

BIG SPRING HERALD

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50 cents

Clinton: Attack may be 'only option' for containing Hussein

WASHINGTON (AP) — While Congress withholds a vote of confidence, President Clinton is trying to persuade the American people that a sustained bombardment of Iraq may be the only option for containing President Saddam Hussein's weapons arsenal.

Clinton sent his three top foreign policy advisers into the American heartland today to make a case for a U.S.-led attack if diplomacy fails to pry open hundreds of Iraqi sites where dangerous arms may be hidden.

America's military is ready, Clinton said Tuesday, while raising the prospect of U.S. casualties. "The American people have to be ready, as well."

So, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, Defense Secretary William Cohen, and Sandy Berger, the White House national security adviser, were dispatched to Ohio State

University to try to drum up support.

Why Ohio? "It's one of those places, when you want to go out and touch the American people, it comes to the top of the list," said Bill Hall, OSU's assistant vice president of student affairs.

Albright will continue on from there, speaking Thursday at Tennessee State University in Nashville and the University of South Carolina at Columbia.

"She will make clear the stakes involved in this crisis, the threat posed, the diplomatic efforts we've sought to resolve this without the use of force, and the reasons why the use of force may be necessary," James P. Rubin, the State Department spokesman, said.

A last-ditch diplomatic mission by U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan to Baghdad could delay a presidential decision.

Top administration officials remain skeptical that diplomacy will turn Saddam around. Russia, France and the Arab League all have tried.

Bill Richardson, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, said today that while United States supports Annan's mission, "We want to make it very clear we have the right to oppose a potential deal that would harm our national interest."

"We wish Annan well; He is a very good diplomat," Richardson said on ABC's "Good Morning America." "This may be the last diplomatic effort to end this crisis."

With international support limited, Iraqi concessions could have an appeal to many nations already reluctant to take up arms against Iraq.

Judging by Congress' reluctance to adopt a resolution

approving bombing Iraq as a last resort, the trio of senior administration officials faced a tough task today.

They were confronted by concern for the well-being of some 30,000 U.S. troops poised to support an aerial attack and concern for the Iraqi women and children that Saddam may use as human shields to deter bombings or sacrifice to give the United States a moral black eye.

Clinton's Republican opponent in the 1996 election, former Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole, said Tuesday the president should seek authorization from Congress before launching a military strike.

"When President Bush decided to go on the offensive instead of the defensive, he asked Congress for authorization," Dole said in Nashville. "I think President Clinton should do the same thing."

His successor as majority leader, Sen. Trent Lott, R-Miss., last week postponed such a vote, saying there was insufficient support.

By all accounts, there is considerable doubt even the substantial strikes Albright has threatened against Iraq would eradicate the threat of poison gas, anthrax and other deadly weapons, or overthrow the Baghdad government.

Clinton, struggling to win over the skeptics, said in a speech Tuesday at the Pentagon that if Saddam "seeks to rebuild his weapons of mass destruction, we will be prepared to strike him again."

And Albright told Congress last week those follow-up attacks could come at six-month intervals.

The Senate returns from recess Monday, the House on Tuesday. There is broad sup-

port for insisting on gaining unrestricted access to suspected arms sites for U.N. inspectors, but a splintering of views about using force.

While several members of Congress have discouraged a U.S. attack unless it eliminated Saddam, virtually none have proposed the massive ground invasion that would be necessary to accomplish that aim.

And Albright has ruled out an invasion. U.S. law rules out an assassination.

Legally, the administration insists Clinton has the authority to act without congressional approval.

Strategically, though, the president would like grassroots American support as well as more encouragement from other nations, some of whom control the bases from which U.S. warplanes would take off to hit Iraqi targets.

Coahoma ISD trustees unsure on re-election try

By KATHY GILBERT
Staff Writer

COAHOMA — Two board of trustees positions are up for grabs in the Coahoma Independent School District.

Monday was the first day to file applications in the district administrative offices, officials announced during the regular board meeting Monday night. The elections will be held May 2.

"I'm undecided about running," incumbent John Wayne Metcalf said. "I'm running for County Commissioner and I can't service both." Metcalf will file for school board elections if his countywide primary bid is unsuccessful.

"I'm undecided," incumbent Hubert Rowden also said. He declined further comment.

Also Monday, Superintendent Michael Hartman asked the board to reduce the number of transfer students into the district. "We're overcrowded," Hartman said. "We don't need them."

However, overall enrollment has dropped, Board President Gail Wells noted. She asked to see the loss in state dollars, if any, that a loss of transfer students might create.

"I want to see the numbers," she said. Transfer students are creating discipline problems, Hartman argued. "But there are a lot of good students, too," Wells said.

Transfer students did not appear to have any unusual discipline problems but the high school is "full and getting fuller," she said. Two new science classrooms will be opening up soon, but teachers will need to be hired to "bring the numbers down," Fowler added.

"It's always a guessing game," Elementary Principal Jan Sanders said. "With the state proposing to mandate a 17-to-1 class ratio in the (kindergarten through third-grades)," it will be even more difficult to estimate enrollment levels for next year.

The board agreed to table the issue until March.

See COAHOMA, page 2A



Chubby Moffett, left, and Craig Neighbors of Bob's Custom Woodwork hang refurbished doors on the city auditorium Tuesday afternoon.

'Fowl' ordinance Council passes regulation on care and maintenance of livestock in city limits

By CARLTON JOHNSON
Staff Writer

An issue that would not go away for the Big Spring City Council last year is finally in the books — an ordinance regulating the keeping of livestock, fowl, swine or pets.

According to city officials, the ordinance was amended because the regulation of animals provides for the safety and welfare of the citizens and animals of Big Spring, and because the Animal Control Committee requested certain definitions in the ordinance be changed to exclude certain animals from permitting requirements.

Chapter 3, Section 3-2 of the city code (dealing with the treatment, housing and safety of animals) is the section that was reworded at the council's last meeting.

Previously it stated that it is unlawful for anyone to keep or maintain any livestock, fowl or swine within the city limit for longer than 48 hours, unless that person has an unrevoked permit from the city of Big Spring. That section of the ordinance is unchanged.

According to City Attorney Jim Finley, the new ordinance, for the purpose of permitting procedures, says livestock includes all animals except fish, dogs, cats, rodents, reptiles, monkeys, ferrets or rabbits kept as pets.

Some of the current language in this section of the code was added last November when council members and the Animal Control Committee decided the existing code needed several amendments that would both clear up several questions from pet owners as well as be easier to enforce.

Any person desiring to keep or maintain livestock within the city shall file with the city secretary a sworn application furnished by the city.

The application will go before the Animal Control Committee for comment and review before being brought before the council. Property owners within 200 feet of the applicant will be notified of the application. The permit fee shall be \$25.

The current ordinance still places restrictions on pet owners when a nuisance is created, whether the animal is classified as livestock, fowl, swine or something else.

A nuisance is created when pet owners allow animals to damage the property of anyone other than their own; animals are maintained in an environment of unsanitary conditions or lack of cleanliness; and when property is offensive or dangerous to public health, safety or welfare because of the number and type of animals and their location.

Nuisances are also created when a diseased animal is maintained; an animal is not properly secured from public contact; an owner fails to confine a female dog or cat while in season; and when animals are allowed to bark, whine, howl, crow or cackle in an excessive, continuous manner so as to interfere with neighboring premises.

According to City Attorney Jim Finley, the new ordinance, for the purpose of permitting procedures, says livestock includes all animals except fish, dogs, cats, rodents, reptiles, monkeys, ferrets or rabbits kept as pets.



FINLEY

Yale E. Key files appeal on Strickland award

By CARLTON JOHNSON
Staff Writer

Attorneys for Yale E. Key Inc. have filed their appeal brief in connection with a \$1.5 million judgment against the company for the wrongful death of Roy E. "Gene" Strickland in April 1995. Now the ball is in the Strickland's court who were recently granted a second time extension to file their brief in answer to Key's appeal.

Billie Strickland, Connie Moore and Eugenia Andrews

were awarded \$1.5 million in December 1996 for the April 1995 wrongful death of Roy Strickland and now their attorneys have until March 9 to file their brief in response to Key's appeal in the Eleventh District Court of Appeals in Eastland.

On Dec. 19, 1996, a Howard County jury awarded the family of Roy E. "Gene" Strickland \$1.5 million in the retrial of the wrongful death suit brought against Key because of Strickland's death in April 1995 while working for Key in Forsan.

Key was originally found not at fault for Strickland's death during the June 1996 trial, but on Sept. 23, 1996, Key was found to have withheld evidence in the June trial by not naming employee Jack Morris when plaintiff's asked the defense to state the name, address and phone number of all employees or independent contractors providing tire repair for Key's Forsan yard during five-year period preceding Strickland's death.

Failure on the part of Key to do this was found to be unjustified by 118th District Judge Robert Moore III.

Strickland's family argued that disclosing Morris' name would have caused a different judgment to have been rendered.

In December 1996, jurors were charged with answering the following two questions after two days of testimony:

"Did the gross negligence, if any, of Yale E. Key Inc. proximately cause the occurrence in question?"

See AWARD, page 2A

WEATHER

Tonight:



Thurs:



Fri:



Sat:



Tonight, partly cloudy. Lows 30-35. Thursday, mostly sunny. Highs near 60. Thursday night, fair. Lows around 30. Extended forecast, Friday and Saturday, mostly cloudy with a chance of showers. Lows in the 30s. Highs in the 60s. Sunday, partly cloudy. Lows in the 30s. Highs in the 60s.

INDEX

Abby/Horoscope / 3B
Classified / 2-3B
Comics / 4B
General News / 3A

Vol. 94, No. 103

Life / 5-6A
Obituaries / 2A
Opinion / 4A
Sports / 1B

To reach all departments, please call 263-7331

Neal touts experience as basis for state board bid

By CARLTON JOHNSON
Staff Writer

Lubbock Republican Nancy Neal hopes her experience in public education will lift her past fellow Republican Judy Strickland in the March 10 primary for the District 15 seat on the State

Board of Education. Current District 15 board member Monte Hasie is not seeking re-election and, since no Democrats filed for the position, the winner of the primary will be the representative for the 47-county area.

Each member of the 15-member board has a territory of about 1.2 million people, according to Neal.

"The district covers a large portion of Texas with 144 school districts, more than 245,000 public school students and covers 47 counties from the Texas

Panhandle including Amarillo and Canyon," Neal said. "The district also winds down through the South Plains and Lubbock to Odessa in the Permian Basin, down to San Angelo in the Concho Valley and over to the Big County including Abilene."

"I have been very active in the public schools of Texas as a parent, an elected school board member, school nurse and mentor," Neal added. "It is my goal to bring my experience in both the public schools and in higher education to the State Board of

Education to effectively represent the citizens of District 15 and be an advocate for the school children of our region."

Neal said she enjoys the opportunity of working closely with school administrators, teachers, parent and students, which is why she is committed to Texas' public schools.

"I have received support and encouragement from a large number of people throughout this vast district," Neal said. "I am running for the State Board

See NEAL, page 2A



NEAL

Scientist: Wine reduces death from all causes by 30 percent

PARIS (AP) — The French scientist who showed the world that wine is good for the heart has a new discovery: Two to three glasses of wine a day reduces death rates from all causes by up to 30 percent.

"I've always suspected this," said Serge Renaud, whose findings appeared today in the journal *Epidemiology*. "Wine protects not only against heart disease but also most cancers."

Renaud's study of 34,000 middle-aged men living in eastern France supports what has become known as "the French paradox": Frenchmen who eat lots of saturated fat but still live a long time.

Results were the same for smokers, nonsmokers and former smokers, he said, and there were no differences between white collar and working-class drinkers.

Recent studies in the United States found that a drink of almost any alcohol can lower death rates by reducing the risk of cardiovascular disease.

Renaud, however, maintains that wine also acts against other heart ailments and cancers because of the antioxidant action of polyphenol compounds in grapes.

"Wine is a more diluted form of alcohol, which is important to the body, and if taken moderately at mealtimes it is easily absorbed," he explained.

After four glasses a day, Renaud warned, wine has an adverse effect on death rates. Although it still protects the heart, excess drinking raises the danger of cancers and liver disease.

Renaud set off a California wine boom in 1991 when he outlined his French-paradox theory in an interview on CBS' "60 Minutes."

"It started a huge controversy," the 70-year-old researcher recalled, chuckling. "The U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms challenged me to show numbers. Well, here they

are." In fact, he had already made his case in a 1992 article in *Lancet*. He reported that 20-30 grams daily of alcohol can reduce the risk of coronary heart disease by at least 40 percent.

Alcohol protects the heart mainly by acting on platelets in the blood to prevent clotting, he found. Subsequent studies elsewhere supported these findings.

In the *Epidemiology* article, Renaud reported a 30 percent reduction in death rates from all causes from 2-3 glasses of wine a day, a 35 percent reduction from cardiovascular disease, and an 18-24 percent reduction from cancer.

He plans a second article later this year with a more detailed analysis of his sampling.

Renaud, a cardiologist, works with the prestigious INSERM unit at the University of Bordeaux. His book, "Healthy Diet," is popular in France.

"Growing up around Bordeaux, you know instinctively that wine is good for you," Renaud said.

"My grandparents, their friends, all lived to be 80 or 90. I knew there was some special reason."

During the 1970s, he began to work quietly to research the subject at the INSERM unit in Lyon.

He is a strong advocate of the Mediterranean diet, based heavily on wheat, olive oil and vegetables, with more fish than red meat.

And, of course, Renaud adds, a healthy amount of wine.

Renaud laments a steady drop in wine consumption among many Frenchmen, who these days take less time for meals and relaxation.

"The Italians still drink a lot of wine," he said. "Maybe after time we will have to call it the Italian paradox."

U.N. chief takes his turn at diffusing crisis

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — U.N. chief Kofi Annan will head to Baghdad to try to resolve the conflict with Iraq, but Washington has warned that it will not accept a settlement that doesn't give U.N. inspectors full access to all weapons sites.

After several days of intense negotiations, the United States gave its conditional endorsement Tuesday for the trip, which could be the last chance to solve the crisis peacefully.

The secretary-general announced his decision just hours after President Clinton laid the groundwork for a possible air strike, saying in a televised speech that the U.S. military is ready to carry out its mission and "the American people have to be ready as well."

U.N. officials said Annan will leave Thursday and arrive in Baghdad on Friday.

"We wish him well but we reserve the right to disagree with the conclusion if the trip is not consistent with Security Council and our own national interest," U.S. Ambassador Bill Richardson said.

Annan said he made the decision to travel to Iraq on his own, but said he has the support of all five permanent members of the Security Council — the United States, France, Britain, Russia and China — which must ratify any deal.

Annan said he did not ask for a mandate from the permanent members but did seek clear direction about what he could discuss with the Iraqis.

"What I wanted was an understanding and a basis that will help my mission and make it successful and that if I come back, that everybody will be on board," Annan said.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin said today the visit was "extremely important," the ITAR-Tass news agency reported.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Valery Nesterushkin said Annan's visit would not be the last chance for a peaceful settlement, according to the Interfax news agency.

Diplomatic sources said the permanent members remained divided over details of a possi-

ble settlement.

The inspectors must certify Iraqi compliance before the council will lift crippling economic sanctions imposed in 1990, when Saddam Hussein's troops invaded Kuwait, touching off the 1991 Gulf War.

Iraq claims it has destroyed all banned weapons and that the special commission has deceived the council to keep the sanctions in place.

Annan's decision to travel came after ambassadors from the United States, France, Britain, Russia and China met several times in the past week to try to narrow their differences.

All five publicly accept the principle that the United Nations should have full access to all locations, including eight presidential sites which Iraq has placed off limits.

Several formulas have been proposed. One would have inspectors from the special commission, known as UNSCOM, be accompanied by diplomats on visits to presidential sites.

Others would have Annan

appoint a new group of inspectors, some of which could be from UNSCOM. Iraq has also insisted on a 60-day time-limit for inspections, something the United States and Britain have rejected.

"We all agreed on what is consistent with American policy," Richardson said. "The policy is clear: unfettered access to all sites by UNSCOM. The policy is strong: integrity of UNSCOM and the U.N. inspection teams in accordance with Security Council resolutions."

In Baghdad, Saddam's Revolution Command Council and the ruling Ba'ath Party issued a statement Tuesday pledging to "exert all serious and legitimate effort" to find a peaceful solution.

The statement did not offer any concessions that might avert an attack.

Diplomatic sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the United States had taken a strong position against any concession that might be construed as diluting the role of the U.N. inspectors.

Lawsuit continues with pared-down charges

AMARILLO, Texas (AP) — The first test of the nation's 13 "veggie libel" laws has come back with an incomplete grade.

The federal judge in Oprah Winfrey's beef defamation trial on Tuesday tossed out part of the case filed under Texas' food defamation law, but allowed cattlemen to continue the trial as a simple disparagement suit.

U.S. District Judge Mary Lou Robinson, without explanation, rejected a defense request to throw the case out entirely. Jurors were to return today to hear the lawsuit as a common-law business disparagement case.

Cattlemen blame Ms. Winfrey's April 16, 1996, talk show about mad cow disease for causing cattle prices to plummet. They say the program cost them \$12 million.

It was the first time a lawsuit had tested the "veggie libel" law passed in 1995. Judge Robinson did not declare the Texas law

unconstitutional; she merely ruled the cattlemen failed to make a case under it.

"Under the plaintiffs' theory, any person in the United States who owned a cow has a cause of action," defense attorney Charles Babcock said during a hearing Tuesday. "It creates too much danger, too much risk to people speaking about generic topics."

Attorneys were unable to discuss the ruling with reporters because of a gag order. Others closely watching the case were surprised by the ruling.

"When I got the law drafted in 1995, I never dreamed that there would be someone with enough money to hire the best legal defense in the world," said state Rep. Bob Turner, D-Voss.

Now that their case has been reduced to ordinary business disparagement, cattlemen have a much heavier burden of proof.

They must show Ms. Winfrey, her production company and a

vegetarian activist guest meant to damage the beef industry. Under the "veggie libel" law, they only had to prove knowingly false statements were made.

Judge Robinson issued the ruling after a day of arguments outside the jurors' presence. Her decision was terse and was not accompanied by a written order.

States passed "veggie libel" laws after Washington state apple growers unsuccessfully sued CBS over a 1989 "60 Minutes" segment about the potential dangers of a fruit coating called Alar.

Without a specific food disparagement law on the books at the time, apple producers sued under traditional business disparagement laws. The cattlemen find themselves in the same situation after Judge Robinson's ruling.

"It appeared to me (cattlemen) were stressing the 'veggie libel' claims," said Bruce Johnson, the attorney who successfully defended CBS. "They were putting all their eggs in the

'veggie libel' basket, and the judge's decision apparently cuts the heart out of their case."

Johnson and other experts had predicted this case could become the Supreme Court test for "veggie libel" laws. Judge Robinson's ruling eliminated that possibility.

In a motion filed Tuesday morning, cattlemen said they believe there's been enough evidence presented in the four-week trial to support the more difficult disparagement case.

Plaintiffs rested their case last Friday. The defense was to begin calling witnesses this morning when jurors return from a long weekend.

The cattlemen say Ms. Winfrey and activist Howard Lyman gave the impression on her show that U.S. cattle were at risk for mad cow disease, an English epidemic suspected of causing 23 Brits to die.

Mad cow disease and its human counterpart never have been detected in the United States.

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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 VIEWS

Register to vote or run for office, but do something

With the start of this week, the 1998 political season kicks into high gear. Monday was the first day that candidates could declare for city and school races in Howard County.

We've told you the reasons you should vote in these elections — that it is your most important duty in a democracy; that it gives you a voice in how our government runs; that it protects us against less-than-qualified candidates.

If, however, you still decide not to vote, then there's no point in pressing the issue, is there? It will be regrettable, to yourself and the community, but that's your choice.

But while we're on the subject ...

Aside from voting, there's something else you can do this season — run for office.

Think about it a second. How many times have you complained about how government is run. Haven't you ever told yourself that you could do just as good a job — if not better — than the folks currently in office?

Well, here's your chance to do something about it. If you truly care about the way our city or our schools are operated, then throw your hat into the ring.

Talk about participation ...

Yes, there's some drawbacks. Running a campaign takes plenty of time and, in some cases, a substantial financial commitment on your part. And there's always the possibility your opponents will say less-than-flattering things about you.

Then, if you spend all the time and money and survive the slings and arrows of a campaign and actually win election, you'll be the responsible one. No longer will you be able to sit back and complain about the way things are done.

And to top it all, some pesky reporter will probably call you from time to time.

But public service can be immensely rewarding. The decisions you make could have a lasting impact on the people in this community.

They may not build a statue in your memory, but you would have done yourself and your neighbors a great service.

So, while you're debating whether to actually vote or not, take the argument one step further. Government is always on the lookout for a good man or woman to help run things.

And you could be just the person for whom it is looking.

YOUR VIEWS

TO THE EDITOR:

To the person who hit and killed my family dog as I stood within a few feet of him Saturday, Jan. 24, at 4:20 p.m. in Edwards Circle and then you drove on — your speed was excessive and your driving was reckless.

As hard as it is for me to say this, "Thank God" it was just a dog you hit and killed and not one of the many young children who live and play in this neighborhood or one of those who walk for beach pleasure.

Had this been a child running after a ball in the street or roller balding home for a snack or an elderly person walking in the afternoon sunshine, would your action have been the same?

This neighborhood is a very quiet, safe area. One where parents feel their children are safe from harm, but drivers like

you make us all rethink that though process.

This neighborhood is not considered to be a drive-through area of town, but a residential area with a posted speed limit. I have spoken to the parents in this area about what happened and the fact that they need to talk to their children about safety.

I would hope that this letter will serve as a warning to all who drive in this area or any residential area to slow down and pay attention to your driving for everyone's sake.

What happened that afternoon was horrible and unnecessary.

I would like to say a special thank you to all who did stop and help with the situation that afternoon. I appreciate everyone's efforts in this matter.

JILL WILLBANKS
Big Spring

Books on tape offer new type of 'escape'

Some audio tapes I've bought are about as interesting as listening to a pie bake. Others I've listened to over and over. I bought my first one years ago.

It was Charles Kuralt telling about some of the experiences he had while doing his "On the Road" series for CBS Television. He was not really "telling" the stories, but was reading a book he had written. I kind of wished he had just sat down with a few notes and talked into a mike. The tape had some good stories and good writing, but I think it would have sounded better to my ears had he just "told" of some of his reporting experiences.



Tumbleweed Smith
Columnist

The second tape I bought was

an audio version of a successful movie, "Silence of the Lambs." Since I hadn't seen the movie, I had trouble following the tape. I didn't know what in the world was going on. Then I bought an audio tape of Forrest Gump, as read by the author. It was fairly interesting, as I had seen the movie and read the book. It's strange how the translations from book to movie to audio tape are all different.

I bought an audio tape at a truck stop somewhere that consisted of short stories read by actors. Their words were enhanced by music and sound effects and it is the absolute best audio tape I've heard. The music and sound effects add so much to the listening experience. The production of the tape is a major undertaking, but it really pays off. Some of the producers of books on tape should add some sound effects and make them more dramatic. Some have music at the beginning and end. That doesn't make the tape listenable.

I have joined two books-on-

tape clubs. I have quite a collection now. Best sellers, motivational and enrichment tapes, all kinds of tapes. I've decided they are all pretty dull. They make me sleepy. And that's pretty dangerous when you're driving at night. The voices just seem to drone on and on.

I have about 50 tapes now. I've enjoyed about three of them. Some of the motivational or "How to" tapes contain lists of things to do. Each item on the list is numbered. That's bad audio. Few people, while driving, are going to write down the steps to success.

There are two books on tape I have really liked. One is "How Stella Got Her Groove Back" and the other is "The Notebook."

From the instant "Stella" started, we were hooked. We were on a cross-country trip and needed something to make the hours pass a little quicker. This was the way to go. It is read by the author and she really gets into it. On this trip we took about half a dozen books on tape with us. We lis-

tened to one in the morning and one in the afternoon. We listened to "Stella" in the afternoon and it was an absolute delight. When we'd stop for coffee we couldn't wait to get back to the car and resume listening.

The same for "Notebook." We got so emotionally involved while listening to the tape that we were holding onto each other and crying. We glanced at some beautiful scenery as we sped along the highway through New Mexico and Arizona, but neither of us spoke until we were miles down the road, after the tape had finished. That was an unusual experience. It was the only tape I've listened to that provided the same emotional response as an epic movie might provide.

(Big Spring resident Bob Lewis, aka Tumbleweed Smith writes this weekly column on Texana. Letters in response may be sent in care of this newspaper.)



YOUR VIEWS

TO THE EDITOR:

I understand the Texas Senate is studying the issue of whether or not we should have competition for electric service. To me, this is a simple issue. Competition is always better than a monopoly. If people in California to Rhode Island can pick who they buy their electricity from, why shouldn't we.

TU Electric was ordered by the Texas Public Utility Commission to give a rebate to all its customers because it has been overcharging us for too many years. If I find out that the guy who works on my car has been overcharging me and wouldn't refund my money until someone else made them, you can bet I won't use them again to fix my car. Yet, there is nothing I can do but keep using TU Electric because I don't have a choice.

The Herald needs to do more to cover this issue. We pride ourselves on being conservative and pro-business. Nothing is more pro-business than free enterprise and competition. We need to write letters to our elected officials and tell them we support our right to choose whom we do business with and buy our electric service from.

BUDDY DUNCAN
Big Spring

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Herald has reported on competition in the electric industry with locally produced stories since before the Senate began studying the issue. We've looked at it from both Cap Rock Electric and TU Electric's point of view.

We've also looked at it from the view of West Texas communities and businesses, who could be faced with still higher utility costs simply because we don't use that much electric power in the overall scheme of things.

Fully studying the issue may reveal to you that while competition and free enterprise in regards to the electric utilities may be good for major users and metro areas, but is bad for those of us in more rural areas.

That is what our efforts have revealed thus far and, quite frankly, it concerns us. Deregulation is not always the end all, beat all solution that politicians seek to sell it as.

TO THE EDITOR:

To all the friends and family who donated time, garage sale items and money to help send T. J. Tatum to the National Youth Leadership Forum in Washington, D.C. T.J. really enjoyed this trip.

Thanks to all of you
T. J. TATUM AND FAMILY
Big Spring

Native American watercolorist for hire

DALLAS, Ga. — Billy Mack Steele tells kids that Native Americans are real live people, not just warriors in make-up and movies, or dancers in feathers at powwows. They may be doctors, or lawyers, or teachers.



Rheta Grimsley Johnson
Columnist

Or maybe one Indian worked for 23 years in the cargo division of Eastern Airlines, until the company went broke.

That's what Billy did. When Eastern went belly-up, he read it as a providential sign to try and turn his hobby into a full-time, life-supporting job.

Now he paints watercolors — most not all with a Native American theme — for sale and for school demonstrations. He keeps index cards in a little plastic box, a record of the schools where he's been. The file is thick.

Billy chugs about the Southeast in a 1976 Ford, 375,000 miles wrapped around its tired wheels, a bumper sticker identifying the thing most important to him, Vietnam Era Inner Tribal Association.

I hear about Billy from Atlanta area teachers who have watched him hold spell-bound class after class of rambunctious pupils. He is part

Cherokee, and that's the part of himself he emphasizes in his art — and to the children.

He tells them about the Trail of Tears, about the tools of an artist's trade, about color and shadow and life itself. He tells them the Cherokee words for "hello" and "thank you." He shows them how to dry a painting with a hair dryer.

"They'll ask me, 'Mr. Steele, are you a famous artist?' and I say, 'Your checkbook tells you when you're a famous artist, and mine's not telling me anything.'"

His style is terse, just this side of gruff. The children don't care. They love the Gadsden, Ala., native; they clamor to help hold his canvas, or to use a paintbrush handle to scratch a crevice in a watercolor cliff. Their eyes grow big as Billy Mack shows them a paintbrush he's had for 15 years. Or one with bristles made from rubber bands that he uses to paint the leaves on trees, his "funny brush."

Best of all, he tells them that the faces in his work are those of real people, his friends. The rest comes courtesy of imagination. His creation. The brush dances onto the canvas. "There was no snow, no tepee," he tells the children, "until I painted them."

That, of course, is the ultimate lesson of art.

Teachers — a tough audience — say Billy Mack Steele is worth the price of admission — \$200 per school, plus

expenses, and that price includes the original watercolor or at the end of the day.

As for Billy, age 56, he sometimes misses his old company's health insurance, but not the structured life. He found a doctor who would swap health care for original watercolors.

From the spare bedroom in a small Dallas apartment, he prepares another watercolor to take to yet another school in another state. When he gets there, the picture already will be sketched, a masking fluid covering essential details. Each of several groups of children will get to help finish the painting.

Billy has work hanging at the Cherokee museum in New Echota, Ga., and in Georgia's Music Hall of Fame in Macon. There are several of his paintings in the Paulding County Library. And he has thought about contacting Guinness, surely he has watercolors in more elementary schools than any other artist has.

But Billy seems to be his own best creation. Native American watercolor artist, available for hire. His white hair falls onto his shoulders like watercolor snow onto a watercolor cliff, and the eyes are somehow sad behind tinted glasses. You sense that Billy takes the lessons of history, of his grandmother's people, seriously.

You sense he takes them personally.

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Distributed by King Features

Mallard Fillmore by BRUCE TINSLEY

HOW TO REACH US

Your input is important to our being able to serve you in the best possible manner. For your convenience, you may contact us in the following ways:

- In person at 710 Scurry St.
- By telephone at 263-7331
- By fax at 264-7205
- By e-mail at either bsherald@roadstx.com or jwalker@roadstx.com
- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

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ATL/ hepatitis Mary R The forgot list of now tw due. when Mrs. R shot ju To el scienti ber by vaccin A ba need a shots t tions o able ca 14, but as m decade "The kids'nc
SLICE of life!

QUICK TRIVIA

◆More than a hundred million people in the U.S. wear eyeglasses or contact lenses.

◆In England, tea time is anytime between 4-7 p.m., but high tea or early supper may be at tea time or later.

Got an item?

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

Seminar offers a look within

The District VI Family and Consumer Science Agents Association will sponsor a one day home furnishings seminar "A Look Within," Feb. 21, at the Midland County Exhibit Building. Registration begins at 9 a.m.

Waverly Fabrics representative Gene McDaniel will open the seminar with "Life styles," a focus on fabrics and coordinating them throughout your home.



Dana Tarter
Extension Agent

Dana Tarter, Crane County Extension Agent will present "What Does Your Home Say About You" and Jene Laman, Director of the Department of Interior Design at Southwest Texas University at San Marcos will also be on hand to present the latest information relating to home furnishings.

The afternoon's concurrent sessions will give you ideas for adding decorator touches to make your home unique. Topics include: upholstery, decorating with house plants, bedding and window treatments, accessorizing, antiques and floral design.

Gene McDaniel will close the seminar with a presentation on incorporating color into your home.

Home furnishings exhibits will be on display with drawings for decorator items held throughout the day. Waverly Fabrics will also hold a drawing for a custom made comforter, dust ruffle and pillow shams.

Call the Howard County Extension office at 264-2236 for more information or pre-register at the county extension office, basement of the Howard County Courthouse by Thursday.

The preregistration fee is \$20 (registration after Feb. 19 deadline will include a \$5 late fee). Make checks payable to District VI TEAFCS. Registration includes lunch.

Chorale, symphony ready for concert

By DEBBIE L. JENSEN
Features Editor

Saturday night's Big Spring Symphony performance with the Big Spring Symphony Chorale will be a first.

It won't be the first time for the groups to perform together, but it will be the first concert of that type to feature "serious" music. Past chorale performances have been dominated by "pops."

Conductor Gene Smith told chorale members Monday night he was very excited about the event.

"We've wanted to do this for a long time," he said. "It's wonderful to finally be here."

The chorale will join the symphony for Brahms' "Song of Fate" and Beethoven's "Choral Fantasia."

The Brahms piece is from "Schicksaslied," based on Friedrich Holderlin's novel "Hyperion." It deals with the Greek struggle to liberate themselves after centuries of Turkish oppression.

"Choral Fantasia" or "Fantasia in C minor" is sometimes regarded as a preparatory work for the composer's later setting of Schiller's "Ode to Joy" to music. The symphony's performance of "Fantasia" will also feature Jennifer Garrett, solo pianist. She is on the faculty at Texas Tech University.

The Big Spring Symphony Chorale has performed two years of "pops" concerts, including music of the old west with Jody Nix. Made up of local singers, the group averages about 40 members, but varies.

In Saturday's concert, the symphony will include one more piece without the chorale: Haydn's Symphony No. 101 in



Big Spring Symphony Chorale members, above, practiced Monday, with conductor Gene Smith.

HERALD photos/Debbie L. Jensen

D. Major, nicknamed "The Clock" because of the persistent tick-tock in the second movement.

Tickets for Saturday's concert at the Municipal Auditorium are available in advance at Blum's, Dunlaps, Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, and First Bank of West Texas. They are \$10 for adults, \$8 senior citizens and \$5 for students.

The concert begins at 8 p.m., and tickets will also be available at the door.



Singers Margarita Durand-Hollis, left, and Jane Lusk are part of the Chorale this year.

Christmas in April Day selected

Groups, organizations, individuals needed to share many talents for needy

by HERALD Staff Report

"Christmas Day 98," is scheduled for Saturday, April 25 and has more than 20 qualified applicants requesting assistance.

All churches, civic clubs, fraternal organizations and businesses are encouraged to select a home this project year. Individuals are welcome, and may be assigned with a group who needs your special talent.

This project helps Big Spring

CAN YOU HELP?

Volunteer labor is used to refurbish and repair the homes of elderly and needy citizens of Big Spring. Help is also needed feeding workers and raising money. This year's Christmas in April workday is April 25. To volunteer, call Bob Noyes at 267-6095.

senior citizens, by making the necessary repairs to their homes, which they can no longer complete by themselves.

Last year 12 groups, with over 300 volunteers, worked to

repair the homes of Howard County senior citizens. With your help can CIA continue to help the senior citizens to stay in their homes for the remaining years of their

life.

If you don't have painting or carpentry talent, but wish you could be involved, there is a way: By helping to feed a group of volunteers, provide lunch, drinks, or snacks. Do you have a special talent you can use to help raise money to purchase the materials for the homes?

For more information, to select a project or to have a Christmas in April program at your organization contact Bob Noyes at 267-6095.

Teens stuck with vaccinations once ended in infancy

ATLANTA (AP) — It was the hepatitis B vaccine that tripped Mary Roberts.

The Atlanta mother of four forgot it had been added to the list of recommended shots, and now two of her boys were overdue. "It was simple before, when they were all babies," Mrs. Roberts said. "This new shot just threw us off a bit."

To eliminate such confusion, scientists hope to cut the number by combining more of the vaccines.

A baby born this year could need as many as 18 preventive shots by age 16. New combinations of vaccines already available can reduce that number to 14, but that is still almost twice as many recommended a decade ago.

"There's a lot more shots for kids now," said Dr. Carol Price,

the Roberts' pediatrician. "Even in the last five years, there have been some great changes, and it's going to continue."

A hepatitis B shot was recommended in 1990. In 1996, a chicken pox vaccine was added, and two shots were suggested to replace the first two oral doses of the polio vaccine.

During each checkup, the pediatrician tells parents which shots are next. Her office then mails a notice. And each family gets a pamphlet listing shots recommended or required, a guide she has had to update three times in four years.

The changing list of vaccines can make doctors' visits a drag for youngsters. The average number of shots per wellness visit in the early years is 2.6, but sometimes Ms. Price gives

four injections.

"None of us enjoys having to give all those shots, but all of us have seen the tragedy of kids who don't get shots," said Dr. S. Michael Marcy, a pediatrician for Kaiser Permanente in Panorama City, Calif.

Such concerns have led vaccine makers to develop new combinations. Three groups that help set vaccine policy in the United States — the American Academy of Pediatrics, American Academy of Family Physicians and Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices — are now writing guidelines for doctors, which should be finished in the next few months.

"People are becoming confused because the schedule is rather complicated," said Dr. Dennis Murray of East

Lansing, Mich., a pediatrician helping on guidelines. "Yet, you want them to comply with it, and you want to decrease their risk for disease. If you have new combinations, it may be easier to do this."

Connaught Laboratories Inc. offers one vaccine against dTTP (diphtheria, tetanus, acellular pertussis) and Hib (Haemophilus influenzae type B) that causes meningitis and bone and eye infections.

Merck & Co. has combined Hib and hepatitis B vaccines. Expected to come down the pipeline soon are a mix of DTP and polio vaccines and even a mix of Hib, hepatitis B and polio vaccines.

Scientists are optimistic that, with history on their side, these combinations will succeed. The diphtheria and

tetanus vaccines have already been successfully combined, as have vaccines against measles, mumps and rubella.

However, some early studies show that new combinations may weaken the effects of individual components.

They also can be more expensive. Despite colleagues and families clamoring for fewer inoculations and more combinations, Murray calls for patience "because of safety and efficacy issues."

Meanwhile, friendly reminders help. So the CDC recently turned to a doctor of another sort — Dr. Seuss, "author" of the popular series of children's books.

Available for schools and public clinics, each of six Dr. Seuss posters offers advice.

SLICE of life!

COMMUNITY NEWS

Big Spring Humane Society

Some of the many pets available for adoption at the Big Spring Humane Society are:

- Michael, male black cat, short-haired, neutered, 5 years old, affectionate, a real heart stealer (pictured at right).
- Taffeta, female silver tabby, 7 months old, spayed, needs lots of TLC.
- Whitey, female calico, 1-1/2 years old, spayed.
- Regina, female white and cream colorpoint, 1-1/2 years old, spayed, good with women.
- Suzanna, female gray and white, short-hair, 1 year old, spayed.
- Fluffy Tail, male Maine Coon Cat, black and gray, 1 year old, neutered.
- Dainty Lady, female white and cream colorpoint, 1 year old, spayed.
- Coquette, female black and white, short hair, 6 months old.
- Sailor, male short hair, black cat, 2 years old, neutered.
- Moe and Joe, male short hair kittens, 8 weeks old, one gray tabby, one cream.



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Shot clinics set

Texas Department of Health will provide shot clinics on Saturday, Feb. 21 and March 7 from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Parents must bring the child's shot record or note from school nurse. Call 263-9775 for more information.

HAM classes planned

Big Spring HAM Radio Club will be sponsoring a class teaching you how to become a "ham." The class will be for 10 weeks, beginning Saturday, Feb. 28, at 9:30 a.m. The class will be at the Radio Clubhouse, approximately 1.3 miles south of FM 700 on Hwy 87 on the east side. The only cost will be the price of the book. For more information, call Jim LeMarr at 394-4424 or Jose Gonzales at 263-5777.

THE LAST WORD

No writer long remains incognito.

E.B. White

If you suffer, thank God! — it is a sure sign that you are alive.

Eibert Hubbard

In the battle of existence, talent is the punch; tact is the clever footwork.

Wilson Mizner

WEDNESDAY

FEB. 18

Table with 24 columns representing different TV channels (KMD, KPEJ, KERA, etc.) and rows representing different time slots (6:30, 7:30, 8:30, 9:30, 10:30, 11:30, 12:30) listing various programs and their genres.

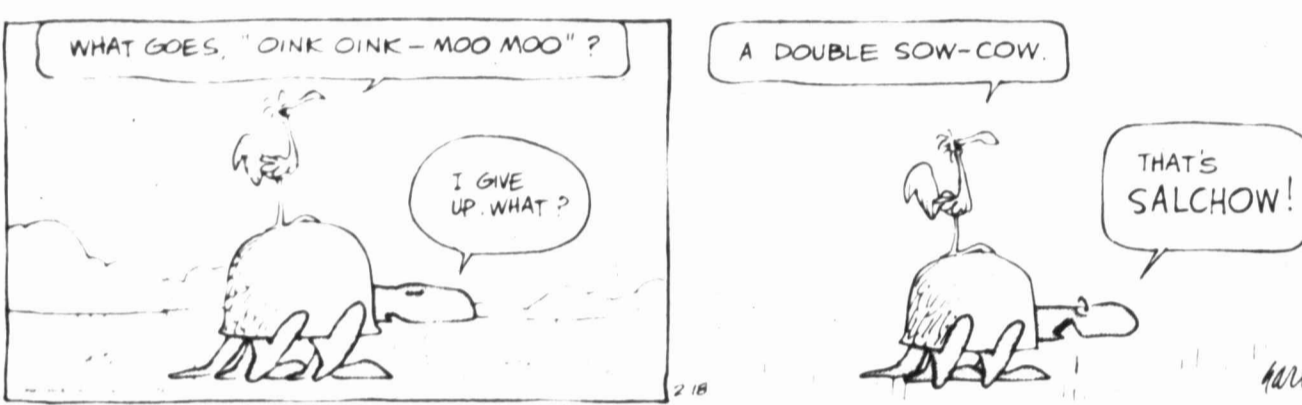
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FAMILY CIRC



DENNIS THE MENACE



GEECH



"You don't feel anything when they operate 'cause they give you an Anastasia."

"I FINALLY FOUND OUT HOW MANY COOKIES ARE TOO MANY."

WIZARD OF ID



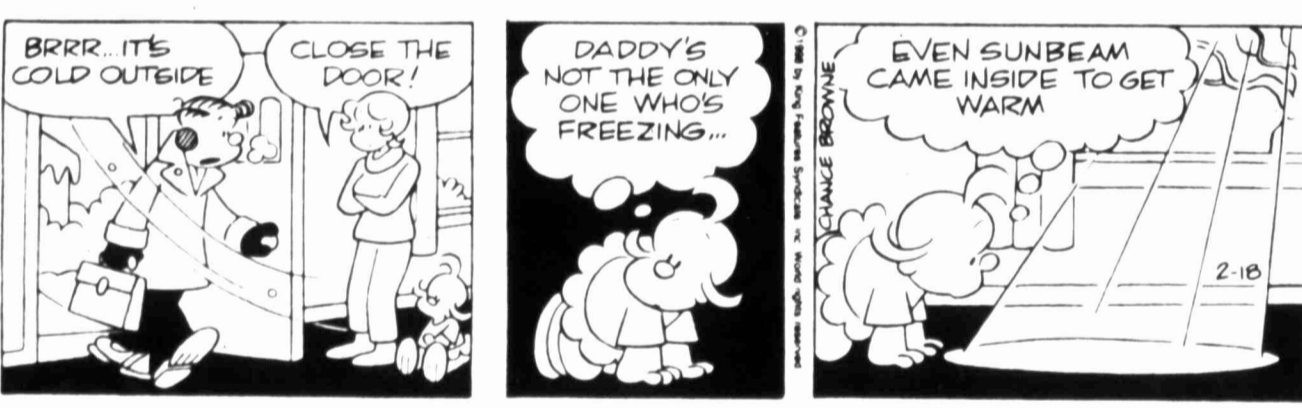
THIS DATE IN HISTORY

Today is Wednesday, Feb. 18, the 49th day of 1998. There are 316 days left in the year.

THE Daily Crossword

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words. Includes a list of clues and the puzzle grid itself.

HI AND LOIS



Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

GASOLINE ALLEY



- List of crossword puzzle solutions for both Across and Down words, including: 1 Currency, 5 Audience, 10 Ali, 14 Highest point, 15 Embankment, 16 Astronaut, 17 Dely visibly, 20 Sun's fall, 21 Keep from happening, 22 Ducks' kin, 23 Freshly, 24 Smooth-headed, 26 Coloratura soprano Maria, 29 Contend successfully, 30 Light touch, 33 "Play It Sam", 34 Mystery board-game, 35 Farm storage tower, 36 Dely vocally, 39 Puzazz, 40 Comic Foxx, 41 Water lily, 42 Affirmative comment, 43 One of the Trumans, 44 Baked item, 45 Campus military org, 46 Farm enclosures, 47 Parcel out, 50 Bring joy, 52 British mother, 55 Dely visibly and vocally, 58 Advantage, 59 Weirder, 60 Painter's medium, 61 Oracle, 62 Carols for 63A, 63 Holiday, briefly, 43 One and the other, 44 out (dwindles), 45 "Message received", 46 Control board, 47 Pub choices, 48 Take on cargo, 49 Olympic sled, 51 Mineral vein, 52 Disables, 53 Drains of coll. sports, 54 Military diner, 56 Charged particle, 57 Michael J. ...

SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILY



Advertisement for Big Spring Herald, including contact information (915-263-7331), website (www.bigspringherald.com), and a list of staff members and their roles.

In 1516, Mary Tudor, the Queen of England popularly known as "Bloody Mary," was born in Greenwich Palace. In 1546, Martin Luther, leader of the Protestant Reformation in Germany, died. In 1564, the artist Michelangelo died in Rome. In 1885, Mark Twain's "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" was published in the United States for the first time. In 1930, the ninth planet of our solar system, Pluto, was discovered. In 1953, "Bwana Devil," the movie that heralded the 3D fad of the 1950s, opened in New York City. In 1960, the Eighth Winter Olympic Games were formally opened in Squaw Valley, Calif., by Vice President Nixon. In 1970, the Chicago Seven defendants were found innocent of conspiring to incite riots at the 1968 Democratic national convention. In 1972, the California Supreme Court struck down the state's death penalty. In 1977, the space shuttle Enterprise, sitting atop a Boeing 747, went on its maiden "flight" above the Mojave Desert. Ten years ago: Soviet Communist Party leaders dropped former Moscow party chief Boris N. Yeltsin from the ruling Politburo. Anthony M. Kennedy was sworn in as the 104th justice of the Supreme Court. Five years ago: President Clinton hosted a campaign-style rally at St. Louis' Union Station to enlist citizen support for his economic plan. One year ago: Astronauts on the space shuttle Discovery completed their tuneup of the Hubble Space Telescope after 33 hours of spacewalking; the Hubble was then released using the shuttle's crane. Bill Richardson began work as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations. Birthdays: Songwriter-musician Pee Wee King is 84. Actor Jack Palance is 77. Cosmopolitan editor Helen Gurley Brown is 76. Actor George Kennedy is 73. Sen. John Warner, R-Va., is 71. Author Toni Morrison is 67. Movie director Milos Forman is 66. Singer Yoko Ono is 65. Singer Irma Thomas is 57. Singer Herman Santiago (Frankie Lyman and the Teenagers) is 57. Singer Dennis DeYoung (Styx) is 51. Actress Sinead Cusack is 50. Actress Cybill Shepherd is 48. Singer Juice Newton is 46. Singer Randy Crawford is 46. Rock musician Robbie Bachman is 45. Actor John Travolta is 44. Game show host Vanna White is 41.

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Responsible for maintenance, housekeeping, meals, transportation, security & supervision of Support Staff. Bachelor's degree in management and/or experience with supervision of employees and residential services. Fax resume to 915/686/7186 or mail to Box 2942, Midland, TX 79702. Applications are being taken for the position of Clerk/Van Driver. No phone calls please. Apply at Jack & Jill, 1708 Nolan.	HELP WANTED EXECUTIVE SECRETARY for professional office. Minimum requirements: 60wpm & computer word processing experience. Responsible person with initiative and growth potential. Send self-prepared resume to: P.O. Box 1431/2525, Big Spring, TX 79721. MAINTENANCE POSITION AVAILABLE The Colorado River Municipal Water District has an immediate opening for a maintenance worker based at the District's Martin County Pump Station approximately 15 miles NW of Stanton. Company benefits include paid vacation sick leave, retirement plan, group insurance, and paid holidays. The District's office located at 490 East 24th Street, Big Spring, Texas, or call (915) 267-6341. EARN TOP PAY Growing National Above Ground Pool Dealer seeks installers in your area. Earn top pay & bonus. Experience a plus but we will train. Landscapers, Contractors or similar encouraged to call. Truck & tools required. 1-800-788-1632 ext. 3104, Mr. Brown. PIZZA INN Now accepting applications for delivery drivers. Apply at Pizza Inn, 1702 Gregg St. NURSES UNLIMITED MANAGED CARE Immediate openings: RNs & LVNs For institutional staffing all of the Permian Basin Sign on bonus, next day pay, incentive for every 10-8hr. shifts. Referral bonus, and many more extras. Call 580-2060 E.O.E. Domino's Pizza Part-time / Full-time Drivers. Good driving record a must. Great part time job to make those bills for people who just want 2-3 days a week to supplement their income. Start at \$5.50/hour + tips & mileage. 2202 Gregg. AVON \$8-\$18/hr. 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