

CISD renews Pherigo's contract, assigns aide to help with discipline

By KATHY GILBERT
Staff Writer

The Coahoma Independent School District Board of Trustees voted unanimously last night to renew the contract of a teacher accused of injuring a child during a physical education class.

Robert Pherigo, 50, who had been moved to bus maintenance duties by the school board in mid-Feb., was given a probationary contract for a second year. The board also voted to add a full-time aide to the class.

"We will maintain a full-time aide in that classroom," Gail Wells, board president, "primarily because the class is so large."

"We think that the assistance of an

aide will help the program, and assist (Pherigo) with disciplinary matters," Wells added.

The board feels confident that "there will not be a repeat of this type of behavior," said Wells. Being given a second probationary contract sends a signal to a teacher, she said, while declining to elaborate.

"Mr. Pherigo's had a very traumatic month and a half," Wells added.

Pherigo's contract was discussed during closed executive session. Personnel matters are typically confidential, and school board members are not at liberty to discuss the details, she said.

The school board voted to defer action on Pherigo's case during their regular meeting on Feb. 16, pending the results of a criminal investigation conducted by the Howard County

Sheriff's Office.

A grand jury declined to indict Pherigo on March 18. Pherigo was accused of sending an 11-year-old child to the hospital with neck and back sprains in what his lawyer said was a routine disciplinary matter.

The board could have chosen to non-renew Pherigo's contract, Michael Hartman, Superintendent of Coahoma Independent School District said.

"We'll look at the Teacher's Code of Ethics and the board's policies of conduct," Hartman said last week, "if he violated any of that or whether he didn't — there it depends on which story you go with."

Hartman said he was glad Pherigo had not been indicted. "If somebody's not guilty, you don't want to see them get charged with something," he said.

"And the grand jury apparently didn't feel he was guilty."

The case hinged on a defensive statute, Howard County District Attorney Hardy Wilkerson said.

Educators, parents and guardians of mental incompetents may use force, but not deadly force, to discipline their children or wards, according to sections 9.61-9.63 of the Texas penal code.

"It's a very broad defense and the grand jury was entitled to hear about it," Wilkerson said last week. "I suspect that Mr. Pherigo's conduct, if it rises to the level of criminal conduct, was protected under (this statute)."

After the no-bill, the ball is back in the school board's court, Wilkerson said. "It appears to be a matter that should best be handled from this point on by the Coahoma Independent

School District.

"I feel confident that the school administration will conduct their own investigation and handle the matter appropriately," he said.

The injured child's father, Jeff Murphree, was outraged at the educator exclusion.

"If an adult had done this to an adult, he would be put in jail, but an adult can do it to a child and get away with it. I think it's a sad statement," he said last week.

Murphree was unavailable for comment.

His son has been moved to a private school in Big Spring where teachers report he is doing well, Murphree said.

Murphree said there was no consideration of civil lawsuit being filed against the district or Pherigo.

VA Center expanding surgical facilities

By CARLTON JOHNSON
Staff Writer

Things are continuing to come up smelling like roses for Big Spring's Veterans Administration Medical Center (VAMC), including recent approval for expansion of the hospital's 47-year old surgical unit, which Director Cary Brown says will cost in excess of \$1 million.



BROWN

"We still have our ongoing ambulatory care project going, but we have just been approved for additional construction for moving our antiquated surgical operating area to the second floor," Brown said. "Our bottom line intent is to move both our inpatient and outpatient surgical areas to the second floor."

The VA hospital opened in Big Spring in 1960, according to Brown, and the existing surgical facilities have not had any substantial upgrades since the hospital opened.

"For the first time, we will have a state-of-the-art surgical facility," Brown said.

The hospital will have to let bids for construction, but Brown said officials hope to begin that construction in late spring or early summer with completion coming in late fall or early winter.

"Hopefully, we will be able to open the new surgical unit before Christmas," Brown said.

The current construction at the VA hospital is a continuation of what began last spring — expansion of the hospital's outpatient clinic.

The outpatient clinic operates on a managed care concept and each patient sees a particular doctor when they visit, according to Brown.

The expansion of the outpatient clinic is a \$2.82 million project designed to renovate approximately 2,000 square feet of existing clinic space and add another 15,000 square feet of space to accommodate the patients the VAMC currently

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HERALD photo/Linda Choate

State Rep. David Counts (standing) talks to members of the Region F Water Planning Board during the group's initial meeting Monday at the Dora Roberts Community Center. The board, along with numerous others statewide, was formed after the Texas Legislature passed a comprehensive water plan last session. At the far right is Howard County board member John Grant, general manager of CRMWD.

Region F water board meets for first time Monday at DRCC

By CARLTON JOHNSON
Staff Writer

Water issues played a major role in discussions during most recent legislative session and are continuing that role in a post legislative capacity in an effort to draft regional water planning areas and rules for planning state and regional water plans.

Monday, the Regional Water Planning Group (RWPG) for Region F, which includes Howard County held its first meeting at the Dora Roberts Community Center.

As a result of the 75th Legislative Session, regional water plans are required to be developed under Senate Bill 1 (SB1) by Sept. 1, 2000.

Region F extends west as far as Reeves County; as far east as Brown County; north to Borden and Scurry Counties; and as far south as Sutton County.

The 32 counties (county seat in parentheses) making up Region F include Andrews (Andrews), Borden (Gail), Brown (Brownwood), Coke (Robert Lee), Coleman (Coleman), Concho (Paint Rock), Crane (Crane), Crockett (Ozona), Ector (Odessa), Glasscock (Garden City).

Howard (Big Spring), Irion (Mertz), Kimble (Junction), Loving (Mentone), Martin (Stanton), Mason (Mason), McCullough (Brady), Menard (Menard), Midland (Midland), Mitchell (Colorado City), Pecos (Fort Stockton), Reagan (Big Lake), Reeves (Pecos), Runnels (Ballinger), Schleicher (Eldorado), Scurry (Snyder), Sterling (Sterling City), Sutton (Sonora), Tom Green (San Angelo), Upton (Rankin), Ward (Monahans) and Winkler (Kermit).

District 70 State Rep. David Counts serves as chairman of the Texas House Natural Resources Committee and says Monday's meeting and series of public meetings concluded around the state earlier this winter by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) are important because people are able to get an understanding of what the regional planning areas are as well as the rules governing them.

The first series of meetings were designed to allow the TWDB to receive public comments on the third and final draft of regional water planning areas and proposed rules for state and regional water planning.

"What we're working on now

is a statewide water plan that will tell us where the water is and how we can get it to the right places," Counts said. "Completing this plan will take us between two and three years, but I'm excited about it."

SB1 requires the TWDB to designate regional water planning areas and initial members to regional water planning groups and to approve regional water plans prepared by the water planning groups.

"This is where all interested parties (municipal users, agricultural users, ranches, the Colorado River Municipal Water District (CRMWD) and other water districts and environmental groups) get together to come up with a nomination process to get people appointed to look after our water interests," Counts said.

Counts said Monday's meeting was important for several reasons but most importantly because the local areas is well represented.

"We have to make sure we have representation in all areas," Counts said. "Some of the experts on these planning boards may not necessarily be from a particular area, but it's their expertise that's important."

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Elections

While city, school and college elections move to forefront, commissioner's runoff election still ahead

By CARLTON JOHNSON
Staff Writer

Most people have switched gears from the March 10 primary races to the upcoming election for city council, school board and college trustees positions, but before casting ballots on May 2, Howard County voters still have to determine a Republican nominee for Howard County Commissioner Precinct 2.

For the April 14 runoff, incumbent Jerry Kilgore faces the same challenger as he did in 1994 in John Wayne Metcalf, but this time circumstances are a bit different.

In 1994, Kilgore and Metcalf were both new to the political game with Metcalf receiving more votes than Kilgore in the primary only to have Kilgore close the gap between the primary and the runoff.

Early voting for the runoff between Kilgore and Metcalf will begin April 6 and run through April 9, because April 10 is Good Friday and county offices will be closed. Early voting will be from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Howard County Clerk's office.

For the runoff only two polling places will be used. Goliad Middle School for Precincts 101-112, 301-306, 401-408, 410 and 202-205 and 208. Precincts 207 and 409 will vote at Coahoma City Hall.

Only voters in Precinct 2 will be able to vote in the county commissioner's race, but those voters who didn't vote at all on March 10 or who are registered to vote but didn't may vote in other statewide runoff races.

As for the April 14 runoff, this time Metcalf has to eliminate the gap if he is to serve as a commissioner.

Kilgore received 451 votes (45.56 percent) to 356 votes (35.96 percent) for Metcalf on March 10.

Ken Mayhall was third in the balloting on March 10 receiving 183 votes (18.48 percent).

As for a strategy this time, Kilgore said it's time to go back to work and do everything he can to get his supporters to the polls.

"Runoffs are tough because



METCALF

KILGORE

it's hard to get people out again," Kilgore said. "You have to see who is eligible and go from there."

Metcalf says he was surprised by the outcome of the primary, but he appreciates the votes he received.

"Runoffs are where the danger zone is," Metcalf said. "I want to push the fact that I don't want anymore tax increases nor do I want anymore pay increases for commissioners."

Neither candidate is changing his stance on the issues campaigned on during the primary.

"What you see with me is what you get," Metcalf added. "The county is doing well right now, but we can do better. I want to encourage people to get back out and vote in the runoff because I'd like to win for them as well as for myself."

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

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

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

As a second-term commissioner, Kilgore said he wants want to continue to keep the tax rate as low as possible and still allow the county to function, and he would also like to continue to work in partnership with the city of Big Spring, Moore Development, Coahoma and Forsan and other entities to continue the progress made in the last four years.

WEATHER

Tonight:	Wed:	Thur:	Fri:

Tonight, fair. Lows in the mid 50s. Wednesday, mostly sunny and breezy. Highs 85-90. Wednesday night, fair. Lows to upper 50s. Thursday, partly cloudy and breezy. A slight chance of nighttime showers and thunderstorms. Highs mid to upper 80s. Friday, a slight chance of thunderstorms, otherwise partly cloudy. Lows from the upper 40s to mid 50s. Highs from the mid 70s to lower 80s. Saturday, fair. Lows from the mid 40s to lower 50s. Highs from the mid 70s to near 80.

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National survey has local educators counting blessings

By KATHY GILBERT
Staff Writer

Howard County area schools are counting their blessings, after a national study revealed twenty percent of American middle schools and high schools reported at least one serious crime such as rape or robbery last year.

"I believe we are fortunate to be in an area that does not have the type of statistics they've got nationally," Murray Murphy, assistant superintendent for the Big



MURPHY

Spring Independent School District said. "We've not had any rapes or robberies on school properties — and definitely no murders."

Murphy credited the district's "zero tolerance" policy along with a close partnership with the police for that success. "The police are just outstanding," he said.

Brenda Gainey, Principal of Goliad Middle School, said her school's new policy of ticketing students has helped "immensely" reduce the number of fights at the school.

"We call the Police Department and they come and issue citations," Gainey said. "The kids are suspended that day and have to go before a judge. The tickets are expen-

sive, and they have to do community service if they can't pay."

Student crime is mostly in larger urban schools, Thursday's report by the Department of Education concluded. Indeed, it said 43 percent of public schools surveyed reported zero crimes — serious or minor — in the 1996-97 school year. Only crimes reported to police were tabulated.

The survey estimated, based on data from a 1,200-school sample, that public schools nationwide experienced more than 11,000 fights in which weapons were used, 4,000 rapes and other sexual assaults and 7,000 robberies.

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OBITUARIES

Eloise Roberts

Graveside service for Eloise Roberts, 84, Big Spring, will be 10 a.m. Wednesday, March 25, 1998, at Trinity Memorial Park with Dr. Randy Cotton, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, officiating.

She died Monday, March 23, 1998, at her residence.

She was born on Jan. 18, 1914, in Chickasha, Okla. She married Homer Ward in June of 1939 in Sweetwater, and he preceded her in death on Jan. 22, 1979. She then married Max Roberts on July 22, 1982, in Big Spring. She had managed several women's dress shops here and then worked for Howard College. She then worked for civil service in the educational office at Webb Air Force Base for 10 years before retiring. She was a member of College Baptist Church.

Survivors include her husband, Max O. Roberts of Big Spring; one step-daughter, Maxine Stockton of Big Spring; five grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

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

Elbert Turner

Service for Elbert Turner, 76, Big Spring, is pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home.

He died Monday, March 23, 1998, in a Midland hospital.

Roy G. Zeigler

Graveside service for Roy G. Zeigler, 74, Big Spring, will be 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 25, 1998, at Trinity Memorial Park with Rev. Dewayne Wheat, pastor of Berea Baptist Church, officiating.

Mr. Zeigler died Monday, March 23, at the Veterans Administration Medical Center following a short illness.

He was born on Nov. 18, 1924, in Highspire, Pa. He married Helen Skinner on July 25, 1945, in Highspire, Pa. She preceded him in death on March 27, 1984. He had been a resident of Big Spring since 1965. He was a veteran of 23 years, first serving in the U.S. Army During World War II. After his discharge from the Army, he enlisted in the US Air Force, serving during the Korean War in various locations. He was last stationed at Webb Air Force Base where he retired in 1966. After his retirement with the military he went to work for the U.S. Postal Service as a letter carrier.

He is survived by: two daughters, Donna Armor of Albuquerque, N.M., and Patti Bertran of Big Spring; one son, George (Butch) Zeigler of Big Spring; six grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Arrangements under the direction of Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

MYERS & SMITH

FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

Roy Zeigler, 74, died Monday. Graveside services are 4:30 PM Wednesday at Trinity Memorial Park.

Floyd Pike, 68, died Monday. Services are pending.

NALLEY-PICKLE & WELCH

Funeral Home

Trinity Memorial Park and Crematory

906 Gregg St. (915) 267-6331

Eloise G. Roberts, 84, died Monday. Graveside services will be 10:00 AM Wednesday at Trinity Memorial Park.

Elbert Turner, 76, died Monday. Services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home.

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Floyd Pike

Service for Floyd Pike, 68, Big Spring, is pending with Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

He died Monday, March 23, 1998, at the VA Medical Center.

SURVEY

Continued from Page 1

The survey was produced by the Education Department's National Center for Education and Statistics and based on responses from school principals, counted only crimes reported to police at schools, aboard schoolbuses or at school-sponsored events.

The elementary, middle and high schools surveyed were in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Clinton also announced \$17.5 million in new financing for school safety projects. The money, from the Justice Department's community policing and school safety program, will pay for anti-crime partnerships among law enforcement agencies, schools and community groups.

Among the survey's major findings:

• Ten percent of schools reported at least one serious violent crime during the last school year. Counting only middle and high schools, the proportion in this category rises to 20 percent. Elementary schools had far less of a problem with student crime, especially violent crime.

• Crime was more common at larger schools. One-third of schools with enrollments of 1,000 or more reported at least one serious violent crime, compared with 4 percent to 9 percent in schools with fewer than 1,000 students.

• Schools in cities were at least twice as likely to report serious violent crime as those in towns and in rural areas.

• Crimes were more likely to occur in schools with the highest proportion of minority students. Among schools where at least half the students are minorities, 68 percent reported crime, compared with 47 percent of schools with less than 5 percent minority enrollment.

• Principals rate absenteeism, tardiness and fights as the most common discipline problems among pupils.

The Associated Press contributed to this story.

VA

Continued from Page 1

serve.

According to Brown, the added space will also include specialty clinics, primary care teams and administrative support space.

"This is not only good for the veterans we see, but good for the Big Spring community as well," Brown said. Special design considerations of the project include patient flow, record flow, team function, entrance location and aesthetics.

The outpatient expansion project is expected to take 13 months to complete, meaning construction could continue through this fall.

As for the impact current construction at the VA hospital is having on the local economy, the impact is mainly in the area of subcontracting because subcontractors are from the West Texas area. This means an influx of dollars into Big Spring as well as 25 to 50 workers on the site while construction continues.

A few staff members will have to be added to accommodate the changes the project will cause at the clinic, but Brown added the primary purpose is to serve the veterans the VAMC already has.

The VAMC's expansion its outpatient clinic has already impacted Big Spring in a positive way as the VAMC was instrumental in helping the Big Spring community receive one of four Texas Veterans Homes following Gov. George W. Bush's signing of legislation last year authorizing the construction of the homes.

Scenic Mountain Medical Center
1601 W. 11th Place
263-1211

WATER

Continued from Page 1

The regional planning groups are required to submit regional water plans to the TWDB for approval every five years beginning September 2000. TWDB-approved regional water plans will be incorporated into the next comprehensive State Water Plan, which is due Sept. 1, 2001.

The TWDB has also identified Special Water Resources (SWR) to facilitate regional water planning, according to Counts.

"Special Water Resources are water supplies in one area that are obligated in full or in part to meet water demands in another area," Counts said.

As each RWPG develops its regional water plan it must also protect water rights, contracts and option agreements related to SWRs in its area so that water supplies obligated to meet a demand outside the regional planning area are not impacted.

The TWDB has divided the state into a total of 16 planning regions.

Counts says plan group is 'labor of love'

By CARLTON JOHNSON
Staff Writer

"This will be a labor of love and because there is great community interest," State Rep. David Counts said of the Regional Water Planning Group (RWPG) for Region F, which includes Howard County.

Monday's meeting of the 20-member board was the first meeting of the group charged with developing a regional water plan for West Texas.

Colorado River Municipal Water District (CRMWD) General Manager John Grant is a member of the board and unofficially spearheaded Monday's meeting.

"Our purpose here is regional water planning," Grant said. "The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) has worked hard to put rules in place that comply with Senate Bill 1 (SB1)."

"We're not here to make decisions, but to decide what we want to do in our plan," Counts said. Emphasizing to board members that water is a critical issue in West Texas, Counts said, "As the saying goes, whiskey is for drinking and water is for fighting. We can get into a fight over water in West Texas quicker than anything."

As far as the legislation calling for a state water plan, Counts said the Senate sent the House an incomplete bill.

"We had to take out some things as well as fine tune others and at times we met up until 2 a.m. or 3 a.m. making sure we would have everyone's interest included," Counts said. "Twice before we have tried to have a statewide water plan, but it just didn't come together."

Each of the 16 regions in Texas will develop a regional water plan that will become part of the state water plan in 2001.

"We have three years to do this," Counts said. "This will be a comprehensive plan covering a 50-year planning period."

Counts said West Texans need only to point to the recent three-year drought that ended last year to realize how important and beneficial it would be to have a comprehensive plan.

"During the last drought, we had to haul water to several rural areas," Counts said. "There are some 580,000 people in Region F, which is 3 percent of the state's population. We have some drought areas in West Texas and very few areas with plenty of water."

As for the significance of the group of people that make up

BIG SPRING AROUND THE TOWN

the planning group for Region F, Counts said it's a critical situation.

"This group is life or death to West Texas," Counts said. "We're just one day away from another drought and people have to remember that drought has to occur to trigger use of the water plan."

With Monday's addition of Gordon Caskey from Chevron in Midland as a board member to represent the oil and gas industry, the board is now 21-members.

Other board members are Marilyn Egan, Runnels County Judge; Jeffrey Sutton, Crockett County Judge; Will Wilde, San Angelo; Len Wilson, Andrews; John Gayle, Snyder; John W. Lasiter, Huntsman Polymers, Odessa; Kenneth Diershcke, Wall farmer; John W. Jones, McCulloch County farmer; Frances Mertz, San Angelo Nature Center; Stuart Coleman, Coleman Distributing, Brown County; Dale Higginbotham, TU Services; Stephen Brown, Upper Colorado River Authority; Loye Tankersley, Irion County Underground Water Conservation District; Cindy Crowley, Schleicher County Underground Water Conservation District; Richard Gist, Brown County; Braulia Natividad, Reeves County; Ray Stoker, Odessa attorney and former chair, Texas Transportation Commission; and Steven C. Hofer, Stubbleman and Associates, Midland.

BRIEFS

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY IS planning for its 1998 Relay for Life event May 15-16. Teams are forming now for this 24-hour community camp-out for teams of runners and walkers to benefit ACS.

Contact Jay or Kim Phinney at the Karat Patch for team packets. Call 267-1480.

THE ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION WEST TEXAS Chapter will have a support group meeting Thursday at Comanche Trail Nursing Center, 3200 Parkway, 7 p.m.

The topic will be "Caregiver Stress - Dealing with Depression." For more information, call the association at 570-9191.

BIG SPRING HUMANE SOCIETY will meet Thursday at 7 p.m. at St. Mary's Episcopal Church.

APRIL IS SEXUAL ASSAULT awareness month, using the theme, "Standing Together Against Sexual Violence." During this month, Rape Crisis-Victim Services is asking local citizens to show support by putting a green ribbon on their car antennae.

Speakers from RCVS can be arranged for groups, clubs and organizations as well. Call 263-3312.

FORSAN ISD TRANSFER APPLICATIONS will be accepted between March 23 and April 9. New applicants must come to the Administration Office on the Forsan campus between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. to complete paperwork and interview with the Superintendent.

Parents are encouraged to bring a copy of student records, including attendance and discipline reports, report cards and TAAS scores.

For further information call 457-2223.

BIG SPRING WOMAN'S CLUB four-person scramble charity golf tournament is Saturday, April 4, at Big Spring Country Club starting at 8:30 a.m.

Entry fee is \$50 per person and teams will be based on handicaps. Call Julie Wolf at 263-7664 or Big Spring Country Club Pro Shop to register by April 3.

Texas Lottery PICK 3: 0,9,9
CASH 5: 19, 22, 29, 30, 37

AREA AGENCY ON AGING

needs volunteers for its ombudsman program at local long-term nursing facilities. Ombudsmen monitor the quality of care and quality of life of our elderly. For information, call Bob Stokes, 563-1061.

SPRINGBOARD

IF YOU HAVE ANY CHANGES IN A SPRINGBOARD ITEM OR FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT GINA GARZA, 263-7331 ext. 238, BETWEEN 8:30 A.M. AND 2 P.M. All Springboard items must be submitted in writing. Mail to: Springboard, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, Texas 79720; bring it by the office at 710 Scurry; or fax it to 264-7205.

TODAY

•Most Excellent Way, a chemical dependency support group, 7 p.m., Living Water Church, 1008 Birdwell Lane. Call 267-1424 after 5 p.m. or 263-3168 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

•Al-Anon, 8 to 9 p.m., 615 Settles.

•Narcotics Anonymous, 6 to 7:30 p.m., St. Mary's Episcopal Church.

•Beginning line dance class will be taught at 9 a.m. at the Senior Citizens Center. Call 267-1628 for more information. All ages welcome.

•Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. open meeting and 8 to 9 p.m. closed meeting at the VA Medical Center on fourth floor.

•Big Spring Alliance for the Mentally III, 6:30 p.m., 409 Runnels (formerly the TU building). Call Sondra at 267-7220

WEDNESDAY

•Downtown Lions Club, noon, Howard College Cactus Room. Call Archie Kountz, 267-3821.

•Line dance classes, 1 p.m., Senior Citizens Center, following lunch. For more information call 398-5522 or 267-1628. All ages welcome.

•Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. open meeting and 8 to 9 p.m. 12&12 Study.

THURSDAY

•Good Shepherd Fellowship Church, 610 Abrams, has services 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.

•Spring Tabernacle Church, 1209 Wright, has free food for area needy, 10 a.m. to noon.

•Big Spring Senior Citizens Center art classed, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., 55 and older.

•Al-Anon, 8 to 9 p.m., Scenic Mountain Medical Center small cafeteria.

•NA meeting, 8 p.m., St. Mary's Episcopal Church.

•Alcoholics Anonymous, noon to 1 p.m. open meeting, 615 Settles. 8 to 9 p.m. closed meeting at Scenic Mountain Medical Center cafeteria.

•Masonic Lodge No. 598, 7:30 p.m., 219 Main.

•Alzheimer's Association support group, 7 p.m., Comanche Trail Nursing Center.

FRIDAY

•Spring City Senior Citizens country/western dance, 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. Music by CW & Co. Area seniors invited.

•Good Shepherd Fellowship Church, 610 Abrams, 7 p.m. Bible study.

MARKETS

May cotton 69.33 cents, down 35 points; May crude 16.24, down 27 points; Cash hogs steady at 36.50; cash steers steady at 63; April lean hog futures 51.55, down 57 points; April live cattle futures 64.82, down 32 points. courtesy: Delta Corporation. Noon quotes provided by Edward D. Jones & Co.

POLICE

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

•ALBERT ORTEGA, 30, was arrested for driving while license invalid.

•MARCUS NEAL, 38, was arrested for driving while license invalid.

•BRANDON RUSHIN, 28, was arrested for driving while license invalid.

•GUSTAVO ALOCER, 32, was arrested for public intoxication.

•CLASS C ASSAULT reported at 4200 Hamilton.

•THEFT reported at the 700 block of W. U.S. Interstate 20, the 1800 block of Young, and the 800 block of W. U.S. Interstate 20.

•BURGLARY/BUILDING reported in the 500 block of E. Marcy and the 400 block of Gregg.

•BURGLARY/HABITAT reported in the 1800 block of Owens.

•CRIMINAL MISCHIEF reported in the 2000 block of Rickenbough and the 1300 block of W. 4th.

•ASSAULT reported in the 2100 block of Main.

•FORGERY reported in the 200 block of W. Marcy.

SHERIFF

The Howard County Sheriff's Department reported the following incidents between 8 a.m. Monday and 8 a.m. Tuesday:

•CARLOS CHAPA, 17, was arrested for possession of marijuana.

•EDWARD LEE HILDRETH, 33, was arrested for aggravated sexual assault of a child.

•JOSEPH PETERSON, 27, was arrested for possession of a controlled substance.

•RALPH RODRIGUEZ, 43, was arrested for possession of a controlled substance.

•VILOISO GARCIA, 60, was arrested for delivery of a controlled substance.

FIRE/EMS

Following is a summary of Big Spring Fire Department/EMS reports:

Monday

5:27 a.m. - 3300 block Auburn, medical call, patient transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

7:46 a.m. - 3200 block Parkway, medical call, patient transported to SMMC.

8:14 a.m. - 100 block Canyon, medical call, patient transported to SMMC.

9:20 a.m. - 100 block W. 8th, medical call, patient transported to SMMC.

5:35 p.m. - 700 block NW Fifth, residence fire, extinguished by responding units.

9:36 p.m. - 1000 block Goliad, medical call, patient transported to SMMC.

9:48 p.m. - 1800 block Mittel, medical call, patient transported to VA Medical Center.

10:23 p.m. - 3200 block Parkway, medical call, patient transported to SMMC.

RECORDS

Monday's high 90
Monday's low 48
Average high 72
Average low 42
Record high 88 in 1922
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Month's normal 0.57
Year to date 2.71
Normal for the year 1.87

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For United States, sale of oil reserves a case of buy high, sell low

WASHINGTON (AP) — The government will sell millions of barrels of oil from its emergency stockpile later this year and with the oil market at historic lows, the sale will mean huge losses to taxpayers.

Energy Secretary Federico Pena acknowledged that it's "the worst time to be selling" but says he has no choice but to put \$207 million worth of stockpiled oil on the market in the coming months.

Congress last year ordered the sale. Most of the oil in the federal reserve in Louisiana was bought over nearly two decades at prices averaging better than \$27 a barrel and much of it for more than \$30 a barrel. Department officials estimated last week that if prices remain low, they will be lucky to get \$13 a barrel.

Why sell expensive oil when prices are rock bottom?
It's all part of Congress trying to make ends meet and still fall within budget-balancing requirements.

Last year, Congress for the third year running declared that the Strategic

Petroleum Reserve essentially should pay for its own operation. So to keep down spending, the lawmakers said the \$207 million needed for running the reserve in Louisiana should come from oil previously bought for the stockpile.

Rep. Ralph Regula, R-Ohio, chairman of the House Appropriations interior subcommittee, which deals with the reserve's funding, said he knows it's a bad idea to sell off the oil reserve. But his subcommittee agreed to the sale because otherwise they would have had to shift money from elsewhere in the interior budget.

Selling stockpiled oil in today's market is "a big loss to the government," conceded Regula, explaining that he will strongly oppose any plan for future sales beyond this year. Regula told Pena he also would work with him to try to find a way to avert the sale this year, but gave no promises. The problem is that it will be hard to find an extra \$207 million to make up for the lost oil revenues and still meet mandatory budget caps, department officials said.

STRATEGIC RESERVE

- Created in 1975 in a series of salt domes in Louisiana in response to the 1970s oil crisis to moderate oil supplies and price spikes. Oil reserves to be released in event of emergency supply shortage.

- Authorized for 1 billion barrels, but has never contained more than 591 million barrels. Current inventory, 563 million barrels.

- Last oil purchased in 1993. Average purchase price over the years, \$27.14, though much of it bought at \$30 to \$35 a barrel.

- About 28 million barrels of oil sold in last two years to pay for reserve operation. Price ranged from \$18 and \$22 a barrel.

- Congress directed to sell enough oil in 1998 to pay \$207 million to operate reserve. Energy Department estimates selling price under current market condition at \$13 a barrel.

- America uses 18.6 million barrels of oil a day.

The government reserve, a system of storage caverns in Louisiana, contains 563 million barrels of oil, purchased

over two decades in case of a sudden oil shortage. But no oil has been bought since 1993; instead oil has been sold each of the last two years to pay for operating the reserve.

At the same time, say critics, the one-time goal of building an emergency reserve of 1 billion barrels to protect against future oil supply shocks seems to be moving in reverse even as America's reliance on imports has increased steadily and now is at roughly half of the oil used. Americans consume about 18.5 million barrels of oil a day.

Past sales in 1996 and 1997 were not as controversial since prices were in the \$18 to \$22 a barrel range, still low enough for the government to have taken a loss, but nothing like this year.

"They anticipated selling about 10 million barrels at about \$20 a barrel," said Bob Porter of the Energy Department's Fossil Fuels Office. But he said the department estimated that at current prices they would get \$9 to \$13 a barrel for the oil, which is of a poorer quality than benchmark crude.

That could mean putting as much as 20 million additional barrels of oil on a market that already is awash with oversupply. It also would mean Uncle Sam — and the taxpayer — could take a paper loss of \$300 million or more on the stockpiled oil.

It also has small oil producers, already facing severe economic problems from falling prices, worried because the added supply could keep prices low, perhaps even drive them slightly lower.

"We should be buying oil (for the government reserve) at this point and not even thinking about selling it," says Gil Thurm, president of the Independent Petroleum Association of America.

Chris Hall, president of Drilling & Production Co., a small California producer, said his company imposed salary cuts last week because of declining oil prices and fears the government sales would further glut the market. "It's ridiculous. It's having the government work against you," Hall said in a telephone interview.

'Titanic' sails through Oscars with record-tying 11 Academy Awards

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The movie that almost couldn't be made couldn't be stopped.

"Titanic" won a record-tying 11 Oscars Monday, including best picture, completing a remarkable voyage for one of the most troubled but ultimately successful productions in Hollywood history.

Produced by two studios at a whopping cost of \$200 million, "Titanic" came within one win of topping 1959's "Ben-Hur" to become the most decorated film in Academy Award annals.

"I'm the king of the world!" "Titanic" writer-director-producer James Cameron yelled from the Oscar stage in accepting the best director trophy, repeating a line made famous by the film's young co-star, Leonardo DiCaprio. "I don't know about you, but I'm having a really great time."

The popularity of "Titanic" is not limited to the voting members of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. The 3-hour, 14-minute movie is also the highest-grossing in box-office history, holding both the domestic and worldwide marks.

It has been the nation's No. 1 film for 34 consecutive weeks and is likely to remain in first place next weekend. With the Oscar surge, the movie now could pass

the once unthinkable \$600 million plateau at North American theaters.

"Titanic" won statuettes for picture, director, cinematography, costume design, editing, dramatic score, song, visual effects, sound, sound effects editing and art direction. The film dominated the evening so strongly no other film won more than two awards. Three managed that many: "As Good As It Gets," "Good Will Hunting" and "L.A. Confidential."

"This morning, I woke up and couldn't wait for the day to be over. Now I don't want it to stop," said "Titanic" co-producer Jon Landau.

And yet "Titanic" failed to win any acting awards. "Titanic" also was not nominated for a screenplay award, becoming the first film since 1965's "The Sound of Music" to win best picture without being nominated for a writing Oscar.

"Titanic" failed to collect prizes in three of its nominated categories — supporting actress, actress and makeup. Helen Hunt from "As Good As It Gets" beat "Titanic" star Kate Winslet for best actress, "L.A. Confidential's" Kim Basinger took supporting actress over Gloria Stuart, and "Men in Black" claimed the makeup

prize.

The 11 awards were nevertheless a stunning achievement for a film once so behind schedule it missed its planned summer release date by five months. Tensions between co-producers Paramount and 20th Century Fox ran so high that senior executives nearly came to blows.

"What a year it's been," the movie's Oscar-winning cinematographer, Russell Carpenter, said. "It's gone from being a ship of fools to being a ship of dreams."

Cameron declined to use the awards sweep to repudiate the film's many early critics, some of whom speculated before the film's debut that it couldn't possibly succeed.

"I feel happy. Vindicated has a negative connotation," Cameron said backstage. "There's nothing negative here, pure bliss."

"Titanic" was not the only former longshot to claim a prize at the 70th annual awards ceremony. Matt Damon and Ben Affleck, the young actors who labored mightily to write and direct "Good Will Hunting," each won three prizes. "Titanic" star Leonardo DiCaprio, who was nominated for best actor for his depiction of a ther-

apist.

"I just said to Matt, 'Losing would suck, and winning would be really scary,'" Affleck said in accepting the writing prize. "It's really, really scary."

Basinger, forced into bankruptcy after losing the "Boxing Helena" breach-of-contract lawsuit, returned to the Hollywood spotlight with her supporting actress win for "L.A. Confidential."

"If anyone has a dream out there, I'm living proof that it can come true," the actress told the Shrine Auditorium audience.

The movie also collected a trophy for best adapted screenplay, while "The Full Monty" won the Oscar for original musical or comedy score.

Jack Nicholson, who won the best acting award for "As Good As It Gets," joined an elite group of only four performers to own three or more Oscars. His others are as best actor for "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" in 1975 and supporting actor in "Terms of Endearment" in 1983.

Katharine Hepburn won four Academy Awards, and Ingrid Bergman and Walter Brennan each won three. "Titanic" is honored to be on any list with you, Bobby, Dusty, and you and your father Mr. Damon, and my old bike pal,

Fonda," Nicholson said, making the umpteenth joke of the night about fellow nominee Damon's age.

Hunt, the only American competing against four British actresses in her category, thanked her director, who was not even nominated.

"I'm here for one reason and that's Jim Brooks, one single reason, and that's the only reason really," Hunt said.

It was one of the longest Oscar ceremonies on record at 3 hours, 42 minutes. The record is held by the 1984 show, which timed out at 3:45.

Billy Crystal had the duty of keeping the show on course, kicking things off with a filmed sketch that put him in scenes of the best-picture nominees, much as he did last year.

It started with a spit in the face from "Titanic" star DiCaprio.

"What, give up show business?" Crystal deadpanned.

Academy Award winners Monday night:

BEST PICTURE: "Titanic."

DIRECTOR: James Cameron, "Titanic."

ACTOR: Jack Nicholson, "As Good as It Gets."

ACTRESS: Helen Hunt, "As Good as It Gets."

SCREENPLAY (written directly for the screen): Ben Affleck and Matt Damon, "Good Will Hunting."

SCREENPLAY (based on material previously produced or published): Brian Koppelemans and Curtis Hanson, "L.A. Confidential."

SUPPORTING ACTRESS: Kim Basinger, "L.A. Confidential."

SUPPORTING ACTOR: Robin Williams, "Good Will Hunting."

FILM EDITING: "Titanic."

ORIGINAL SONG: "My Heart Will Go On" from "Titanic," James Horner and Will Jennings.

ORIGINAL DRAMATIC SCORE: "Titanic," James Horner.

ORIGINAL MUSICAL OR COMEDY SCORE: "The Full Monty," Anne Dudley.

ART DIRECTION: "Titanic."

CINEMATOGRAPHY: "Titanic."

VISUAL EFFECTS: "Titanic."

COSTUME: "Titanic."

SOUND EFFECTS EDITING: "Titanic."

SOUND: "Titanic."

MAKEUP: "Men in Black."

FOREIGN FILM: "Character," The Netherlands.

DOCUMENTARY FEATURE: "The Long Way Home."

DOCUMENTARY (short subject): "A Story of Healing."

LIVE ACTION SHORT FILM: "Visas and Virtue."

ANIMATED SHORT FILM: "Ger's Game."

HONORARY AWARD: Director Stanley Donen.

GORDON E. SAWYER AWARD: Don Bowers, co-founder of Iwerks Entertainment, for accomplishments in the field of motion picture science and technology.

SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL AWARD: Gunnar P. Michelson, developer of an advanced electronic light valve for machines that strike movie prints.

TEXAS BRIEFS

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN ANTONIO — Doctors at the Darnall Army Community Hospital at Fort Hood have agreed to a settlement that calls for them to give \$925,000 to the husband, two children and parents of a woman they treated for cancer.

After almost a year of being treated for other illnesses, Charlynn Binford was diagnosed with advanced cervical cancer in January 1995 and died 20 months later. She was 26 when she first noticed health problems in early 1994.

Her husband, Daryl, her children Daryl Jr. and Cara Lynn, and her parents Phyllis and Charles Patin, will receive the settlement from NES Government Services Inc., Dr. Lewis Zingery and Dr. John King.

NES is a firm that contracts with the government to provide medical personnel to staff government hospitals and clinics, family lawyer Clem Lyons said.

Both Zingery and King were independent contractors working for the government at Darnall, where Mrs. Binford sought treatment, Lyons said.

ROTAN — Rotan-area rancher Buster Welch opposes a U.S. Air Force proposal to set up a realistic bomber training range in West Texas.

Welch said Monday that he fears the bombing range will destroy the tranquility of the quiet rural area where he raises horses and cattle on a 50,000-acre ranch.

"It's not an easy life, but it's a good life," he says. "And it's good because it's peaceful."

Welch, 69, is leading the newly established Heritage Environmental Preservation Association. The group is fighting a proposal that would allow B-1 bombers from Dyess Air Force Base and B-52s from Louisiana to train closer to home.

Members of the group had an organizational meeting last week in Snyder. They elected directors from eight counties within the proposed bomber range area.

GALVESTON — A jury has awarded \$3.3 million in damages to the parents of a terminally ill man who wandered away from a Texas City nursing home and died of heat exposure.

The decision came Monday at the end of a two-week trial of a civil suit filed by Orbie and Billie Harris of Texas City. They said lax security at

the Bay Brook Villa nursing home cause the death of their son, Jim Harris, 35, in July 1995. The facility, which later closed, was owned by Denton-based Texas Health Enterprises Inc.

Peter C. "Woody" Kern, owner of the company, is the head of a multi-state nursing-home empire that has had frequent run-ins over the years with regulators.

His company still operates Seabreeze Care Center in Texas City. He has sold the firm, but remains as an officer.

AUSTIN — A 15-year-old girl was thrown into a wall, killing her, when the restraining bar on a carnival ride broke away as the ride's operator increased the speed.

That's the story that Austin police has been getting from others who rode the Himalaya ride on the night last week that Leslie Lane was killed during the Austin-Travis County Livestock Show and Rodeo.

No charges have been filed, but court documents indicate officers believe criminally negligent homicide was involved.

"We are looking at everyone who had anything to do with that ride," said Austin police Sgt. Ken Cavett.

Police, in a sworn affidavit used to obtain a warrant to confiscate the ride, said their investigation is focusing on broken cotter keys — thin metal pins that are supposed to hold the ride's restraining bars in place.

GREENVILLE — Despite a ruling that an Allen man on probation for sexual assault may stay in his Collin County neighborhood, residents vow to continue their fight against him.

The district attorney in adjoining Hunt County, where Edward S. Baker was tried on a charge of venue, unsuccessfully sought to include a "child safety zone" requirement in Baker's deferred adjudication.

State District Judge Joe Leonard disagreed, noting the safety zone statute would only apply if Baker, 72, had been convicted after Sept. 1, 1995.

Baker pleaded guilty to sexual assault of a child in March 1990 and was sentenced to 10 years of deferred adjudication later that year. The actual assault was in 1986.

The latest motion would have required Baker to move at least 1,000 feet away from any school, day care center, park or other area where children congregate.

Newspaper executive urges vigilance in next legislative session over open records laws

DALLAS (AP) — The media must be ready for a serious attack on the public's right to open government during the next Texas Legislature, a newspaper executive has warned.

Dolph Tillotson, editor and publisher of The Galveston County Daily News, urged Texas Daily Newspaper Association members to meet the well-financed challenge of government groups and politicians against freedom of information and convince readers that it's their fight, too.

The foes, Tillotson said Monday, are formidable — not just "good 'ol' boy" bureaucrats.

"And I'm here to tell you the real dangerous enemies that we face in terms of public government, open meetings and open

records are smart, sophisticated, well-funded, well-educated and very, very effective," said Tillotson.

"And therefore, they're really difficult to deal with and in most circumstances, they're people we're inclined to think of as friends."

The UT Board of Regents, for example, has in the past three legislative sessions thwarted industry efforts to undo a staff briefings loophole in the public meetings law.

Other effective opponents of open government, Tillotson said, include the Texas Trial Lawyers Association and the Texas Municipal League.

"This is a little bit galling because the Texas Municipal League is indirectly funded through tax money that we all

pay," he said.

But the cause also has friends, including Sen. Jeff Wentworth, chair of the Interim Committee on Public Information; and Sen. John Whitmire and Rep. Sylvester Turner, both of Houston.

Open government's friends, Tillotson said, will be needed in 1999 when the Legislature reconvenes and threats to the public's right to know again loom.

The threats include some public officials' requests that the Texas Attorney General's Office exclude hundreds of government documents from public review and moves to treat information as a commercial commodity through charging fees that raise revenue or — worse yet — prevent access.

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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

Lady Hawks winners on, off basketball court

Back on Labor Day, Howard College's Lady Hawks started working to reach a goal ... to achieve a dream ... to fulfill an ambition.

It was then that the team, under the very capable leadership of Head Coach Matt Corkery and assistant Natasha Taylor began their quest to go to the national tournament and have the opportunity to compete for a national championship.

Sadly enough, there are many who never dream at all, so it should come as no surprise that there are few who ever achieve a portion of their dreams and aspirations.

The Lady Hawks did.

As the season progressed, they stayed focused on the next game, realizing all the while that after all of those individual "next games," there was a bigger prize if they kept their heads about them and worked as a team.

When their 21-game winning streak was broken, they refocused and promised themselves that Midland College would go down the next time the two teams met.

And they did ... hard.

When they were sidetracked late in the season and placed into a position to where they were the No. 3 seed in the region, they remained focused, preparing for that next game.

This was a team that set a long-term goal, but one that also had shorter-term goals interspersed ... like wanting to celebrate in the middle of the floor at Midland's Chaparral Center after winning the Region V championship.

And after that, there was the national tournament and the chance to reach the national championship game. Like we said, all dreams don't come true and that one didn't — but not for lack of effort.

To those of you who watched this team play during the season, you know they are a group of talented athletes. If you missed them, you missed a lot.

After spending the better part of a season with them ... after watching them play 27 of their 37 games ... we can tell you they are more than just talented athletes.

They are ambassadors for our community who represent us with class and dignity wherever they go.

They are student-athletes who take their books with them on the road so there will be something for them after basketball.

Most of all, they are a wonderful group of young ladies who just happen to be a heck of a group of basketball players.

Sadly enough, five have played their last game for Howard College ... Shawnta Johnson, Kamilah Ward, Donelle Jones, Jeanine Horton and Latraica Spencer.

But it is their legacy, of helping lead a Howard team to a level of excellence never before achieved at the school, that ensures the program's success as they leave it in the capable hands of Ricka McKee, Karlita Washington, Latasha Moore, Jovanae St. Cyr, Kim Robertson and Jennifer Vinum.

Thank you, Lady Hawks ... for the way you represented your school and our community ... and don't ever stop setting goals and dreaming of what could be if one works hard enough.

LETTER POLICY

The Big Spring Herald welcomes letters to the editor. Please:

- Limit your letters to no more than 300 words.
- Sign your letter.
- Provide a daytime telephone number and street address for verification.
- We reserve the right to edit letters for style and clarity.
- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
- We do not acknowledge receipt of letters.
- All letters, published or not, become the property of the Big Spring Herald.
- Submit to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721.

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- By telephone at 263-7331
- By fax at 264-7205
- By e-mail at either bsherald@xroadstx.com or jwalker@xroadstx.com
- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

Tobacco firms not only ones responsible

I normally do not recommend litigation, but there are two class-action lawsuits I think need to be filed in conjunction with the pending settlement with the tobacco companies.

The first lawsuit should be filed by the smokers in any state that has sued the tobacco companies. They should sue the state government. If selling cigarettes has caused injuries and death, then the state government that licensed the sale of those cigarettes and profited from the sale of those cigarettes should be equally liable.

It is impossible for the tobacco companies to be guilty if the state that permitted, condoned and profited from the sale of tobacco is innocent. It seems to me that the state is equally

liable for any injuries caused by smoking.

The second class-action suit should be filed on behalf of Medicaid recipients.

There is a thing in lawyerland called standing. Let's say my neighbor is run over by a truck. I can't sue the truck driver and his employer because I have no standing — I was not the injured party. In other words, to have standing to sue you have to establish that the party you wish to sue actually caused you some injury.

To get standing, many of the states went into court and claimed that cigarette smoking injured Medicaid recipients and therefore caused the state to spend more money on their treatment.

Well, if that's so, then all of the settlement, less the attorney's fees, should go to Medicaid.

After all, the state did not claim to have standing because cigarettes injured state transportation or public education or general administration or all the other things greedy politicians plan to spend the tobacco

money on. Nope, they said it injured the Medicaid recipients and caused the state to spend more money on their treatment.

OK, pay for Medicaid and nothing else.

It seems to me that in this colossal rip-off engineered by greed-maddened politicians and trial lawyers, the only folks not benefiting are those who are supposed to be injured parties — smokers and the Medicaid program.

You do realize, I hope, that this national hysteria and lynch-mob attitude toward tobacco companies is looney.

Go to any good encyclopedia. Find the volume with T stuff in it. Read the article on tobacco. You will find out that folks have been talking about the bad health effects of smoking tobacco since about the day after it was first brought to Europe from the Western hemisphere in the 16th century. British scientists in the 1930s linked cigarette smoking to lung cancer.

In short, no rational person can claim to have been duped,

deceived or misled by tobacco companies. Tobacco is tobacco. You want to smoke or chew, go ahead. It is what it is and does what it does. Same as liquor or anything else. Don't try to shift the blame for your own decisions and actions to someone else. Nobody put a gun to your head and forced you to buy cigarettes and smoke them.

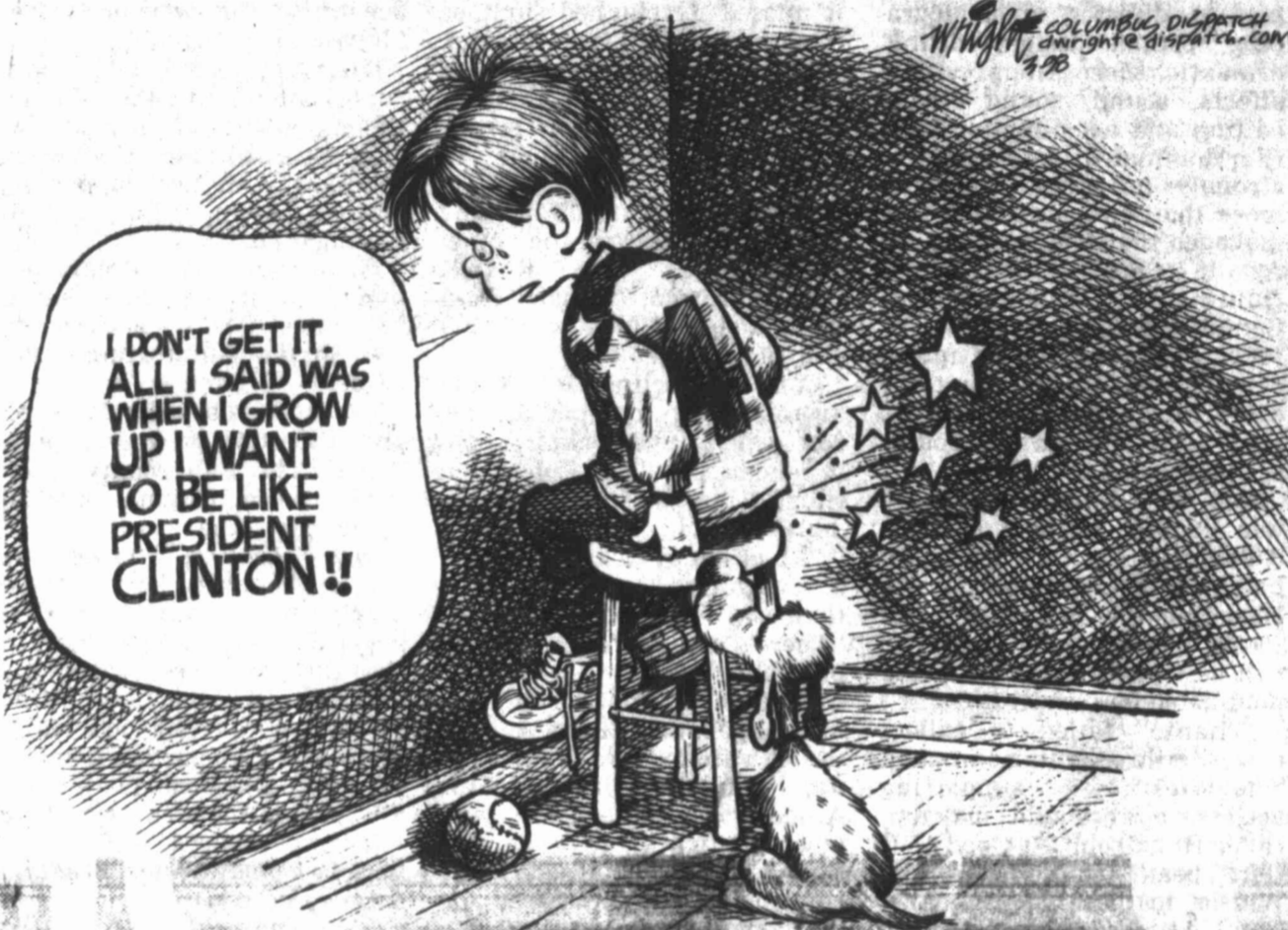
It is looney for governments to subsidize, promote the export of, license for sale and tax cigarettes while at the same time screaming and hollering about how bad cigarettes are and how evil are the companies that make them.

Hey, politicians, you could have banned them. Since you chose not to, you can't blame tobacco companies for selling a perfectly legal product in a package with a clear warning on it about the possible bad health effects. To do so is plainly irrational and unjust. You are as guilty or as innocent as the tobacco companies are.

Charley Reese's e-mail address is OSOREESE@aol.com.



Charley Reese
Columnist



The writer's art: Singulars and plurals

We hear a good deal from time to time about the many RULES of English grammar. We should listen with a deaf ear.

To my knowledge there is only one unbreakable RULE of English grammar. I will give you the whole thing: In any given sentence, the subject and predicate must agree in number. Everything else that purports to be a rule is usually no more than a suggestion, a guideline, a general proposition, a better usage — but not a RULE.

By way of Horrid Example, let me cite a piece in Editor & Publisher just a year ago. The story had to do with news coverage of the Oklahoma City bombing trial. The Denver Post had created a computerized archive to assist reporters. A writer for E&P noted that "the full text of court documents are included on the site."

Does the sentence grate upon your ear? Surely it grates, for the subject of "are included" is "text," and the Rule of Agreement has been sorely violated. We must learn to skip over such intervening

phrases as "of court documents" and go to the bare bones of structure.

This is from USA Today, in a story last September about fund-raising scandals: "Some say the Democrats' explanations on why the events were not fund-raisers is pretty thin." Aaargh! The plural subject, "explanations," has to be tethered to the plural verb "are." Here again, the trick is to ignore the intervening clutter of "on why the events were not fund-raisers."

This is from Newsweek, in a story last November about Dodi Fayed, the, umm, friend of Princess Diana.

Investigators had charged that Dodi's father purchased famed Harrod's through unsavory procedures. "Though the findings didn't affect the Harrod's deal, the reports' allegations that the Fayed produced false statements and documents, including false birth certificates, has cast a pall over the family's reputation ..."

Go to the bones: The subject of the sentence was "allegations," plural. The verb was "has cast," singular. No way!

Consider a few more Horrid Examples:

- From USA Today, reporting that House Speaker Newt Gingrich had to call a meeting last summer "to discuss the embarrassing episodes of intrigue and conspiracy that has kept the House in turmoil."
- From a sportswriter for

The New York Times: "Some of the mystery and curiosity that encase Hideki Irabu are evaporating ..."

• From a critic's review of a Civil War history: "The story of the Battle of Shiloh, along with the campaign, are revealed in Larry J. Daniel's 'Shiloh.'"

• Headline in the Orange County (Calif.) Register: "Season's fruit make eating healthy easy ..."

• From a news item reporting that Myrtle Beach, S.C., could get a farm team of the Atlanta Braves: "The price tag for a new ballpark is between \$8 million and \$12 million, and neither Williamsburg nor Wilmington are willing to commit to such an investment." (The neither/nor construction demands a singular verb: Neither city IS willing to commit.)

Without meaning to confuse you, I have to add that sometimes the Rule of Agreement is subject to fuzzy interpretation. A reporter for the Savannah (Ga.) Morning News interviewed a state legislator. The solon said: "We don't need to have a separate set of laws that applies to the Internet."

The sentence dutifully obeyed the Rule of Agreement. Looking at the bones of the subordinate clause we find, "separate set ... that applies." Very well. But under the developing Doctrine of Notional Agreement, we are

told that the number of the verb depends upon the noun that immediately precedes the verb. In this instance, the apostles of notional agreement recommend "a separate set of laws that APPLY to the Internet."

I'm uneasy with this heretical doctrine, but I have to say that in this instance it makes for a smoother sentence with no loss in clarity.

While we're talking grammar, let me take one more shot at a familiar abomination, the confusion of "all" and "not all."

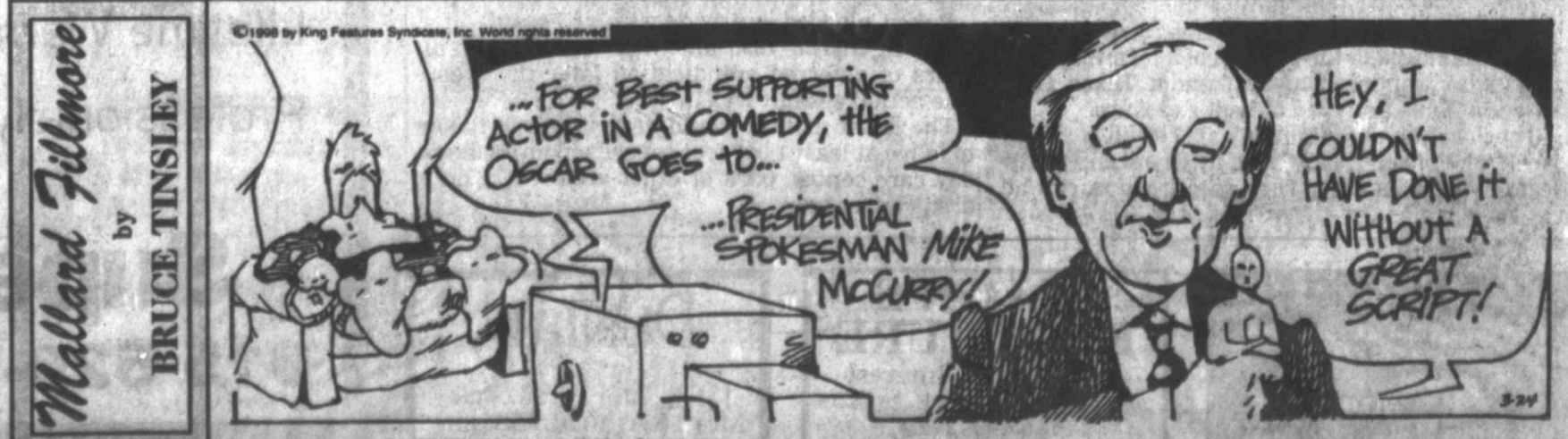
This was a headline over a Martha Stewart column: "All lamp shades can't be cleaned." This was the headline over a feature-story in Florida about subsidized housing: "Everyone can't afford home." This was from a column by a gentlewoman in Newsweek who knows better: Formal investigations are "a sound practice in the right circumstances, but every circumstance is not right."

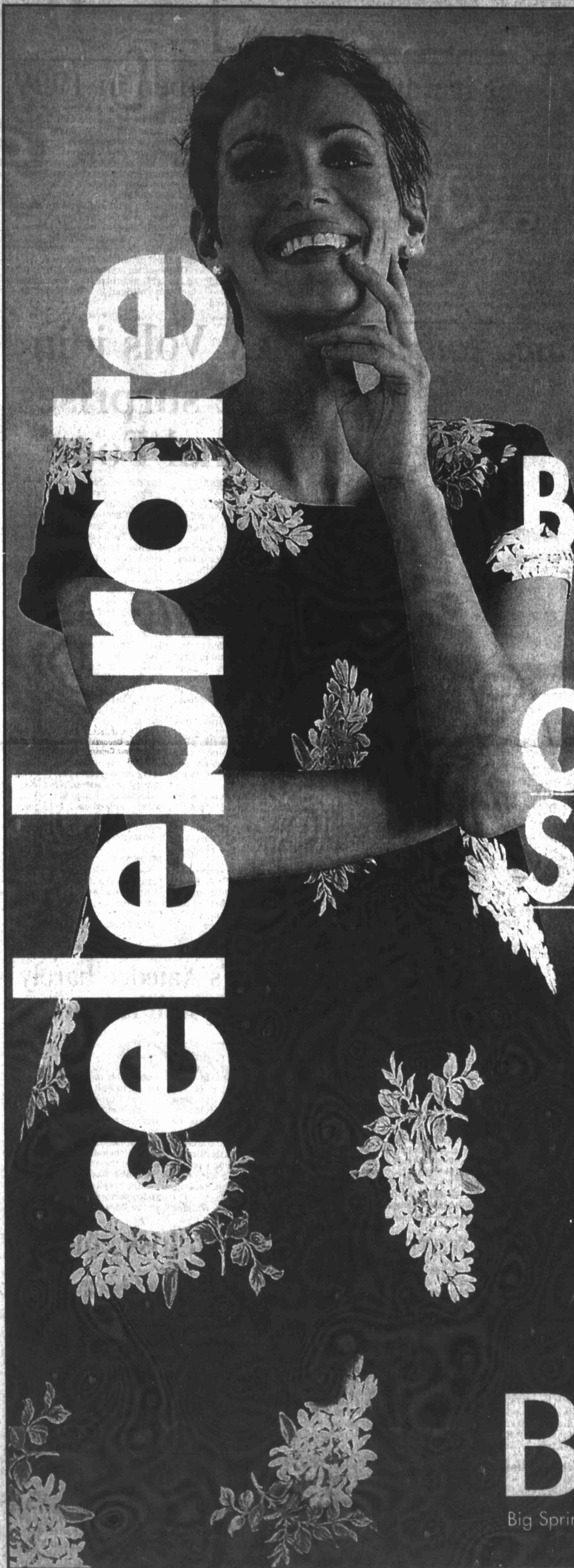
Gracious! Surely some lamp shades can be cleaned, and surely some people can afford homes, and presumably some circumstances are right for formal investigation. When we speak of "all" and "everybody," we had better watch out.

(James J. Kilpatrick is a syndicated columnist who resides in North Carolina.)



James J. Kilpatrick
The Writer's Art





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Herald Classifieds

Lordy, Lordy look who's 40
Happy Birthday Row Gen!!
Diane, Ang & Lar

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1989 Suburban w/Conversion Pkg. Clean, nice! Loaded! Call 264-6637.

1991 Chevrolet Beretta Indy Gt, bright yellow, automatic, A/C, removable moon roof, stereo cassette, cruise, power locks and windows, tilt, new tires, special Indy interior, adjustable lumbar support, 3.1L V6, excellent condition \$6100. 267-3535 or 263-0600.

1986 BUICK RIVIERA. 64K miles, leather seats and loaded. Beautiful two tone gray. You have to see this one! \$3,995. Call 267-8479.

1986 Mercury Grand Marquis LS 4-DR - Extra clean.....\$4,995

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1974 2' Terry Travel Trailer. \$2500. New tires, and hot water heater. Sleeps 6. Call 915-393-5363.

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1995 Prowler, 28ft 5th Wheel. Slideout dining and living room area, Electric lift jacks. Loaded! Used four times. Excellent condition. 267-5796.

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'94 MAZDA B 3000 - V-6 Am-FM cassette. Green with tinted windows. A/C. Call 915-354-2397 or 268-3365.

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1994 Dodge Van. Custom built, good condition. One owner. Call 264-0211.

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ADOPTION: A warm hearted couple desires a baby to love. Security, love and devotion for both of you. Please call Carole and Sal. 1-800-698-5920.

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Learn to trade commodity markets. Trade with the pro's over 200% proven track record. 800-876-2425.

DRIVING SCHOOL

Big Spring Driver Education is now offering Teenage Driver Education for kids 15 yrs. of age minimum. First class begins Wed. April 1st. For registration and info. come by the Big Spring Mall location, Mon-Thur 5:30 to 6:30. Call 268-1023, 263-7015 or 457-2340.

FINANCIAL

CAN'T AFFORD BILLS NEED MONEY CALL 1-888-350-9131

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Maintenance Personnel for 70 Units Apt. Project. Experienced & A/C Certification required. Park's Village at 915-267-6421

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HELP WANTED

Licensed plumbers wanted: \$16hr. Truck allowance, Health Ins., Retirement plan & other benefits included. Call Robert Gordon 915-653-3593.

PIZZA INN Now hiring wait staff, must be 18. Apply at Pizza Inn, 1702 Gregg St.

SCENIC MOUNTAIN MEDICAL CENTER

A 153 bed JCAHO accredited facility has immediate opening for a Clerical Assistant. Requirements are 2 years minimum experience preferred, good clerical skills, computer skills, knowledge of Lotus & Windows programs. Must be able to assist director in marketing and personnel programs. Submit resume by fax (915)263-6454 or (915) 263-0151 or mail to 1601 W. 11th Place, Big Spring, Texas 79720. No Phone Calls. Applications may be picked up at the switchboard between 7am and 9pm. Equal Opportunity Employer.

Local apartment complex now hiring Make Ready Maintenance Man. Experience a plus. Apply in person @ Barcelona Apartments, 538 Westover Fld. No phone calls please.

HELP WANTED

Southwest Coca Cola is now hiring for the positions of: ROUTE SALES PERSON. MUST HAVE GOOD DRIVING RECORD! ANY PERSONS WITH MORE THAN ONE MOVING VIOLATION, OR ANY AT FAULT ACCIDENTS OR D.W.I. IN THE LAST (3) THREE YEARS NEED NOT APPLY! RECORDS WILL BE CHECKED! Must be willing to become C.D.L. & D.O.T with successful completion of requirements within 14 days of employment. Must pass drug, strength & endurance tests. MUST BE WILLING TO WORK WEEKENDS AND MOST HOLIDAYS. ALL FORMER APPLICANTS NEED TO REAPPLY! COME & JOIN A WINNING TEAM! Apply at T.E.C., 3rd & Owens. We are an AA/EEO Employer. AD Paid for by Employer.

Maintenance Supervisor needed for apartment complex. Must be AC Certified. Responsible for preventative maintenance & make ready's. Salary depends on experience. Apply in person @ Barcelona Apartments, 538 Westover Fld. No phone calls please.

HELP WANTED

Willing to WORK? Will train. Waitress needed, must be 18 & able to work split shifts. Good references. Apply at Red Mesa Grill, 2401 Gregg.

MANAGER NEEDED Local apartment complex seeking a manager. Must be a good people person, computer skills helpful but not required. Apply in person at 538 Westover Road.

SECURITY FINANCE

DUE TO RAPID EXPANSION MANAGER TRAINEES WANTED: WE OFFER: Competitive Salary Rapid Advancement Opportunities in Eleven States Paid Medical and Life Insurance Paid Sick Days Paid Holidays and Vacation Days Optional Dental and Disability Insurance Profit Sharing Plan + 401K Exceptional Employee Savings Plan APPLY IN PERSON 204 S. Goliad Big Spring, Tx.

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AMCO MEDICAL SERVICE Office manager and sales person for Colorado City location. Sales and managerial experience necessary. Medical knowledge a plus. Salary, benefits, rotating on call, occasional heavy lifting required. Phone AMCO Medical Service & Supply at 915-573-8116 for an interview.

Need sales people to market membership for a service. You can work from home. Free call to 1-888-659-0665 for more details. Good Comm. on Sales.

HELP WANTED

Help Wanted for Day & Night Shifts. Apply in person. No phone calls. Burger King, 800 W. 1-20.

Dismantler with tools and mechanical experience. Bring resume to Westex Auto Parts, Inc. 1511 Hwy. 350.

AVIS LUBE FAST OIL CHANGE 24 HR. JOB HOTLINE 1-800-653-4063 X371

Machinist needed. Apply in person at Browne Bros. in Colorado City.

HELP WANTED

Looking for RN to work weekend coverage. Requires a self-starting team player with supervisory experience and a knowledge of long term care a plus. Duties will consist of general supervision and treatments. Please apply to Director of Nursing at Comanche Trail Nursing Center, 3200 Parkway.

SPECIAL CARE UNIT MANAGER Position at Comanche Trail Nursing Center is available. Strong administrative & organizational skills with a minimum of 2 yrs. experience in healthcare field. Knowledge of Alzheimer's / Dementia disease necessary. Fax resume to: (915) 263-4067 Attn: Administration.

Need gentleman to work late shift at laundromat. Fri - Sun. (9pm-1am) \$5.00/pr. hr. Pick up application at 1208 Gregg.

HELP WANTED

DRIVERS - TST Paraffin Service Co. (Div. of Yale Key) Looking for Truck Driver with CDL Licensed with less than 3 tickets in 5 years. Will have to pass DOT Physical and Drug Test. Must be 21 years old. Will take applications at the Stanton and Lamesa offices or call 1-800-522-0474 or 756-2975. Benefits include: Health Insurance, Uniform's furnished, Profit Sharing Plan, 1 week vacation, after 1 year employment, 2-week vacation after 2 year employment. Will train qualified applicants with oil field experience.

REQUIREMENTS ARE: 23 years old with 2 years semi driving experience of completion of an accredited truck driver school, CDL with haz-mat and tanker endorsements, pass DOT and company requirements. We will help train you for a successful future in the tank truck industry.

Apply in person at STEERE TANK LINES INC., 1200 ST. HWY 176, Phone (915)263-7656.

NEED Hairdresser, Nail tech, Masseuse for full or part time. Call: NAILS ETC. 267-9993

HELP WANTED

Wanted, Male person for apartment Spring. Exp necessary. A/C Please call (806) 756-5785

LOANS

DELTA LO \$100 TO \$38 SE Habla Es 115 E. 3rd 268 Ph.Apps.Wek

GRAIN HAY

Big Round Bale Alfalfa, Rye, Wheat Top Cane 1 263-5785

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FRIGIDAIR APPLIANC are now avail PHILLIPS 1 507 E. 3rd Big Spring, TX

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Miniature Dach sale. Call 457-226

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AKC Akita puppy 1/31/98. Female Males \$300. firm on premises. 52 620-8855

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FOUND / LOST

MISSING: Area Rd. 51 & FM 82 Coahoma. Mal Retriever & fer Heeler. Both microchipped. Call or 394-4251 or 26

FOUND: Solid P the vic' FOUND Call 263-7-00.

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NAILS PL Full set \$25. Monthly Special Manicure \$8. 393-5460

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We also have several Nissans, Rangers & S-10's In Stock.

 1998 Ford F150 STX Short Wheelbase - Black, grey cloth, CD, all power, local one owner w/12,000 miles. \$18,995	 1997 Ford F150 XLT Short Wheelbase - Dk. red, cloth, all power, 4.6 V-8, one owner with 34,000 miles. \$16,995
 1997 Ford F150 Supercab XLT Short Wheelbase - Black, gray cloth, 5.4 V-8, all power, 19,000 miles. \$19,995	 1997 Ford F150 Supercab XLT Short Wheelbase - Dark red, cloth, 4.6 V-8, all power, local one owner. \$19,995
 1997 Ford F150 Supercab XL Short Wheelbase - White, w/cloth, 4.6 V-8, tilt, cruise, local one owner w/48,000 miles. \$16,995	 1996 Chevrolet C-1500 Ext. Cab Silverado Short Wheelbase - White w/cloth, all power, 350, V-8, locally owned, w/ 31,000 miles. \$18,995
 1996 Ford F150 Supercab XLT Short Wheelbase - Red cloth, all power, 302 V-8, local one owner w/42,000 miles. \$16,995	 1996 Ford F150 Supercab XLT Short Wheelbase - Red w/cloth, 302 V-8, all power, local one owner, w/13,000 miles. \$16,995
 1995 Chevrolet C-1500 Ext. Cab Silverado Long Wheelbase - White w/cloth, 350 V-8, all power, local one owner w/68,000 miles. \$15,995	 1995 Dodge Ram 1500 Short Wheelbase - Red, V-6, automatic, local one owner w/75,000 miles. \$9,995
 1995 Ford F150 Supercab XLT Short Wheelbase - White/silver tute, 302 V-8, all power, local one owner w/48,000 miles. \$14,995	 1995 Ford F150 Supercab Eddie Bauer Short Wheelbase - Blue/tan tute, tan cloth, 302 V-8, all power, local one owner w/50,000 miles. \$14,995

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Mitchem & Sons Damage free towing. \$8.65 a month. local & out-of-town. 267-3747.

Big Spring Tuesday, M

Wanted, Male person for apartment Spring. Exp necessary. A/C Please call (806) 756-5785

LOANS DELTA LO \$100 TO \$38 SE Habla Es 115 E. 3rd 268 Ph.Apps.Wek

GRAIN HAY Big Round Bale Alfalfa, Rye, Wheat Top Cane 1 263-5785

APPLIANCES FRIGIDAIR APPLIANC are now avail PHILLIPS 1 507 E. 3rd Big Spring, TX

DOGS, PET Miniature Dach sale

HELP WANTED

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

LOANS

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

GRAIN HAY FEED

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

APPLIANCES

FRIGIDAIRE APPLIANCES are now available at PHILLIPS TIRE 507 E. 3rd. Big Spring, TX 79720

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Miniature Dachshunds for sale. Call 457-2264.

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AKC Akita puppies, born 1/31/98. Females \$250. Males \$300. firm. Parents on premises. 520-7348 or 620-8855

Shear K-9 Boarding-Grooming Stanton 756-3850

FOUND / LOST PETS

MISSING: Area of County Rd. 51 & FM 821, East of Coahoma. Male Golden Retriever & female Blue Heeler. Both tattooed & microchipped. Call 270-0043 or 394-4251 or 267-7387.

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NAILS PLUS Full set \$25. Fills \$15. Monthly Special, Hot Oil Manicure \$8. Call Diane 393-5460

'98 DRESSMAKER

Sewing Machine, free arm, Zigzag, school model, (never used) Sew-N-Serve the seams in one operation, heavy duty, 25 yr. warranty, one(1) yr. free service. All metal gears, all stitches built-in, make identical buttonhole, (any size), invisible blindhem, overcast, darn, applique, monogram, embroidery, sew on buttons, elastic stretch decorative stitches. THESE DRESSMAKERS ARE DESIGNED TO SEW ALL FABRIC, WITHOUT ADJUSTMENT. Levi's, Canvas, upholstery, quilting, nylon, stretch material, even sew leather. Now you have it all in one machine. YOUR PRICE WITH AD ONLY \$288. WITHOUT AD MRG'S PRICE \$699.59 Approved credit 12 payments @ \$38. mo. or \$388 cash. To see call 915-364-0777 anytime

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4 piece, cream color, living room set. Excellent condition. \$500. or O/B/O. Call after 6:00 pm 268-9574

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CREATIVE CELEBRATIONS DISCOUNT- 10% off when you book your 1998 wedding this month. Cakes, Abras, arches, silk flowers, etc. Call now for appt. 267-8191

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New combination carport/storage building in one-starting at \$9.00 a month- installation and financing available. Morgan Builders 563-3108.

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Must sell this week - 6 person HotTub/spa - round with tile-mull level love seats-delivery and financing available. Morgan Builders 563-3108.

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Clearance sale on all 97' and older above ground pools-complete package-installation and financing available. Morgan Builders 563-3108.

POOLS! Don't wait till it's HOT!! Let Vision Makers & Leisure Products put PARADISE in your own backyard. \$0 down W.A.C. Delivery & installation available. 264-7233.

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For Sale or Rent 10.94 acres Todd Rd. Fenced, water, septic. 940-552-5094

Small or large acreage for sale. Will consider financing or Texas Veterans financing. Call 263-8785

Small or large acreage For sale will consider Financing or Texas Veterans financing. Call 263-8785

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FOR SALE BY OWNER 800 W. 18th: 3 bd., 2 bath. 1900 sq.ft. Central heat & air. Privacy yard, cinderblock fence. Call 263-1792 or 264-8006.

3217 FENN \$84,600. Construction almost complete. 3 bd, 2 bath, formal dining, 2 car garage, total electric. Qualifies for FHA, VA or Conventional financing. Call for showing: Key Homes, Inc 520-9848.

HOUSES FOR SALE

PRICE REDUCED-2304 Mishler, 3-bedroom, 1 1/2 bath "a must see" Call Charles Smith @ 263-1173 or Home Realtors @ 263-1284

704 S. LANCASTER, 2br, Dining room, floor furnace. \$300 dn, \$145 month. Seller finance. Must have excellent credit history. 806-794-5984

OWNER MUST SELL! Great family home, 2300 sq.ft. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 living areas, sunroom, double fireplace, 3 car garage. 2215 Milliker. Call for more information: Jim Cawthron 6602-535-1436 home, 602-386-6443 work.

GREAT FAMILY HOME 2516 East 24th. St. Spacious inside-out. 4-3-2 plus double carport. Vaulted ceiling throughout. Indirect lighting, fireplace, ceramic tile entry, kitchen, baths, laundry, Unique Master bath. 1/2 acre 2 blocks out of city. 300' of firehydrant. Appraised \$122,500. Approximately 3,675 sq.ft. Under beautiful new roof. Call 263-2318 or (806) 794-7064.

FREE HOUSE w/purchase of \$60,000 Pecan trees. Must sell quickly. May see at 1602 Funnels. Call 264-6211.

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 263-8559.

ASSUMPTION Non qualifying. No Credit Check. 2716 Central. Loan balance approximately \$51,275.00. Total monthly payment \$730.00. 17 years remaining. 10.25% interest rate. \$67,500. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, fireplace, central heat/air. 2 car garage, fenced yard. Call 520-9848.

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 263-8559.

ASSUMPTION Non qualifying. No Credit Check. 2716 Central. Loan balance approximately \$51,275.00. Total monthly payment \$730.00. 17 years remaining. 10.25% interest rate. \$67,500. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, fireplace, central heat/air. 2 car garage, fenced yard. Call 520-9848.

MOBILE HOMES \$500 DOWN, as low as \$249 a month on a singlewide, 10.25% APR, 360 months with approved credit at USA Homes, 4608 W. Wall, Midland, TX. 520-2177, 1-800-520-2177

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DUPLEX 3/1/CP \$450; 2/1/CP \$395. Appliances, fans. No pets 267-2070. No HUD.

WOLFF TANNING BEDS. Tan at home. Buy direct and save! Commercial/Home units from \$199.00. Low monthly payments. Free color catalog. Call today 1-800-842-1310.

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REAL ESTATE 45 TO 200 ACRES NORTH-WEST of Junction, some with electricity and water. Oaks, lots of deer. From \$695 to \$795/acre. Small down. 1-800-792-4953.

SOUTHERN COLORADO LAND sale! 42 acres - \$32,900. New offer! Rolling fields & nice meadows backing up to unique outcropping. Enjoy outstanding sunsets and views of Greenhorns, Pikes Peak and Wet Mountains. Year round access with telephone and electricity. Low monthly payments. Call now 1-719-676-6367, ext. 7171. Red Creek Ranch at Hatches.

TIME SHARE UNITS and campground memberships. Distress sales-cheap! Worldwide selections. Call Vacation Network U.S. and Canada 1-800-543-6173. Free rental information 1-954-563-5586.

NCAA FINAL FOUR Tickets! San Antonio, March 28-30. Various seating, \$350-\$2000 per package (includes all 3 games).

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86' Doublewide. \$215/mn. 11.5 APR, 180/mn. 10% down, (WAC). Call 915-697-2731

Abandoned Doublewide had to relocate. Call TJ at 915-520-4411

1 bedroom apt for rent on 505 E. Nolan, Apt D. \$200/mo., \$100/dep. 263-7648 or 263-3855.

Apartments, houses, mobile homes. References required. 263-6944, 263-2341.

Furnished efficiency apartment. 408 W. 5th. \$250/mo., \$100/dep. Bills paid. Sorry, no pets!! 263-4822.

UNFURNISHED APTS. Efficiency \$200 1 br. \$275 2 br. \$275 Clean, quiet and on sight maintenance and management. 915-267-4217

UNFURNISHED HOUSES 3/2/1 Nice area, appliances. \$485. 2/2 /CP Mobile home \$345. No pets 267-2070

DUPLEX 3/1/CP \$450; 2/1/CP \$395. Appliances, fans. No pets 267-2070. No HUD.

WOLFF TANNING BEDS. Tan at home. Buy direct and save! Commercial/Home units from \$199.00. Low monthly payments. Free color catalog. Call today 1-800-842-1310.

DIABETICS (USING INSULIN). Did you know Medicare or insurance covers most supplies? Save money, call 1-800-794-8118 Liberty Medical. Satisfaction guaranteed. No HMO Members. Mention AO-AA00.

REAL ESTATE 45 TO 200 ACRES NORTH-WEST of Junction, some with electricity and water. Oaks, lots of deer. From \$695 to \$795/acre. Small down. 1-800-792-4953.

SOUTHERN COLORADO LAND sale! 42 acres - \$32,900. New offer! Rolling fields & nice meadows backing up to unique outcropping. Enjoy outstanding sunsets and views of Greenhorns, Pikes Peak and Wet Mountains. Year round access with telephone and electricity. Low monthly payments. Call now 1-719-676-6367, ext. 7171. Red Creek Ranch at Hatches.

TIME SHARE UNITS and campground memberships. Distress sales-cheap! Worldwide selections. Call Vacation Network U.S. and Canada 1-800-543-6173. Free rental information 1-954-563-5586.

NCAA FINAL FOUR Tickets! San Antonio, March 28-30. Various seating, \$350-\$2000 per package (includes all 3 games).

UNFURNISHED HOUSES

Very clean 1 bdr. Ref./air, carport, references. No Pets. \$250/mn. \$100/dep. Call 263-2382 or 263-4697

1302 Ridgeway 2 bedroom, 1 bath, 1 garage. \$325 mo., \$150 deposit. Call 267-3945 for application.

Nice Clean 3 bd., 2 bath. C.H.A., carpet, fenced, fenced. RENTED. \$550/mo., \$250/dep. 267-1543.

TOO LATES 97' Transam. Black t-top, CD. All the extras. Take over payments. 394-4308 leave message

For Sale: '93 Dodge Diesel 3/4 Ton. 76K. One owner. Call 915-267-7185 or 915-728-2242.

FREE Beautiful multi-colored house cat. Spayed, shots, declawed. 263-2052 anytime.

HATE TO LEAVE New, 3 bd, 2 bath, Corner lot, Lg. fenced yard, pool shed, 10 yr. Warranty. 3223 Fenn. Call 268-9036 after 6pm.

NUTRI SYSTEM WILL BE DAYS INN Sat. Mar. 28th 9am-1pm 1-888-777-0877.

Don's Tire & Truck Service: Taking applications. Must have truck tire experience some mechanic ability. Pay according to exp. S. Ser. Rd 120. 267-5205.

For Sale: 1998 Chevy 3 dr Black w/leather int. 9200 miles! all the extras. Call 264-0058 or leave message.

For Sale: 3 pc. living room Early American green & cranberry. Oak trim \$600.; Antique 1957 pull out hide-a-bed; cloth exc. cond. \$500. Call 264-0058 or leave message.

*Casa mobil doble. Infrinida de gabinetes, doble ventanas mas insulation. 10% de enganche y \$249.00 pr mas, 300 meses, 9.75 p.l. a flame hoy a Homes Of America Odessa, Tx. 1-915-363-0881 or 1-800-725-0881

*Used Mobile Home for sale 363-8963

*Very, Very, low down payment! 1997 16x80 must sacrifice, only 2 left Hurry to new home. Homes of America Odessa, Tx. 1-915-363-0881 or 1-800-725-0881 Se habla español

*1997 doublewide repo 4 bedroom 2 bath, low down payment and you can own a new home. Homes of America Odessa, Tx. 1-915-363-0881 or 1-800-725-0881

Did You Miss Your HERALD? Call 263-7331 & ask for Circulation.

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF UNSAFE BUILDINGS STATE OF TEXAS COUNTY OF HOWARD VIOLA VILLAREAL, 703 DOUGLAS, BIG SPRING, TEXAS 79720, LOT 11, BLOCK 6, EARLES ADDITION LOCATED AT 703 DOUGLAS.

LYOVE JANE THORP, 1908 THORP, BIG SPRING, TEXAS 79720, PART OF LOT 5, BLOCK 4, THORP ADDITION LOCATED AT 1908 THORP.

ELDA G. RODRIGUEZ, 2010 CHEROKEE, BIG SPRING, TEXAS 79720, LOT 11, BLOCK 16, BOYDSTON ADDITION LOCATED AT 509 DONLEY.

MITCHELL CHUCKE TRUSTEE, BOX 192 GALVESTON, TEXAS 77553-0002, NE LOT 11 ALL OF LOT 12, BLOCK 47, ORIGINAL TOWN ADDITION LOCATED AT 801 JOHNSON.

E.G. GALAVIZ, 301 NE 7TH, BIG SPRING, TEXAS 79720, SECTION 42, BLOCK 32 IN 60X150 TR 33, WILLIAM B. CURRIE SUBDIVISION LOCATED AT 301 NE 7TH.

Dear Property Owners: Current Tax Records of the City of Big Spring indicate that you are the owner of the property at the above street address.

You are hereby notified that the Board of Adjustments and Appeals, of the City of Big Spring, held a meeting on Tuesday, March 17, 1998 at 5:15 p.m. to determine whether the subject structure(s) complies with the standards set out in the Code. The Board's decision what that these structures were to be abated by demolition thirty (30) days after this notice is published.

HOROSCOPE

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25: Your magnetism, energy and courage work in your favor this year. But you need to know when it's time to step back. Work on your timing, and be willing to wait for the right moment. Plans for travel become confusing. Do more things alone, rather than in groups. Your greatest growth comes through individual work. If you are single, be careful of an exotic stranger; he is likely to disappoint you. Learn more about people by observation. If attached, take plenty of weekends away together. An inflow could become a problem. PISCES reads you cold.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Head for the hills! Consider taking a personal day, as you need to search your soul. News from a distance is hard to process. Think before you leap forward. A true friend proves his colors once again. Call upon experts, and tap resources. Tonight: Deep into

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Just when you think everything is under control, you find out it's not so! There is much more going on here than meets the eye. A partner suddenly gets uptight about funds, and a decision becomes tough. Aim for what you know is right, and you'll succeed. Tonight: With friends.***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Challenges force you to defend what you know to be true. Think about your choices and long-term needs. Another makes demands; honor responsibility. Discharge tension by concentrating on your work. Give a personal matter more time. Tonight: Work late.***

CANCER (June 21-July 22) As you pull back and look at the big picture, you see the limitations of a certain situation. Cut red tape, and become more efficient. Seek out advice. There are many ways to handle a work-related problem. Make an appointment for a checkup. Tonight: Go to the movies.***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Get down to brass tacks. Find out what is going on with a child or loved one. Your perspective is desired. One-to-one

relating brings new information. A change in approach is needed. Work as a team. Check out a money investment. Tonight: A quiet night for two.***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) With added pressure, you need to defer to a trusted associate. Others express their views. A convoluted situation needs your attention. Do not think you can suppress your feelings. It is time for a substantial change. Tonight: Join friends, and share news.***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Work is demanding, and you might not have the energy to follow through. Your point of view will change substantially as events occur. You might become difficult and controlling. Try to see someone in the same light. Take a walk to let off steam. Tonight: Wind down early.***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Your imagination helps you realize what you want. A money risk is not a good idea. Pull back, and analyze decisions. Recognize what is important to you. A new relationship is enticing and heated. Share your many ideas with a good friend. Tonight: Do something you relish!***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Pressure mounts beyond belief. Take some time off from a difficult family situation. You might want to rethink a decision more carefully, rather than reacting. If you engage in a control game, problems escalate. Loosen up, and lighten up. Tonight: Get away from it all.***

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Reach out for others. A discussion is necessary because your imagination is concocting mountains out of molehills. Once you understand where another is coming from, you will be able to settle a problem. Return messages; touch base with friends. Tonight: Out and about.***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Financial concerns demand your attention; talk with your accountant or banker to clarify matters. A friend could let you down, just when you thought everything was OK. Trust judgments, and be sure of yourself. Consider establishing stronger boundaries. Tonight: Pay bills.***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Though you are a roll, you might want to pull back. A boss is demanding, so you feel like throwing in the towel. Think before leaping. Focus on matters that flow, rather than impossible problems. Your magnetism breaks barriers. Tonight: Get out of work early.***

BORN TODAY Singer Aretha Franklin (1942), musician Elton John (1947), actress Sarah Jessica Parker (1965)

For America's best extended horoscope, recorded by Jacqueline Bigar, call (900) 740-7444, 99 cents per minute. Also featured are The Spoken Tarot and The Runes, which answer your yes-or-no questions. Callers must be 18 or older. A service of InterMedia Inc., Jenkintown, Pa.

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at http://www.coolpage.com/bigar. ©1998 by King Features Syndicate Inc.

Happy 13th Birthday Ryan

Love, Mom, Dad & Jason

Classified Call 263-7331

PUBLIC NOTICE On March 12, 1998, applications were filed with the FCC in Washington, D.C. for assignment of the licenses of Stations KBST 1490 MHz, KBST-FM, 95.9 MHz and KBTS, 94.3 MHz, Big Spring, Texas, from KBST, Inc. and David W. Winkie to Equicom, Inc. David W. Winkie is the sole principal of KBST, Inc. The officers, directors and 10% or greater stockholders of Equicom, Inc. are Dain Schull, Randall Hale, Sherry Schull, Kelly Byrne, Harry Hedges, Donald Robertson, Bennett Springer, Robert Ringle, Nolan Lehmann and Equis II Incorporated. A copy of the application, amendments and related materials are on file for public inspection at 608 Johnson, Big Spring.

1780 March 17 & 18, 24 & 25 1998

NOTICE OF UNSAFE BUILDINGS STATE OF TEXAS COUNTY OF HOWARD VIOLA VILLAREAL, 703 DOUGLAS, BIG SPRING, TEXAS 79720, LOT 11, BLOCK 6, EARLES ADDITION LOCATED AT 703 DOUGLAS.

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If an appeal is not made within fifteen (15) days of the board's decision by Friday, March 27, 1998 the city shall take such action as to the board's orders.

Failure to appeal in the time specified shall constitute a waiver of all rights causing the City to state by demolition and filing a lien against said property.

Kenry H. Davis Building Official 1704 March 22, 23 & 24, 1998

Abigail Van Buren

DEAR ABBY: My husband thinks he's better than I am because he earns money and I don't. I stay home with our three children.

During a recent argument, he spilled juice on our new carpet. When I asked him to clean it up, he refused, saying it's his carpet because he paid for it and it's my job to take care of his things.

I try to explain that it's hard work to keep up a home and care for the children, but he says he'd change places with me anytime if I could find a job that pays me the same amount of money he makes. He knows I don't have the skills to do that.

He says he loves me, but I don't think that you can love someone you don't value or respect because she doesn't bring home a paycheck. — FEELING WORTHLESS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

DEAR FEELING WORTHLESS: In 1989, I printed a letter stating the dollar-and-cents value of a homemaker. At the time, it was \$52,000 a year, and the Employment Cost Index has continually risen. Your husband should be able to do the math.

Later, I told another woman who described herself as "only a housewife": "In your home you are the director of health, education and welfare; the secretary of the treasury; the head of entertainment and public relations; the chairman of the House Rules Committee; and the chief operating officer of family planning. You'd have to be married to a millionaire to be paid what you're really worth."

Give your husband some food for thought. Schedule dinner a little later for him tonight, and leave this column on his plate for him to digest.

DEAR ABBY: I think you missed the real issue in the letter from "Enough Already in New York," the man whose company made him room with a gay colleague on a business trip. "Enough" managed to endure his discomfort during the trip. What he's had enough of is the ribbing from his co-workers after his return.

Abby, the man is being harassed. The subject of the harassment is sexual in nature. Sexual harassment, homophobic or otherwise, should not be tolerated in any workplace. "Enough" should ask his co-workers to stop harassing him.

Man who brings home bacon makes his wife feel fried

If they persist, management should discipline them. If management fails to intervene, this man has a claim against his employers. — LAURIE LEIBER

DEAR LAURIE: You're right. I failed to see the forest for the trees. Thank you for the astute analysis.

DEAR ABBY: The problem experienced by "Cursing Mom" may be avoided when this little poem is taken to heart:

I lost a very little word, Just the other day; It was a very naughty word I had not meant to say. But then, it was not really lost —

TUESDAY		MAR. 24																				
	KMID (2)	KPEJ (3)	KERA (5)	FAM (8)	KOSA (7)	WFAX (8)	KWES (9)	WTBS (11)	UNI (13)	DISN (14)	NASH (15)	TMC (16)	SHOW (20)	HBO (22)	KMLM (23)	A&E (25)	DISC (26)	TNT (28)	FSN (29)	ESPN (30)	AMC (31)	BET (33)
6:30	News (CC)	Simpsons Home Imp.	Science Guy	Walters	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)
7:30	Home Imp. Something So	Titanic: Break- ing-Ground	Nova (CC)	Rescue 911 (CC)	JAG (CC)	Mad Abo. You For Your Love	Home Imp. That's Life	Frasier (CC)	Soldiers	Alguna Vez	Prime Time Country (CC)	Movie: Bio- Dome (CC)	Two Faces (CC)	Outnumbered (CC)	Movie: Cracker	Wild Discovery	NBA Basketball	Phoenix Sun at Utah Jazz	V-Max Sports News	Seminal - Teams TBA	Friendly Persuasion	Planet Groove
8:30	Home Imp. That's Life	Why Planes Go Down	Frontline (CC)	Diagnosis Murder (CC)	Public Eye (CC)	Home Imp. That's Life	Frasier (CC)	Soldiers	Alguna Vez	Prime Time Country (CC)	Movie: Bio- Dome (CC)	Two Faces (CC)	Outnumbered (CC)	Movie: Cracker	Wild Discovery	NBA Basketball	Phoenix Sun at Utah Jazz	V-Max Sports News	Seminal - Teams TBA	Friendly Persuasion	Planet Groove	
9:30	NYPD Blue (CC)	Pensacola- Wing	Tell the Truth and Run	Hawaii Five-0 (CC)	48 Hours (CC)	NYPD Blue (CC)	Dateline (CC)	Primer Impacto Noc.	Growing Pains	TNN... Live 1	(15) Movie: Basic Instinct	CONY Scandal	News Life in-Word	White Ghost	Gullotine	(CC) Inside-NBA	Clements	Seminal - Teams to Be	Hollywood on Hollywood	Comicyview		
10:30	News (CC)	Home Imp. Mad Abo. You	George Seides	700 Club	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	Herbie Goes to Monte	P. Impacto Noticias	Walt Disney Presents	Dukes of Hazzard	(10) Movie: The Road	Pad Shoe	the World (CC)	Ask Joe Good Aquila Nash	Biography	Wild Discovery	FOX Sports News	Announced Sportscenter	Movie: The Star	BET Tonight	
11:30	Nightline (30) Keenan	Vibe	News-Lehrer	Bonanza-Lost	Show (CC)	Ent. Tonight Politically Inc.	(CC) (32) Late	Carlo Police	Al Firmo de la Noche	Zorro (CC)	Mickey Mouse	Prime Time Country (CC)	Kilias (CC)	Beverly Hills Maybe	(12-15) Movie: The	Movie: Cracker	New Detectives	Movie: From the Hip	Last Word NHL Shots	NBA Today	Movie: The Plainman	227 (CC) Midnight Love
12:30	Ivory Wayans Politically Inc.	Martin (CC)	Hollywood vs. Religion	Paid Program	Late Late Show	News (CC)	Ent. Tonight	Night (CC)	Gayle King	Academy (45) Movie: Club America	Movie: The Happiest	Prime Time Country (CC)	Kilias (CC)	Beverly Hills Maybe	(12-15) Movie: The	Movie: Cracker	New Detectives	Movie: From the Hip	Last Word NHL Shots	NBA Today	Movie: The Plainman	227 (CC) Midnight Love

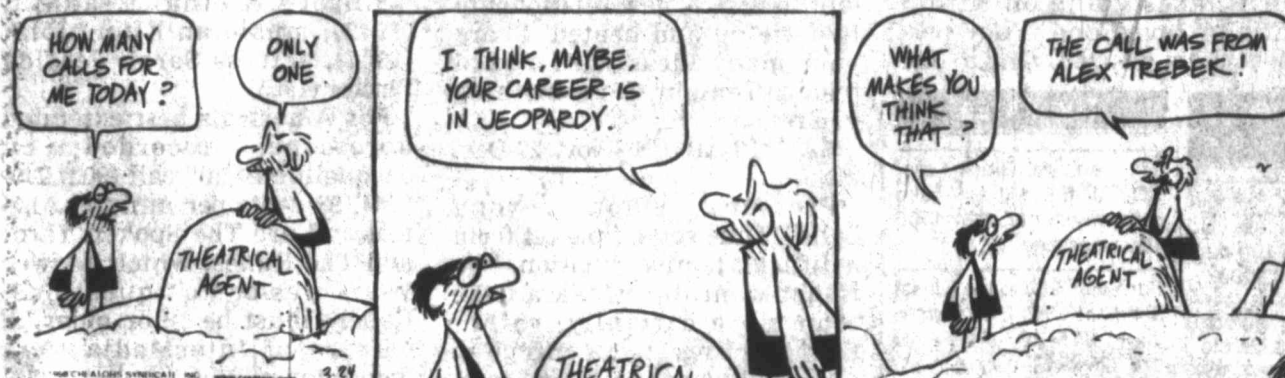
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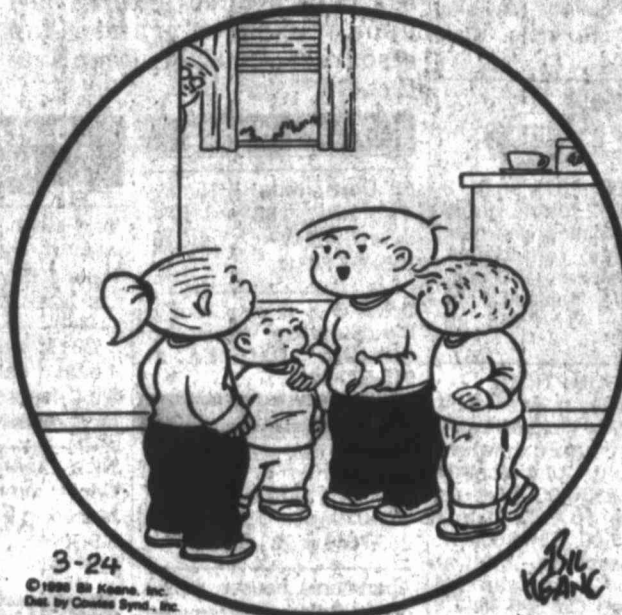
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B.C.



FAMILY CIRCUS



DENNIS THE MENACE



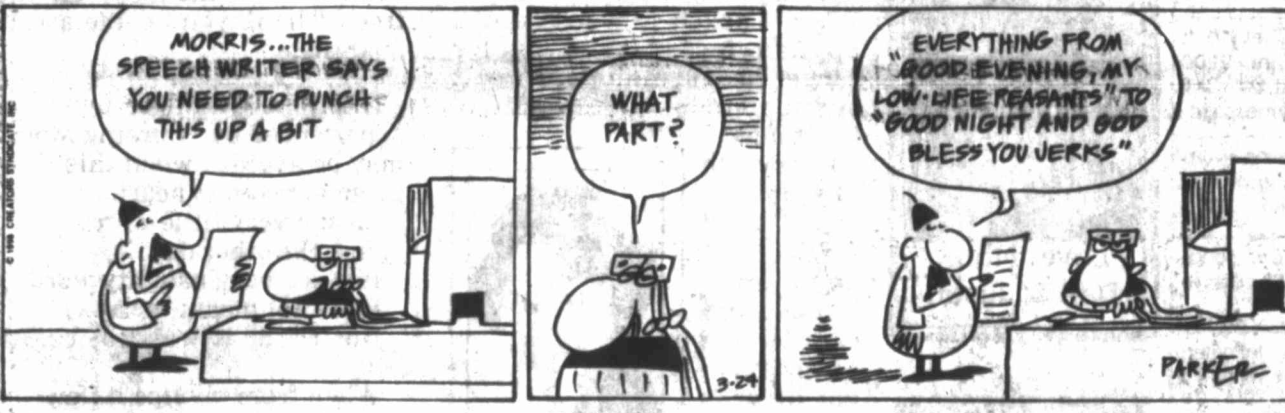
GEECH



"Mommy will be good on the jury. She can always tell if you did something naughty."

"JUST CLOSE THE DOOR, SHORTY. WE DO NOT OFFER 'FRIDGE BENEFITS'."

WIZARD OF ID



THIS DATE IN HISTORY

Today is Tuesday, March 24, the 83rd day of 1998. There are 282 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On March 24, 1958, rock-and-roll singer Elvis Presley was inducted into the Army in Memphis, Tenn.

In 1765, Britain enacted the Quartering Act, requiring American colonists to provide temporary housing to British soldiers.

In 1882, German scientist Robert Koch announced in Berlin that he had discovered the bacillus responsible for tuberculosis.

In 1883, long-distance telephone service was inaugurated between Chicago and New York City.

In 1934, President Roosevelt signed a bill granting future independence to the Philippines.

In 1944, in occupied Rome, the Nazis executed more than 300 civilians in reprisal for an attack by Italian partisans the day before that killed 32 German soldiers.

In 1955, the Tennessee Williams play "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" opened on Broadway.

In 1976, the president of Argentina, Isabel Peron, was deposed by her country's military.

In 1980, one of El Salvador's most respected Roman Catholic Church leaders, Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero, was shot to death by gunmen as he celebrated Mass in San Salvador.

In 1989, the nation's worst oil spill occurred as the supertanker Exxon Valdez ran aground on a reef in Alaska's Prince William Sound and began leaking 11 million gallons of crude.

Ten years ago: Former national security aides Oliver L. North and John M. Poindexter and businessmen Richard V. Secord and Albert Hakim pleaded innocent to Iran-Contra charges. North and Poindexter were convicted, but had their convictions thrown out; Secord and Hakim received probation after each pleaded guilty to a single count under a plea bargain.

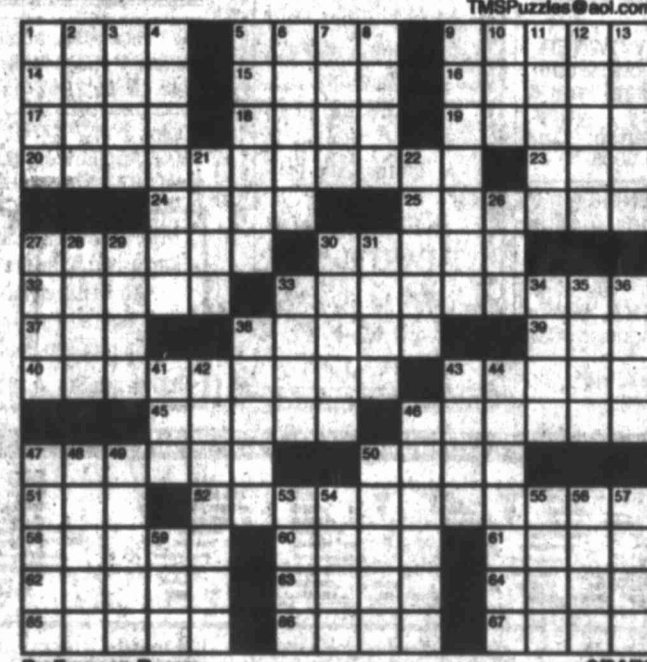
Five years ago: Ezer Weizman was elected Israel's seventh president. A cab driver believed to have organized the World Trade Center bombing was flown back to the United States from Egypt.

One year ago: Vice President Gore arrived in China for the highest-level U.S. visit in eight years. At the 69th Annual Academy Awards, "The English Patient" won best picture and director (Anthony Minghella); Geoffrey Rush won best actor for "Shine" and Frances McDormand best actress for " Fargo."

Today's Birthdays: Actor Norman Fell is 74. Fashion and costume designer Bob Mackie is 58. Actor R. Lee Ermey is 54.

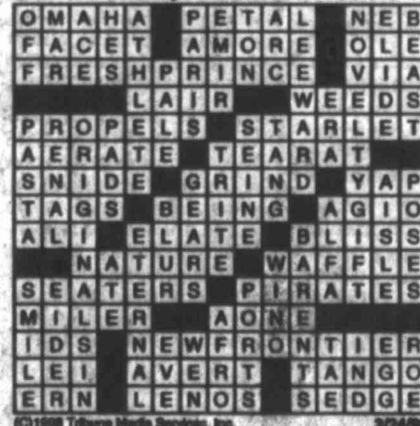
THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

- ACROSS
- 1 Abrasive tool
- 5 Resting on
- 9 Puts up sign
- 14 Starley
- 15 Gardiner
- 16 Seedy bar
- 18 Money in India
- 17 Slaughter in Cooperstown
- 18 Pitcher
- 19 Herahiser
- 19 Day's march
- 20 Bottom sleepers' places
- 23 One of those girls
- 24 Equal scores
- 25 Makes almonds
- 27 Townies
- 30 Work
- 32 Willful destruction
- 33 Place for meals on wheels
- 37 Steel
- 38 George of "Cheers"
- 39 Lofty poem
- 40 Ticketless train riders
- 43 Exposes
- 46 Hand truck
- 46 Not long past
- 47 Bed linen
- 50 Cause to wither
- 51 Sportscaster
- 52 Berman
- 52 Choo-choo of song
- 58 Marine starter?
- 60 Be first
- 61 Formal dance
- 62 Glossy
- 63 Shaft on a wheel
- 64 Uncouth
- 65 excuse me
- 65 Nomadic tribe
- 66 Mob ending?
- 67 Word with fish or melt



By Frances Ragus Grants Pass, OR

Monday's Puzzle Solved



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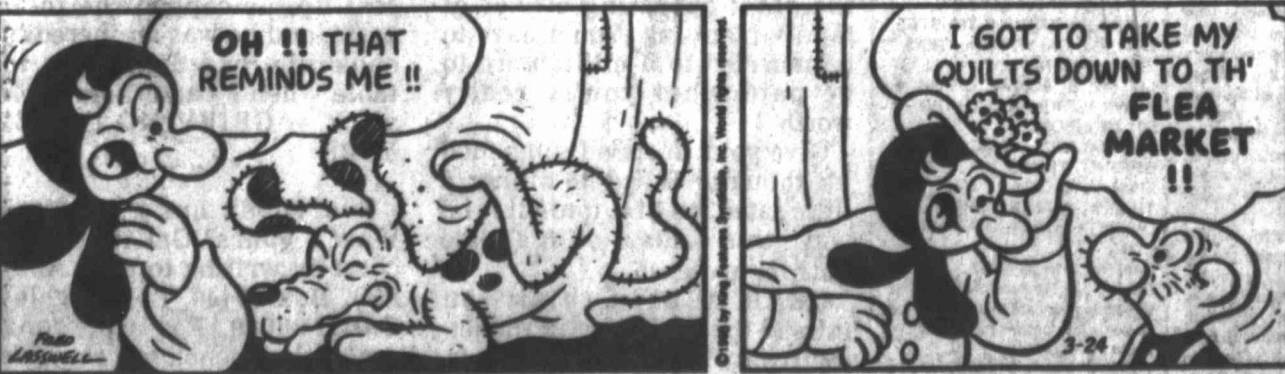
HI AND LOIS



GASOLINE ALLEY



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILY



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Reflecting A Proud Texas Community
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