

Dorothy Garrett dies at age 82

Love of community, others was driving force behind her as she worked to help town

By JOHN H. WALKER
Managing Editor

Obituary — Page 2A

Dorothy Duncan Garrett, 82, community and civic leader for more than one-half century in Big Spring and Howard County, died Thursday morning in Lubbock's Methodist Hospital.

Mrs. Garrett's funeral will be at 10 a.m. Saturday at First United Methodist Church with the Rev. Ed Williamson officiating. Burial will be at Trinity Memorial Park.

She was born on May 8, 1916 in Midland and married William Horace Garrett, the "boy next door," on July 20, 1941 in Big Spring. He preceded her in death on July 18, 1967.

She is survived by a daughter and son-in-law, Sue and Stan Partee of Big Spring; her grandchildren, Jordan and Melinda Partee, both of Big Spring, and Matthew Garrett Turner and Lindley Cole Turner, both of Horseshoe Bay.

In a family history written for the Howard County Historical Commission book in 1982, she said "it must have been late summer when our family arrived from the ranch North and West of Odessa, Texas to take up residence in Big Spring."

She said that in 1922 and she was 6 years old and her sister was 2.

"We were immediately unacceptable in the neighborhood because everyone thought we were non-union railroad people known as 'scabs'. It took a lifetime to become bonafide Big Spring stock."

"Perhaps it was that inhospitable welcome she recalled that helped ensure her warmth and generosity — to friend and stranger alike.

For decades, Mrs. Garrett's

generosity blessed the community and its people. In addition to many organizations benefited by the Dora Roberts Foundation, she gave freely of her time and money to help individuals and organizations in need.

Despite the fact she endured hardships during her life — a bout with polio in the early 1940s that placed her in an iron lung and left her confined to a wheelchair, the death of her husband, Horace, and daughter, Ann, Mrs. Garrett has always seemed to have a smile on her face and a heart as big as all West Texas.

But through all of the years, Dorothy, as she was known by almost everyone who ever came into contact with her, wanted no publicity for any of her gifts.

In fact, when the community held "Dorothy Garrett Appreciation Day" in May 1994 and more than 900 persons attended, she wondered what all the fuss was about.

"I haven't done more than anybody else," she insisted in a story in the May 8, 1994 edition of the Herald.

Without a doubt, though, Dorothy Garrett clearly has been the community's greatest benefactor.

She acknowledged she grew over the years.

"As a young person, I don't think I had that facet," she said.

She said that changed once she became the youngest member of the board of the Dora Roberts Foundation.

"Now I'm the oldest," she said at the time.

She credits Roberts with having a good deal of foresight in starting a foundation that



HERALD file photo

Dorothy Duncan Garrett, who gave of herself and her money freely to community causes, died Thursday in Lubbock's Methodist Hospital. Mrs. Garrett came to Howard County in 1922 at the age of 6, according to a family history she wrote for the Howard County History Book in 1982.

would continue to help the community for years to come.

"Back then, who had really heard of such a thing, except for the Ford Foundation?" she asked.

Roberts' interest in the community was catching, and Mrs. Garrett continued to carry out the mission of the foundation after Roberts' death and the death of her own husband, Horace.

One of her favorite contributions to the city was the

Dorothy Garrett Coliseum at Howard College. She said she wasn't sure who decided to name it after her, but was honored to have her name affixed.

"It was one of my 'pets,'" she said of the coliseum. "I really wanted us to have one."

Another of her favorite projects was the Big Spring Humane Society animal shelter. "I'm an animal lover," she said.

Garrett became intimately involved when she and fellow

animal lover and friend Margaret Lloyd decided the old downtown shelter, which caught all the runoff from rains, wasn't up to standards.

Since then, any time the shelter needed help — from additional pens when it was overcrowded to a renovation — Dorothy Garrett was there.

Concerned about illiteracy, Garrett was also a participant from the beginning for the Herald's Newspapers in Education program, working to

help decrease the county's staggering illiteracy rate.

Over the years, there have literally been hundreds and hundreds of times when Dorothy Garrett helped, whether it was with a dormitory at Howard College, a new family life building at First United Methodist Church, Christmas in April, Spring City Senior Center, the Municipal Auditorium and so many more.

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'Shock, disbelief, tremendous loss' describe citizenry's thoughts

As word passed through the community Thursday that Dorothy Duncan Garrett, longtime civic leader and philanthropist, had died, there was one common denominator — the expression of disbelief and loss.

Here are a sampling of those thoughts from persons who were close to her or worked with organizations or projects of which she was supportive:

"Dorothy Duncan Garrett was a great human being who never forgot her humble roots, and kept her home town utmost among a legion of philanthropies.

"She had an indomitable spirit that rose above hardship, illness and heartbreak and carried her at least a generation beyond what anyone would have dreamed would be her life span. None ever left her presence without being buoyed by her sparkle.

"She and her husband, Horace Garrett, regarded wealth as a God-given trust, and after his

death she carried on in that tradition. Dorothy was, indeed, Big Spring's secret weapon."

JOE PICKLE
Former Editor
Big Spring Herald

"The loss is a major shock to Big Spring. Dorothy Garrett was most certainly the first lady of Big Spring in the minds and hearts of everyone. She had an outstanding influence on our city, as well as the outlying areas. This is truly the end of an era.

"Dorothy was not only a fine individual, she was an institution. She helped so many different causes and organizations that there are just too many to mention. You can't hardly turn around in this town without running into something that was positively touched by her.

"Dorothy's legacy will go on helping people in Big Spring. Her work is far from over, and it will continue on forever."

ED WILLIAMSON
Pastor
First United Methodist

"She was a wonderful woman. She was kind of like the heart of Big Spring.

"When she donated to something, she wanted to know all about it. I remember when I visited with her the first time. She wanted not just to ask questions about us, she wanted to visit with me. She asked me how I could tell who I wanted to help. At the time, I really didn't have an answer. So I asked her the same question. She said, 'There are good people and there are bad people out there. But when people come to me, they are usually good at heart.'

"She was a wonderful woman and we will truly miss her. She was the early morning sun and sky and the stars at night for Big Spring."

DANELLE CASTILLO
Director of Social Services
Salvation Army

"Dorothy was an outstanding contributor to Howard College and she contributed to many projects and several buildings such as the coliseum and the Horace Garrett Science Building.

"She was on the board several years ago when I first came on, and we served on the board together for a short time. She was an outstanding lady, very conscious of the the community she lived in, the needs, and her ability to help."

DON MCKINNEY
chairman
Howard College Trustees

"I've enjoyed her friendship for many years. She was a delight, and the most gracious person, to everybody, whether they were big, little, young old, rich or poor. She was so gracious.

"I've known her more than 50 years, a long, long time. We had a lunch bunch every Tuesday, where we would get together and she was always there when she could be. Sometimes we had as many as 12 of us. When we did meet, she was the center of attraction."

KATE IRONS
longtime friend

"The family felt like the athletic field house was a necessary thing for the community to have.

"Dorothy's death is a tremendous loss to the community. She was a very philanthropic lady, and she helped many different people and institutions over the course of her life. You don't really find many people like that around anymore."

DICK HELMS
Athletic Training Facility
BSISD

"The main thing is that Mrs. Garrett was friendly, she never met a stranger, and she treated a person like family. Whenever you would go to her home to

discuss something about the community, her eyes would light up. She loved the community.

"She was a generous person, with her time and her resources, and she would benefit the community anyway she could. When you went to her home you were welcomed like family and treated like family, and she enjoyed visiting with you. She was a great person and we're certainly going to miss her."

GARY FUQUA
city manager
City of Big Spring

"Dorothy was one of my closest friends. She was a wonderful, wonderful lady, and I will really miss her. She was a gracious, lovely person. I remember when she started at the First National Bank, she was a really young girl. I've known her practically all my life, and she was a wonderful, wonderful lady.

"Everybody who had any close contact with Dorothy knew she was a beautiful, unusual, unselfish woman who would do good wherever she could. I was with her when her husband was ill in Houston, and she was the bravest person, so thoughtful and so appreciative.

"She was very humble and very grateful for how she had been blessed. I've been with her through a lot of things, and she had a lot of faith and courage, and she shared everything.

"I am so grieved to lose her. I am grateful for her influence in my life, and her courage and faith. Dorothy was a beautiful, beautiful lady and she withstood everything with great strength. She was an inspiration."

ANNIE MATT ANGEL
lifelong friend

"I really hated to hear that she had passed on. Dorothy was a

very nice lady, and she helped the county tremendously with her contributions. We will certainly miss her.

"She was a major contributor in the new library, and we really appreciated that. She did so much for the community, however, that it's really hard to pinpoint everything that she accomplished. She will really be missed."

BEN LOCKHART
Howard County Judge

"She was a loyal supporter of the Big Spring State Hospital and a wonderful community supporter, a wonderful woman and a wonderful friend. We will really miss her.

"For the last six years, Dorothy was project chairperson for our annual fundraiser, Denim and Diamonds, and she got to go this year. We had it at Don Newsom's house, and Dorothy came wearing the denim and diamonds she had bought for last year when she was in the hospital and couldn't go. She gave a generous donation as project chairperson.

"She donated the indoor swimming pool at the hospital, and the renovations later. She gave the seed money and she gave a generous donation to get going each year. She gave money each year for jogging suits for the patients, and she always participated in the Valentine fundraiser. She always sent singing telegrams, and then gave a luncheon for the group singing."

KATHY JOHNSON
Big Spring State Hospital

"This is the end of an era. I first met Dorothy working with the Big Spring chapter of the American Cancer Society. When (we) were trying to get the mammography program started, we approached the Dora Roberts Foundation and asked for \$12,500. They doubled it and gave us \$25,000 to start.

"She headed up the foundation, and she was always so generous if she felt it was worth the efforts. I was with Rape Crisis/Victim Services, and she helped that out to a great extent, and I believe still does.

"One of my fondest memories was with the Happy Birthday Dorothy. The community worked really well together, and that was a joyous time. Pat DeAnda and Janice Rosson enlisted the help of kids, who made about a gazillion of these Spanish paper flowers. It was wonderful.

"I remember when I went through Leadership Big Spring; we toured Garrett Ranch. She sat there, telling us ranch stories and a history of the area. She was really down to earth. She made such an impact, far beyond Big Spring, and she set a wonderful example."

LISA BROOKS
West Texas Centers/MHMR

"Dorothy has been the guardian angel of the Community Center. When we decided to work on the building, we went to Dorothy for support, and she got us the funds that we needed for it.

"It is such a personal loss. Whenever anyone went to her for help, she was there for them. I really loved Dorothy, and she will be gravely missed.

"She was a real sweetheart. If it wasn't for her, the Dora Roberts Community Center wouldn't even exist. Anytime we needed anything, she was right there for us."

BEVERLY MCMAHON
Dora Roberts Community Center

"Her foundation built the aquatic area by contributions to the YMCA. She was always cheerful, and a very generous person. I've known her all my life, and anytime you saw her, she was cheerful. She was

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FRIDAY
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Concert Series about to begin

One of Texas' favorite musical acts — 2 Muses — will appear at Municipal Auditorium Saturday as the Crossroads Concert Series opens in a new location.

The event begins at 7:30 p.m. Admission to all series performances is free.

2 Muses, Bill and Mary Muse, have played the Crossroads Area before, as part of the former Coahoma Community Concert Series. That series has undergone a name change, changed its venue and is now being underwritten by the Cultural Affairs Council.

Pioneer Day rescheduled for Aug. 22

The Heritage Museum's Pioneer Day, originally scheduled for Saturday at the Potton House, has been delayed until Aug. 22.

Curator Angie Way said the event has been moved in order to allow staff and participants to attend the funeral of civic leader and benefactor Dorothy Garrett.

Hours for the family-oriented event will be 9 a.m.-noon on Aug. 22. There is no admission charge to participate.

For more information, call the museum at 267-8255.

St. Thomas benefit festival to kick off

St. Thomas Catholic Church will take to the streets tonight in a weekend long annual benefit festival.

The festival will begin at 6 tonight on N.E. 6th Street between N. Main and N. Scurry, and will continue through Sunday at 1 a.m.

"We will have 24 separate booths," said Festival Chairman Mary Chavez. "There will be booths serving fajitas, hamburgers, tamales, and there will be gordita and enchilada plate dinners."

"We will be holding bingo games in the Hall, as well as live music performed by Bobby B. and Milagro in the street. We will also have pony rides for the children."

Chavez said that the festival drew more than 500 people last year, and they are expecting the same or more tonight.

Proceeds will benefit the St. Thomas Catholic Church and its various community programs.

The area of 6th Street will be closed during the festival.

Commissioners to consider pared-down 1999 budget Monday

By T.E. JENKINS
Staff Writer

Howard County Commissioners Court is expected to consider the proposed draft of a pared-down 1999 budget Monday.

Although the drop in oil and mineral prices has hurt the county, commissioners are considering a



LOCKHART

7.5 percent cut to all departments in order to avoid a tax increase.

"Every department got the same budget cut this year," said County Judge Beh Lockhart. "The only departments that we made exempt from the cuts are the Senior Citizens Department, the Health Department, and the Volunteer Fire Fighters Department."

"The cuts will take care of the low oil and mineral prices that have hurt the county this year. Next year, however, will be worse."

According to Commissioner

Sonny Choate, outside agencies have taken the hardest hit from these cuts.

"Outside agencies will take a 20 percent cut across the board," said Choate. "The only exception will be the Spring City Senior Citizens group, who will receive the same funds as last year."

"We've cut the hound out of this budget, and it looks like we'll be able to weather the drop in oil and mineral prices."

Lockhart says that the 7.5 percent cutbacks won't be felt by the immediate public, but will mean tighter management of

agency funds.

"Most of the departments who are having their budgets cut won't really be hurt by it," said Lockhart. "There won't be any employment cuts or anything like that."

"What it really means is that the departments will have to just watch real close what they are spending."

Lockhart said the budget will be presented to the County Commissioners Court Monday for finalization.

"We have it down to the final draft," said Lockhart. "Monday morning we will try to get them

to adopt the budget. Once we get that through, all that will be left is for us to set the tax rates in September."

According to Lockhart, low oil prices, coupled with the agricultural loss associated with the drought, will present a much more drastic problem for next year's budget.

"It doesn't look like the price of oil is going to go up anytime soon," said Lockhart.

"When you add that to the fact that area farmers aren't going to have a crop this season, it really puts us in a tight spot for next year."

Gramm staff addresses farmers' concerns about drought aid

By T.E. JENKINS
Staff Writer

U.S. Senator Phil Gramm dispatched a team of senior staff members to Texas Thursday in an attempt to assess the damage caused by the current drought.

Sandra Ziegler, director of Gramm's regional office in Lubbock, met with Howard County Agriculture



REID

Extension Agent David Kite, Farm Service Agent Rick Lyles and area farmers to address the concerns of drought-stricken producers in the area.

"Senator Gramm asked me to come and speak with the farmers of this area," said Ziegler. "You can read about this type of disaster all day, and you still won't get a good idea of what is going on until you see it first hand."

Ziegler said estimates made by the various county agricultural Extension Offices in Texas may have been off target on their July 14 predictions of drought-related losses.

"The Extension Offices estimated a projected \$4.6 billion loss in Texas," said Ziegler. "The Texas Department of Agriculture says that the figures may have been way off, and that our state may already be approaching the \$7 billion

mark."

"We are working to try to help producers in every way we can," said Ziegler. "We passed a resolution in the Senate recently that became an amendment. It called for the USDA to pick up the pace on the current disaster declarations. We are also working with the Farm Service Agency to make sure that they have all of the proper resources to process the emergency loans. We may even have to call in agents from other states to help with the processing of the information."

Ziegler also said that although the government is now allowing farmers to utilize conservation resource lands, the long term effects may be less promising.

"Farmers have been given the go-ahead to use these lands," said Ziegler, "but it will reduce their rental payments by 25 percent next year. We are trying to pass an agreement that will reduce that 25 percent to only five percent."

"We are also looking at some funds that the USDA has left over this year, amounting to about \$12 million. That, combined with more funds from the government, will represent emergency funds of more than \$500 million for American Farmers. We want to see to it that Texas gets a good portion of those funds."

Ziegler said that the funds will not be in the form of loans, but actual aid for the farmers.

"Five-hundred million really isn't much to go around for all of the drought stricken states," said Ziegler. "We will seek addi-

The emergency loan programs that the government has made available is a joke.

-Donnie Reid, area producer

tional funds from other government agencies as well."

Area producer Donnie Reid was on hand for the presentation, and spoke out on the shared concerns of farmers all over West Texas.

"The emergency loan programs that the government has made available is a joke," said Reid. "No one is really eligible because of the method they use to determine your average crop history."

"If the government would base eligibility more on our Farm

Service Agency (FSA) history average, it would be a lot better for everyone."

According to Reid, the current system used to determine need and eligibility is severely unbalanced.

"There has never really been a fair program," said Reid. "I've seen farmers that produced only one pound of cotton be turned down, and others that did better than most get approved."

"A lot of people don't understand the impact this has on the local economies," said Jeff Watkins, manager of Farmers Co-Op Gin in Ackerly. "We are only one of many businesses that have been affected, but we spend nearly \$1.6 million each year on labor, fuel, repair parts, and insurance. This year, we will be lucky if we spent two thirds of that, and it is going to have a big impact on the economy."

Watkins, as well as Reid,

attributes many of the current problems facing farmers to low commodity market prices.

"Prices were so bad last year that even the farmers who saw one of their best years to date didn't make a profit," said Watkins. "We just can't compete in the world market. If everyone was playing by the same rules and having to deal with minimum wage, insurance, and other costs that American farmers face, we just might have a chance."

"When a farmer goes out of business these days, there isn't anyone to take his place. The average age of producers is steadily increasing, and the way the current industry is going, younger generations don't have the opportunity to even get started."

Ziegler toured the Howard County area after the meeting, observing first-hand the loss suffered by Texas farmers at the

Judge hands down 20-year sentence

By T.E. JENKINS
Staff Writer

118th Judicial District Court Judge Bob Moore handed down a 20-year sentence late Thursday morning during the revocation of probation hearing for John Ruben Gaitan.

"Regardless of what happens now," said Howard County District Attorney Hardy Wilkerson, "Gaitan will serve at least a quarter of the sentence handed down today, and will not be eligible for probation in the murder trial that is coming up on Aug. 17."

Gaitan, 27, was arrested on first-degree murder charges in June of this year when police found the body of his girlfriend, Barbara Villegas, 20, in a garage at Gaitan's home.

In 1989, Gaitan pleaded guilty to two counts of indecency with a child and received an adjudicated sentence. Don Richard, Gaitan's attorney, said tests indicated his client had the mental level of a 13 year-old at the time the acts were committed.

"As long as we do our job correctly, Mr. Gaitan is looking at a long stretch in the penitentiary," said Wilkerson.

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AUGUST 1998

EDITORIAL

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

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

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OUR VIEWS

Dorothy Garrett, 1916-1998

The words to describe the feelings after hearing that community supporter, benefactor and philanthropist Dorothy Duncan Garrett had died are solely inadequate.

How can mere words describe the appreciation that should be shown to this wonderful woman who gave, as former mayor Wade Choate said, so freely of her time, talents and finances?

Sadly enough, they cannot. While we mourn her passing, let us all celebrate her life. Let's remember her ever-present smile ... her cheerful countenance ... her words of encouragement that were always there for us as if she "just knew" when we needed them.

Dorothy Garrett had the opportunity in life to give up. She didn't. She had the opportunity to close life's door and withdraw into her own world. She didn't.

Instead, because of her love of people and her hometown that meant so much to her, her life will live on and on and on.

For generations to come, her positive impact will reverberate throughout Big Spring.

Where do you start when you list Dorothy's contributions? Perhaps, as Frances Wheat said, the most impressive thing about Dorothy was the fact she gave of her time and money unconditionally.

Dorothy Garrett didn't care about the publicity, but only that the job got done. Rather modestly in 1994, on the eve of Dorothy Garrett Appreciation Day, she said that she hadn't done any more than anyone else.

The truth of the matter is that Dorothy Garrett has done more in and around this community than any of us will ever know ... the Municipal Auditorium, Dora Roberts Community Center, First United Methodist Church, Athletic Training Facility, Salvation Army, United Way, Howard College, Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, YMCA, Heritage Museum, Howard County Dora Roberts Library, Rape Crisis/Victim Services, Big Spring State Hospital and Big Spring Humane Society just to name a very few.

There are people in our community today who will never know that they were benefited by the wonderful actions of Dorothy Garrett.

An era passed in Big Spring and West Texas on Thursday but because of the unconditional love and generosity of Dorothy Duncan Garrett, the spirit of giving and sharing and of helping others will live forever within our community.

Thank you, Lord, for sharing Dorothy with us.

OUR VIEWS

We salute:

Each Friday, the Herald salutes individuals and groups from our community and area who have been recognized for special achievements or accomplishments.

We recognize these special people for working to help make our region a better place to live, work and play.

This week we salute:

- THE BIG SPRING FAMILY YMCA, which recently announced a plan to lower fees and make its programs more accessible to the community.
- STANTON FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, on the occasion of its 100th anniversary.
- GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF BIG SPRING AND HOWARD COUNTY LIBRARY, who offer local citizens several resources to research family histories.
- DORA ROBERTS REHABILITATION CENTER AND PERMIAN BRACE AND LIMB, who recently formed a partnership that will bring new medical services to Big Spring on a regular basis.
- KENTWOOD AND SANDS ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS, for receiving exemplary ratings on their Texas Education Agency "report cards."
- ANDREA EARLE, who this week reported to her new post as director of the Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Is there an individual or organization in our community that you feel should be saluted? If so, please send us their name and why you think they should be recognized. We must have your name and telephone number and you must provide it in writing.

A survival scenario for President Clinton

This society is trapped in a leak-fueled, media-driven epidemic of voyeurism.

All the polls indicate that most Americans are sick and tired of the Monica Lewinsky soap opera.

Still the press insists that the people really want every sordid detail of her strange relationship with President Clinton.

Some pundits keep giving the president the gratuitous advice that he "owes the American people" a graphic accounting of his every moment with the former White House intern.

Clinton can save his presidency, they say, only with a lurid confession that is so contrite it will draw tears of mercy from Rep. Henry Hyde, R-Ill., and Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, the respective chairmen of the House and Senate judiciary committees.

What malarkey! Clinton's reputation may suffer and his marriage may be strained by the climactic days of this scandal, but I don't think his presidency is in jeopardy.

He is not in what some media hype-masters call "a death struggle with Kenneth Starr," because both are likely to be standing when the curtain falls on this sex drama.

I just don't believe that independent counsel Starr can ever bring down this popular president, even with sensational charges by Lewinsky, dramatic displays of her semen-stained dress, or the most pretentious puffery of charges of "perjury and obstruction of justice."

Sexual indiscretions and weakness of the flesh are just too commonplace, in Congress and the population at large, for Americans to want much of a federal case made of the Clinton-Lewinsky encounters.

Eventually, the people will say that whatever else Lewinsky may be, she is a self-declared liar of lifetime standing, and she has an admitted history of luring at least one other man into adultery. So the Congress would be run out of town before it impeached

Clinton on her testimony, especially when her accusations are being bought by Starr with the gift of her total immunity from prosecution.

The Congress may posture and moralize, but it won't come up with anything beyond some lip-service rebuke.

Members of Congress know, as most people do, that Americans are not threatened by anything Clinton and Lewinsky did. But we all are threatened by Starr's attempted political coup and his brazen encroachment upon fundamental constitutional protection, including the historic orderliness of our transfer of political power.

I have thought hard about the ways in which Clinton might disarm Starr, Lewinsky and even the DNA experts who have examined Monica's dress when he testifies on Aug. 17.

The scenario that seems most plausible has him saying: "I was immediately impressed by Miss Lewinsky, and I wanted to make special efforts to help her. Then I guess I became charmed, even affectionate. But I was unprepared for the way she suddenly came on to me physically. I did not resist sufficiently, so she

was into my trousers, manipulating me by hand. That is how her dress got soiled. She pleased with me then, and thereafter, to "go all the way," to enter an actual sexual relationship with her. I steadfastly refused. This angered her, especially when I told her that I wanted to be loyal to Hillary, and I wanted Chelsea to be proud of me. I tried for months to let her down lightly, to gently get her away from me without creating a great public scandal. Obviously, I failed.

"I spoke the truth when I said we did not have a sexual relationship -- just that incident of improper contact. I know that I erred grievously in making myself so stupidly vulnerable. For that I have apologized to Hillary and Chelsea, and I now apologize to the American people."

That may not be the whole truth. It is surely not enough of a mea culpa to satisfy Starr or the Clinton haters in Congress and the media. But it might be enough to inspire the public to scream "ENOUGH!" and to really demand an end to the hypocrisy and the voyeurism.



CARL ROWAN

DOROTHY DUNCAN GARRETT 1916-1998



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- DAN MORALES
Attorney General
P.O. Box 12548
Austin, 78711-2548
Phone: 512-463-2100; 1-800-252-8011. Fax: 512-463-2063.

Weston case presents civil liberties run amok

The two Capitol police officers who were killed by Russell Weston Jr., a man said to suffer from paranoid schizophrenia,

are victims and by no means the only ones of civil liberties run amok.

Not many decades ago most states had laws that allowed family members to commit involuntarily people who are mentally ill.

In my state, a family could petition a county judge, the person would be picked up and held in custody, examined by two or more psychiatrists, who would then make a report to the judge who would make the decision.

The process, like any process, may have been abused but I was never aware of any when I was covering beats that included it. Nevertheless,

sometimes in the '60s, civil libertarians dismantled most of those laws. They said it infringed on the rights of the mentally ill.

The result: It is very difficult today for a family to have a relative involuntarily committed. In many states, it can't be done until the person "does something" -- as in killing two police officers. By then, of course, it is too late to avoid what could have been an avoidable tragedy.

Schizophrenia, a brain disorder that causes delusions, can be treated with medications, but, as in Weston's case, there is no way to force the person to take the medications.

One of the difficulties of mental illness is that so often the person does not, of course, believe they are ill. This makes it extremely difficult for loved ones to persuade them to seek treatment.

The Westons say they saw that their son was getting worse but there was nothing they could do.

The larger problem is the tendency of people to view civil rights as an ideology. Such

people develop tunnel vision. They are not interested in solving problems. They have a preconceived notion of the solution and imposing that solution is all they are interested in.

The rational approach, which used to be common before Americans went nuts, was to look at the problem calmly and from all angles. In this case, there was clearly a need to have a mechanism by which people dangerous to themselves or others could be involuntarily committed.

At the same time, there should be safeguards to make sure people don't commit perfectly sane people in order, for example, to get control of their money.

It seemed to me the opinion of two psychiatrists and a public hearing before a magistrate offered sufficient safeguards. But not to the ideologues because -- and this is another fault of theirs -- they have no faith in public officials.

They want to leave the public official with no room for exercising judgment and discretion. They are really egotistical. They want to substitute their

judgment in the form of laws for his.

That's a key point, it seems to me. If you trust nobody, then it seems no form of government is available. A basic level of trust, without falling into the trap of gullibility, is necessary for a human community to function. Sure, sometimes our trust will be violated, but that is no reason to scrap the whole system. There are no perfect systems. There are no perfect laws.

As a nonlawyer observer it appears to me that the old standard of the prudent and reasonable man has been lost. What was meant was that in seeking solutions the law should reflect what a prudent and reasonable person would do -- not what a fanatic or an ideologue would do.

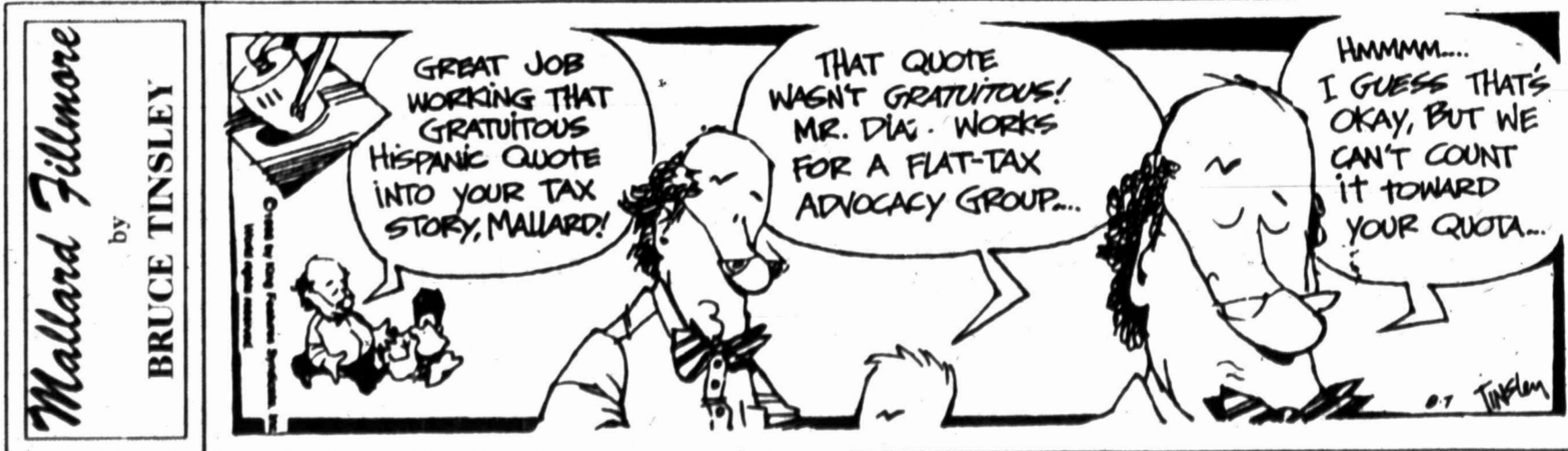
People who need treatment will continue not to get it. People who don't need to die will continue to die.

But, say hey, dude, their civil rights will be protected.

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



CHARLEY REESE



Mallard Fillmore by BRUCE TINSLEY



Coach

By DEBBIE L. JENSEN
Features Editor

A group of sixth graders from ... living history ... mer with a trip ... D.C., New York ... battlefield of ... Teacher Patri ... it was the seco ... to take her for ... history class or ... nized through ... company that ... school trips. E ... the only class ... eighth grader ... Junior High Sch ... "The kids wer ... about it," Benn ... fundraisers, b ... candy bars." S ... was open to "an ... ed to go," and w ... a group that i ... teachers Kaye ... Edwards.

On July 18, 2 ... three teachers ... boarded a char ... seven-day trip ... "We were a bu ... explained.

First the grou ... nation's capitol ... the White Hou ... and Lincoln m ... visited the Ca ... just one day be ... shooting.

"We were at ... next day and ... lines," Bennet ... n't believe ho ... come to being t ... After walkin ... metal detectors ... themselves, th ... better understa ... people about de ... tragedy occurre ... A special wre ... mony was org ... the class by U ... Stenholm at Ber ... "The kids we ... said.

In New York ... attended a pro ...

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Democrati

The Democ ... Howard count ... great start dur ... tional meeting ... 28. Rey Villar ... conducted the ... discussed focu ... ning for the up ... Volunteers, fin ... bership growt ... items analyzed ... Officers wer ... the gathering. ... are: David K ... Esther Lopez, ... Doyle Phillips, ... U.S. Represe ... Stenholm's Dist ... Jeff Meador ... Representative ... spokesperson, ... brought news ... officials.

The next m ... Howard Coun ... Club will be ... Howard Count ... 7 p.m. For info ... Villarreal, 267- ...

S LICE
of
Life!

QUICK TRIVIA

◆ Isabel Peron of Argentina was the first woman to become president of a nation in the Western Hemisphere, in 1974.

◆ The New York Yankees' first home field was Oriole Park in Baltimore, where they played as the Baltimore Orioles in 1901 and 1902.

Got an Item?

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

Coahoma group gets living history lesson

By DEBBIE L. JENSEN
Features Editor

A group of soon-to-be ninth graders from Coahoma got a living history lesson this summer with a trip to Washington, D.C., New York City and the battlefield of Vicksburg, Miss.

Teacher Patricia Bennett said it was the second year for her to take her former eighth grade history class on the tour, organized through a professional company that specializes in school trips. Bennett teaches the only class of history to eighth graders at Coahoma Junior High School.

"The kids were really excited about it," Bennett said. "We had fundraisers, bake sales, sold candy bars." She said the tour was open to "anyone who wanted to go," and was organized by a group that included fellow teachers Kaye Barr and Susan Edwards.

On July 18, 25 students, the three teachers and 12 parents boarded a charter bus for the seven-day trip.

"We were a bus full," Bennett explained.

First the group headed for the nation's capitol where they saw the White House, Washington and Lincoln monuments, and visited the Capitol Building just one day before the recent shooting.

"We were at the motel the next day and saw the headlines," Bennett said. "We couldn't believe how close we had come to being there that day."

After walking through the metal detectors at the entrance themselves, the group had a better understanding than most people about details of how the tragedy occurred, Bennett said.

A special wreath-laying ceremony was organized just for the class by U.S. Rep. Charles Stenholm at Bennett's request.

"The kids were in awe," she said.

In New York City, the group attended a production of the



At left, Coahoma students Heather Rich, Monty Rowden, Anthony Herrera and Sheena Harding walk with a guard at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Washington, D.C. after participating in a wreath-laying ceremony. In the same photo at far left is George Herrera of Coahoma. Below, a group of the soon-to-be ninth graders poses for a picture in front of the White House.

Courtesy photos



Broadway musical "Cats," saw the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, Central Park, Chinatown and Greenwich Village. Just for fun, they also ate hotdogs purchased from a sidewalk vendor.

At the Vicksburg, Miss. battlefield, they saw monuments from each state for those who fought in the Civil War. Professional guides hired by the tour company brought each location to life, Bennett said. She added that the timing was perfect, to complement the

student's history lessons of last year.

"This was the year they were studying all the Presidents, the government. They knew all about it," she said. "It was great for them to understand what they were seeing."

CHURCH NEWS

St. Paul Lutheran Church

Eight local youth and three adults recently attended the Luther Church-Missouri Synod's National Youth Gathering in Atlanta, Ga. They joined more than 30,000 youth and youth workers from across the country, as well as some foreign countries.

Local Lutherans who attended were: Tiffany Sayles, Jessica Hogg, Lindie Melendrez, Lindy Parsons, Haley Fernau, Brent Schroder, Drew Wegman, and Greg Wollenzeln, with adult leaders Suzanne Haney, Joanne Sayles and Richard Sanders. Daily events took place at the Georgia World Congress Center, and evening "mass events" were at the Georgia Dome.

"This was an incredible faith-building opportunity for the teenagers from my church," said Haney. "Lutherans are pretty scarce in our part of the country, so for these kids to see 30,000 Lutheran teenagers in one place was mind-boggling!"

Kingdom Class
The First United Methodist

Church Kingdom Class received \$472.54 from our rummage sale, donations and offerings. The sale itself raised \$446.41. Thanks to those who donated items, time and bought things from our sale. The money will go to charities voted on by the class. Class members took \$36 worth of food to the Salvation Army Emergency Shelter on Aug. 3.

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

St. Mary's will have a clean up day at the church on Saturday, at 9 a.m. Everyone is encouraged to come help with the different projects.

St. Mary's Inquirers' Class will meet Sunday after the 9:30 a.m. service.

First United Methodist Church

"Saying No To Stress" (Luke 8:22-25) is Dr. Ed Williamson's message this Sunday at the First United Methodist Church, 400 Scurry.

The message is about handling the anxieties that life gives us along the way. Worship is at 8:30 and 10:50 a.m. Call the church office at 267-6394 for more details.

RELIGION IN THE NEWS

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — A Buddhist monk, already in hot water over a statue, has been ordered to close the holy water shop in his temple.

"He has been ordered to close it down for seven days," said Samruay Saratha, director of the office of the Supreme Sangha Council, the governing body of Thai Buddhist clergy.

The council will use the time to decide the appropriateness of some of the monk's commercial endeavors in the temple in

Chachoengsao province, 20 miles east of Bangkok.

Locals defend the monk's activities because he attracts tourists. But many Buddhists feel he is debasing and commercializing the religion's tenets.

The monk bottles and sells water from a huge water tank labeled "holy water dispenser." Also on the grounds is a Buddha statue deemed too aggressive by many worship- See **RELIGION**, Page 6A

CLUB NEWS

Republican Club

The Howard County Republican Club, an organization for both men and women, will be Tuesday, Aug. 11, at 5:30 p.m. in the Howard County Courthouse, second floor, west end.

Democratic Club

The Democratic Club of Howard county jumped off to a great start during the organizational meeting Tuesday, July 28. Rey Villarreal, chairman, conducted the meeting. Issues discussed focused on the planning for the upcoming events. Volunteers, finances, and membership growth were also key items analyzed.

Officers were introduced at the gathering. Those serving are: David King, President; Esther Lopez, Treasurer; and Doyle Phillips, Publicity.

U.S. Representative Charles Stenholm's District Office Aide, Jeff Meador, and State Representative David Counts' spokesperson, Hal Boyd, both brought news from our elected officials.

The next meeting for the Howard County Democratic Club will be Aug. 13, in the Howard County Court Room at 7 p.m. For information call Rey Villarreal, 267-5322.

Bible Fund

Contributions coming in, but funding short of goal

HERALD Staff Report

Contributions continue to come in for the Howard County Minister's Fellowship Bible Fund, which supports the Big Spring High School humanities class.

The goal is \$15,000 for the 1998-99 school year, which will be used to fund the classes entirely.

Contributions may be sent to: Howard County Ministers Fellowship, c/o St. Paul Lutheran Church, 810 Scurry St., Big Spring.

Following is a continuing list of those who have supported the effort:

- Midway Baptist-Willing Workers \$25.00
- Mike Moates \$30.00
- Kent Morgan \$50.00
- Jack Murdock \$25.00
- Mrs. Joe Myers \$5.00
- Nalley-Pickle & Welch \$200.00
- Dallas Nash \$25.00
- Harold Neagle \$25.00
- Optimist Club % Sidney Clark \$100.00
- Clarence Peters \$20.00
- Fred Phillips \$50.00
- Neva Phillips In Memory Of Roy Phillips \$50.00

- Joe Pickle \$25.00
- Leland Pierce \$30.00
- Morris Rhodes \$50.00
- Hugh Rhyne \$10.00
- Myra Robinson \$50.00
- Wanda Roman \$25.00
- Salem Baptist Church \$50.00
- Howard Salisbury \$25.00
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- W.H. Smith \$100.00
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- H.E. Thompson \$50.00
- Janice Wagner \$25.00
- Mary Sue Walker \$25.00
- Shirley Walker \$10.00
- Ruby Watson \$25.00
- Ernest Welch \$100.00
- Wesley United Methodist-Mary Martha Class \$20.00
- Opal Wilkerson \$25.00
- Homer Wilkerson \$50.00
- Betty Williamson \$10.00
- B.J. Zinn \$100.00

In many different ways, water signals entrance to Christianity

LUBBOCK (AP) — Methodists sprinkle. Baptists and Churches of Christ immerse.

Catholics accept baptism in other churches as viable. So do Methodists. Most Baptist churches in this area still require a person baptized in another denomination to be rebaptized in order to become a member of the church.

Episcopalians, Catholics, Presbyterians and Methodists baptize infants and conduct confirmation classes when the children are junior high age.

At Live Oak Community Church, baptism is an event not too far removed from the days when West Texans gathered at a stock tank or a playa lake to immerse new believers.

With no baptismal pool, the church does its baptisms in a swimming pool.

"What was done out of necessity became a special time," said the Rev. Chuck Williams, pastor-founder of the church, modeled on the "seeker church" style of the Willow Creek Community Church in Chicago.

The entire service is centered around the baptisms. Those who are to be baptized write out their testimonies to

read or to have read at the service.

The church is soon to break ground for a building at about 107th Street and Frankford Avenue. The congregation has opted to eliminate plans for a baptismal pool in the building and continue with the swimming pool or hot tub baptisms.

"Baptism is an outward symbol of an inward commitment to Christ," Williams said. "Otherwise, you only get wet."

The idea that the act of baptism has inherent power began about the time of Constantine, who in his enthusiasm for adopting Christianity "marched a whole army down to the river and splashed them," thus converting them to Christianity, Williams said.

"I believe that is a false idea," Williams added.

Williams' spiritual forefathers in regard to baptism would be the Anabaptists, the name given to groups of religious renewal movements that spread across Europe during the Reformation.

Anabaptists held a variety of theological views that commonly emphasized discipleship, personal relationship with Christ, obedience to Christ (including no swearing

of oaths), the love ethic which included pacifism, mutual aid and redistribution of wealth. In Moravia, a Christian communism developed.

Distinctive beliefs about the church included voluntary baptism as adults upon confession of faith, doctrinal interpretation by a consensus of the local congregation and insistence upon the separation of church and state. Such radical beliefs earned them 25 years of severe persecution.

Mark Roberti, administrative assistant to the vacationing Bishop Placido Rodriguez of the Diocese of Lubbock, noted that the early Catholic Church baptized, confirmed the baptism and offered the Eucharist at the same time. But the church "over time decided it was better for children to receive confirmation at a later age (usually 8th grade)."

With confirmation, children are "renewing that profession of faith that their parents and godparents did for them when they were a child."

Roberti compared the baptismal sacrament to the Jewish rite of circumcision. "The infants were not aware they were joining the community of See **WATER**, Page 6A

HEALTH NEWS

(NAPS) — Would you recognize the symptoms of a heart attack in yourself or someone else? It could be key in saving a life. Quick response is needed to prevent deadly heart damage. Heart disease is the number one killer of Americans today, and about half the deaths occur within the first hour of these common symptoms.

Warning signs of a heart attack include:

- Sweating, chest discomfort, lightheadedness, faint feeling, sick to the stomach or shortness of breath.
- Pain spreading from the shoulders, neck or arms.
- Pressure, fullness, discomfort or squeezing in the chest.

Remember, a heart attack begins at the onset of symptoms, and experienced symptoms may be different among men and women.

Immediate reaction is vital, according to information from the American Heart Association. If you experience these symptoms, or become aware of someone else experiencing them, call 911 immediately.



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Shot clinic Saturday

Texas Department of Health wants to remind parents that school starts Aug. 12, and immunizations are being given each Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Hours are 8-11:30 a.m. and 1-4 p.m. Immunizations will also be given Saturday during regular hours.

Please bring your child's shot record or a note from the school. Call 263-9775 for more information.

Lunch program available

Free and reduced-price lunch policies have been announced by local and area schools. These programs serve children under the National School Lunch and Breakfast Program. To review the policy, or for more information, contact the school district office.

THE LAST WORD

They gave each other a smile with a future in it.
Ring Lardner

One must choose in life between boredom and suffering.
Madame de Stael

Real life seems to have no plots.
Ivy Compton-Burnett

WATER

Continued from Page 5A

God," he said.
Often, Roman Catholic churches have a baptismal font so that the infant may be immersed in the water. Lubbock's Christ the King Cathedral in its remodeling provided a baptismal pool large enough to immerse an adult should immersion be desired over the typical pouring of water over the head.
Although Methodists usually sprinkle water over the head of the baptismal candidate, some prefer immersion. To more easily accommodate those who prefer immersion, LakeRidge United Methodist Church built a baptismal pool in its new auditorium.
The Catholic Church teaches that baptism is for the remission of original sin. A system of penance was developed to cover sins after baptism.
Archaeological excavations in Israel reveal the prevalence of the mikveh, deep pools with steps that were used for vari-

ous Jewish purification rituals.
One purification rite was for those converting to Judaism. Such rituals are thought to be the inspiration for the baptism that John the Baptist preached and practiced in preparation for the coming of the messiah.
However, John's baptisms differed from the ritual baths in calling for repentance and remission of sins, creating expectations of ethical behavior as a result of the ceremony.
Jesus began his public ministry by asking that John baptize him "to fulfill all righteousness."
According to the Gospels, upon his baptism the Spirit of God "descended on him like a dove" and "a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.'"
Baptism as entrance into the Christian community was first mentioned at Pentecost, when the church received the Holy Spirit. Traditionally, the

church interpreted baptism and the coming of the Holy Spirit as one event. The Pentecostals regard the "baptism of the Holy Spirit" as a separate event that is evidenced by speaking in tongues.
Peter was preaching. He told the 3,000 converts, (Acts. 2:38) "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."
Outside the New Testament, the earliest surviving work about baptism comes from Tertullian, the first major Christian author to write in Latin. His writings date from between 196 and 212. In "On Baptism," Tertullian criticized the practice of baptizing children.
"The Rule of Faith," a statement of basic Christian beliefs, was developed in the late second and early third centuries, but it was "not a creed with

fixed wording," according to "Erdman's Handbook to the History of Christianity."
The fixed creeds "developed chiefly in the context of baptism, and originally consisted of question-and-answer."
According to an early account of Christian baptism at Rome at the beginning of the third century, the convert was asked three questions and immersed with each answer. Sprinkling with water was allowed if there was not enough water available for immersion.
When the church began, converts were baptized immediately.
However, the church soon began a course of instruction for those who wished to be baptized, especially for non-Jewish converts.
Thus, the church promoted delay of baptism, which "became almost a prize." It also explains why the church developed a system of penitence to cover sins after baptism.

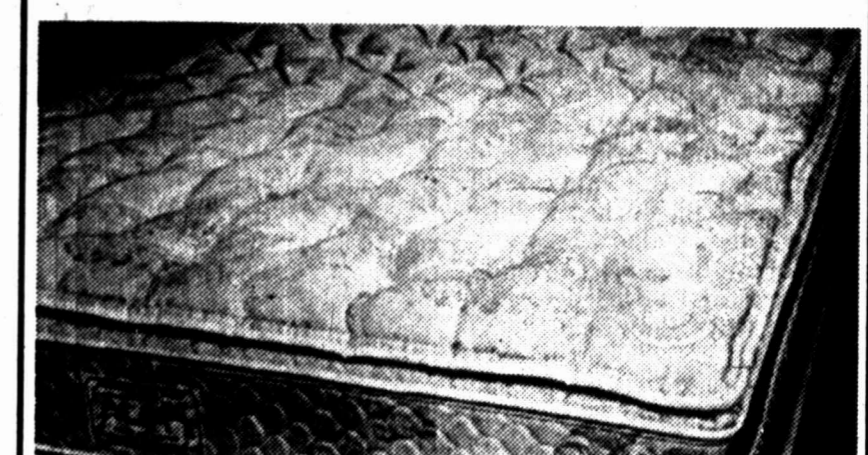
RELIGION

Continued from Page 5A

pers because its arms are raised in victory and its foot rests atop a globe of the world. There also are murals of naked figures the council has said are sexually provocative.

CHURCH AND CLUB NEWS
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SOFT MEDIUM FIRM

BRIEFS

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. (AP) — The South remains a religious bastion where nearly everyone believes in God and almost half think prayer heals, according to a poll conducted by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
The poll was conducted in the spring by the university's Institute for Research in Social Science. It is based on telephone interviews with 844 adults in 12 Southern states and 413 adults in the other states and has an error margin of 4 percentage points for Southerners surveyed and 5 percentage points for others.
Results show 88 percent of Southerners believe in God, compared with 78 percent of other Americans. Ninety percent of Southerners believe in answered prayers, compared with 80 percent of non-Southerners. And 46 percent of Southerners believe they have been healed by prayer, com-

pared with 28 percent of others.
SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — The sound of drums has drawn crowds to quasi-spiritual services on Sunday afternoons.
For the past four years, even in winter snow, a few die-hard musicians have huddled under a pavilion in Liberty Park, strumming guitars, rattling maracas and beating bongos

and congas.
Born on a surge of Generation X-ers' nostalgia for the 1960s and '70s, the park's drum circle has become a haven for counterculture neophytes, skinheads, minorities, the homeless and old hippies.
Music starts around noon, or whenever more than one drummer arrives. It wraps up when the last drum leaves, usually at

7 or 8 p.m.
Susan Cottler, Westminster College history professor and pop-culture observer, said the gathering is evidence of a search for community.
"The '90s really lack a sense of direction," Cottler says. "We're a little more lost than in past decades. People are finding their way back to something that feels familiar."

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over KBYG 1400 AM Evangelistic Service.....6:00 p.m.
on your dial Wednesday Service.....7:00p.m.

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at San Franck...
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SOCCER
7:30 p.m. —...
Dallas Burn, F

Chamblee, Lewis tied with one-stroke lead over Buick Open field

GRAND BLANC, Mich. (AP) — Brandel Chamblee played the Buick Open three times and didn't make a penny. So he quit coming after missing the cut again in 1992.

Now he's back, and it appears his luck has changed. Chamblee and J.L. Lewis, each seeking his first win on the PGA Tour, shot 7-under-par 65s for a 1-stroke lead over three other golfers in the first round Thursday.

Defending champion Vijay Singh, Dudley Hart and Gary Hallberg shot 66s on the rain-softened course at Warwick Hills Golf & Country Club.

"I've never played well here," Chamblee said. "But I hadn't played much lately, so I figured I'd just come and give it a shot. I figured, why not? It worked out pretty well."

That happens a lot at Warwick Hills, a user-friendly course where Robert Wren won in 26-under 262 in 1987. That's still the tournament record. Just last year, Sonny Skinner shot 62 in the opening round, matching the course record set by Fred Funk in 1995.

"I didn't make many mistakes," Chamblee said. "I mean, you don't make many

when you shoot 65."

Lewis, who spent last season on the Nike Tour, got rolling with birdies on the first two holes. He also put together a string of three straight birdies on the back nine. His only bogey came when he drove into some trees bordering the 10th fairway.

"I have a balanced game," said Lewis, who has missed 13 cuts in 21 tournaments this season. "My biggest weakness is fairways hit."

Or missed.

Fast starts are nothing new for Lewis. Three years ago, he shot 64 in the first round at New Orleans. Finishing has been a bigger problem. He has missed the cut in three of his four starts.

"You learn from experience," said Lewis, whose best finish this season was a tie for sixth at the Buick Invitational in February. "The key for me this week will be hitting fairways."

Chris Perry, Scott McCarron, Clarence Rose, Phil Blackmar, J.P. Hayes, Kent Jones and Bob Tway all shot 67s, two strokes off the pace.

Tiger Woods missed some putts and played the par-5s at even par. That doomed him to a 71.

Couple eager for grandchild should keep it to themselves

DEAR ABBY: My son and his wife are both 40 years old. They have been happily married for more than two years. Although we have a loving relationship with them, an important element in our lives is missing.

They have not yet produced a child. They tell us she cannot conceive without medical help. My husband and I are in our 70s. We were told not to mention the childbirth subject, as it is a sensitive one. They claim to be "trying," but reveal nothing else.

My question: Do we have the right to ask them specifically what measures, if any, they have taken to help nature along? Dare I tell them that we feel cheated at not having a grandchild? May we speak of adoption to them? I feel this is a family concern, not just their problem. WANTS TO BE A GRANDMA IN L.A.

DEAR WANTS: You would be a mile out of line to harp on your desire to be grandparents, and to pry into your son and daughter-in-law's personal lives. They have already told you the subject is a sensitive one. Listen to them, and for heaven's sake, keep your questions to yourselves!

DEAR ABBY: I'm writing in response to the letter from Charles F. Yarham, who wrote about his pet peeve. The last line of his poem was, "Is when a kid is called a 'sibling'."

The useful term "sibling"

never gets me riled, It's a sister or a brother, whether adult or child. But what gets MY "goat" (and always did), Is when a human child is called a "kid!"

— MAGGIE RITCHEY, LOS ANGELES

P.S. Actually, Abby, the above is a fib. I quite often use the term "kid" inappropriately, but I couldn't resist!

DEAR MAGGIE: 'Tis a pity Chuck Yarham's ditty Within contained The very thing his verse disdained.

DEAR ABBY: There are words in English that irk us all, From me you'll get no quibbling.

And the one that drives me up a wall! Is when a kid is called a "sibling."

— RENEE IN ALABAMA

DEAR ABBY: The only time that "sibling" irks Is when the kid's a baby goat. I say English is, with all its quirks. The bestest language ever wrote!

— MICHELLE LEE, LONG BEACH, CALIF.

DEAR ABBY: In response to Charles Yarham's poem: When I read your little poem, A gasp came from my throat. "Siblings" are our kinfolk, But a "kid" is just a goat!

JAMES WICKINSON, RICHMOND, VA.

Everybody has a problem. What's yours? Get it off your chest by writing to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, Calif. 90069. For a personal reply, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope.



ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

HOROSCOPE

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR SATURDAY, AUG. 8:

Coming to an understanding this year takes all the energy you can muster. You will learn to express yourself more clearly and decipher the mixed signals others send you. Develop strong ways to confirm what has been said; doing so will give your career a boost. All relationships will benefit. If you are single, you have your share of admirers. Sort through possibilities, and settle on someone who is good for you. You will want a partner willing to grow with you. If attached, communications are a primary matter. You both need to work on them, but you need to take the first step.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) You are reeling from yesterday's events. Confusion surrounds a friend. Manifest the courage that your sign is known for, and be honest about your position. A juggling act doesn't work for you. You don't deal well with these games. Tonight: Find the fun.****

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Take a stand with someone who pushes hard. Establish boundaries; recognize limits. Confirm meetings, and don't stand on ceremony with others. They could be more confused than you. Avoid social pressure. Tonight: You are a force to behold.****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Reach out for others. Confirm

plans; in the current milieu, major confusion runs rampant. Shape your day. Left to your own wiles, nothing might happen. Return to something unusual you put on the back burner. Tonight: Continue the exotic theme.*****

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Don't make anything solid, especially if it involves money and partners. Remain fluid, and you will be happier. You can deal with whatever comes up. Someone does what he needs to make you go along with his program. Tonight: Be enticed.***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Listen carefully to others, and fine-tune plans. Someone misrepresents your ideas. You put out mixed vibrations, hence the confusion. Someone's suggestion is nothing but fun; go along with it. Tonight: Once the play begins, it doesn't end.*****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You feel out of kilter, so your best bet is to slow down. Your nerves are frayed. Do something just for yourself. Schedule a massage or some other nurturing experience. Someone doesn't come through for you as you had hoped. Relax. Tonight: Put your feet up.***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Lighten up, or else what goes on could disturb you. Laugh at what you can't change, and enjoy what is happening. A special friend on the scene makes

you smile. Go with what makes you happy; don't let aggravation mar the experience. Tonight: Sneeze up your life.****

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Don't try to change what seems impossible. Let someone know exactly where you are coming from. Don't let a misunderstanding get out of whack. Caring flows, if you simply relax with the current situation. Take a nap. Tonight: As the night goes on, you get better.***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Let go of plans. If you don't insist on having things your way, you could be a lot happier. Partners and friends might not be as sure of themselves as they have been in the past. Make it easy for them as well as you. Laughter and humor add to the moment. Tonight: Breeze around.****

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Keep the same stance as yes-

terday. Carefully go over your finances. There is an element of the unexpected, not from your end, but someone else's. Confusion runs rampant. Until there is clarity, don't give an inch. Keep discussions active. Tonight: The wee hours.****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) You scratch your head for a while. Try as you might, you have a difficult time understanding someone else's logic. Worry less about pleasing others. What they think they want now could radically change. Be your happy-go-lucky self. Caring abounds. Tonight: Happy as a lark.****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Take time off just to yourself. Pressure is unusually high right now. Consider options around it, but take yourself away from the immediate source. A walk along the water or a chat with a dear friend could make all the difference in your outlook. Tonight: Nap, and then out.***



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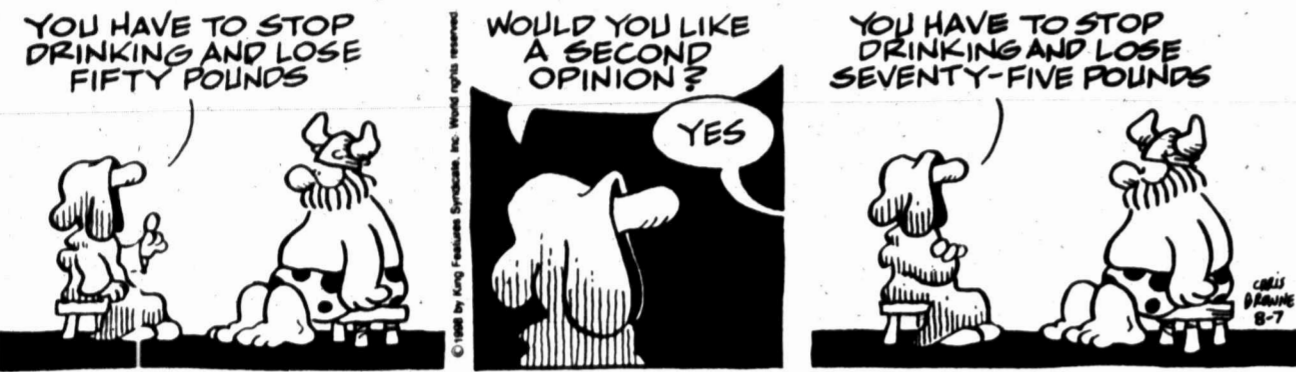
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FRIDAY

AUG. 7

Table with 24 columns representing different TV channels (KMD, KPEJ, KERA, etc.) and rows representing time slots (6:30, 7:00, 8:00, 9:00, 10:00, 11:00, 12:00) with program listings.

HAGAR



B.C.



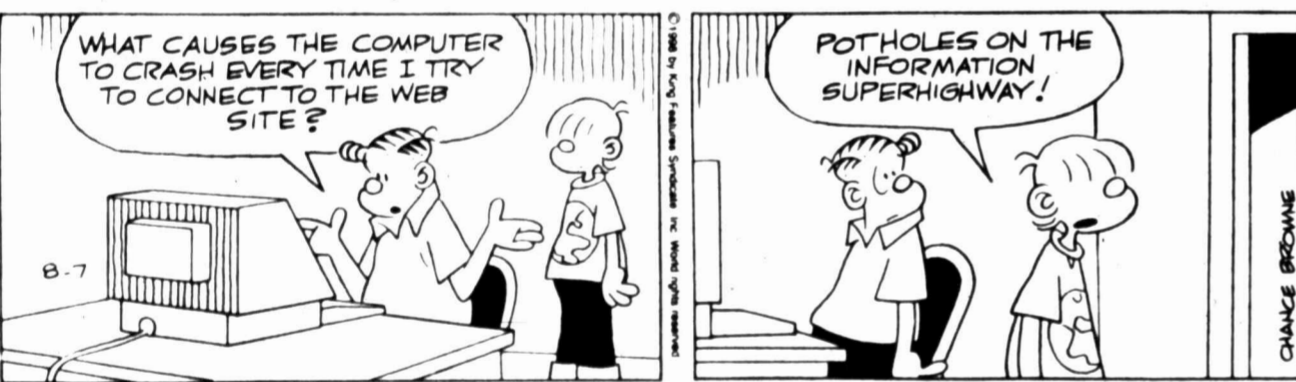
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HI AND LOIS



GASOLINE ALLEY



SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILY



BLONDIE



FAMILY CIRCUS



"We're goin' potty... we're goin' potty... we're goin' potty..."

DENNIS THE MENACE



"I DON'T THINK HE'S VERY HUNGRY. DAD TOLD ME HE WAS FULL OF BALONEY."

THIS DATE IN HISTORY

Today is Friday, Aug. 7, the 219th day of 1998. There are 146 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On August 7, 1782, George Washington created the Order of the Purple Heart, a decoration to recognize merit in enlisted men and non-commissioned officers.

On this date: In 1789, the U.S. War Department was established by Congress.

In 1912, the Progressive Party nominated Theodore Roosevelt for president.

In 1942, U.S. forces landed at Guadalcanal, marking the start of the first major allied offensive in the Pacific during World War II.

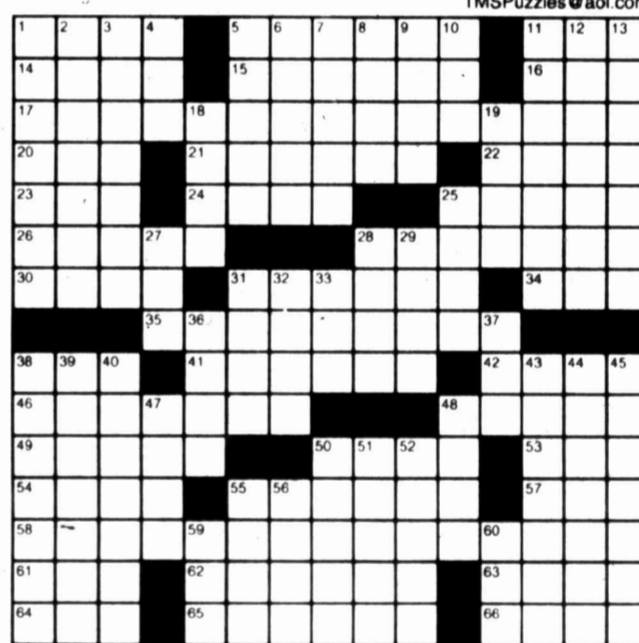
In 1947, the balsa wood raft Kon-Tiki, which had carried a six-man crew 4,300 miles across the Pacific Ocean, crashed into a reef in a Polynesian archipelago.

In 1959, the United States launched Explorer VI, which sent back a picture of the Earth.

In 1964, Congress passed the Gulf of Tonkin resolution, giving President Johnson broad powers in dealing with reported North Vietnamese attacks on U.S. forces.

THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

- ACROSS
1 Post Van Duyn
5 Fit for cultivation
11 Inc. in the U.K.
14 Imitated
15 Peninsula near Singapore
16 Vein to mine
17 Give up in the ring
20 Golf-hole starting point
21 Gold bars, e.g.
22 Roosevelt coin
23 Wallach of 'The Magnificent Seven'
24 Playthings
25 North Dakota city
26 Commutes
28 Roofing piece
30 Sauciness
31 More nimble
34 Greensward
35 Fake a loss in the ring
38 ID's on jerseys
41 Coded message
42 Recount
46 Corsage flowers
48 One Osmond
49 Bugged down
50 Tableland
53 Ms. Gardner
54 Freshly
55 Unruly mob member
57 Misdeed
58 Out on the canvas in the ring
61 Hot diamonds
62 Entity's manifestation
63 Jason's ship
64 \$-due mail
65 Mortise insertions
66 Actress Harper



By John Witting Vancouver, B.C.

Thursday's Puzzle Solved with a grid of words and their corresponding crossword positions.

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RITZ 401 S. Main 263-7480. Child 13m 263-7480. Adult 15m 263-7480. ZORRO (PG-13) DAILY: 1:15-3:50-6:50-9:30. PARENT TRAP (PG) DAILY: 1:30-4:15-7:00. HALLOWEEN H20 (R) DTS DAILY: 9:40 ONLY. DISTURBING BEHAVIOR (R) DAILY: 9:20. JANE AUSTEN'S MAFIA (PG-13) DAILY: 1:00-4:00-7:20. Pass & Bargain Restricted

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