

BIG SPRING HERALD

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"Reflecting a proud community"

50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

MONDAY
September 21, 1998

Tonight



PARTLY CLOUDY
TONIGHT 60°-65° **TUESDAY 90°-95°**

Export workshop set for Thursday

An Export Trade Assistance Workshop will be held Thursday at the Dora Roberts Community Center.

Sponsored by Moore Development for Big Spring and TU Electric, the workshop is designed to give people more information on what is involved in exporting their products.

There is no charge for the workshop and local business owners are encouraged to attend.

The workshop will begin at 10:30 a.m. and is expected to be over by 2 p.m. Lunch will be provided for those in attendance.

To register, call Moore Development at 264-6032.

WHAT'S UP...

TODAY

□ Big Spring Evening Lions Club, 6:30 p.m., 1607 E. Third. Call Janis Dean, 267-3068.

□ Disabled American Veterans Chapter No. 47, 6:30 p.m., VAMC room 212. Call Bob Madigan at 267-6686.

TUESDAY

□ Beginning line dance classes, 9 a.m., Senior Citizens Center. Call 267-1628.

□ Quarterback Club, 7:30 p.m. All football parents and fans welcome.

WEDNESDAY

□ Line dancing, 1 p.m., Senior Citizens Center, Industrial Park. Call 398-5522 or 267-1628.

□ Optimist Club, 7 a.m., Howard College Cactus Room.

□ Big Spring Downtown Lions Club, noon, Howard College Cactus Room. Call Terry Hansen, 264-5175.

□ Eagles Lodge Ladies Auxiliary, 7 p.m., Eagles Lodge, 704 E. Third.

THURSDAY

□ Kiwanis Club, noon, Howard College Cactus Room. Call Billy Smith, 267-6479.

□ Big Spring Senior Citizens Center art classes, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. for 55 and over.

□ Evening line dancing class, 6:30 p.m., Spring City Senior Center. Gideons International Big Spring Camp No. 4206, Hermans, 7 a.m.

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

□ Export Trade Assistance workshop, 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., Dora Robert Community Center. There is no charge but please RSVP, 264-6032.

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Vol. 94, No. 286

To reach us, please call 263-7331. Office hours are 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you miss your paper, please call 263-7335 before 7 p.m. on weekdays and 11 a.m. on Sunday.

BSPD Sgt. Scott Griffin, 33, found dead at home Sunday

By JOHN H. WALKER
Managing Editor

Scott Griffin, 33, a 13-year veteran of the Big Spring Police Department was found dead at his home Sunday afternoon.

Griffin, who had been on full medical leave since April, was last seen alive Saturday night, according to Police Chief Lonnie Smith.

Smith said Griffin's housekeeper found him and police were called to

the scene at about 5 p.m. "She had called a couple of times and had gotten no answer," Smith said. "She called again, got no answer and came over and found him."

Assistant Chief Pam Jordan said the death was being treated as "unattended at this time."

Smith said there were no signs of any wounds to the body and that Peace Justice Marilyn Carson had ordered an autopsy on the body. The autopsy was to have been performed today.

Smith also said that because of Griffin's status as a peace officer, the Texas Rangers had been called in to investigate the case.

Texas Ranger Bob Bullock of Midland's Co. E is heading up the investigation.

A sergeant, Griffin was fired from the department in March 1997 after allegations he had submitted falsified time sheets were levied against him.

An internal investigation resulted in his termination on March 4, 1997 which was upheld by city manager Gary Fuqua before retired Judge Curt Steib of San Angelo ordered him reinstated back to March 5. Steib's order included the proviso that Griffin be demoted from lieutenant.

A Big Spring native, Griffin joined the department as a patrol officer in Sept.

1985. He later served as a detective and was promoted to sergeant in 1990.

Griffin worked both as a plainclothes and uniform officer and was injured in the line of duty while responding to an incident of family violence in June 1991.

He was nominated as supervisor of the year in 1994, shortly after being promoted to lieutenant, for his work in heading up the detective and narcotics divisions at the police department.

Following his reinstatement, he supervised the animal control department.

He is survived by his parents, Bill and Mel, and two children.

Funeral services are pending with Hawthorn Funeral Home in Carthage.



GRIFFIN

United Way's helping hand works at Northside

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the first in an 11-part series on the member agencies of the United Way of Big Spring and Howard County. **NEXT MONDAY:** Boys Club of Big Spring.

By MARSHA STURDIVANT
Staff Writer

A call from a father recently released from prison, with questions about his back child support payments.

A proud grandmother searching for a newborn baby's layette.

Mounds of paperwork, that if completed successfully, might mean a grant for a new basketball court.

These situations occur in a typical hour at the Northside Community Center, with director Max Webb.

"It's hard to talk about the Northside Community Center without mentioning Max Webb. He is the center. He has no staff, he does it all," said client Linda Land.

The Northside Community Center, a United Way Agency, has a client roster of 640, and provides services on a monthly basis.

Land, originally from New York, contacted Webb at the NSCC at the urging of some of her neighbors at the Northcrest Apartments.

"I met with him, and we became quite close. He has supported me, not just financially, but intellectually and morally. He has become like a father type figure for me. I have no family here, and he's that family for me," Land said.

Unemployed when she first came to the center, Webb arranged a job interview for Land, and transported her to the interview.

"They hired me on the spot, and times when I haven't had a ride to work, he's picked me up and taken me to work. He's an all around good guy, and he helps anybody who's trying to help themselves," Land said.

She said Webb is a non-nonsense kind of person, who goes beyond the usual boundaries and truly expresses an interest in the welfare of his clients.

"When I've been in emotional distress or my self esteem has been low, he's said 'hey, you can do it. There is a silver lining around that dark cloud,'" Land said.



HERALD photo/Marsha Sturdivant
Sharaya Owens, 9, left, new mother Kendra Owens holding 3-day-old Ayanna DeShae Owens, and mom Linda Land call the Northside Community Center and executive director Max Webb, friend and family.

Webb said the Northside Community Center offers several programs to the residents of Big Spring, like the GED classes currently underway.

The center has sponsored nearly 20 people for a certified nursing training course at Howard College.

"We've spent \$2,300 in student fees, and all we've funded, except one, have found employment. I'm proud of that," Webb said.

Also, the center offers after school tutoring, a new program, a back to school clothing program and rental and utility assistance for needy families.

"I try to open the door for people, so they can go find the answers they need," Webb said.

As director, Webb spends a great amount of his time referring clients to other agencies.

He offers career counseling, and time management and budget management assistance. He offers employment counseling and helps clients learn to dress for a job interview.

Webb also refers battered

women to the agencies that may help them, and West Texas Legal Services visits the center twice a month. Webb facilitates those meetings.

"We do mainly family law, like custody battles, divorces, child support and paternity suits. Also, we'll get some landlord-tenant disputes and wills and probates," he said.

Webb also provides laundry vouchers for his clients, and disposable diapers. He said he researched providing cloth diapers, but found once the cost of additional laundry vouchers and soap was accounted for, disposable were more economical.

Of the total \$48,000 yearly budget, half provides direct services to clients. The other half pays for the utilities for the center, as well as postage, printing, repairs, janitorial supplies and Webb's salary and car allowance.

The United Way provides about a fourth of the center's budget. Last year the center received \$15,000, he said.

"The United Way provides funds so I can provide services to the clients. Without it, I would have to cut services I provide," Webb said.

The center functions with a minimum of modern conveniences. Client information lists are kept on index cards in a shoe box, and paper work is prepared on an electric typewriter.

Volunteers help Webb with special projects, like the Christmas season. Christene Hernandez and her daughter Jennifer volunteer each year.

"I enjoy helping Max anytime he needs any kind of help. He really does help, even with our older children. He's helping us try to get our oldest son, he's 24, a job," said Hernandez.

The center gave her son a bicycle, so he could go to job interviews Webb was setting up for him, she said.

And one season, Hernandez said she and her husband were unable to provide Christmas for

See NORTHSIDE, Page 2

Mall

Lusk leaves DRCC to manage mall

By T.E. JENKINS
Staff Writer

Kathy Lusk, Director of the Dora Roberts Community Center, hopes she will be moving on to bigger and better things as she prepares to take over as manager of Big Spring Mall at the end of September.

"I'm really excited about the move," said Lusk. "This will give me a chance to work with the various retail merchants, as well as keep my certification as a Certified Property Manager."

Lusk said that although she has enjoyed working for the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce and managing the facility, she needs to move on to a larger property to maintain the certification.

"There are guidelines as to how big the property you manage has to be to maintain your certification," said Lusk. "The DRCC doesn't quite make the minimum requirements for the certification, but the mall will."

Lusk said that although she is looking forward to the new challenge that the Mall will offer her, she still has mixed feelings about leaving the Community Center.

"The Community Center has been a lot of work, but I certainly will miss it," said Lusk. "I have really enjoyed working for the Chamber of Commerce, and I have had the chance to meet a lot of different people in the three years that I have been here."

"I am really looking forward to working with the retail merchants, as well as planning the events that go on there. Tammy Watt, the former manager of the Mall, has certainly left some big shoes to fill, but I am really excited about the chance to try."

Prior to joining the chamber staff at the community center, Lusk owned and operated the Green House Restaurant and Green House Catering. She continued to operate the catering business after taking the community center job.

Deaf Awareness Week offers SWCID the chance to reach local community

By MARSHA STURDIVANT
Staff Writer

Deaf Awareness Week this week gives the Southwest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf an opportunity to reach the Big Spring community and make them aware of deafness and deaf persons.

John Green, director of college relations at SWCID, said ideally, he would like to see awareness and communication extend year round.

"Our community sees us every day, at Wal-Mart, at businesses, downtown. Some of us have jobs in Big Spring, and we would like them know about us," Green said.

Big Spring and Howard College have the prestigious honor of being home to SWCID, which is the only self-contained deaf college in the world, he said.



"We are the only junior college program, self-contained, for the deaf."

RON BRASEL
SWCID provost

"SWCID is very unique and very special," Green said.

SWCID is also one of the few secondary educational facilities for deaf students in the country. Gallaudet University, and the National Technical Institute for the Deaf, a part of the Rochester Institute of Technology in New York, are the only two programs designed specifically for

deaf college students, said Ron Brasel, provost at SWCID.

There are other opportunities in the country for deaf students seeking higher education, but those programs mainstream their deaf students into the traditional course work and classrooms, Brasel said.

"We are the only junior college program, self-contained, for the deaf," Brasel said.

Which means that SWCID students have an opportunity to take all their classes and reside on the SWCID campus.

They only have to go to Howard College for a course if they choose to, Brasel said.

SWCID has planned a week of activities for their students, to celebrate the week, Green said.

"The purpose of Deaf Awareness Week is to expose people here in the Big Spring community to our culture and our needs," Green said.



HERALD photo/Linda Choate
A worker cleans the brass buttons on the doors at Municipal Auditorium.

SEPTEMBER 21 1998

Four hours of president's videotaped testimony goes before public

WASHINGTON (AP) — The nation is braced for an unvarnished look at President Clinton in four hours of videotaped grand jury testimony and 2,800 pages of transcripts Congress is releasing to an eager media and a wary public.

Lawmakers who viewed the tape of Clinton's Aug. 17 testimony concerning his relationship with White House intern Monica Lewinsky said it is at times boring, at times riveting, as the president's emotions range from evasive to angry to remorseful. White House officials, seeking a sympathy boost, called the Republican-driven decision to release the material today a "garbage dump" on the president.

The tape was likely to produce a handful of highlights that will be played and replayed endlessly on television.

To prepare viewers for the unprecedented spectacle of a president testifying before a grand jury, and on sexual matters at that, CNN aired special statements Sunday warning that the video contains "both language and descriptions" that "may be offensive to some viewers and unsuitable to children."

Yet with the prior release of Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr's report alleging Clinton committed perjury, obstruction of justice and abuse of power in the Lewinsky case, the way the president comes across on television may prove more important than what he actually says.

"There are some points in time where the president looks in the camera and makes a pretty compelling acquitting of himself, of how he feels about what Ken Starr has done to him, to his family, to his friends, and how he felt the Paula Jones (sexual harassment) case was politically motivated. And I think he was very sincere," said Rep. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., a member of the House Judiciary Committee that voted last week to release the material. "You can tell that this has hurt the guy."

At other times, though, Clinton appears to be "dancing on the head of a pin to try to describe what sexual relations are," Graham said Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Press." He predicted disclosure of the tape would not be a knockout blow to the president.

On the video, Clinton admits "inappropriate intimate contact" and "sexual banter" with Ms. Lewinsky but resists prosecutors' efforts to define the conduct further, according to an opening statement described to The Associated Press by lawyers familiar with the president's testimony.

"I regret that what began as friendship came to include this conduct," the president answered when he was first asked a sex-related question by prosecutors just seven minutes into his testimony.

The moments of presidential regret are interspersed with legal debates involving the terms "sexual relations" and "alone" at a, in one exchange,

the tense of a verb.

"I think the president comes across answering some difficult questions. He does reasonably well," Rep. Martin Meehan, D-Mass., another Judiciary Committee member, said on ABC's "This Week." "I don't think it will have a political effect."

Rep. Asa Hutchinson, R-Ark., also a committee member, said the material has "more value as evidence than entertainment. Quite frankly, large portions of it are rather boring."

Uneasy about defending Clinton's sometimes legalistic answers, Democrats are discussing whether to concede the president committed perjury and accept Ms. Lewinsky's version of his sexual encounters even though he disputes her allegations that he touched and sexually stimulated her.

"I'm almost willing to say, 'Let's stipulate that President Clinton touched Monica Lewinsky where he shouldn't have,'" Rep. Robert Wexler, D-

Fla., said on NBC's "Meet the Press."

The GOP-led Congress risked a political backlash in releasing a videotape that a CBS poll found 52 percent of Americans said they planned to watch but that 69 percent felt was unnecessary to release. According to the survey, 59 percent of the public believed the tape's release had more to do with embarrassing the president than letting the public judge him. The poll of 533 adults, taken Saturday, had a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percentage points.

Deputy White House chief of staff John Podesta said the tape "will be painful to watch" as Clinton struggles with the consequences of his actions on his family and his presidency. "But I think there might be a surprising reaction," Podesta added.

"They (lawmakers) decided that rather than just doing a document dump they would do a garbage dump ... and I think

people are going to wonder about that."

The risk for the White House was that the sight of Clinton squirming under prosecutorial questioning might reverse opinion polls that now show the public solidly opposed to impeachment.

"What's good about this is the American people will be able to evaluate this without having to be filtered through the media or through the opinions of members of Congress," Hutchinson said.

A Clinton ally in the Senate suggested, meanwhile, that Clinton immediately volunteer to testify to the House Judiciary Committee and answer all questions fully to spare the country further embarrassment.

"I believe the president would be well served to explain exactly what he did, exactly what he was thinking, do it to the Judiciary Committee and let's vote and let's move on one way or the other," Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., told NBC.

Former Del Rio mayor says dam project killed by politics could have prevented recent flooding, deaths

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — The damage and loss of lives in Del Rio from San Felipe Creek during Tropical Storm Charley could have been avoided if construction had proceeded 20 years ago on a proposed dam, a former mayor in the border city says.

Nine people in the area died during the flooding, and nearly 600 residences in a historic neighborhood were destroyed. Six people remain missing, and damages from the Aug. 23 flooding of the normally placid creek have been estimated at \$34.5 million.

Former Del Rio Mayor Alfredo Gutierrez Jr. says much of the tragedy could have been averted if the dam project hadn't been mired in political and financial battles.

"That morning, when we woke up, that was the first thing to come to my mind," Gutierrez, who supported the dam project, told the San Antonio Express-News. "If we only had that flood-control structure."

The proposed dam was designed to prevent San Felipe Creek, a waterway well known for its destructive potential, from turning deadly and destroying property, according to a federal study completed in 1973.

But two events occurred in 1968 that set into motion the political struggle over the dam. First, Del Rio residents elected Gutierrez to be their first Hispanic mayor. Then the courts placed the Lowe Ranch, where the dam was to be built, under the guardianship of Louita Wilson. Wilson's objection to the proposed dam caused public support for the project to cool, former city officials said.

Gutierrez, 66, inherited an Army Corps of Engineers plan to build a massive, 90-foot-tall dam that would have cost \$6.7 million in 1970 dollars.

"Here comes little me against white ranchers who had been running the show forever," said Gutierrez, the mayor from 1968-80 and 1988-96. "It was

hard to gather any support."

Plans called for an earthen dam in the middle of the 1,800-acre Lowe Ranch just north of the city limits.

"Our project would have controlled floods even larger than what occurred last month," said Elston Eckhardt, chief of hydraulics for the Engineers' district office in Fort Worth.

But Del Rio was required to contribute \$528,000 — money the city government did not have.

In 1972, the San Felipe flooded and the city asked another federal agency — the Natural Resources Conservation Service — to prepare a less expensive, scaled-down version of the dam.

The result was a 1973 proposal for a dam half the height of the first and at a cost of \$575,000.

Congress authorized the dam and approved funding, contingent on the city and county providing land rights. But officials were unable to obtain easements to 500 acres behind the

dam that would hold the flood-water.

"They wanted to keep the land because they wanted to develop it and subdivide it," said James Hester, city manager from 1969 to 1978. "They felt they would get more out of it if they held on to it and sold it as parcels. ... I think it was purely a financial motivation."

A piece of the Lowe Ranch was sold in 1978 to build the Plaza del Sol shopping mall, according to Val Verde County probate court records. As development inched north, the value of the Lowe Ranch property increased.

At Ms. Wilson's urging in the 1970s, the federal government declared that the San Felipe Creek was a critical habitat for the endangered Devils River Minnow. Any changes, including a dam, would need Interior Department approval.

"We could not construct the dam until the environmental issue was resolved," Hester said. "That was what really stymied construction."

Candidates looking more to Hispanic voters to win

DALLAS (AP) — Candidates from both political parties say courting Texas' Hispanic voters now is the key to winning in the November election.

Democrats are especially pressed to hold onto the Hispanic vote as they fight to maintain a dominant presence in state government. Hispanics represent the largest growing constituency in that party and, some say, its future.

The Texas Democratic Convention had a distinctive Hispanic flavor this summer. Every candidate made an effort to say at least something to delegates in Spanish.

Land commissioner candidate Richard Raymond, the only Hispanic Democrat running statewide, spoke of "el tiempo de mis abuelitos," the time of his grandparents.

Raymond, a state representative from Benavides, said it used to be that Hispanics supported Democratic candidates. "Now we must fight for every vote," he told delegates.

Republicans, meanwhile, also realize they must secure Hispanic votes. Gov. George W. Bush's campaign is broadcasting two Spanish-language radio ads in which he speaks briefly in Spanish.

GOP leaders say they're making inroads, and having a popular governor at the head of their ticket helps.

"There's an old saying in South Texas that anything south of San Antonio belongs to the Democrats. We're breaking that bondage," Roy Casanova Jr., Texas legislative director of the Republican National Hispanic Assembly, said.

Projections are that by 2008, Texas' population will be less than one-half white. By 2030, whites will make up 36 percent of the population and Hispanics will account for 46 percent.

But whites have voted in greater percentages than Hispanics. In the 1994 governor's race, 78 percent of the voters were white and 11 percent Hispanic.

Texas already has more than one-third of the country's 5,000 elected Hispanics, followed by California and New Mexico.

Of 1,800 Texas Hispanics in office, 804 are Democrats and 22 are Republicans, according to the National Association of Latino Elected Officials. The rest hold nonpartisan offices on school boards and city councils, but are mostly Democrats.

Democratic gubernatorial nominee Garry Mauro is depending on huge support from Hispanics in his bid to upset Bush, especially in South Texas.

Mauro told reporters last week he isn't worried about losing Hispanic votes because, he said, Bush has done little for them. He said the governor opposes affirmative action and has not appointed many Hispanics during his term.

"The problem is he's wrong on all the issues," Mauro said.

Bush disagreed, saying he has "set a tone that says to the Hispanic community, you're a part of the future."

Democratic leaders say it's just a matter of time before those elected at the local level begin advancing to county and state offices, providing more incentive to Hispanics to vote.

House tax cut bill takes care of business

WASHINGTON (AP) — While most sponsors of the Republican tax cut bill tend to talk about the benefits to millions of middle-class Americans, the GOP made sure it also took care of key business interests.

Insurance companies, banks and securities firms doing business overseas and private-industry research and development would benefit from provisions tucked into the five-year, \$80 billion collection of cuts moving in the House. Small businesses also would gain several breaks.

The House is expected to vote this week on the tax bill, which President Clinton has threatened to veto because it is mainly funded by projected budget surpluses. The president wants those reserved to ensure Social Security's future solvency.

Business has been a long-time bedrock of Republican political support. An analysis by the non-partisan Center for Responsive Politics of 1995-96 campaign contributions found that Republicans got 60% of the \$391.4 million contributed by all kinds of businesses.

The most intense lobbying

came on renewal of the research and development credit, a provision that expired June 30. It gives companies a tax credit for part of the wages, supplies, computer costs and contract expenses for a wide range of research.

The bill approved last week by the Ways and Means Committee would extend the credit for 20 months — retroactive to July 1 — at a cost of \$3.9 billion.

"It has been our biggest priority," said Monica Maguire of the National Association of Manufacturers. "This credit benefits the broadest number of companies and those of the most different sizes."

A recent study by the Coopers & Lybrand consulting firm estimated that U.S. companies would spend an additional \$41 billion on research and development through 2010 as long as the credit is in place, generating \$58 billion in higher economic productivity.

Because the credit has been in place for years, most businesses are looking at its re-enactment as inevitable.

"They would regard it as a horrendous tax increase if it were taken away," said Clint

Stretch, director of tax and legislative affairs at the Deloitte & Touche accounting firm.

The other big-business item in the bill would exempt insurance companies, banks and securities firms from certain U.S. taxes on their international activities. It is aimed at reducing the combined U.S. and foreign taxes these companies pay.

A study produced by the American Council for Capital Formation, a group that advocates lowering business taxes, found that U.S. insurance firms now pay combined taxes that are 145 percent higher than those paid by foreign companies competing in a third country: for example, a British company competing with a U.S. firm in Italy.

"It is hard to imagine any tax policy justification for this result," said Thomas Horst, a former international tax director at the Treasury Department. "U.S.-owned financial subsidiaries are at a clear competitive disadvantage."

The House legislation would permit this exemption for fiscal 1999 at a cost of about \$535 million.

One other big-business provision in current law would be extended through Feb. 29, 2000:

a credit allowing businesses to write off part of the wages of workers they hire from economically disadvantaged groups. That one costs \$737 million.

For small business operators and farmers, the GOP bill would immediately allow self-employed people to deduct 100 percent of their health insurance premiums, instead of just 45 percent this year. Under current law, full deductibility wouldn't occur until 2007; total cost is \$5.1 billion over five years.

Moreover, small businesses would save an estimated average \$1,700 on their taxes next year because they could expense \$25,000 of their depreciable assets, up from \$18,500 this year.

This means people who run small businesses could avoid the time and expense of calculating long-term depreciation schedules for purchases of equipment and other assets. Total cost is \$1.05 billion over five years.

"These are pocketbook issues that small business owners remember at the ballot box," said Jack Faris, president of the National Federation of Independent Business.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

The Big Spring Workforce Center has established a one-stop center for the following Employment & Training Programs serving Howard, Glasscock & Borden Counties:

Texas Workforce Commission-Employment Services
Job Training Partnership Act
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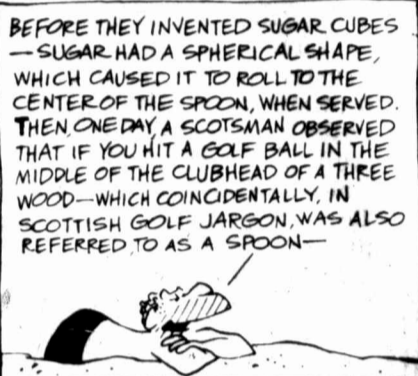
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MONDAY SEP. 21 TV SCHEDULE TABLE listing channels (KMYD, KPEJ, KERA, etc.) and programs (News, Sports, Movies, etc.)

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B.C.



BLONDIE



FAMILY CIRCUS



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DENNIS THE MENACE



'MY FLASHLIGHT BATTERIES WORE OUT.'

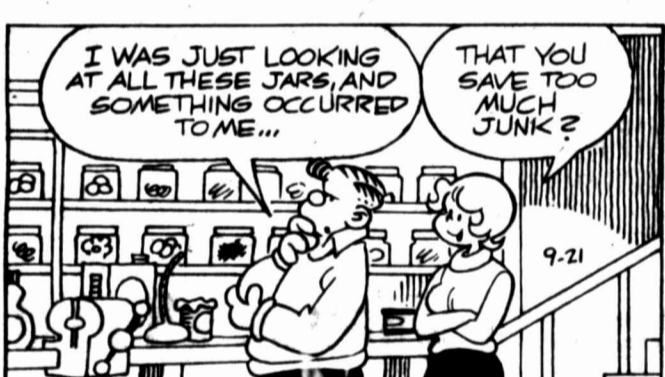
GEECH



WIZARD OF ID



HI AND LOIS



GASOLINE ALLEY



SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILY



THIS DATE IN HISTORY

Today is Monday, Sept. 21, the 264th day of 1998. There are 101 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Sept. 21, 1938, a hurricane struck parts of New York and New England, causing widespread damage and claiming more than 600 lives.

In 1792, the French National Convention voted to abolish the monarchy.

In 1897, the New York Sun ran its famous editorial declaring, "Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus."

In 1931, Britain went off the gold standard.

In 1937, "The Hobbit," by J.R.R. Tolkien, was first published.

In 1948, Milton Berle made his debut as permanent host of "The Texaco Star Theater" on NBC television.

In 1949, the People's Republic of China was proclaimed by its Communist leaders.

In 1973, the U.S. Senate confirmed Henry Kissinger to be Secretary of State.

In 1977, after weeks of controversy over past business and banking practices, President Carter's embattled budget director, Bert Lance, resigned.

In 1983, in a speech to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Interior Secretary James G. Watt jokingly described a special advisory panel as consisting of "a black... a woman, two Jews and a cripple."

In 1996, John F. Kennedy Jr. married Carolyn Bessette in a secret ceremony on Cumberland Island, Ga.

Ten years ago: The Soviet women's gymnastics team won the gold medal at the Seoul Summer Olympics, with Romania placing second and East Germany third.

Five years ago: Russian President Boris Yeltsin announced he was ousting the hard-line, Communist-dominated Congress that had long opposed his reforms.

One year ago: Saying their persistent demands for a special investigation had been vindicated, senior Republicans insisted Attorney General Janet Reno seek appointment of an independent counsel to look into White House fund-raising activities, a day after the Justice Department revealed it had begun a preliminary review.

Today's Birthdays: Cartoon animator Chuck Jones is 86. Actor Larry Hagman is 67. Poet-songwriter Leonard Cohen is 64. Actor-comedian Henry Gibson is 63. Author-comedian Fannie Flagg is 54. Author Stephen King is 51. Musician Don Felder (The Eagles) is 51. Actor-comedian Bill Murray is 48. Rock musician Philthy Animal (ex-Motorhead) is 44. Movie producer-writer Ethan Coen is 40. Actor-comedian Dave Coulier is 39. Actor David James Elliott ("JAG") is 38.

THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words.

Saturday's Puzzle Solved: A completed crossword puzzle with words like STABLE, LAMEDUCK, NISEIS, EVAPERON, etc.

BIG SPRING HERALD advertisement with contact information: 915-263-7331, 915-263-7335, and a list of staff members.