunds from the employer that provided the educational assistance.

Taxpayers may obtain Form

1040X and instructions by calling 1-800-829-3676, or by using their computers to access the IRS home page at <http://www.irs.ustreas.gov> or the Internal Revenue Information System bulletin board at 703-321-8020.

Businesses should also keep in mind that there are also laws concerning large amounts of cash.

Keep Your Money "Clean," and report all large cash transactions:

Is the money moving through your business being laundered? People may think only criminals launder money, but even money earned in otherwise legitimate activities is sometimes laundered, or hidden, to avoid taxes. Any business, not just high price ones such as auto and boat dealers, auction houses, jewelers, art and antique dealers, law firms, real estate or insurance agencies, can be used by people who want to launder their money.

Congress passed laws requiring trades or businesses receiving cash payments of over \$10,000 to report them to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). This means more than \$10,000 in either a single transaction or a series of related transactions

that total more than \$10,000 during a 12-month period.

These transactions are reported on Form 8300, "Report of Cash Payments Over \$10,000 Received in a Trade or Business," and must be filed with the IRS within 15 days after receiving payments totaling over \$10,000.

Business owners can voluntarily file Form 8300 if they think any cash payment they get is suspicious. Financial institutions, such as currency exchanges and check-cashing businesses, file similar currency transaction reports (CTRs) under the Bank Secrecy Act (BSA) with the IRS.

Those who do not comply with the reporting requirements may face civil penalties. Corporations or persons who willfully try to evade the reporting requirements or file false or fraudulent reports may face criminal penalties of prison sentences up to five years, fines up to \$500,000 or both.

More information on reporting large or suspicious cash payments is in Publication 1544, Reporting Cash Payments of Over \$10,000. Both the publication and Form 8300 can be ordered by calling 1-800-829-3676.

Those ol' 1040 blues

On Page 1A (top photo), Big Spring resident Enrique DeJesus takes time to pick out a 1997 tax form on a recent visit to the Big Spring Post Office. Several residents have already received their W2 forms and are hopeful of receiving an income tax refund this tax season; (bottom photo) Howard County Tax Assessor-Collector Kathy Sayles (seated) is going over the county tax roll with tax office employee Sandra Bloom. As county residents prepare for the federal income tax season, Sayles' office also reminds residents that 1997 property taxes become past due after Jan. 31. Stories and photos by Carlton Johnson.

Tax revenues bolster Howard County coffers

By **CARLTON JOHNSON**
Staff Writer

When it comes to tax season most residents instantly think of income taxes and wonder whether or not they will receive a tax return for the previous year, but taxes don't always have to involve bad news.

Sales taxes, for instance, can signal strength or weakness in the economy.

The most recent State Sales and Use Tax Report for 1997 — covering the second quarter of last year — was recently released by the State Comptroller's Office.

Howard County had 721 business outlets in all industries

report total gross sales of \$150,619,646.

The 1997 second quarter sales figure for Howard County represent a 1.3 percent increase from second quarter sales in 1996 when 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 4 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, which represents a 1.7 percent decrease over 1996 gross sales of \$67,958,879.

Statewide, the retail trade division had 195,096 outlets report second quarter sales of \$53,594,965,545 an 8.4 percent increase over 1996 sales of \$49,453,071,053.

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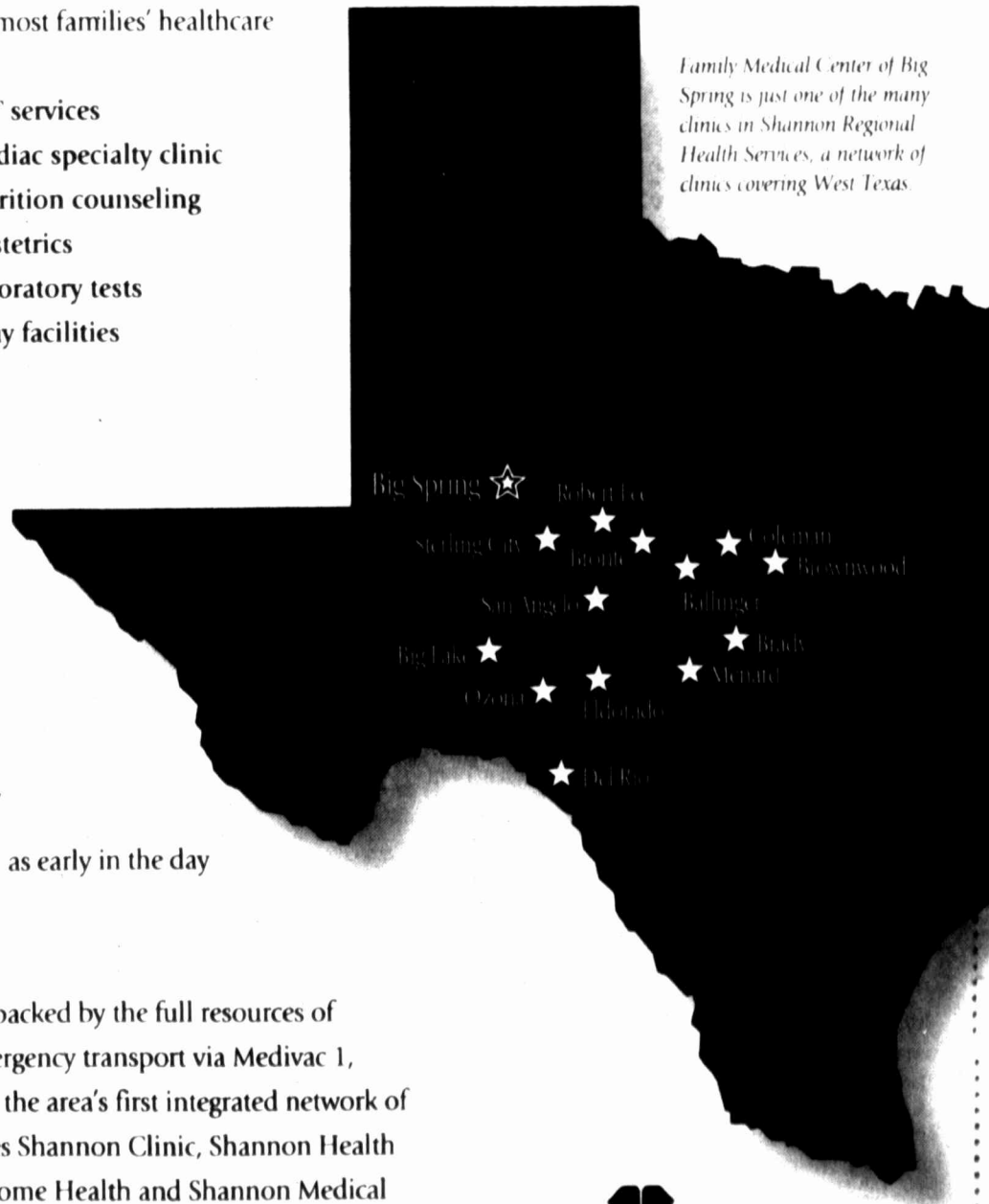
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EDITORIAL

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

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

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OUR VIEW

Provide children with alternatives to gang lifestyle

When one thinks of small towns such as Big Spring, gangs don't usually spring to mind and city officials want to keep it that way.

The city took a first step toward revamping the police department's gang suppression unit recently when the city council gave tentative approval to a resolution accepting a juvenile gang suppression grant from the state Criminal Justice Division.

If the five-year program is approved by both the city and the Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission, the \$249,000 grant will take effect Oct. 1. It will be used for salaries, equipment and an additional officer.

A previous gang-suppression unit was discontinued by BSPD after staff cuts resulted in the loss of seven positions in the department.

Many residents believe Big Spring to be relatively free of gangs and gang-related trouble, but make no mistake: They are here, and officials believe they are to blame for an increase in the severity of juvenile crime.

"Juvenile problems are pretty much city-wide," Police Chief Lonnie Smith said. "Around 1991 or so, the problems we saw were generally vandalism, but in the last six to eight months, a lot of the juvenile crime we've seen has been acts of violence or threats of violence... The problems have been continually growing."

To Smith's credit, he said his department will combat this problem through education, "whether we get this grant or not." BSPD will continue to work with the local school district and Teen Court to combat juvenile crime, he said.

We wholeheartedly support efforts to lessen gang influence in our city, but we believe the effort must be a three-pronged one — punishment, education and providing alternatives.

Getting tough on gangs is fine, but that is merely reacting to the problem. Solving the problem involves educating our children about gangs and how to best avoid them. Also, we should do everything in our power to provide youngsters with alternatives to a "gangsta" lifestyle.

Children are just like everyone else — they want to be wanted and respected. If the only place they can feel like they belong is in a gang, that's where they'll go. This community's job is to show them a better way.

OTHER VIEWS

Kenneth Starr, the independent counsel who has been investigating the so-called Whitewater case, now has new allegations against President Clinton to look into, and needs to proceed quickly for the nation's sake.

While the new charges have emerged out of the Paula Jones case, they are far more serious than that civil suit. If the court found that Clinton had in fact sought sexual favors from Jones, he would face fines and horrendous publicity. But the new charges involve perjury, suborning perjury and obstructing justice. Admittedly denied by the president and his attorney, these are criminal matters, and they could destroy the Clinton presidency if proven true.

According to The Washington Post, which broke the story along with the Los Angeles Times and ABC News, a woman named Linda Tripp secretly tape-recorded conversations with a woman named Monica Lewinsky. On the tapes, Lewinsky, now 24, reportedly tells of an affair with Clinton when she was a White House intern a few years ago. She supposedly makes a devastating assertion, namely that Clinton told her

to lie about it to Paula Jones' attorneys as they tried to build evidence of a pattern of behavior.

The story reports as well that Lewinsky said on the tapes that Clinton had his good friend, Vernon Jordan, instruct her on what she should say. Lewinsky, the Post says, gave an affidavit earlier this month in which she swore she had not had a sexual relationship with the president. Quoting unidentified sources, the story says that the president also denied the alleged affair when he was recently deposed in the Jones case.

Tripp, who had been hired at the White House during the Bush administration and who has been involved in another allegation against Clinton, worked with Lewinsky in a Pentagon office. She turned the tapes over to Starr. He was allowed to expand his investigation after Attorney General Janet Reno sent his request to a court panel whose authorization was required. What he has to do now is what he has not always done in the past — move expeditiously.

Jay Ambrose
Scripps Howard

'Move over, this is your president'

WASHINGTON — I revere the presumption of innocence that we Americans enjoy. I am aware that President Clinton has not been convicted of anything in connection with former White House intern Monica Lewinsky. Still, I have heard enough about sex and Bill Clinton over the last decade to convince me that he suffers from a power-driven sickness of the libido.

Mr. Clinton seems to think that young women are among the spoils of his political triumphs, and that his power guarantees him a large supply of females who will suffer his assaults in silence. His disease is not new to this town.

In 1965, when I headed the

U.S. Information Agency, I was approached by an emotionally-shaken White House employee who told me of her first duty trip to the Texas ranch where President Johnson often retreated. She said she awakened in the wee hours of her first night there in terror, certain that someone was in her room. When a little pencil flashlight was shone on her face, she was too terrified to scream. Then she recognized Johnson's voice saying, "Move over. This is your president." She said that, intimidated, she moved over.

She insisted that she didn't want to file charges or expose LBJ. She just wanted a comparable federal job where she would be beyond the president's predatory reach. I telephoned Johnson's aide, Bill Moyers, and within 24 hours that woman had a new job.

Some say that the worst thing about Clinton and the charge that he had an 18-month sexual affair with then-21-year-old Lewinsky is that he lied about it in sworn testimony

and committed subornation of perjury by telling her to lie about it. I say that if Clinton did have a sexual relationship with Lewinsky, which he denies, the worst thing is the abuse of overweening presidential power in the exploitation of a federal employee.

I detest the cliché "where there's smoke there's fire," but I understand why so many Americans are using it regarding Clinton, given the fact that numerous women — including Jennifer Flowers, Paula Jones and Lewinsky — have accused him of sexual exploitation. Such abuses of power are commonplace in Washington, in the White House, federal agencies, and on Capitol Hill. It was said that during the Nixon administration everyone speculated on who was doing what to whom; during the Johnson administration everyone knew who was doing what to whom; and during the Carter administration everybody knew that there wasn't anybody doing anything to anybody.

That was meant to express

the boredom of the Carter years but it ought to be seen as a compliment, because Jimmy Carter and Harry Truman are the only presidents during my time covering Washington who seemed never to let power throw their libidos out of control.

Numerous people have said to me, "I can't believe Clinton is dumb enough to get involved with a 21-year-old woman and think it would stay a secret." Apparently Clinton doesn't yet understand the change in the media since the days of John F. Kennedy and LBJ.

More dangerous is the fact that since the sexual revolution began young women don't keep quiet about sexual affairs to protect their reputations anymore.

We may never know whether Monica Lewinsky's taped claims about sexual encounters with Clinton are the sordid truth or fictional boasting. But it is obvious that Clinton had his brain in his groin when he made himself and the presidency vulnerable to this scandal.



Carl Rowan
Syndicated Columnist



The South: An emotional designation

I was born in Georgia. She was born in Alabama. I grew up in Montgomery. She blossomed in Birmingham.

There should be few differences in our allegiances, especially considering we both did time at the same college and for several different newspaper chains. We think a lot alike, we always laugh at the same jokes, especially the ones life plays on us.

But every time my good friend visits from faraway Virginia, we have this discussion. I rhapsodize about the Deep South, and she holds forth on the merits of Virginia's progressive gentility. I talk about starch and soul, and she shoots back with good schools and sophisticates.

In the reading audience of her suburban weekly, she says, are Gen. Colin Powell and TV

journalists with household names. I don't say anything to that.

We take a back road, one she remembers well, and out the car window she sees the litter on the roadside, the wrecked cars left to rust in front yards.

"Looks and feels like Georgia," she says. "I think, but do not say, 'Well, I could take you to curb and gutter land, the cookie-cutter suburbs, and see if that looks more like Virginia.'"

But we have been down this road before, worn ruts in it, and both of us always arrive at different destinations. I can't defend the litter, except to say the white truck with county prisoners hasn't been in a long while. But the messy yards with drums full of garbage and scattered plastic toys and satellite dishes, at each nucleus a mobile home, those can be explained. This is a working man's land, free of subdivision covenants and improvement committees.

Try looking beyond, I want to say, at the as-yet undeveloped piney woods, the creeks not hung with million-dollar houses, the room to breathe. Look at the face of the woman stand-

ing beside the mailbox. It looks like the face of a woman who knows she's home.

I think of a song on an Iris DeMent album, one that describes the most appealing vision of heaven I've ever heard: "Fifty Miles of Elbow Room."

When the whole South conforms to a Southern Living look of uniform prosperity, when we've all been to school to lose our accents, when the landscape is manicured and mowed, all of us will be poorer.

I recently read a Flannery O'Connor quote used in a Paul Greenberg essay to great effect. She said, "The anguish that most of us have observed for some time now has been caused not by the fact that the South is alienated from the rest of the country, but by the fact that it is not alienated enough, that every day we are getting more and more like the rest of the country, that we are being forced out not only of our many sins, but of our few virtues."

Greenberg was writing of his Arkansas, and how he would hate to see the South become merely a geographical, not an "emotional designation."

LETTER-TO-THE-EDITOR POLICY

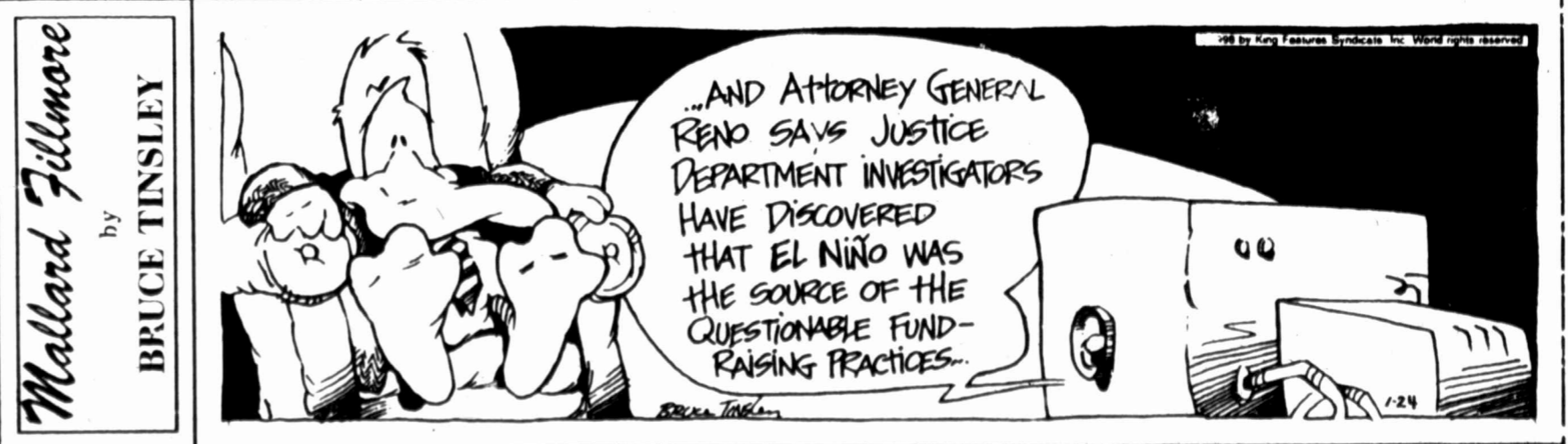
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- Sign your letter.

- Provide a daytime telephone number and street address for verification.
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After acquittal, Mowbray family plans to go on with life

BROWNSVILLE (AP) — For 10 years, Susie Mowbray was either in prison or fighting to stay out.

Now she has begun living a life of freedom after being acquitted on charges of killing her husband.

"We're going to do life without prison, without courts, without attorneys — without that big black cloud over us," Mrs. Mowbray said after being found innocent Friday at her retrial in the 1987 death of her husband.

"We're going to do it like nor-

mal people."

Mrs. Mowbray spent nine years in prison after being convicted in 1988 of killing Brownsville Cadillac dealer Bill Mowbray for \$1.8 million in insurance money.

She was released last year after an appeals court granted her a new trial, ruling prosecutors had suppressed blood evidence that could have supported her argument that Mowbray killed himself.

On Friday, after a two-week trial and two days of deliberations, a jury found Mrs.

Mowbray innocent, saying prosecutors failed to prove their case because of the "improper handling" of evidence by local law enforcement officials.

At a victory party following her acquittal, Mrs. Mowbray and her family discussed their plans for the future — plans they had avoided making over the past decade.

"We have choices now," Mrs. Mowbray said as she sipped champagne on the back porch of a friend's house.

"We haven't had choices for all these years, and now we do.

I don't even know what all those choices are."

The immediate future includes making the rounds of the talk show circuit.

Even as she celebrated, Mrs. Mowbray and her daughter, Cricket Burnett, were arranging a trip to New York to appear on the "Today" show.

After that, Mrs. Mowbray intends to return to Dallas, where she has been living with her daughter since being released from prison last year.

"We'll probably take it one day at a time," she said, adding

that she has no specific plans.

"After all I've been through, I sincerely feel like I will make the best decisions that are right for me."

Mrs. Mowbray's son, Wade Burnett, said he doesn't know what the future holds for him or his family.

"I haven't been an adult and not had to deal with this. So I can't say I know what it's going to be like," said Burnett, who was 16 when his mother was convicted of killing his stepfather.

Burnett, a law student who

dug up the evidence that led to his mother's new trial, said he will return to law school at Louisiana State University.

"I haven't even bought books this semester," said Burnett, who missed the first three weeks of the semester to attend his mother's trial, at which he served as the defense team's lead investigator.

Although he is scheduled to graduate this summer, Burnett said he doesn't know whether he will ever practice law after living through his mother's legal nightmare.

Bush raising more cash than Mauro

AUSTIN (AP) — Republican Gov. George W. Bush raised more money from out-of-state sources in the last six months than Land Commissioner Garry Mauro raised from all sources, according to computer analysis of the two men's recent campaign finance reports.

Meanwhile, 18 big-dollar donors — giving contributions of at least \$10,000 — gave more than half the money Mauro raised between July 1 and Dec. 31, 1997.

Mauro, the only Democrat running for governor, got about 1,120 contributions for a total of \$802,804.

Bush, who faces one little-known opponent in the March 10 Republican primary, raised \$7.9 million from about 24,860 contributions.

After expenses, Bush had \$12.7 million cash on hand at the end of the year. Mauro had \$345,096.

"We set a goal of raising \$1 million in 1997. We surpassed that goal," said Mauro campaign spokesman Billy Rogers, adding that Mauro is not concerned that most of his money came from a small group of donors.

"The bottom line is that more than 1,000 people thought enough of Garry Mauro's campaign to write a check. That does show strong support," Rogers said.

Karen Hughes, Bush's spokeswoman, said Texans should note that "18 liberal Democrats are bankrolling Garry Mauro's campaign."

"That compares to the diverse group of Texans, Republicans and Democrats, who support Gov. Bush," she said.

Ms. Hughes said the nearly 7,000 donations Bush got from outside of Texas (\$1.2 million) came from friends the governor made while an owner of the Texas Rangers, while he was in business and during his father's year as president and in Washington, D.C.

Rogers said Bush's campaign should be concerned about the percentage of money the governor raised from businesses and political action committees.

Of Bush's total contributions, about 260 businesses and PACs made 302 donations for a total of \$1.3 million. That was about 16 percent of the total.

"It's no surprise that every special interest group in Austin has contributed to Gov. Bush's campaign," Rogers said. "That's because as governor, Gov. Bush has put corporate families first."

Ms. Hughes called it more important that "the overwhelming majority (of the governor's contributions) came from Texans who appreciate Gov. Bush's leadership."

Ms. Hughes noted contributions to Bush from Democrats Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock (\$2,500) and state Rep. Hugo Berlanga, of Corpus Christi (\$500).

Cattlemen: Oprah editors cut pro-beef comments

AMARILLO (AP) — Jurors in a lawsuit against Oprah Winfrey got to see parts of her show on food safety that the rest of the nation did not, and a group of Texas cattlemen say the differences cost them \$10.3 million.

Winfrey's editors kept most of a food safety activist's warnings about beef in the final version of an episode while cutting comments about the meat's safety, lawyers for cattlemen suing the talk show host claimed Friday.

"The Oprah show scared people and scared the markets," said plaintiff Bill O'Brien, owner of Texas Beef Group who described the cattle market as "dead" in the days following the airing. "The markets reacted to the way the show was produced and the way it was delivered."

Ms. Winfrey, her production company and food safety activist Howard Lyman are being sued by a group of Texas cattlemen who say they lost millions when cattle prices plunged

after her April 16, 1996, show on "dangerous foods." Ms. Winfrey announced on the air that she was swearing off hamburgers.

The cattlemen are seeking to recoup alleged losses of \$10.3 million as well as unspecified punitive damages.

The defense blames the beef industry's price drop on drought and other factors.

Jurors have been shown uncut videotape and the edited version of the show.

On Friday, they watched as

Ms. Winfrey and Lyman referred to the feeding of processed livestock to cattle as "feeding cows to cows," or in similar terms, nine times.

The practice of rendering dead livestock into pelletized feed was common in England until it was discovered that mad cow disease, or bovine spongiform encephalopathy, probably was spreading that way.

A month before the broadcast, the British government linked BSE to a similar human sick-

ness.

The practice was outlawed in the United States last summer.

A plaintiffs' chart showed that two-thirds of what Lyman said made it past editors, while remarks promoting the safety of beef were edited out.

Ms. Winfrey's attorney, Charles Babcock, responded with his own list of statement's made by his client during the show, many of which contained cautionary phrases like "could" and "may."

AG: Eight-liners unconstitutional

AUSTIN (AP) — Casino-style machines known as "eight-liners" are unconstitutional, Texas Attorney General Dan Morales has ruled.

Resembling slot machines, eight-liners are estimated to generate more than \$100 million annually in Texas. More than 20,000 in use at truck stops, convenience stores, veterans' halls and other sites, officials estimate.

Morales, whose legal opinion Friday carries the force of law, said the machines meet the legal definition of a lottery.

The Texas Constitution requires the Legislature to "pass laws prohibiting lotteries and enterprises" other than church bingo games, charitable raffles and the state lottery.

The attorney general said any business owner convicted of owning such a device would face up to a year in prison and a maximum \$4,000 fine.

If the business is licensed to sell lottery tickets, alcohol or participate in the bingo indus-

try, those licenses may be suspended or revoked, Morales said.

"The Texas Constitution strictly prohibits gambling except in narrow cases where it has been amended," Morales said. "These gambling devices clearly violate the law."

Eight-liners have been a source of controversy for several years.

Gov. George W. Bush backed a bill to crack down on the machines, but it was killed during the 1997 legislative session by groups saying the machines were helping veterans and charities raise money in bingo halls.

"This opinion clears the way for prosecutors to vigorously enforce our laws against casino-style gambling machines, and I urge them to do so," Bush said. "Texans do not want our neighborhood shopping centers to resemble Las Vegas casinos."

Cindy Rugeley, a spokeswoman for Amusement, Music Operators of Texas (AMOT), a group representing small busi-

ness owners who operate amusement machines, said Morales' opinion doesn't clarify the law and is premature.

She said the issue of whether eight liners are constitutional is about to be ruled on in court.

"This issue is eventually going to be settled by the courts," she said. "I'm kind of surprised it came out when it did because there are four suits (already in court)."

Electronic gaming machines are classified under state law as amusements as long as players won noncash prizes or coupons redeemable for items with a value of not more than \$5 or 10 times the cost of a single play, whichever was less.

Ms. Rugeley said Morales' opinion "would make kiddy games in pizza parlors and at the state fair and other places gambling machines."

Sen. David Sibley, R-Waco, chairman of a task force created by Bush to strengthen the state's gambling laws, praised the opinion.

Lawsuit challenges rap music investment ban

AUSTIN (AP) — A Texas ban on state agencies investing in companies with artists whose songs promote violence or degrade women is under attack in state district court.

A lawsuit challenging the measure was filed Friday in Austin, said the Recording Industry Association of America.

Besides the industry group, those named as plaintiffs include a firefighter, law enforcement officers, public school teachers and former state employees concerned over their pension funds.

The ban "not only plainly violates the free expression rights of artists, it also plays politics with the retirement funds of Texas state employees," said Cary Sherman, RIAA senior executive vice president and general counsel.

"This law will affect a wide

variety of music and cost pensioners millions at the same time."

State Senate Finance Committee Chairman Bill Ratliff, who sponsored the measure, stood by it as a way to ensure tax dollars don't benefit what he has called irresponsible behavior.

The restriction — the first of its kind in the nation — has been portrayed by supporters as applying to "gangsta rap" and similar music.

It applies to public retirement systems as well as state departments and universities. Besides lyrics regarding violence or denigration of women, the ban targets those that promote illegal drug use, criminal street gang activity and acts including pedophilia.

"It doesn't surprise me that the industry would do this," Ratliff, R-Mount Pleasant, said

of the lawsuit.

But he added, "It makes me sick at my stomach to think that there are teachers in Texas and that there are law enforcement officers in Texas or firefighters in Texas — that would defend these people's actions so far as distributing lyrics that advocate rape, that advocate assault on police officers that advocate assault on women, that advocate illegal drugs."

"It is unbelievable to me that any teacher in Texas would join this lawsuit simply in the name of more earnings for his or her retirement plan. I just cannot believe that I'm hearing that," Ratliff said.

The ban was approved in last year's state legislative session when it was added to the 1998-99 state budget as one of numerous "riders," or spending-related provisions.

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Cold War giants battle for hearts and minds of Cubans

SANTIAGO, Cuba (AP) — Over the past four days, Cuba has witnessed a delicate duel between two figures from the Cold War still on stage. Each man, in his own way, is trying to evangelize Cubans.

Fidel Castro is ever the gracious host, so solicitous toward his distinguished guest that he claims to preach similar ideas.

Pope John Paul II is equally polite, making his points but softening his rhetoric so as not to offend.

At stake are two visions of Cuban society: John Paul envisions a more open and freer land where the Roman Catholic

Church can play a major role in the life of Cubans; Castro, at the least, wants to sustain an aging revolution.

There was Castro at the airport, welcoming the staunch anti-communist from Poland and assuring him that "we feel the same way you do about many important issues of today's world."

At a private meeting at the Palace of the Revolution, Castro gently asked John Paul about his health and enlisted him for a picture-taking session with the Maximum Leader's two brothers and two sisters — the women described by the

Vatican as practicing Catholics. And then Castro made a surprise appearance at the University of Havana, his alma mater, when the pope came to speak of democracy and freedom to Cuban intellectuals. The Vatican said the presence of Castro, who joined in the applause, was "appreciated."

John Paul was not without his own eloquent gestures. Twice — at the airport when he arrived from Rome and at the university — he put his arm around the shoulder of Cuban Cardinal Jaime Ortega. It was the pope's way of showing that the archbishop was his man in Havana.

While the revolutionary government never broke relations with the Vatican, it has had few contacts until recently with the Cuban church.

The week's duel actually began in Rome on Nov. 19, 1996, when Castro called on John Paul at the Vatican and extended an invitation that before had been impossible.

There had been talk of an earlier invitation, for a quick stop in Havana en route home from a Latin American pilgrimage in the 1980s. But the idea was rejected by the Vatican because at the time Cuba was closely aligned with the Soviet Union.

The invitation carried a cost: more priests, more access in the media for the church.

For the pope, that was only the start. And if Castro had any doubts about John Paul's intentions, they were clearly dispelled by John Paul's Christmas message to Cubans.

"I hope that after my visit," John Paul wrote, "the church may continue to have ever more liberty that is needed for its mission."

The visit has certainly given Castro some of the recognition he had been seeking, allowing him to bask in John Paul's presence.

John Paul's criticism of the U.S. economic embargo, in line with the Vatican's general opposition to such measures, was also unquestionably welcomed.

But as the days went on, John Paul's intentions became clearer, summed up in his homily Saturday.

True freedom, John Paul said, includes "recognition of human rights and social justice" and that change must come "through peaceful and gradual means."

He stressed that Catholics, locked out of power in the revolution, must regain a voice on the island.

Students set off avalanche in France

EMBRUN, France (AP) —

Hiking past a yellow-and-black avalanche warning flag whipping in the wind, the 32 students and six adults began their snowshoe trek across five feet of new snow high on an Alpine ridge.

Suddenly, the fragile powder gave way, sweeping the group down the mountain in tons of choking snow that smashed into a thick forest of fir trees. Nine students and two adults were killed in the Friday avalanche.

One of the children, who was not identified by name, told French radio and TV that ski monitors had told them to be "on the alert" for the possibility of an avalanche.

"We knew there was a danger, but we weren't really afraid," he said.

The warning flag indicated the danger of an avalanche as four on a scale of five when the students began their trek along the mountainside above the Orres ski station near the Italian border.

The six adults in the group included at least four professional guides who decided Thursday night to go ahead with the outing despite being aware of the heightened risk of an avalanche.

Mountain police said the weight of the 32 French private school students — ages 14 to 16 — and their adult chaperones set off the deadly snowslide, which came on the final day of students' long-planned winter holiday. Some of the children died when the snow slammed their bodies into trees. Others suffocated.

"It's the group itself which set off the slide (of snow) on its path," said Lt. Laurent Jaumatre of the mountain police in the area.

"It's clear they had no business there."

Nine children were injured, one of whom remained in serious condition Saturday.

A special government plane carrying grieving parents, survivors and coffins containing the dead students took off Saturday evening from the Alps bound for a military airfield outside Paris.

"It's one of the most horrible things I have ever seen. It's such an injustice, such a heartbreaking thing," said Bernard Kouchner, France's health minister, who accompanied the students and parents and sheltered them from the press.

Judicial authorities began an investigation into whether the ski monitors ignored safety warnings, which were posted Friday after the heavy snowfall.

"This drama could have been avoided if all the safety regulations had been observed," Capt. Gerard Valich, of the mountain police rescue team, told LCI television.

Heavy snowfall, which is common in the Alps, vastly increases the risk of avalanches. Outside the chalet where the students stayed Thursday night, a warning flag alerted skiers to the new dangers.

Initiative puts bilingual education under microscope

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A strange thing happened when Fernando Vega stuck three signs in his front yard.

The signs read "Ingles Para Los Ninos" — English for the children — in support of a contentious California ballot initiative seeking to halt bilingual education, which teaches children in their native languages. But the placards proved a lure to some of the very people thought to be most supportive of bilingual education — Spanish-speaking parents hoping to help their kids.

They came knocking on his door.

"Senor, what do you have to do to get into your school?" they asked. "The schools don't teach my children English."

Vega, a retired airline mechanic and former school board member in Redwood City, says the parents' misplaced enthusiasm only boosted his

passion to dismantle the bilingual education system he had fought to build in the late 1960s.

"It was supposed to be about kids learning English, overcoming language barriers," says Vega, now honorary chairman of the "English for the Children" movement. "That's not happening anymore."

The initiative would require public school pupils to be taught in English, except when parents specifically ask for bilingual help. Children who come to school speaking little or no English would spend their first year in "a sheltered English immersion class," as described by initiative author Ron Unz, a Silicon Valley software executive and one-time candidate for governor.

Early polls, including one by the San Francisco-based Field Institute, show the June 2 ballot initiative is backed by more than two-thirds of voters,

whether they question all voters or specifically Hispanics. It also has gained support from at least one high-profile Latino educator, Jaime Escalante, the tough-talking educator depicted in the movie "Stand and Deliver."

The program's biggest problem, many say, is the number of students who graduate from the dual-language program. The idea is to keep the children from falling behind in core subjects while teaching them English, but last year, only 6.7 percent of California's 1.4 million "limited English proficient" students earned "proficient" status.

Although that percentage is slightly higher than in recent years, even supportive educators concede at least 10 percent of the non-English speaking students should move on to proficient levels each year. They say the system falters under a constant flow of new immigrants

and a chronic shortage of native-language teachers.

"We constantly get at least as many new students as we redesignate, so it almost looks as though we're standing still when we're not," said Lydia Stack, a coordinator for the San Francisco public school's Language Academy.

Bilingual education programs exist nationwide, with particular concentrations of non-English-speaking children in Texas, New York, Florida and Illinois.

But California's public schools account for more than half of the estimated 2.44 million non-fluent students nationwide. Those 1.4 million California students, fully one-quarter of the state's public school enrollment, are predominantly Spanish-speaking.

Because of a shortage of teachers and textbooks, only about 30 percent of the children who

need language help get core subjects — math, science and social studies — taught to them in their native languages. Mostly, that's Spanish, although some youngsters get at least some lessons in such languages as Arabic, Russian, Chinese, Korean and Japanese.

Unz, who once challenged Gov. Pete Wilson for the Republican nomination, has spent more than \$300,000 of his own money on "English for the Children."

For his trouble, he's been called a political opportunist and even a racist.

Critics wonder why a single man with no children, a computer millionaire who lives in the rarified environs of Palo Alto, has such an interest in the education of immigrant children. He simply shrugs.

"I don't see why it's controversial to teach little children English," Unz says.

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Source: Lewinsky said to be ready to admit affair

WASHINGTON (AP) — Monica Lewinsky is offering to testify that she did have a sexual relationship with President Clinton, if Whitewater prosecutors will give her immunity from perjury, a source familiar with the negotiations said today.

Such a posture leaves open, however, what Ms. Lewinsky would say on the most serious allegations against Clinton: whether he or his friend, Vernon Jordan, encouraged her to lie about the relationship under oath.

The developments came as Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr, the Whitewater prosecutor, was continuing to subpoena witnesses and gather evidence in the probe of whether Clinton conspired to cover up the alleged affair with Ms. Lewinsky, a former White House intern.

Her chief lawyer, William Ginsburg, met Friday with

Starr in the first volley of negotiations on a possible plea agreement for the young woman. She signed a sworn affidavit on Jan. 7 explicitly denying any sexual relationship with Clinton and would face perjury charges if that document no longer squares with her story.

Those Friday night talks ended without a deal, but a source familiar with the talks said Ms. Lewinsky's attorney made clear to Starr that she would admit the affair if protected from prosecution herself. Speaking to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity, the source would not say what, if anything, Ms. Lewinsky was prepared to tell Starr about Clinton and Jordan allegedly conspiring to get her to lie.

The New York Times reported today that Ginsburg said Ms. Lewinsky was not prepared to flatly accuse either the presi-

dent or Jordan of asking her to lie about it.

Starr and Ginsburg were expected to meet again today, but Ginsburg, who refused to comment on the substance of negotiations, said he was waiting for the prosecutor make a move. "He's got to call me. He needs my lady," Ginsburg said today.

Meanwhile, the investigation steamed forward, with Jordan, Clinton's longtime friend and confidant scheduled to appear Tuesday before a grand jury to explain why he helped arrange a job and get a lawyer for Ms. Lewinsky in the Paula Jones sexual harassment case.

Ms. Lewinsky is heard on secret tape recordings telling a friend and Pentagon co-worker, Linda Tripp, that she had an affair with Clinton and that he encouraged her to deny it.

Ginsburg confirmed that prosecutors offered Ms. Lewinsky, 24, immunity when FBI agents

first approached her a week ago, provided she participate in a sting operation against Clinton and Jordan. Ginsburg did not accept the offer immediately and it was not renewed.

Clinton met with his Cabinet Friday, denying the accusations once again. "I'm going to be fine, and you will be, too, and let's all hang in there," he was quoted as telling his department heads.

"I believe the allegations are completely untrue," said Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. "I'll second that. Definitely," said Commerce Secretary William Daley.

Developments in the investigation have been swift.

FBI agents obtained a search warrant for Ms. Lewinsky's apartment, sources close to the case confirmed on condition of anonymity. One person familiar with the taped conversations said they have Ms. Lewinsky saying that

Clinton gave her gifts — a dress, a hat pin and a copy of Walt Whitman's "Leaves of Grass." Ms. Lewinsky also received a subpoena to testify before the federal grand jury.

Ms. Lewinsky told Ms. Tripp in the taped conversations that a dress given to her as a gift by Clinton contains a semen stain from the president, according to news reports, citing people who had heard the recordings. Such evidence would interest prosecutors because it could provide a DNA link.

Lawyers familiar with the tapes, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Ms. Lewinsky is heard telling Ms. Tripp that the president often telephoned her at home and engaged in explicit sex talk.

Officials familiar with the debate among Clinton's advisers said the president's legal team — including private attorney David Kendall, longtime

friend Bruce Lindsey and White House counsel Charles F.C. Ruff — were urging a measured response. Their argument, the officials said, was that it would not be wise to release too many details.

A courier service in Washington was subpoenaed by prosecutor Starr for records and testimony about nine packages it delivered from Ms. Lewinsky at the Pentagon, where she then worked, to the West Wing of the White House last October through December.

Employees of the courier service were expected to appear Tuesday before the grand jury. Jordan also is expected to testify that day.

Although Ms. Lewinsky denied an affair with Clinton under oath, lawyers and others familiar with the taped conversations said Ms. Lewinsky told Ms. Tripp that she performed oral sex on him numerous times.

Prosecutor 'squeeze' a much-used tactic

WASHINGTON (AP) — First, investigators took Monica Lewinsky to a hotel room and questioned her for hours. After she refused to cooperate, prosecutors told her she was a target of their investigation.

The tactics used by special counsel Kenneth Starr mimicked the high drama of prime time TV as he moved to win Ms. Lewinsky's help in his investigation of allegations linking her sexually with President Clinton. But the tactics actually are standard procedure for investigators trying to move a case to a higher level.

"It's kind of working your way up the food chain," said Chicago lawyer Howard Pearl, a former federal prosecutor.

What Starr wants, according to several former federal prosecutors who are not involved in the case, is a cooperative witness in his investigation. He's putting the squeeze on Ms. Lewinsky to get it.

It would be explained to her that she is a target of the investigation and could be prosecuted, but here's a way out of it," said former federal prosecutor John Rowley.

That is precisely what her lawyer, William Ginsburg, said happened when the former White House intern was confronted by federal agents this month at a hotel in northern Virginia.

Ms. Lewinsky said in an earlier deposition that she did not have an affair with Clinton. But in taped conversations with a friend, sources said she talked about the affair and disclosed that the president and his close friend, Vernon E. Jordan Jr., suggested she lie about it.

It is not clear whether Ms. Lewinsky would agree to testify

about the alleged effort to get her to lie.

Talks between Starr and Ginsburg were expected to resume Saturday, the source said.

Ginsburg spent much of Friday giving interviews in which he criticized the way his client was treated.

In one appearance, he acknowledged that "squeeze, threatening" is part of a prosecutor's job.

But in another, he said the efforts by investigators to pressure his client "should frighten anyone who is involved in the process here in America."

Starr responded that comments suggesting Ms. Lewinsky was mistreated "are wholly erroneous."

If Ms. Lewinsky had cooperated when initially confronted by prosecutors, Pearl said the next step probably would have been to have had her make a recorded call to Clinton or Jordan to get their statements on tape.

Now that the matter has become public, "her usefulness to them in that regard is gone," said Pearl.

Another former federal prosecutor, James Cole, said prosecutors generally have three alternatives in trying to get a witness' testimony.

The most desirable, because it helps preserve a witness' credibility, is to persuade someone to plead guilty to a charge and then cooperate with the investigation, he said.



The second choice is to provide immunity in exchange for a witness' cooperation, but that can open the witness to accusations of being bought. The worst alternative is to prosecute someone and wind up with an uncooperative witness.

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Malone & Hogan Clinic, a St. Mary Medical Center, is pleased to welcome Board Certified physician Michael P. Auringer as a valued member of our family of dedicated professionals. Dr. Auringer provides comprehensive family practice services. Dr. Auringer received his medical-degree in 1984 from the University of Texas School of Medicine at Houston, and completed his residency at the University of Colorado. He comes to us from the Longmont Clinic in Longmont, Colorado, where he served as medical director. Call to make an appointment or just to welcome Dr. Auringer and his family to Big Spring. Now more than ever, Dr. Auringer and the other healthcare professionals of St. Mary are delivering the quality care you and your family deserve.



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QUICK TRIVIA

◆The mint family of plants includes more than 3,000 kinds of mint, including sage, thyme, rosemary, lavender and basil.

◆The horned toad is really a lizard. The name "toad" comes from the squat, toadlike shape of its roughly scaled body.

Do you have a good story idea for the *life!* section? Call 263-7331, Ext. 236.



When Betty Franklin was growing up in Lenorah, she used to sit with her face "glued to the window" in the family home, looking out at Scenic Mountain.

"I thought it was beautiful," she recalled, "and I knew I had to go there."

It wasn't long before she did. Betty married her husband, Fred, when she was only 16 and they lived in Big Spring. But the little girl from Lenorah still yearned to travel.

It wasn't until 1991, after both retired, that the Franklins began to realize that dream. Their first trip with the Retired Senior Volunteer Program Travelers was to Hawaii.

"We had wanted to go," Betty said. Her husband was visiting with some friends, including Joy Decker, then director of RSVP. She suggested he and Betty could organize a group tour.

Soon the RSVP Travelers was born. Seven years later, the Franklins are still coordinating trips for the group, working with current director Nancy Jones and travel agent Lena Bilbrey.

This year, among the planned excursions is a return to Hawaii, which the Franklins plan to take as a celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary, which is May 21.

Any adult is welcome to take the tours. RSVP earns a portion of the proceeds, using the money for such things as office equipment and special programs. The agency, which operates mostly with grant money, places retired people in volunteer positions in Big Spring and the surrounding area.

Interested people can get more information at the RSVP Travel Showcase today at 2 p.m. at Dora Roberts Civic Center. The travel agency and RSVP representatives will be on hand, with summaries of each planned trip for 1998.

Among the excursions set for this year are the Hawaii trip, a 10-day tour April 9-18 with a seven-night cruise and tour of Pearl Harbor.

June 1-6, the group will travel to Branson and Eureka Springs. This tour features musical performances by the Osmonds, Shoji Tabuchi, and Country Tonite.

Aug. 15, a day trip will take the group to see "Phantom of the Opera" in Fort Worth. Oct. 6-9, they will travel to the Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta.

A "Smoky Mountain Christmas" is planned Dec. 9-16, with tours of Dollywood, the Biltmore Mansion in Asheville, N.C. and Pigeon Forge's Winterfest.

The Franklins have taken several trips since they started the group in 1991: a tour of Christmas lights in Marshall, Shreveport and other

cities; an Alaskan tour; a Branson trip; trips to Canada and the Amish country in Pennsylvania and Ohio.

"We come back with friends we didn't have before," Betty said, adding that, since they often spend days together on a tour bus, the group gets to know each other pretty well.

"That makes the trip," she said, "we have a lot of fun on the bus." Travelers change seats regularly, so they get to know the others in the group.

"It's been a wonderful opportunity for us," Betty said.

"I couldn't do this if it weren't for Fred and Betty," said Nancy Jones, RSVP director. "These trips are a wonderful way for people to get together and have a good time. And they do have a wonderful time."

Reunions of some tours bring travelers back together for sharing of photographs and mementos. New travelers are often recruited by the Franklins at senior citizen's dances throughout the area.

For the Franklins, RSVP Travelers has opened up a new world. They have pen pals from all over the country, and several other countries, and look forward to each trip as a new adventure. This year's return to Hawaii will be their first cruise.

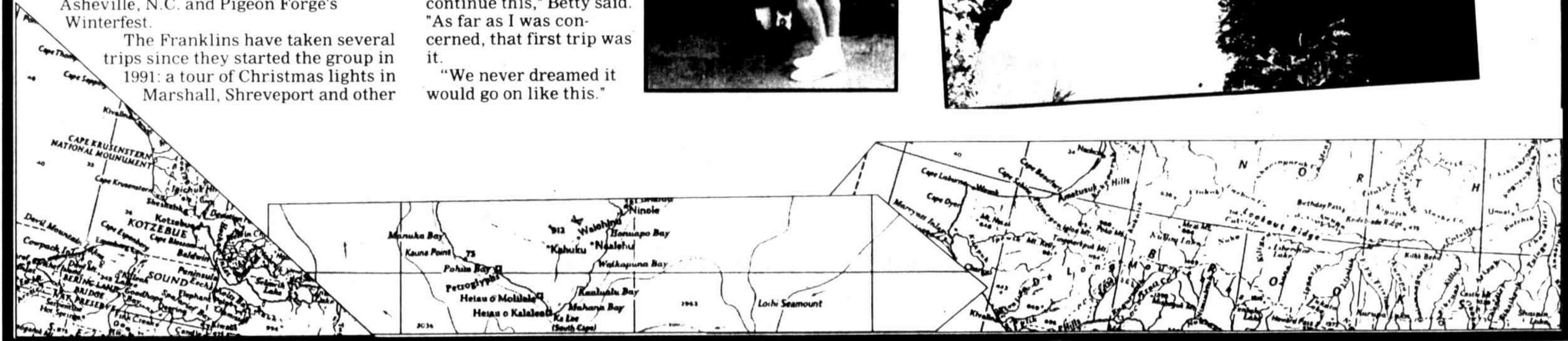
"We never expected to continue this," Betty said. "As far as I was concerned, that first trip was it."

"We never dreamed it would go on like this."



The photos are all from the travel scrapbook of Fred and Betty Franklin, who coordinate the tours for Retired Senior Volunteer Program. At left, Bridal Veil Falls, from the Agawa Canyon Train Tour, August 1996; Below, left, traveler David Rhoton nails a Big Spring sign to the Watson Lake Sign Post Forest in Alaska; Below, right, Fred and Betty Franklin pose with the last mile marker on Alaskan Highway in June 1995; Bottom, left, the Franklins on their first RSVP trip, Hawaii in 1991. Below, right, the natural bridge on Mackinac Island, Michigan, July 1996.

STORY BY DEBBIE L. JENSEN



Sick as a dog (but not as noble) on Super Bowl Sunday

I'm sick. My eyes run. My nose runs, and I am a step away from dehydration. Chills come on the heels of bouts of fever and vice versa. My joints ache and I am nauseated. I have a headache.

I think I have Parvo virus. The sickest patient I've ever seen (who recovered) was my dog, George, when he had Parvo.

One morning he was a healthy, active dog, standing his watch and being loyal. By mid-afternoon he was down on the porch, and by evening he couldn't lift his head.

The next morning he was still there and I could count his ribs. The weight he lost

overnight was unbelievable. The vet came and diagnosed Parvo. He said the rapid weight loss was dehydration; that it played a big part in losing animals to the virus. He left some medicine that might help.

If I could just get him to drink water. "That's the key," he said as he patted us and left. "Make him drink water."

Poor George. He hadn't eaten in about 18 hours. He couldn't lift his head. How could I make him drink?

I pulled a roast from the deep freeze and put it in a pan with a cup or two of water and some instant gravy mix. I salted it good. Then I salted it some more. Real good.

I covered it with foil, put it in the oven and went out on the porch to sit with George. The barn cats were gathered around, on the verge of singing hymns, and I ran them off. George didn't open his eyes, but he was breathing. He wasn't dead yet.

I sat there while the roast cooked, dipping my hand in

water and touching it to his mouth.

In a few hours, I could smell the roasting meat through the screen door. My stomach growled and I think George's did too. He hadn't eaten in over 24 hours.

The meat was tender when I took the foil off the pan and stirred up the gravy. I cut off a hunk and chopped it into tiny pieces. Stirred in some gravy.

It smelled so good I took a bite and the salt nearly strangled me. I added a little water to George's bowl and took it to him.

The cats were back. It was the smell of the roast. They thought it was a party.

I dipped my finger into the shredded roast and put it under George's lip. When I checked a while later, the meat was gone although I hadn't seen him swallow. I wondered if dogs could eat by osmosis.

When my husband came home, he patted George and went inside. Almost two table-spoons of the meat was gone. I poured a puddle of water under the dog's mouth. If he wanted to drink, he wouldn't have to lift his head.

Inside, my husband was having a roast sandwich. He drank a lot of water that night. George drank his water, too, and he survived. But he was the sickest animal I'd ever

seen. George looked noble in his struggle. I don't.

My eyes are weak and glassy, and my nose is big and red. My throat feel like it's been sprayed with that non-stick cooking stuff. My hair smells like a little boy's head under a wet toboggan. But I'll get over it.

Not that anyone really cares today. Today is Super Bowl Sunday and no one will pay any attention to me. They'll be living it up, eating pizza and cheering for Green Bay.

I can moan all afternoon and they won't hear. I'll have to get my own water.

I hope the Broncos win.



Eunice Choate
Columnist

ON THE MENU

SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER
MONDAY-Chicken spaghetti, zucchini, salad, garlic bread, milk, pudding.
TUESDAY-Stew, cauliflower & peas, salad, cornbread, milk, cobbler.
WEDNESDAY-Enchiladas, rice, beans, salad, milk/rolls, fruit.
THURSDAY-Chicken, potatoes, carrots, fruit, milk/rolls, pie.
FRIDAY-Steak, potatoes, broccoli, pea salad, milk/rolls, fruit.
SANDS SCHOOLS
MONDAY-Bar-be-que on bun, ranch style beans, french fries, cake, milk.
TUESDAY-Fish w/tartar sauce, pork & beans, salad, fruit, batter bread, milk.

WEDNESDAY-Frito pie, salad, pinto beans, corn bread, cobbler, milk.
THURSDAY-Chicken nuggets, mashed potatoes/gravy, green beans, hot rolls, jello, milk.
FRIDAY-Burritos, scalloped potatoes, corn, pudding milk.
STANTON SCHOOLS
MONDAY-Riblet/burn or cheeseburger, french fries/catsup, fresh fruit, pudding, fruit drink, milk.
TUESDAY-Country steak or chicken nuggets, mashed potatoes/gravy, peas & carrots, fruit cobbler, hot roll, milk.
WEDNESDAY-Nacho grande or baked potato, refried beans, lettuce/tomato salad, pineapple cup, fruit drink, milk.
THURSDAY-Chili cheese fries or beef fajita, buttered corn, lettuce/tomato salad, fruit cup, fruit drink, milk.
FRIDAY-Choice of sandwiches, potato chips, vegetable soup, apple wedges, fruit drink, milk.

BIG SPRING SCHOOLS
MONDAY-Pizza (chicken patties/gravy, whipped potatoes) vegetable sticks, peaches, grapes, hot roll, milk.
TUESDAY-Chicken strips (meatball sandwich) whipped potatoes, green beans, corn on cob, orange, hot roll, milk.
WEDNESDAY-Jambalaya (chef salad, crackers), salad refried beans/cheese, banana, milk.
THURSDAY-Hamburger (stuffed baked potato, crackers), salad, french fries, apple sauce, fruit freeze bar, milk.
FRIDAY-Chili-cheese dog (hamburger stea, whipped potatoes), fried okra, jello/mixed fruit, pickle spears, milk.
COAHOMA SCHOOLS
MONDAY-Taco beef pie (ham & cheese sandwich) pinto beans, salad, fresh fruit, milk.
TUESDAY-Smothered steak (burrito, fries), rice, broccoli normandy, jello w/fruit, rolls, milk.
WEDNESDAY-Chicken ten-

ders w/gravy (chalupas), mashed potatoes, green beans, salad, fruit cup, milk.
THURSDAY-Pizza (teachers only: salad or baked potato), fries, fresh fruit, milk.
FRIDAY-taco salad (corndog, fries), peach cobbler, milk.
FORSAN SCHOOLS
MONDAY-Steak/gravy, whipped potatoes, green beans, hot rolls, fruit salad, milk.
TUESDAY-Frito pie, ranch style beans, salad, crackers, fruit, milk.
WEDNESDAY-Hamburgers, french fries, salad, pickles/onions, pudding, milk.
THURSDAY-Stew, corn, cornbread, banana bread, fruit, milk.
FRIDAY-Fajitas, ranch style beans, spanish rice, salad, fruit churros, milk.
GARDEN CITY SCHOOLS
MONDAY-Pepperoni pizza, salad, corn, peanut butter bar, milk.
TUESDAY-Spaghetti, black-

eye peas, salad, cookie, garlic bread, milk.
WEDNESDAY-Sliced turkey roast, gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, jello/fruit and whipped cream, hot rolls, milk.
THURSDAY-Beef & bean chalupas, spanish rice, salad, cheese, peaches, milk.
FRIDAY-Ham & cheese sandwiches, french fries, lettuce, tomato, pickles, cookie, milk.
ELBOW SCHOOL
MONDAY-Chili-mac, peas, pears, hot roll, milk.
TUESDAY-Egg roll, chicken rice, stir fry veggies, fruit, hot bread, milk.
WEDNESDAY-Chili and beans, corn, peaches and cream, cornbread, milk.
THURSDAY-Chicken teriyaki, potatoes, broccoli & cheese, fruit, hot roll.
FRIDAY-Mr. rib sandwich, potato wedges, salad, pickle, orange slices, milk.
GRADY SCHOOLS
MONDAY-Pizza, corn, fruit,

dessert, milk.
TUESDAY-Beef & bean burrito, spanish rice, dessert, milk.
WEDNESDAY-Turkey, potatoes, green beans, rolls, milk.
THURSDAY-Super nachos, fruit, dessert, milk.
FRIDAY-Ham & cheese sandwiches, chips, fruit, dessert, milk.
WESTBROOK SCHOOLS
MONDAY-Chicken nuggets, gravy, green beans, creamed potatoes, biscuits, syrup, honey, milk.
TUESDAY-Corn dogs, potato wedge, pork and beans, jell-o, milk.
WEDNESDAY-Lasagna, cabbage slaw, corn, sliced bread, gingerbread with whipped topping, milk.
THURSDAY-Burritos, chili and cheese, tossed salad, spanish rice, pear halves, milk.
FRIDAY-Sandwiches, lettuce, tomato, french fries, rice crispy bars, milk.

Woman seeks millions in supposed sweepstakes winnings

By PAUL WILBORN
St. Petersburg Times

TAMPA, Fla. — Ina Brown, 76, knows she's a big winner. Repeated letters from American Family Publishers promise prizes up to \$11 million. But the money never arrives.

Now Brown is looking for her millions in federal court.

The Tampa woman is one of two plaintiffs named in a federal lawsuit filed Tuesday against American Family Publishers alleging the company owes millions to people identified as winners in sweepstakes solicitations. The lawsuit says the company used the mails to deceive and defraud consumers.

Henry Valenzuela, one of Brown's attorneys, is asking a judge to certify Brown's lawsuit as a class action.

If that happens, the class could include any of the millions of Americans who

ordered a magazine or other product from the company in the mistaken belief they were a winner.

"By responding, every one of them completed a contract," Valenzuela said. "We believe (American Family) made legitimate offers. It is time for them to stand behind those offers."

Citing federal racketeering laws, the lawsuit alleges that American Family Publishers used the mails to "defraud recipients through deceptive and misleading mailings," Valenzuela said.

Loumi Miller, a spokeswoman for American Family Publishers, said Tuesday the company had not seen the lawsuit and could not comment.

The second plaintiff in the lawsuit is Daniel Gibby, a Tampa lawyer who received a letter from American Family last year that said Gibby "AND ONE OTHER PERSON HAVE BEEN ISSUED THE WINNING NUMBER WHOEVER

RETURNS IT FIRST WINS AT LEAST \$6,000,000 — GUARANTEED!"

Gibby responded to the letter and later wrote asking for his winnings but was rebuffed by the company, Valenzuela said.

American Family is being investigated by the Florida Attorney General's Office for what state Attorney General Bob Butterworth has labeled "reprehensible" and "deceptive" trade practices.

Since September, the St. Petersburg Times has documented 12 cases in which people have flown to Tampa thinking they were sweepstakes winners, only to be turned away by guards at a company office.

Guy Burns, the other lead attorney in the suit, said the lawsuit came after the attorneys learned of the sweepstakes problems through stories in the Times.

Last week, American Family Publishers voluntarily halted the distribution of two solici-

tion letters after a Baltimore woman, Marilyn West, flew to Tampa thinking she was a sweepstakes winner.

West and her two daughters were turned away from the office of Time Customer Service.

Solicitations for American Family Publishers carry a Tampa return address. They are processed here by Time Customer Service, which is a sister company of American Family.

Both operate under the corporate umbrella of Time Warner.

Ina Brown was ready to go to Time Customer Service last fall after receiving a prize notification with a 24-hour response deadline. She called and was told that the office was guarded and closed to the public.

Like many other elderly sweepstakes contestants, Brown's house is filled with magazines and sweepstakes solicitation packages.

IN THE MILITARY

USS Maddox Destroyer Assoc. Reunion (DD168, DD622 and DD731), July 9-12, Minneapolis, Min.

Contact: Bill and Joyce Metcalf, 12686 W. Hwy 55, York, S.C. 29745; 1-803-222-3180.

Army Sgt. Danny G. Moreno has been decorated with the Army Commendation Medal.

Moreno is an equipment records and parts specialist assigned to the 10th Aviation Regiment at Fort Drum, Watertown, N.Y.

He is the son of Suk Cha Seitz, Newhall, Calif., and Adolfo G. Moreno, Big Spring.

PFC Santos Martinez III from 118th Military Police Airborne Company Fort Bragg, N.C., is on leave before being transferred to Ft. Clayton, Panama.

He was awarded the Army Achievement Medal for meritorious service.

He will be accompanied by his wife, former PFC Melissa A. Martinez, who was also stationed at Fort Bragg before her discharge. She is the daughter of Sylvia C. Garcia of Slaton.

He is a 1971 graduate of Big Spring High School and is the son of Anita Massey of Big Spring and Santos Martinez, Jr. of Dallas. His grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Manuel Flores of Big Spring.



S. MARTINEZ
M. MARTINEZ

CLUB NEWS

1948 Hyperion Club

Following their program theme for the year, "World Religions," the 1948 Hyperion Club had as their guests Dr. Mazaffar Hussain and Dr. Shahid Muhammad. Introduced by Katie Lara, the speakers topic was "Understanding Islam and the Muslims." They related that Muslims believe in one, unique, incomparable God, in the Angels created by Him, in the prophets through whom His revelations were brought to mankind; in the Day of Judgment and individual accountability for actions; in God's complete authority over human destiny and in life after death.

Jan Foresyth presided at the business meeting in which members voted to sponsor two memberships to the YMCA. Refreshments were served to 19 members by cohostesses Mary Miller and Al Bettle.

Elbow FCE

Elbow Family and Community Education Club met in the home of Lola Kelly on Jan. 15, 1998 for the first meeting of the New Year.

Olnee Menges conducted the meeting, introducing Jowili Etchison, The F.C.E. Council President. Roll call by Secretary, Lola Kelly, was answered by 9 members telling "What I wished by parents had named me".

Committee reports were received by chairpersons. Lola Kelly reported on an article written by Jeff Miller,

Syndicated Columnist, about international affairs concerning McDonald-Douglas and congressional monies. She urged the members to write to their congressman and continue to be alert to governmental affairs.

Jowili Etchison then conducted installation program for the new club officers for 1998. At the conclusion of the installation, Olnee Menges presented a short program for the members commitment to the club and community. Members participated by reading short thoughts about the virtues needed by members to help the club function and meet its goals for the New Year.

The next meeting will be Feb. 5 and the public is invited. For more information about time and place please call 263-6819 or 263-2233.

County-wide spelling bee announced

The Howard County Spelling Bee, sponsored by the Big Spring Herald, will take place March 17 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. at Howard College Auditorium.

The bee includes local students up to 8th grade, both those in public schools and home schools.

For information about how to obtain practice books, which contain rules of the competition and spelling words, call Pat Williams at the Herald office, 263-7331.

READ the Big Spring Herald

Big Spring Specialty Clinic of ORII
ODESSA REGIONAL HOSPITAL.

The following Doctor will be in our office this week.

Tuesday, Jan. 27th.....	Randy Pat Russell, MA, CCC-A Audiologist
Tuesday, Jan. 27th.....	Dr. Bueno/Pediatrician

Call us for An Appointment 267-8226

616 So. Gregg St. • Big Spring, Texas



STORK CLUB


Sloan Howard Kail, boy, Dec. 15, 1997, eight pounds 14 ounces and 20 inches long; parents are Shane and Elise Kail, Midland.

Grandparents are Frances R. Wheat and the late Walter L. Wheat, Big Spring, and Gene and Geneva Kail, Midland.

Sarah Alayna, girl, Jan. 12, 1998, 4:56 p.m., 7 pounds 10 1/4 ounces and 20 1/2 inches long; parents are Justin Moran, Austin, and Penelope I. Moran, Big Spring.

Grandparents are Ricky Acuff, Midland, Debbie Chamness, Big Spring, Jack K. Moran, Joaquin, and Sue Moran, Big Spring.

CHIPPENDALES




The Cactus Club

Friday, February 6th, 1998
VIP TICKETS AVAILABLE
 Call The Chippendales info line
1-800-680-0703
 For ticket information
 "Experience The Magic of The Chippendales"

Oh, my head hurts!

The public is invited to...
HEALTH TALK
 A QUARTERLY PHYSICIAN SEMINAR



Guido Toscano, M.D.
 will speak about **Headaches**

Dr. Toscano is board-certified in Internal Medicine.
 Come and meet him during this important seminar.

Scenic Mountain Medical Center
 1601 West 11th Place - 1st floor classroom
 Tuesday, February 3rd
 6:00pm

Please RSVP 263-1211 ext. 463

TAKE TIME OUT FOR YOURSELF READ THE BIG SPRING HERALD

SUNDAY SPECIAL ANY 2 REGULAR FOOT LONG SANDWICHES \$6.00 NO COUPON NECESSARY

SUBWAY

10th & GREGG ONLY
 267-SUBS (267-7827)

JAN 25 1998

ANTED
Hospital, St. Colorado
s accepting
for Nurse's
11-7 shift.
N., JoAnn
728-3431 ext

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38-6428
e Students

HELP WANTED
**DERIK MAN/ TUBIN
TESTER OPERATOR**
needed. Must pass drug test & have a good driving record. Will train someone with pullin unit experience. Call Jesse 267-5818 after 8 p.m.

Fast-paced non-profit community relations agency is taking applications for Executive Director position. Ideal candidate, Degree preferred in human services, or supervisory / administrative skills and experience may be substituted. Also must have knowledge of Grant writing and funding procedures, and be able to work with the public and other funding organizations. Please send resume to P.O. Box 1431/1431B, Big Spring, TX 79721. Deadline for resumes is January 31, 1998 must be postmarked with that date. EOE.

Full-time Cashier needed. Evening & weekend shift only! References & own transportation required. Apply in person Fat Boys Fina Mart.

**INDUSTRIAL WORKERS
Needed:**
• Light construction
• General Laborers
• Tradesman

We Offer:
• Great Pay • Paid Holidays
• Paid Vacations • Health Insurance • Employee Stock Purchase Plan

Must have steel-toed boots, transportation and be able to pass drug screen. Position to start immediately in Big Spring, so call today! Please call for an appointment: (915) 682-2119.

HELP WANTED
**Maint./Custodian for
weekend & part time.** See Tony at Big Spring Mall.

**Need men exp. in laying
and tying Rebar for conc. slabs.**
Call Richard 263-1330

POSTAL WORKERS
No exp. necessary.
\$13.61/hr. to start, plus
benefits. Application/exam
info. available. Call
Bam-8pm only. Open 7 days
/week. 1-800-267-5715, ext.
230.

Seeking a Christian to work
in a church nursery
part-time. Please call Twila
at 267-2191.

CDL Training, you take the
test, we do the rest.
Learners permit, truck &
trailer furnished. Call
268-9557 for info.

**Scenic Mountain Medical
Center**
has an opening for an
Accounts Payable Clerk,
experienced in high volume,
fast-paced office. Computer
experience a must. We offer
competitive wage and
excellent benefits package
with 401(k) retirement.
Applications may be picked
up at the switchboard
between the hours of 7am
and 9pm. 1601 West 11th
Place, Big Spring, Texas or
fax resume to (915)
263-6454, ATTN: C. New.
No phone calls please. EOE.

WANTED: Private
Instructor to teach Tumbling
to small group. Call
353-4685 or 263-1091.

Immediate opening for CDL
driver, with good driving
record. We offer competitive
wages. Full benefits for full
time employees. Apply in
person at 100 S. St Peter in
Stanton, Tx.

HELP WANTED
**\$ NEED CASH \$ GET
CASH IN ONE HOUR FOR
YOUR INCOME TAX
REFUND. BRING YOUR
COMPLETED 1040 W2'S,
SS CARD & ID. 1009 E.
11th place. Ultra Video**

Wanted: Administrator of an
Intermediate Care Facility for
person with
developmental disabilities.
Comanche Flats is a 14 bed
adult facility located in Big
Spring, and owned by
American Habilitation
Services which is the
largest provider of ICF-MR
services in Texas. The
position requires a degree
and experience with persons
with disabilities. Salary is
based on experience; \$30K;
an array of benefits including
insurance, 401K, and paid
time off.
Persons interested should
contact Johnny Creagar at
254-559-3336 or fax
resumes to 254-559-3338.
AHS is an equal opportunity
employer.

**** POSTAL JOBS **
\$172/HR**
GUARANTEED HIRE.
FOR APP. AND EXAM
INFO. CALL
1-800-626-6618 EXT. 2340,
8am-9pm 7 DAYS.

Don's Tire & Truck Ser: S.
Service Rd 1-20 Taking
applications for experienced
Truck & Tractor Tire repair
man. Pay according to
experience.

VISTA PROPANE,
a growing propane and fuel
marketer, seeks motivated
employees to drive delivery
trucks and to handle office
responsibilities for office in
your area. CDL preferred,
LP license a plus. Send
resume to P. O. Box 190,
Midland, Texas 79720 or
phone 915-685-1855

LONG JOHN SILVERS
Needed day time help &
delivery drivers. Apply in
person. No phone calls
please.

HELP WANTED
Exciting route sale deliver
job opportunity now
available. Great benefits
such as 401k, disability ins.,
vacation pay, Health
insurance and much more!
Meet people, use and
develop your selling skills.
Must be in good physical
condition. Apply Now! Call
263-4186

Hiring: Licensed
Plumbers with Commercial
/ Industrial experience. Also
hiring qualified experienced
sheetmetal journeymen.
Call 1-888-691-1612.

Brick Layer wanted for New
Big Spring Jr. High. \$20 site
high. Come by the job site
between 8:00-4:30.

AVON \$8-\$18/hr. No
Door-to-Door, Quick Cash,
Fun & Relaxing
1-800-361-0466.

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

Farm help wanted:
References required.
353-4450

**HOME MAKERS
DELIGHT**
Home based business.
\$500-\$1500 Part time.
\$2,000-\$4000 Fulltime.
1-888-274-9118.

**ACT NOW! AVON avg.
\$8-\$15/hr.** Benefits, flex hrs.
1-800-557-2866 ind/rep.

Willing to work. Willing to
learn. Will train. Good pay.
Kitchen/dishwasher / Wait
staff positions open. Apply at
Red Mesa Grill, 2401
Gregg.

Opening January 6th: 1
Fulltime booth rental for
Hairstylist. Pleasant
atmosphere, set your own
hours. Call 267-9687 or
come by 2105 S. Gregg.

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

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

HELP WANTED
Wanted, Maintenance
person for apartments in Big
Spring. Experience
necessary, A/C certified.
Please call (806) 763-5360.

LOANS
**WE BUY REAL ESTATE
LOANS**
915-695-8275.

DELTA LOANS
\$100 to \$396.88
SE Habla Espanol
115 E. 3rd 268-9090
Ph.Apps.Welcome.

SILVANS/LOANS
\$100.00 to \$446.00
CALL OR COME BY
Security Finance
204 S. Goliad 267-4591
Phone applications welcome
SE HABLA ESPANOL

AVOID BANKRUPTCY
Free Debt Consolidation
app. with credit services.
1-800-755-1740 ext.

FARM LAND
**LAND FOR SALE
GLASSCOCK CTY.**
960 acres + or - 2 miles
S.W. of Garden City, 1 mile
South of Hwy 158, Fronts
County Rd 110 for 1 mile.
Good grass, water, fences:
Some hunting, excellent
location for country home.
NO REALTORS. Larry
Glass (915) 378-2109

270 acres of farm land for
sale. 8 miles Northwest of
Big Spring. 264-6615.

FARM SUPPLIES
BLUEBONNET All Natural
20% Range Cubes are
\$.45/bag. We also carry
cedar post, staves and other
fencing supplies. Come see
us at Decker's Farm Supply
& Nursery in Stanton.
756-3444.

SPRING SPECIALS on
Treflan and generic
trifluralin! Generic trifluralin
- \$15.50/gal packaged or
bulk. Come see us at
Decker's Farm Supply &
Nursery in Stanton.
756-3444.

GRAIN HAY FEED
Big Round Bales of Hay!
Alfalfa, Rye, Wheat & Red
Top Cane & Oats. Call
263-8785

HORSES
(1) 8 yr old Mare, rode in
Playdays; (1) 5 yr old Mare,
good gentle pleasure horse;
(1) 18 mo old App Stud; (3)
saddles; (1) 5'x16" trailer.
267-6856.

Registered A.Q.H. quarter
horse, fifteen hands, very
gentle. \$1200. 263-4483

ANTIQUES
WANTED: Dealers, Artists,
Craftspeople
New Antique Mall
Opening Soon!
947-4954/3303 W. Harris
"Expand into the San Angelo
Market"

DOGS, PETS, ETC
AKC Chinese Pugs: 2 black,
1 fawn, all males. Call
267-1924 \$100 each

GARAGE SALES
J.ESTATE SALE: Freezers,
tiller, tools, welder, saws,
furniture, fishing, gun safe,
dishes, clothes, everything
1507 Eubanks. Sat-Sun
8am.

MISCELLANEOUS
Wulietzer Spinnet Piano
\$500. 267-2941.

Like new One to One Dual
Action Treadmill w/lvide
featuring Tony Little,
certified fitness trainer. 2HP,
6mph, powered by GE. 403
East 17th, #2

**Rawson-Koenig, Inc.
PICKUP TOOL BOXES**
806-747-2991

STAFF ACCOUNTANT NEEDED
Ensure the Centers' fiscal compliance to
grants and contracts including initial
submission and reporting, maintain records
for all funding. Perform professional
accounting works, specialization in federal
and state fund accounting, \$2,000 per
month. For details call our job line 915-
570-3424 or submit application to:
PERMIAN BASIN COMMUNITY CENTERS
401 E. Illinois Suite 301,
Midland TX 79701.
E.O.E.

Executive Secretary
Fastpaced executive is
seeking detailed-oriented individual with
four years secretarial experience
or combination of training and/or experi-
enced, typing 70 wpm; standard office
machines and computer skills; medical
terminology; legal background
experience preferred.
Position is security sensitive.
Send Resume to:
P.O. Box 1431/1300
Big Spring, TX 79720

**STOP
CIRCLE ME!**
How would you like to have a job
where you can travel, have fun &
make money too. We offer one week
all expense paid training, transporta-
tion & lodging. Return fair is guaran-
teed. If you're 18 or older & can start
today, call Shana Bone at 267-4553
from 10 am to 5 pm Monday &
Tuesday only.

**THE
BIG SPRING
HERALD
FOR ALL YOUR
LOCAL NEWS.**

CREDIT CARDS!
NO CREDIT CHECK!
NO SECURITY DEPOSIT!
NO INCOME REQUIREMENTS!
ARE YOU TIRED OF FALSE PROMISES?
THIS IS A GUARANTEED OFFER!
IF YOU ARE OVER 18 AND HAVE A VALID CHECKING ACCOUNT,
YOU WILL RECEIVE A MAJOR BANK CARD AND A MAJOR
MERCHANDISE CARD WITH A CREDIT LIMIT OF \$2,000.00
GUARANTEED!
CALL 1-800-865-8818
FOR A MINUTE PRE-APPROVAL BY PHONE
*CREDIT CARD PROGRAM SPONSORED BY A LICENSED FINANCIAL
INSTITUTION MEMBER U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE*

**SAURDAY
JANUARY 31
9:15 A.M.**
AUCTION
HAROLD WADE ESTATE

LOCATION: From Snyder, Lake (Scurry Co.) 22 miles Southwest on Hwy. 350; then 2
miles North on FM 1298 (Lake J.B. Thomas Rd.) or from Big Spring, Tx. (Howard
Co.) 27 miles Northeast on Hwy. 350; then 2 miles North on FM 1298 (Lake J.B.
Thomas road)

TRACTORS/LOADER
NOTE: All of Harold's Tractors were kept in barns
or shedded every night since they were
purchased. All of them "lean clean"
1989 JD 4855 MWD. Power Shift 20x9x8 Duals (only
378 hrs.)
1980 JD #4840 20x9x8 Duals
1980 JD #4440 Q/R
1977 JD #4630 Power Shift (Showing 280 hrs.)
1986 JD #4630 Power Shift 20x9x8
1971 JD #4020 Diesel Cab. W/F (Console Model)
1967 JD #4020 Diesel Cab. W/F
1967 JD #4020 LPG. Cab w/Like new JD #275 Front
End Loader/Bucket to be offered separately & as one
unit)
2 Ford #901 Powermaster Utility Tractors. W/F LPG.
1 Super M Farmall LPG. W/F (Nice)
1 M Farmall LPG. W/F (Nice)
2 Sets of 20x8 Duals. A/B

COTTON
1 JD #7440 S/P Stripper w/4 Row Skip Row Extended
Header (only 1865 hrs & nice)
1980 JD #484 S/P Stripper w/4 Row Skip Row Extended
Header (only 1500 hrs & nice)
1 Bush Hog Husks Module Builder. F Cab (Good)
1 Brown Bros Bull Hogs. Hyd. (Lake Now & Nice)
1 Portable Boll Section Machine on Rubber. Drag

GRAIN WHEAT
1983 Ford F 300 Grain Truck w/16 Dump Bed (Shedded
& Nice)
1 Cleaner. A. Combine F Cab Gas. Air C. w/16
Header (the nicest shedded)
1 JD #120A Grain-Kart w/ Folding Auger
1 JD #300 Grain Drill. 16x10. FV. cvl cont. Drag
1 JD #B Grain Drill. 16x8. Gal. Box cvl cont. Drag

HAY
1 JD #55 Round Baler w/Kicker (dual only 300 hrs.
Like New (Shedded)
1 JD #1208 Mower Conditioner 9' Drag (Shedded)
1 JD #600 9' Hay Rake (Like New)
1 JD #224 WS Square Baler (Shedded)
1 Transporter. Round Bale Mover. Drag
23pt Hay Spikes
1 Mayrath Square Bale Conveyor Loader
1 Hydraulic Hose Loader. 3pt

PICKUPS & WHEELERS
1988 Ford F 250 XLT Lariat. 34ton. Auto
1975 Ford F 250
2 Honda 3 Wheeler w/Spray Attachment
DIRT MOVING TERRACE
1 Hancock Disk Belt Terracing Machine Hyd. PTO
1 JD #155 9' Blade 2 way Hyd. 3pt
112 Brown Bros. Mover. Drag
110 JD Dirt Mover. Drag

EQUIPMENT
135 JD #960 Folding Field Cultivator w/JD Harrows,
Drag (1 yr old Like New)
130 JD #1010 Folding Field Cultivator w/JD Harrows,
Drag (Nice)
120 Shank JD #610 Chisel. S.L. G.W. 3pt (Nice)
116 Shank JD #610 Chisel. S.L. G.W. 3pt (Nice)
114 JD #1410 Rigid Shredder. Drag (Nice)
111 Shank JD #90 V Ripper. R.W. 3pt
111 Shank JD V Ripper. Dual G.W. 3pt (Late Style
Hitch)
148 Sam Stevens Folding Sandfighter. 3pt
148 Sam Stevens Sandfighter. Drag
130 JD (Row) JD #400 Folding Gang Hoe
2 JD #A2800 6 Bottom Mulchboards. G.W. cvl cont.
(Late Style)
3 Stanton (10) 6 Bottom Mulchboard Packers
1 JD #1004 4 Bottom Mulchboard (Late Style)
1 Stanton 4 Bottom Packer
310 Row JD Skip Row Planters on 4x7 Folding 34 Bar. 6
JD Upright G.W. Drive Planters (2 w/Fiberglass Boxes)
110 Row JD Skip Row Planter on 4x7 Folding Bar. 6 JD
80 Planters

2 Dickey John Planter Monitors
2 88 Hamsby Folding Stuff Shank Cultivators. Double 4x4
2 Sets G.W. Nice
113 Titan Row Folding Stuff Shank Cultivators. 4x7
Bar. S.Stev. Units
112 Folding Stuff Shank Cultivator. 4x7 w/214 G.W.
112 H Rows Folding Stuff Shank Sults. 22 1/4 G.W.
(Nice)
113 JD Row JD Hidders on 4x7 Folding Bars. G.W.
Cullters. Markers
1 Skip Row JD Shredder on Power Bar. C.J.D. #709 T.
Shredders Drag
114 JD #210 Double Offset Disc. Drag
114 JD RWA Tandem Disc.
1 Disc Athens #2 One Way. 4pt
1 MF6 Tandem Disc 1pt
110 JD Tandem Disc
1 JD #77 Cycle Mower

LIVESTOCK
12046. Gossmack Livestock Trailer. T.A. Bowled Top
(Shedded Nice)
116 Hx. Bale Stock Trailer. C.T.T.A. Drag
116. Cattle Bulk Feeder on Skids
11 Crepe Feeder
1 Portable Gas Cattle Sprayer
1 Portable Cattle Working Chute on Rubber
20 10 Stock Pannells (Good)

SHOP
1 Portable Miller Bobcat 22-G Gas. Welder Generator on
Custom 10' Trailer T.A-to be offered separately & as
one unit).

TRAILERS
1 Custom 300 Gal. Portable Diesel Tank T/A Trailer.
Elec. Pump (Nice)
1800 Gal. Diesel Tank on Skids
1 Set of Saddle Tyrod Tanks (2 200 gal.)
1100 Gal. Oil Fuel Tank
1250 Gal. LPG Tank w/Filter Hose. Portable
1200 Gal. Pickup LPG Tanks
212 Volt Transfer Pump

TRAILERS
130 Big 12 Lo Box Implement Trailer. Drag
116 Utility Trailer. T.A. Drag

OIL
1 National #60 Oil Pump Jack
1 Lot of Drill Stem Pipe
1 Lot of Spring Tubing

MISCELLANEOUS
13pt "Mobil Mixer." Concrete Mixer. Hyd. 3pt (Nice)
TRACTOR/TOOL BAR MAKEUP
4 JD and Other Quick Hitches
18 Rows of Bolting Fenders
1 Set of 11 Row Hyd Row Markers
**NOTE: Late Model. Clean - well maintained - and
lots of it. Notice the Quantity Column - Every Item
listed belonged to Mr./Mrs. Wade.**
All Announcements Made At Sale
Supersedes Any Previous Oral or
Written Announcements

KEVIN HUIJSON
AUCTIONEER
1008 EAST BROADWAY, WHEELWRIGHT, TEXAS 79608
915/235-9639

**OVER
1500 PIECES**
**HUGE 2-DAY
ANTIQU ESTATE AUCTION**
612 Baylor St.
BIG SPRING, TEXAS
Saturday Morning 10:00 a.m. January 31, 1998
Sunday Morning 10:00 am. February 1, 1998

The lifelong estate collection of Mr. & Mrs. Roy Beck of Big Spring will be sold on loca-
tion at their home. Roy was a contractor for over 50 years. The Beck's have retired and
will be dispersing this fabulous collection at public auction.

NO MINIMUM • NO RESERVE • NO BUYERS PREMIUM

Collection includes many pieces of carved oak, walnut Victorian and mahogany furni-
ture, glassware, lusters, oak music box, toys, antique lamps, clocks, antique tools, plus
100's more

For free picture brochure or info call 915-938-5646

Public Preview all day Thursday & Friday, Jan. 29-30
10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Auction conducted by
A & S ANTIQUE AUCTION CO.
WACO, TEXAS
AUCTIONEER: SCOTT FRANKS TXS: 0000-7222

Serving the great state of Texas with complete antique and estate auction service for
over 25 years!

TERMS - Texas checks or cash.

AUCTION
MONDAY, JANUARY 26 - 10:00
LOCATION: From Ropesville, TX (Hockley Co.) 3 1/2 Miles West on FM 41.
TRACTORS...VEHICLES...APPROX. 50 PIECES OF FARM EQUIPMENT TRAIL-
ERS...SPRAY EQUIPMENT...TANKS...IRRIGATION EQUIPMENT
CALL CHARLIE, AUCTIONEER #6911
FOR DETAILS: (806) 894-5758

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28 - 10:00
FARM EQUIPMENT AND REAL ESTATE
LOCATION: From Idalou, TX (Lubbock Co.), From the Intersection of FM 400 and US
62/82, 2 Miles East on US 62/82 to County Road 35. Then 1/34 Mile south.
TRACTORS...STRIPPERS...BOLL BUGGY...
APPROX. 50 PIECES OF FARM EQUIPMENT...DUALS...SHOP EQUIPMENT TRAIL-
ERS...IRRIGATION EQUIPMENT...MOTORS
REAL ESTATE AUCTION...1.00

LOCATION OF REAL ESTATE: Idalou, TX 3 Miles East of Idalou on US 62/82, then 2
Miles South on FM 789.

APPROX. 155 ACRES WITH IMPROVEMENTS
PIVOT SYSTEM WILL SELL SEPARATELY
CALL FOR DETAILS
OFFICE: (806) 866-4646 or JAMES'S (806) 793-8357
CHARLES MACHA, AUCTIONEER #6911...DEE MACHA,
BROKER #0307396

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30 - 10:00
LOCATION: From Stanton, TX 14 Miles North on Texas 137, then 1 Mile West on
Texas 176 to Lenorah, then 1 Mile South of Lenorah's Post Office on C-3301
6 TRACTORS...JD STRIPPERS...MODULE BUILDER...MODULE TRAILER...JD COM-
BINE...3 PICKUPS...APPROXIMATELY 60 PIECE OF FARM EQUIPMENT ROCK
EQUIPMENT...4 WHEELER...TRAILERS...LIVESTOCK EQUIPMENT DUALS...FUEL
TANKS...SHOP EQUIPMENT...AND MORE
CALL OFFICE FOR DETAILS: (806) 866-4646

**QUALITY
AUCTIONEERS
INC.**
1008 EAST BROADWAY, WHEELWRIGHT, TEXAS 79608
(806) 866-4646

**ARE YOU A FULL-TIME CAREGIVER
WHO IS NO LONGER ABLE
TO GIVE CARE?**
Providing full-time care to a loved one with Alzheimer's
disease can be overwhelming. Now there is help without
sacrificing the quality of personal care and attention.
Come visit Comanche Trail Nursing Center and see what
a difference a special care program can make for your
loved one.
Call us today at 915-263-4041 for a tour and you'll see
what makes our special care program so special ...
it's our people and our commitment to providing the
best care possible for our special residents.

Comanche Trail Nursing Center
Big Spring, Texas
915-263-4041
Short Term Stays Available

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Comanche Trail Nursing Center
Big Spring, Texas
915-263-4041
Short Term Stays Available

HOUSES FOR SALE
I'M MAD ... at banks who
don't give real estate loans
because of bad credit,
problems or new
employment. I do, call L.D.
Kirk, Homeland Mortgages,
(254) 947-4475.

Triplex. Reduced!! Asking
\$15,000. Will consider any
offer. 267-5556

3 bdr., Double Wide on 20
fenced acres. Needs TLC.
Water, trees, etc. \$35,000
Boosie Weaver Real Estate.
263-3093

OWNER FINANCE
1100 Grafa 3br, carpet,
central h/a. \$500 dn, \$285
monthly

1211 Lloyd, 2 br, carpet.
\$300 dn, \$175 monthly

Must have excellent
credit. 806-794-5964

FOR SALE: 1870 sq. ft.,
3 bedroom, 2 bath formal
living and dining with den.
Completely remodeled,
sprinkler system, RO unit,
Central H/A, fireplace 1702
Harvard 270-2535 or
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