

BIG SPRING HERALD

Reflecting A Proud Community

MONDAY
February 2, 1998

50 cents

Parole board denies Tucker request for commutation

AUSTIN (AP) — The Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles today refused to recommend clemency for condemned murderer Karla Faye Tucker, moving the condemned pickax killer a step closer to execution Tuesday night.

The board's decision was not unexpected. The 18-member panel unanimously rejected 16 similar requests last year. Today's vote was 16-0, with two board members abstaining.

Tucker, condemned for her part in an attack that left two people dead in a Houston apartment in 1983, needed at least 10 votes in favor to send the case to Gov. George W. Bush. Bush then could have agreed with the panel he appoints or reject its recommendation.

The board's rejection means Bush only can issue a 30-day reprieve.

The board, however, also recommended Bush not grant either a 30- or 60-day reprieve, which Tucker also was seeking.

Manhunt on after Glasscock County State Bank robbed

HERALD Staff Report

Law enforcement authorities and even oil pumpers throughout the area this morning were searching for two white men in a stolen white Jeep believed to be involved in a Garden City bank robbery.

The 1996 vehicle's license plate was reported as TYD 72H.

"(One of the men) was wearing a brown security guard uniform, and armed with a shotgun," said Leon Choate, communications operator for San Angelo's Department of Public Safety office. The suspect was

reported to have brown hair, wearing a green tie and cap that read "Advance Security."

Glasscock County State Bank vice president Scott Long would not comment about the incident this morning.

Choate said he had been seeking help from any law enforcement agency in the area.

BANK ROBBERY SPECIFICS

- One, and possibly two men, robbed the Glasscock County State Bank at 9:10 a.m. today.
- The getaway was made in a 1996 white, Jeep Grand Cherokee, license TYD 72H, which was stolen from a bank employee.
- The robbers were known to have at least one shotgun.

"I first got a call from a trooper in Sterling City, and we've been trying to get the word out since then," Choate said. "Everybody in the area's busy on it."

The robbery happened about 9:10 a.m. reports said. The white vehicle was said to be a Jeep Cherokee, reported stolen from a bank employee.

Glasscock County Sheriff's Office reports said the robber or robbers locked all the tellers in the bank vault at the time of the incident.

Oil pumpers in the area were alerted to the robbery, and asked to be on the lookout for the Jeep as well.

Law enforcement units this morning were watching various highway intersections in the area for the Jeep. Joining the search were about eight Howard County Sheriff's vehicles, Big Spring Police Department, Martin County Sheriff's Deputies, Howard County Game Warden and DPS troopers in the area.



Erica Hector, a sophomore at Forsan High School, reacts as she practices her computer skills in Forsan's microcomputer applications class. The Forsan Independent School District has invested about \$400,000 into new technology since August 1996.

Forsan students, parents have access to web

By KATHY GILBERT
Staff Writer

Imagine clicking a button and your high school student's homework assignments for the week appear. Click another and the events calendar for the whole year pops up. Click a third to send a message to a teacher.

Parents living in the Forsan Independent School District don't have to imagine it — they can do it right now. Thanks to the dis-

trict's 18-month technology drive its web site, <http://forsan.esc18.net>, debuted this week.

It's part of the district's master plan to open up opportunities in the field of technology and to prepare their students for the 21st century.

"We're tickled to death and the students love it" Assistant High School and Junior High Principal Wayne Rotan said. Forsan surveyed the district recently and found that 25 percent of the students have

Internet at home. School officials hope the new web site will "enhance communication between school and home," Rotan added.

The district began making changes in August 1996 and has spent about \$400,000 so far. No grant money been used but the district is currently working on several proposals, officials said.

Forsan capped off more than a year of improvements by adding a new web server,

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Rain

First measurable rain of year comes at right time for farmers, ranchers

By DEBBIE L. JENSEN
Features Editor

Early Saturday morning, area farmers received just what they needed at this time of year — rain.

Although many said they could have used more than the half-inch to just over one inch they received in the early morning storm, most agreed the rain would help.

"It was beneficial," said Howard County Agent David Kight. "It was helpful to the situation for ag producers. You need a little moisture during wintertime."

The U.S. Agriculture Department in Big Spring gives the official report as 1.47 inches of rain received.

Most cotton farmers in the area are now shredding stalks, preparing the ground and putting out fertilizer, Kight said. It's a time when rain would be welcome, he added.

"This rain was perfect," agreed Rob Haney, who was working on his farm this morning. "Any moisture in the winter helps us in the coming crop year."

But, Haney added, "it's still a long way from August - September."

Kight said the weather system nicknamed El Niño was predicted to cause a wetter than normal winter for the area, when actually, it has been a bit drier than usual.

"We're still drier than what we'd like to be or need to be



"We're still drier than what we'd like to be or need to be during wintertime. But January and February are historically dry months."

during wintertime," he said. "But January and February are historically dry months."

Typical reports from throughout the area were one-half to three-fourths inch received Saturday, Kight said.

Lanny Fryar, who is currently breaking the ground on his farm just west of Big Spring, said the three-fourths inch it received was a big help.

"It made the ground a lot softer," he said. "My tractor's pulling a lot better."

Fryar said reports of rain expected later this week have been good news for him as well.

"The ground's dried out more than we thought," he said. "We can sure use it."

A half-inch was about what farmers in Knott received, said Van Gaskins, who is shredding and putting out fertilizer.

"Any time we get rain, we'd love to have more," he said. "We just never turn down any rain."

Ricky DeWayne Howell to go on trial Feb. 23 for sexual assault

By CARLTON JOHNSON
Staff Writer

Already facing consecutive life sentences for aggravated sexual assault in Lubbock, Snyder construction worker Ricky DeWayne Howell is set to face similar charges in Howard County's 118th District Court on Monday, Feb. 23.

118th District Attorney Hardy Wilkerson said the trial is definitely set and he's ready to proceed.

The Big Spring Police

Department was able to gather information from the Lubbock Police Department last spring resulting in evidence that connected Howell to the two sexual assaults that occurred on Dec. 20, 1996 and Dec. 28, 1996 in Big Spring.

Howell pleaded guilty to the Lubbock charges last summer and was sentenced on Aug. 19 in Lubbock's 99th District Court.

Officials in both Lubbock and Howard County sought to have Howell's sentences stacked to be served consecutively rather than concurrently, which is

what Lubbock County Prosecutor Roy Carper was able to do last summer, meaning Howell will have to serve one sentence before the other begins.

Howell was indicted last spring in Howard County on charges of aggravated sexual assault and robbery.

Ector County, where Howell also is wanted in connection with a December sexual assault of a woman, indicted Howell on Aug. 18 on a single count of aggravated rape.

Howell was originally arrest-

ed in Lubbock on Feb. 10 on a charge of sexual assault, which occurred on Feb. 8, and for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

Howell has also been implicated in assaults in Sweetwater and Abilene.

A description of Howell indicates that he is a white male, 5-foot, 8-inches tall and weight 156 pounds.

In the assaults in Big Spring and Odessa, the victims described their perpetrator as someone being dressed as a woman.

All of the victims were described as white females in their early to mid 50s.

Howell's residence at the time of his arrest in Lubbock was listed as the American Motor Inn in Snyder.

Sources also indicate that Howell has also been charged with two parole violations.

In 1983 after being convicted on charges of burglary with the intent to commit sexual assault, Howell was given a 15-year prison sentence and was released in August 1992 only to be returned later on burglary

charges. Because of the state's mandatory release program, he was released again in August 1996.

Wilkerson could not get into the details of the matter, but did acknowledge that Howard County's case against Howell could be helped by evidence from other cases.

"If he's (Howell) found guilty in Howard County, we can bring in evidence from other cases during the sentencing phase," Wilkerson said.

He could get a similar sentence if convicted here.

BSPD investigating sexual assault in city

HERALD Staff Report

Big Spring Police Department are investigating an aggravated sexual assault that was reported at 7:15 p.m. Friday.

Police officials said the assault occurred in the southwestern part of the city and that the suspect and victim knew each other.

She was taken to Scenic Mountain Hospital where medical personnel performed exam and released, police chief Lonnie Smith said.

WEATHER

Tonight:	Tues:	Wed:	Thur:
Tonight, fair. Low 30-40. Tuesday, partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 60s to mid 70s. Tuesday night, increasing clouds. Lows 35-45. Extended forecast, Wednesday, mostly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. Highs in the mid 50s to lower 60s. Thursday and Friday, mostly cloudy and cooler. A chance of rain. Lows in the 30s. Highs in the 50s.			

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Green concerned with serving citizens

By CARLTON JOHNSON
Staff Writer

Running for the Precinct 1, Place 2 Justice of the Peace (JP) position currently held by Marilyn Carson, for Howard County Sheriff's Deputy Sgt. Bennie Green, is about wanting to serve the community rather



GREEN



than beating an opponent. Green is a native of Howard County and is a graduate of Sands High School in Ackerly and Howard College.

Why run for JP? "I have been in law enforcement for more than 20 years and began as a dispatcher with the Big Spring Police Department

as well as served eight years with the Lamesa Police Department," Green said.

"Nine people applied for Bill Shankles' position when he retired in November 1996," Green added. "I was runner up to Judge Carson when commissioners appointed a replacement."

Green says his years of experience qualifies him as a candidate for the Precinct 1, Place 2 position, which handles a variety of duties including civil

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MONDAY

FEB. 2

TV SCHEDULE TABLE listing channels (KMIID, KPEJ, KERA, FAM, KOSA, WFAA, KWES, WTBS, UNI, DISH, NASH, TMC, SHOW, HBO, KMLM, AAE, DISC, TNT, FSN, ESPN, AMC, BET) and their corresponding programs at various times.

HAGAR



BLONDIE



B.C.



FAMILY CIRCUS



DENNIS THE MENACE

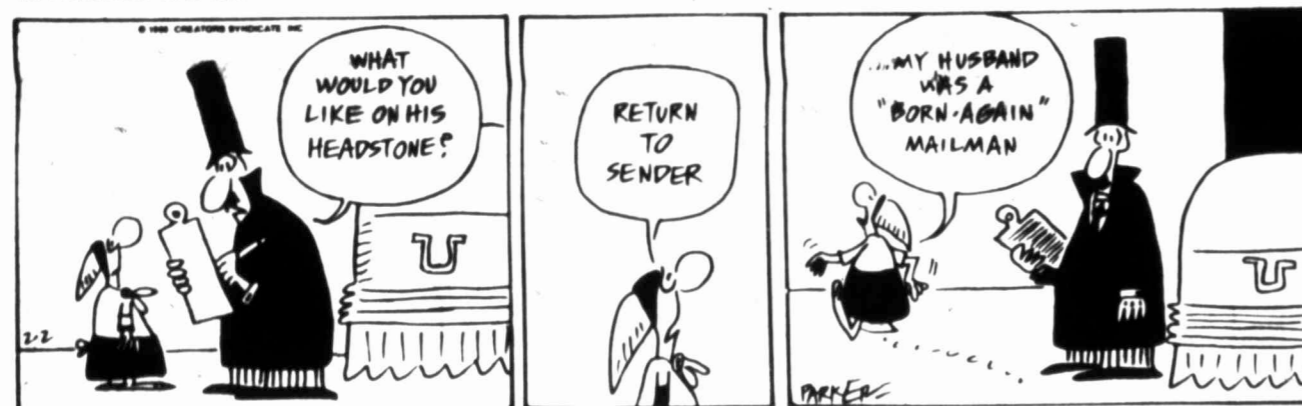


GEECH



"I bet those trees are sorry they took their clothes off."

WIZARD OF ID



THIS DATE IN HISTORY

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

Today is Monday, Feb. 2, the 33rd day of 1998.

THE Daily Crossword

- ACROSS 1 Swan lady 5 Cavalry weapon 10 Goody mass 14 St. crosses 15 'My Cousin Vinnie' Oscar-winner 16 Part to play 17 New York nine 18 Opera songs 19 River into the Baltic 20 Yow, it's cold! 21 Absent-mindedness 23 Fully grown 25 Cart track 26 Easily led 28 Scout gathering 33 Group of eight 34 Successful treatments 35 Extremity 36 Fall short 37 Packing heat 38 British gun 39 Co-worker on 'Alice' 40 Spills the beans 41 Stuffed (kishke) 42 Capital of Chile 44 Side roads 45 Day's end, in poems 46 Mel of cartoons 47 Can't or won't, e.g. 52 Newsmen Koppel 55 Jacob's first wife 56 South American plain 57 Costa 58 Starter chips 59 Bamboozled 60 Car tooter 61 Othello, e.g. 62 Encourages in crime 63 Millstone 40 Coffin platform 41 Actress Cannon 43 Restraining rope 44 Blackfoot tribe 46 Simon test 47 Littleneck or quahog, e.g. 48 Wine, pref. 49 Western alliance, briefly 50 Night spot 51 Record 53 Tan shade 54 Blocker and Duryea 57 Pi follower

Crossword puzzle grid with clues and a 'Saturday's Puzzle Solved' key.

United States a huge portion of the present-day Southwest, including Texas, New Mexico and California. On this date: In 1536, the Argentine city of Buenos Aires was founded by Pedro de Mendoza of Spain. In 1653, New Amsterdam — now New York City — was incorporated. In 1870, the 'Cardiff Giant,' supposedly the petrified remains of a human discovered in Cardiff, N.Y., was revealed to be nothing more than carved gypsum. In 1876, the National League of Professional Base Ball Clubs was formed in New York. In 1897, fire destroyed the Pennsylvania state capitol in Harrisburg. A new statehouse was dedicated on the same site nine years later. In 1943, the remainder of Nazi forces from the Battle of Stalingrad surrendered in a major World War II victory for the Soviets. In 1945, President Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill departed Malta for the Yalta summit with Soviet leader Josef Stalin. In 1971, Idi Amin assumed power in Uganda, following a coup that ousted President Milton Obote. In 1996, dancer, actor and choreographer Gene Kelly died at age 83. Ten years ago: In a speech that three major television networks declined to broadcast live, President Reagan pressed his case for aid to the Nicaraguan Contras. Five years ago: In a speech to the National Governors' Association, President Clinton pledged to transform welfare into a 'hand up, not a handout' by giving recipients training and then requiring them to work. One year ago: Authorities in Vallejo, Calif., recovered 500 pounds of stolen dynamite and arrested two men in bombings that destroyed three bank teller machines and blasted a court-house wall. Six men were charged.

HI AND LOIS



GASOLINE ALLEY



SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILY



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