

School funding options reviewed by public education panel

AUSTIN (AP) — A \$3.8 billion draft proposal to give every Texas teacher a \$3,000 pay raise, increase spending on programs including kindergarten and provide about \$1.2 billion in property tax relief was outlined at a Saturday meeting of the House Public Education Committee.

While the panel hasn't settled on a school funding plan, Chairman Paul Sadler predicted lawmakers this session will be able to deliver \$2 billion in total tax reductions — including cuts in property taxes and other levies, such as sales and franchise taxes.

That compares to \$2 billion in

property tax cuts and \$600 million in sales and business tax reductions that has been sought by Republican Gov. George W. Bush.

"At the end of the day, you will legitimately be able to say there's \$2 billion in tax cuts," said Sadler, D-Henderson.

The school funding draft proposal would result in reduced property tax rates in districts ranging from the wealthiest to poorest, according to a working paper prepared by the Legislative Budget Board. It indicated the statewide reduction would average 7 cents per \$100 worth of property value.

Schools rely on state aid, local taxes and some federal money.

Bush, in Dallas on Saturday, made mention of the school funding proposal and to plans for the House committee to act on an initiative to curtail "social promotion" — the practice of moving academically unprepared students from one grade to the next.

"So there's good progress being made. Hopefully, we'll all be able to come to an agreement here by the time the session ends. That's a very good start," Bush said.

The regular legislative session ends May 31.

Sadler he intends to fold the Bush-backed social promotion measure into an overall school funding bill.

Besides the approximately \$1.2 billion property tax-cut proposal, the committee is looking at another funding option with about \$900 million in property tax relief. Either way, Sadler said, lawmakers could reach \$2 billion in total tax cuts.

Both school funding options in the House committee propose a \$3,000 across-the-board pay raise for teachers; funding for school facilities debt; \$215 million in additional spending over the next two budget years for

early education programs; and \$85 million for "second chance" high school programs.

"I think Paul's going to come with a very well-balanced, good program. ... It'll be probably not everything anybody wants, but a lot of what a lot of people need," said House Speaker Pete Laney, D-Hale Center.

The funding options were outlined just one day after legislative budget-writers informally agreed on a state budget for the next two years, and two days after Comptroller Carole Keeton Rylander announced that lawmakers would have an extra \$807 million to spend.

The Senate last month — before the available revenue estimate was increased — passed a \$2.6 billion bill designed to boost teacher compensation and provide local property tax relief.

The senators' measure would provide about \$1.6 billion to raise the minimum teacher pay schedule by \$4,000, and it would require that even schools already paying over the minimum level put 60 percent of the funds into raises.

Backers said it would mean some additional compensation for the vast majority of teachers.

Bush rejects blame for failure of hate crimes bill

DALLAS (AP) — A day after Texas lawmakers let die a hate crimes bill that would have included homosexuals, Gov. George W. Bush dismissed Democratic efforts to blame his presidential ambitions for the bill's demise.

"If something doesn't go somebody's way, they'll say, 'Oh, it's presidential politics,'" Bush told reporters Saturday after speaking at Southern Methodist University's commencement ceremony. "It's not just this bill ... I'm getting used to it."



BUSH

The James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Bill, which had passed the Democratic-controlled House but stalled in a Senate committee, died Friday after nine hours of backroom negotiations. When a deal had not been struck by 9 p.m. — three hours before the deadline to pass bills out of Senate committees — lawmakers called it quits. The Legislature adjourns May 31.

The bill defined a hate crime as one motivated by the victim's race, ethnicity, gender, disability, religion or sexual preference.

Democrats such as Sen. John Whitmire of Houston had said the sexual preference category halted the process.

"You could take sexual orien-

tation out, and, in my judgment, it could come flying out of the committees and onto the floor to be debated — and it would pass," Whitmire said last week.

But on Saturday, Bush denied the provision was the sticking point for him.

"No, my position was, first of all, this was a moral conscience vote on the Senate," he said. "I stood back and said I was going to analyze the bill once it made it off the floor of the Senate. It never did."

Bush, who has formed a presidential exploratory committee, said he and his staff had offered some changes in an effort to get the bill through.

"I put out a couple of suggestions ... There were suggestions

made of statistics being kept," Bush said. "The idea was to try to make sure we punish the crime, not the thought." He did not elaborate.

The governor pointed out, as he has in the past, that Texas has a hate crimes law on the books and said prosecutors should enforce it. Critics say it is too vague to enforce.

Sen. Rodney Ellis, a Houston Democrat, has suggested that Bush's possible White House interest played a role in the bill's failure to reach his desk for a decision.

"Since our governor is a leading presidential hopeful, the eyes of the world are on Texas," Ellis said. "Everything we do now takes on national implications."

Suburban school system takes early summer break

ALLEN (AP) — Officials who canceled the last two weeks of school because of repeated bomb threats are now ducking brickbats from angry parents and puzzled students.

"I just think it's ridiculous," said parent Kurt Dowd. "I think they're playing right into the hands of these people that are perpetrating this."

"I think they're playing right into the hands of these people that are perpetrating this."

Kurt Dowd, parent

Schools in Allen, a suburb north of Dallas, have received 11 bomb threats this week, requiring eight evacuations at the high school, two middle schools and an elementary school. No bombs have been found.

A 15-year-old student has been arrested and charged with calling in one threat from his middle school cafeteria. But school officials believe most of the threats are unrelated, copycat actions.

The district, with 9,800 students in kindergarten through high school, canceled the rest of the school year after a board meeting that began Thursday night and stretched an hour past midnight.

"We're not sure we can guarantee the safety of every Allen ISD student ... we had to err on the side of caution," said school district spokesman Tim Carroll.

"We have to assume every threat is real even if deep down a lot of us think these are kids, these are threats, these are just jokes."

Carroll said the threats were taken even more seriously in the wake of an assault that left 15 people dead in a Colorado school last month.

But parents — many of whom didn't learn of the cancellation until Friday morning's bell — were calling the Allen Independent School District, the Texas Education Agency and even Gov. George W. Bush's office to complain.

Despite the protests, the education agency will allow the district to fall short of the required 180 days of instruction, said agency spokeswoman Debbie Graves Ratcliffe. That protects the district from any threat of losing state funding.

Bryan selected to host second dragging death trial

HOUSTON (AP) — The second trial stemming from the dragging death of a black man was moved Friday from Jasper, where the first defendant's trial was held, to Bryan, 140 miles to the west.

State District Judge Monte Lawlis also said jury selection would begin in early August for the trial of Lawrence Russell Brewer, according to the Jasper County district attorney's

office. Opening statements were set for Aug. 30.

The Brazos County seat of 60,000 people was chosen for the trial by DA Guy James Gray and defense attorney Doug Barlow and submitted Friday afternoon to Lawlis for approval.

Barlow could not be immediately reached for comment.

Brewer, 32, is the second of three white suspects to be tried

in the gruesome slaying last June 7 of James Byrd Jr.

The 49-year-old black man was torn in two along a rural road after he was chained to a pickup truck and dragged for nearly three miles.


The first man to be tried, 24-year-old John William King, was sentenced to death after being convicted in Jasper earlier this year.

The selection of Bryan ended

an exhaustive search by prosecutors, who, in an unusual move, asked that the trial be moved to deprive defense attorneys of an easy appellate issue should their client be convicted.

Barlow had originally argued that trial be moved because Jasper residents, in comments to the media after King's conviction, were predisposed to a guilty verdict in his client's trial.

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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

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OUR VIEWS

Our peace officers put their lives on the line every day

Last Friday, a representative of U.S. Senator Phil Gramm's office was in Big Spring to recognize our peace officers for the work they do in keeping our streets and our neighborhoods safe.

The occasion was National Peace Officers' Memorial Day, a special time set aside to remember those officers who have fallen in the line of duty.

That day has passed, but the time to recognize those who protect and serve has not.

Too often, we think of those who wear a badge only when we see those flashing lights behind us on the highway or in a school zone. We forget that these are the men and women who every day risk their lives to protect ours.

While we are sleeping at night, it is peace officers who allow us that sense of security. On the highway, it is the trooper who scrambles to intercept a drunken driver before a tragedy takes place. In the city it is the police officer who responds to the report of a domestic dispute which has turned ugly.

In the past few days, we know that officers have been on duty at Goliad Middle School, quelling rumors of violence in the wake of the Littleton, Colo. shootings and ensuring that our youth have the opportunity for a safe, fear-free education.

With each response, an officer puts his life on the line. According to national statistics, a peace officer is killed every 57 hours.

Still, they answer the call, giving unselfishly of themselves, time after time.

And when their work is done for the day, they go back home to their wives, their husbands, their sons and daughters. They are, after all, just like the rest of us.

As you pass a Big Spring Police Department officer, a Howard County Sheriff's Office deputy, a Department of Public Safety trooper or other peace officer in your daily routine, take a minute to wave. Take a minute to say thanks, thanks for their effort in upholding the law and protecting our city, county and state, and more importantly, its people.

YOUR VIEWS

TO THE EDITOR:

Over the past several weeks, the Littleton, Colorado High School incident has caused much concern and worry to parents, students and school officials. Unfortunately, the schools of Big Spring are not exempt from wild rumors, threats or potential problems brought about by groups or individuals seeking attention (of the negative kind).

For a fact, I know principals and teachers are in a heightened awareness and remain on constant alert if problems or potential problems occur.

They work hard every day to provide a safe, secure environment for the students of Big Spring. At times, these officials cannot do the job alone.

First, I would like to say thank you to Lonnie Smith, chief of police, and his many police officers who have remained on call to help school officials maintain a safe environment of learning by being available to track down the students or ex-students making threatening comments. They have worked by our side daily to put an end to these problems.

Secondly, I would like to thank the many parents who have called to offer help by being in the schools. Such was the case Friday at

Goliad Middle School. You are too numerous to mention individually, but you know who you are. This is a classic case of being a part of a solution to a community problem. Your presence and the fact that you had your students attend school that day helps those types of problems attention seekers thrive on. Staying away or not allowing students to attend only encourages these types of problems to reoccur. By being there, you help stop the problem. Parental involvement of this kind is welcomed, because we know these schools belong to you.

School will be out soon and these problems will subside for school officials. We will work on ways to improve school safety during the summer months. Our primary goal is to ensure safe, orderly learning environments for students. Rumors, threats and unauthorized persons on campuses will be dealt with in a very serious manner.

In closing, once again, thanks to the police and the parents who help us attack this serious invasion of our right to a free, safe, educational environment. Your partnership with BSISD is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully,
MURRAY MURPHY
DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT
BIG SPRING ISD

Now just what was it I was saying again?

I had been blaming my memory loss on something else, I forget what, when a teacher friend told me it probably had more to do with the aspartame in diet soda.

One look around at my can-strewn office, which really is a corner in a small back room, and I felt panic. I work in a blank corner

so I won't be distracted by goings-on outside any window. Windows do in writers the same way anytime teller machines located conveniently inside casinos finish off compulsive gamblers. They provide temporary relief but cause great trouble later.

Take the dog. You might be in the middle of a brilliant, Faulkneresque sentence, and the dog throws back its head

and howls. You jump up to see what's inspired this call of the wild, and by the time you get back to your sentence it stinks.

Where was I? Ah, yes, aspartame.

My friend was convinced. Just crank up the computer, she said, and search the World Wide Web for, hmm, I can't remember the site.

Maybe it's just as well. Whatever else memory loss is, and whatever causes it, there is a quality of self-defense in forgetting. Not a total purge, but an occasional, partial trim of facts and factoids from your hedgebank of memory.

For instance, not since 1976 when I saw Ron Howard in "Eat My Dust" at the Monroeville, Ala., theater have I tried to remember the stars and plot of each and every movie I go to.

Before that, I could pretty well tell you what had happened on the screen and who had made it happen. But, quite suddenly, with that flick "Eat My Dust" my brain registered overload, and, to tell the truth, movies have been more enjoyable ever since. I can see the

same one two or three times and never even realize it.

The Monroeville theater burned to the ground shortly after that, which I remember only because the tragedy reminded me of a movie I had seen in my pre-purge days called "The Last Picture Show."

Maybe memory is genetic like everything else. My mother has what might be best described as "selective memory."

She can, with great ease and pride, recall the exact price paid for a bag of cow feed years ago. "It was not \$33," she will say, correcting my father. "It cost \$32.87."

And yet, whenever I mention by name a friend I've managed to keep for 25 years, she inevitably asks, "Who?"

But then all of us, sometimes subconsciously, choose our battles when it comes to the memory war. I refuse to clutter the field with numbers, passwords, dates and lesser skirmishes of a political nature.

Minor characters should be dropped altogether from political pageants, in my opinion, so

that one doesn't spend entire days frumping about trying to remember exactly what it was Donald Segretti had to do with Watergate. It's quite enough to remember that the Watergate was a hotel as well as a scandal, and that Richard Nixon resigned. Don't bother me past that.

It pains me, however, that lately I can't remember the exact source of long-held personal grudges. I will remember that a fight started with a missing pica stick, or a clumsy, misunderstood gesture, but then forget who first did or said what to whom. And nothing takes the starch — and fun — out of a feud faster than forgetting the particulars. Hating on an empty brain is like drinking on an empty stomach. Doesn't work.

Not long ago I got a nice note from an old neighbor who said that as part of a 12-step program he was apologizing to anyone he might have offended in the past. I need to try to remember to write and tell him that if he offended me, all's forgotten. And I do mean forgotten.



RHETA GRIMSLEY JOHNSON



Kennan-like strategy missing

If you are confused about American foreign policy, relax. Any rational and knowledgeable person would be. I'm not even sure it is proper to call what the Clinton administration has done and is doing a policy.

A foreign policy is equivalent to strategy. To formulate a strategic plan, you start at the end by deciding what objectives you hope to achieve by following your strategic plan.

For example, a brilliant diplomat, George F. Kennan, formulated a strategy for post-war America while he was posted in Moscow. In essence, Kennan's strategy called for containing the Soviet Union but never confronting it directly. The objectives were to avoid a nuclear war and to prevent a communist takeover of the world. It was based on the belief that the Soviet Union would eventually evolve into a less-threatening society.

Kennan's idea became the foreign policy of the United States in the administrations of Harry Truman all the way to Ronald Reagan.

As a youth, I had criticized it as too defensive, but reality always settles arguments, and

Kennan was right and I and others who criticized him were wrong. It worked just as he said it would. There was no nuclear war. The Soviet Union did collapse.

Unfortunately, neither George Bush nor Bill Clinton had a George F. Kennan to formulate a new policy for the post-Cold War world. There appears to be no pattern or policy to the various foreign-policy decisions that have been made since the Soviet Union's collapse.

Obviously, the primary objective of any foreign policy is to maintain peace and the security of the land and the people. It logically follows then one must make a threat assessment. By far, the majority of the world's countries can be written off. They are too small to ever pose a threat to the land and people of the United States. Basically, you end up with Russia and China for the present and possibly India in the future. Therefore, relationships with these three countries should receive a lot of attention. It seems pretty dumb to me for a great nation to squander its resources in quarrels with small countries that pose no threat to it.

There is no need to formulate a specific policy for every country, but our relationships with all nations should be based on principles. I know of no better principles than those advocated by George Washington — friendship and trade with all, entangling alliances with none.

A third factor in formulating strategy is a correct assessment of our limitations and resources.

Kennan, for example, recognized that the United States did not have the military power to overthrow the Soviet Union without starting a cataclysmic world war. Therefore, he ruled that out.

He didn't rule out military power, but he recognized that its purpose must be deterrence, not offensive warfare with the Russians.

The malfeasance of Clinton is demonstrated by the fact that he has American troops in more than 100 foreign countries while he has at the same time cut the forces. We now have only 10 army divisions, and only five of those are ready to fight, all being short of manpower and equipment. Worse, not a single soldier is actively involved in defending the real interests of the United States except those still manning our strategic defenses.

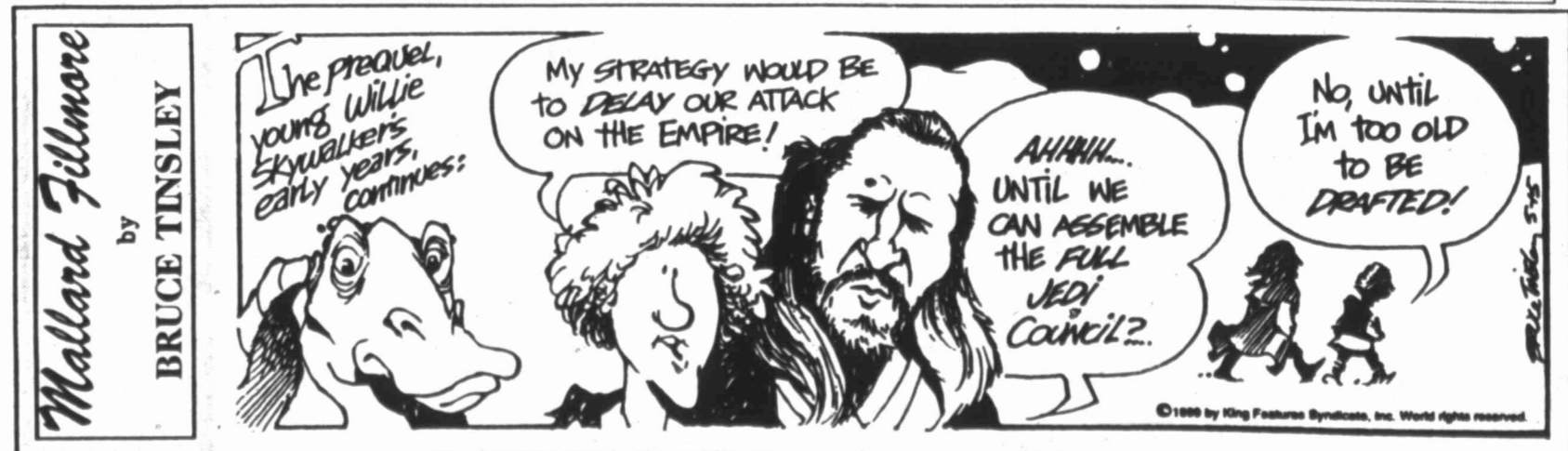
The real interests of the United States are easy to name: the safety of our people, the inviolability of our land, freedom of navigation. No nation on earth at the present time is threatening any of those. So why are we bombing two countries, both small, both incapable of launching a war against us?

Things which appear to make no sense usually do make no sense.

Charley Reeses e-mail address is OSOREESE@aol.com.



CHARLEY REESE



Big Spring Sunday, May 16, 1999

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Sears agrees to pay \$325,000 penalty in child labor law case

CHICAGO (AP) — Sears, Roebuck & Co. has agreed to pay a \$325,000 penalty to settle allegations it violated child labor laws by letting teen-agers operate heavy machinery or work too many hours. A U.S. Labor Department investigation found 227 children were working at Sears in violation of child labor law, department spokeswoman Susan King said Friday.

In addition to paying the fine, the department store company agreed to audit its more than 800 major stores for problems each year. In most cases, 16- and 17-year-olds were found loading and operating power-driven paper balers, a machine that flattens cardboard boxes, or operating freight elevators or forklifts, King said. Under federal law, children are not permitted to operate this sort of hazardous equipment, he said.

In a few cases, some 15-year-old workers were working more hours than permitted under law, King said. Sears, the nation's largest department store and second-largest retailer, will pay a \$325,000 fine, King said. Sears did not admit to any wrongdoing. "It's very, very important that our young people have constructive early work experi-

ence, but it is equally important that their jobs are safe," Labor Secretary Alexis Herman said. "I quite frankly hope that this case will send the signal to other employers so that we don't have more cases like this." Child labor laws have become a pet issue for Herman and are particularly topical given that the tightest labor market in three decades has the retail, food service and farm segments scrambling to find workers.

Nationwide, the company has 11,150 workers under age 18. The 1998 Labor Department investigation in 23 states involved 71 of Sears' stores, King said. Violations were found in 44 stores. Sears spokeswoman Jan Drummond had no comment on the charges leveled but said the company hopes to use the agreement to improve working conditions for teens.

Clinton urges entertainment industry to cut violence

PALO ALTO, Calif. (AP) — Hours before sitting down to a \$2 million political dinner with Hollywood's elite, President Clinton challenged the entertainment industry today to ban guns from ads and movie previews, and do a better job of keeping kids away from R-rated movies. Television ratings and V-chips aside, "There's still too much violence on our nation's screens, large and small," Clinton said in his weekly radio address. The broadcast, taped after a Democratic fund-raiser in Seattle on Friday, came during a pause in Clinton's \$3-million-plus campaign cash sweep down the West Coast. The president was spending a private day today with his daughter, Chelsea, at the

Woodside home of computer magnate Steven Jobs. Woodside is near the campus of Stanford University, where Chelsea is wrapping up her sophomore year. From here, the president was heading on to Beverly Hills' Greystone Mansion and a Democratic Party fund-raiser organized by DreamWorks partners Steven Spielberg, Jeffrey Katzenberg and David Geffen. With such high-wattage stars as Meg Ryan, Dennis Quaid, Goldie Hawn, Kurt Russell, Whoopi Goldberg and Ed Burns paying between \$25,000 to \$100,000 per couple, the dinner was expected to collect more than \$2 million for Democratic House and Senate candidates in 2000. Clinton made his anti-violence appeal nearly four weeks

after the Columbine High School massacre in Littleton, Colo., and just as he has begun to try to mobilize a national, grass-roots campaign against youth violence. The president and first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton plan to visit Littleton on Thursday. From events in Seattle, here in the San Francisco Bay area and tonight in Los Angeles, Clinton continues on Sunday to fund-raisers in San Diego and Las Vegas — for a four-day take of more than \$3 million for Democrats. Clinton applauded Hollywood today for its voluntary ratings system for TV shows and the V-chip to enforce parents' decisions on what children may watch. But still, he said, "By the age of 18, the typical American will

see 40,000 dramatized murders." "There are still too many vulnerable children who are steeped in this culture of violence, becoming increasingly desensitized to it and to its consequences and, therefore, as studies show, hundreds of them more liable to commit violence themselves." Clinton issued three challenges to the entertainment industry: — Stop showing guns in ads or previews that children might see. — Strictly enforce ratings systems at video stores and theaters. — Re-evaluate the ratings system, especially the PG rating, "to determine whether it is allowing too much gratuitous violence in movies approved for viewing by children."

Legislators attempt to defuse tension over gun bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Republicans and Democrats are scrambling to keep a juvenile violence bill from collapsing under fierce partisan bickering after GOP senators forced passage of new restrictions on gun show sales. Democrats scoffed at the GOP's claim that the amendment, passed 48-47 Friday, would require background checks on all firearms buyers at gun shows. They said the measure was riddled with loopholes that had been demanded by the

powerful gun lobby. Republicans "know the public wants gun control, but they're afraid to offend the National Rifle Association," Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., declared. He objected when Judiciary Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, tried to introduce a measure to tighten the amendment, setting off a shouting match seldom seen on the Senate floor. "You object? You object to doing what's right here? It's amazing to me they want to

have an argument ... rather than doing what's right," Hatch thundered, pointing his finger across the floor at Schumer, who is five months into his first Senate term. The tiff in part soured talks between senior Republicans and Democrats on how to move forward with Congress' first gun bill in the aftermath of the Colorado high school shootings. Both sides were accusing each other of conspiring to kill the bill outright. Aides to Hatch and Sen. Patrick Leahy of

Vermont, ranking Democrat on the Judiciary Committee, said the two planned to meet through the weekend to try to pare down dozens of amendments and pass the bill by Tuesday night. "If we can't find a way to vote on Tuesday, the bill is dead," Hatch told reporters. Democrats were demanding to revive an amendment by Sen. Frank Lautenberg, D-N.J., which they said would truly make all gun buyers at shows subject to background checks.

Michigan teens charged with plotting school shooting similar to Columbine

PORT HURON, Mich. (AP) — Four boys have been charged with plotting a shooting at their middle school similar to the April rampage at Colorado's Columbine High School. Justin Schnepf and Jedaiah Zinzo, both 14, were charged as adults Thursday with conspiracy to commit murder for allegedly planning to kill classmates at their 560-student Holland Woods Middle School. The two remained in custody Saturday on \$100,000 bail each. The two others, ages 12 and 13, have been charged as juveniles with the same crime. They also remained in custody on Saturday.

Columbine, where Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold shot 12 students and a teacher before committing suicide. The district's 12,000 students were told to stay home from its 21 campuses after a bomb was discovered near the Holland Woods campus on Thursday night. A janitor found the device shortly after parents and school officials met there to discuss the boys' alleged plot. Police say the bomb was not connected to the alleged plot. Agents from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms said they rendered the bomb useless, but have declined further comment.

The boys' alleged plans were discovered after a 14-year-old girl told police she overheard them talking about an elaborate killing spree. She told police she overheard some of the boys saying they wanted to kill all the school's "preps," the popular clique of students. The girl told police the Michigan boys said their plan was to go on a shooting spree in a gym assembly and detonate a bomb afterward. School officials canceled weekend sports events and were conducting school-by-school inspections before planning to announce Sunday whether classes will be held this week.

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Bill Read

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"They planned to commit ... a slaughter and massacre of Holland Woods students," said Mary Kelly, a St. Clair County assistant prosecutor. She said the plot "had been in the planning and in the making for over a week." The four were arrested on Wednesday and Thursday at their homes. Prosecutors allege the teens planned to top the death toll of the April 20 massacre at

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House report: China got secrets on most major U.S. weapons

WASHINGTON (AP) — A congressional report on two decades of spying discloses that China conducted at least six neutron bomb tests and obtained secrets about seven major weapons in the U.S. nuclear arsenal, say government officials who have seen the classified study.

The report by a select House committee chaired by Rep. Christopher Cox, R-Calif., says China performed its last test of the high-radiation neutron bomb in 1988 but that its aggressive spying continued throughout the 1990s, the officials told The Associated Press

on Friday. The Cox report is being declassified and will be released publicly later this month. Officials who have seen it say it provides a sweeping history of China's efforts to obtain classified U.S. technology from the late 1970s through the 1990s.

"The headline will be that the extent of Chinese nuclear theft is much broader than has been previously revealed," said one official, who like others demanded anonymity. "The report asserts that the Chinese have acquired sensitive design information on virtually the entire current U.S. nuclear arse-

nal." While much of China's gains of U.S. nuclear secrets were in the 1980s when Republicans controlled the White House, the report cites evidence that Beijing gained U.S. neutron bomb technology as early as the 1970s and continued aggressive spying throughout this decade.

President Clinton has acknowledged that security at the Energy Department nuclear weapons labs remained lax well into his watch. He began ordering extensive steps to improve security last year.

According to the officials, the Cox report discloses that the

Chinese: —Acquired in the mid-1990s U.S. secrets about a high-tech weapon developed during the Star Wars missile defense program that uses electromagnetic waves to propel objects like missiles or shells.

U.S. intelligence ascertained that China had obtained the technology about the so-called rail gun, but they could not tell from where in the United States it was obtained.

—Obtained some sensitive nuclear weapons information in 1995, according to an intelligence report that could not determine the source of the

leak. An investigation is continuing.

—Obtained in 1980 part of a missile guidance system called the accelerometer. U.S. intelligence ascertained that the Chinese did reverse engineering to develop their own version of the part.

Contacted Friday night, both Cox and White House officials said it would be inappropriate to comment on the committee's findings while they are still being declassified.

"Obviously we take the issue of protecting our most sensitive information seriously. We look forward to working with the

committee in a bipartisan spirit to address their recommendations." National Security Council spokesman David Leavy said.

Before Friday, U.S. officials had disclosed only that they suspected China had obtained secret information about the submarine-based W-88 Trident warhead, the neutron bomb and some re-entry vehicles for multiple warhead weapons.

The Cox report discloses that Beijing has obtained secrets about seven U.S. nuclear weapons, including the W-56, W-62, W-76, W-78 and W-87 warheads, the officials said.

Pentagon says painting empty buildings waste of defense dollars

WASHINGTON (AP) — Continued congressional refusal to permit the closing of unneeded military bases makes no economic sense, the Pentagon's chief spokesman says.

"We continue to hope that Congress will see that it's more important, particularly at times when our forces are at risk, flying over enemy territory, to invest in the future than it is to continue to paint buildings that we don't occupy or need anymore," spokesman Kenneth Bacon said Friday.

For the third straight year, the Clinton administration's request for two new rounds of base closings — one in 2001 and

another in 2005 — was rejected by the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Committee Democrats said they'll try to revive the proposal on the Senate floor, but they face an uphill battle. Both Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss., and Minority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., opposed additional base closings.

Defense Secretary William Cohen contends that failure to close antiquated bases — many of them Cold War relics — could cost the Pentagon \$20 billion that would be better spent on aircraft carriers, jet fighters and other crucial hardware.

The committee's rejection

comes at a time when the administration and Congress are straining to find money to pay for the military campaign against Yugoslavia and to address longer-term defense needs.

Congressional negotiators, in fact, have just completed an emergency \$15 billion spending bill to pay for the conflict and other programs. It will be debated in the House and Senate next week.

But Congress has always been reluctant to vote to close bases. Republicans contend that President Clinton meddled in the process to save jobs at bases in vote-rich California and

Texas during his 1996 re-election campaign.

The administration's argument that many U.S. military bases have outlived their usefulness and are now costly burdens was conceded by Sen. John Warner, R-Va., the Armed Services Committee chairman. But he said finding a formula to completely isolate the process from politics remains elusive.

"I racked my brain to try to find the words to legislate trust. I could not do it," Warner said. "Communities (where the bases are) must have total trust in the process. That trust was lost."

In closed-door sessions this

week, Warner's committee first rejected, 12-8, the administration's request for two new rounds of base closings in 2001 and 2005.

Then it turned down, 11-9, a single round in 2001. The votes generally broke along party lines, although Sen. John

McCain, R-Ariz., joined Democrats in supporting the base closings.

The existing process calls for Congress to authorize a round of closings, then for the independent Base Realignment and Closure Commission to select the bases.

Congress may double president's salary

WASHINGTON (AP) — A House subcommittee approved legislation Friday that would provide for an increase in the president's salary — effective the day President Clinton leaves office. The adjustment would take effect at noon on Jan. 20, 2001 and would mark the first raise in the president's salary since Lyndon Johnson retired 30 years ago.

The measure would double the chief executive's salary to \$400,000 annually, according to Saturday's editions of The Washington Post.

The legislation passed the House Appropriations Committee's Treasury-Postal

Service Subcommittee as part of a huge spending bill. The House Government Reform Committee's panel on management, information and technology is scheduled to review the issue May 24.

The last pay increase for a president was in January 1969, when the salary was doubled from \$100,000 to \$200,000 upon Richard Nixon assuming office. A \$50,000 annual expense account established by Congress for the president also became effective then.

Under the Constitution, pay raises can only be enacted at the change of administrations.

Court blocks air quality requirements

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal appeals court blocked the Environmental Protection Agency on Friday from imposing tougher air quality requirements the agency says are needed to protect people with respiratory problems and children.

The ruling by a three-judge panel, acting on a lawsuit by a number of industry groups, was a major defeat for the Clinton administration, which has viewed the air regulations as one of its top environmental accomplishments.

Although the EPA said it will ask the Justice Department to appeal, the ruling halted any further enforcement of rules imposed in July 1997 that require states to dramatically reduce the amount of ozone, or smog, and microscopic soot

they may allow in the air.

The administration is "deeply disappointed" by the ruling, said White House press secretary Joe Lockhart. "We will continue to do everything in our power to ensure that the American people are adequately protected against ... harmful air pollutants."

The three judges of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia rejected claims by the industry groups that the regulations were based on incomplete and poor science and were too costly. But two of the three judges concluded the EPA failed to justify the pollution levels it selected as minimum requirements to protect public health.

The agency "construed (sections of) the Clean Air Act so

loosely as to render them unconstitutional delegations of legislative power," wrote Judges Douglas H. Ginsburg and Stephen F. Williams.

Judge David S. Tatel, who joined the other two judges in some of the decision, nevertheless, issued a strong dissent on this key point.

The EPA, in fact, used "reasonable explanations" for setting the standards it chose, wrote Tatel.

The regulations imposed much tougher health standards for smog-causing ozone and opened the way for the first time for regulation of microscopic soot.

The tighter standards put hundreds of counties in violation of federal air quality standards.

Justice O'Connor questions use of juror exclusions

WASHINGTON (AP) — Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor on Saturday urged state judicial officials to re-examine how juries are chosen in an effort to bolster public confidence in the justice system.

She said they should review and even limit lawyers' rights to exclude possible jurors without giving a reason for doing so. Also recommended for scrutiny

was the so-called "cause" exclusion of jurors who had heard about the court case from the media.

These practices, O'Connor said, give an impression of "unrepresentative juries."

She also told the gathering of state chief justices, judges and bar association officials: "The process of selecting a jury from the citizens called for jury service on a particular day has changed somewhat from a nec-

essary safeguard from potentially biased jurors to a way, in many cases, for highly paid jury consultants to attempt to insure a jury favorable to the side paying their fee."

O'Connor appealed to states to make juvenile and family courts a high priority and improve the quality of legal representation for people who cannot afford their own lawyers, especially in death penalty cases.

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Chico Jerry

CHICAGO (A chair throwing are staples of talk show. But the question is to answer Jun city council co Alderman E former police man of the committee, say is genuine, should enforce guests and ha If it's staged, gested "The Show" should obtain a city license.

Burke called appearance bef Police and Fire determine whet should be taking the brawls, a tr

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Neighbors are gers at aircraft, b Aviation Admin commercial jets a to jettison sewa was spotted bef but federal agent didn't pan out.

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And no more tv have enough for American Red C woman Elizabeth G

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Chicago officials want to question Jerry Springer about show's violence

CHICAGO (AP) — Fist fights, chair throwing and hair pulling are staples of Jerry Springer's talk show. But is it real? That's the question Springer will have to answer June 4 at a Chicago city council committee hearing.

Alderman Edward Burke, a former policeman and chairman of the council's finance committee, says if the violence is genuine, Chicago police should enforce the law, cuff the guests and haul them off to jail.

If it's staged, Burke has suggested "The Jerry Springer Show" should be required to obtain a city entertainment license.

Burke called for Springer's appearance before the council's Police and Fire Committee to determine whether authorities should be taking action to stop the brawls, a trademark of the

popular syndicated TV show.

Security on the show is provided by off-duty Chicago police officers. Burke says those officers are required by state statute to make arrests if they see violations of the law.

Burke threatened to subpoena Springer if he refused to testify. Springer, a former mayor of Cincinnati, agreed to appear June 4, his spokeswoman said Friday.

"Jerry was a member of a city council himself back in Cincinnati prior to becoming mayor," Linda Shafran, the spokeswoman, said. "He respects the function of the city council, and he's accepted their invitation to speak."

Alderman William Beavers, chairman of the council's police committee, said he is not surprised that it didn't come to a

subpoena. "He loves publicity, and this will just give him more of it," Beavers said.

He also believes the fighting on the show is bogus. "You never see any blood," Beavers said.

If that's the case, critics of the show say an admission by Springer that the violence is scripted could be valuable in itself.

"It would show him as a liar and a fraud," said the Rev. Michael Phleger, a Chicago minister who has led a yearlong campaign against Springer. "I think it would take the attraction off his show. I think he would lose audience."

Springer agreed to eliminate the fighting after numerous protests last year, but they returned when the show's ratings suffered.

Salt Lake Valley residents are angered over sewage suddenly falling from sky

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Maybe it's a bird, maybe it's a plane. But it is certainly sewage.

And it's no joke in the Salt Lake Valley, where gobs of thick, raw sewage have fallen from the sky a dozen times since April 9, soiling as many as seven houses at once.

Neighbors are pointing fingers at aircraft, but the Federal Aviation Administration says commercial jets aren't designed to jettison sewage. A biplane was spotted before one attack, but federal agents said the tip didn't pan out.

Sheriff's deputies are studying "splatter patterns" and firefighters are hosing down houses. Prosecutors have assigned an investigator to the case and authorities are issuing stern

warnings.

"It has never been funny," said Mayor Janice Auger of hard-hit suburban Taylorsville. "The experience is really gross. The smell is terrible. This is a health issue. There's a lot of diseases in fecal matter."

"It is feces, but they can't tell if it's animal or human," sheriff's Capt. Lee Smith said of the first lab tests on the foul emissions.

The initial strikes have spawned crude, ground-launched copycats, and edgy residents are reporting even minor bird droppings on their cars.

Tom Perkins says it would take a "600-pound pigeon with diarrhea" to produce the coverage that prompted his son to ask, "Dad, what's all the mud

doing on the house?"

It took 500 gallons of water and 30 gallons of bleach to clean the home that is 2,000 feet below a flight path where jets glide at 200 mph toward Salt Lake City International Airport.

The FAA has all but ruled out jets as a culprit, saying their toilet tanks can be flushed only from an exterior valve.

Any leak would contain a tell-tale bluish disinfectant, the FAA and aircraft manufacturers say, and none of the splatters had a trace of blue.

The FAA, no stranger to reports of weird phenomena, doesn't know what to make of the mess. "We never heard anything like this," agency spokesman Mitch Barker said, "nothing like what's been going on in Salt Lake."

After the tornadoes, agencies pleading: Send money, we don't need used clothes

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Stop sending used underwear. Please.

And no more tweezers. "We have enough for the nation," American Red Cross spokeswoman Elizabeth Quirk says.

And single shoes with no match? Thanks, but no thanks.

People sending donations for the Oklahoma tornado victims are creating what the Salvation Army warns could become a "disaster within a disaster" by emptying their closets instead of opening their wallets.

The relief agencies say they need money, not someone's cast-offs.

"When people have lost everything, they don't want everyone's scraps," Salvation Army spokeswoman Kelly Drawdy says. "Getting used underwear — that's a morale issue."

The twisters May 3 killed 44 people in Oklahoma and five in Kansas and destroyed thousands of homes.

About 30 truckloads of donations arrive daily at the Salvation Army warehouse here, where a space the size of two football fields is bursting with clothes, furniture, food, diapers, toys and cleaning supplies.

The unloading requires about 200 volunteers a day and the Salvation Army is struggling to find enough help.

Inside the bags of clothes, volunteers have found worn underwear and items in such poor condition no one would want them.

And even many of the new items are not essential.

"With cash, you can buy what is needed at the moment and

you can buy only what you need," says Bob Waldrop, Catholic Charities disaster coordinator. "We're not in the middle of a desert. We're in the middle of an urban area in a well-settled state. If it's not here, we'll go to Dallas to buy it."

The deluge of tweezers came after someone not connected to the Red Cross gave a news interview about the need for them, probably because of complaints about splinters, Ms. Quirk says.

Waldrop received a large Federal Express package this week earmarked for the relief effort with four used pillows inside. "I can't even imagine what it cost to ship," he says.

Donors would do better to hold garage sales and donate the profits, he says.

First two women get degrees from VMI Saturday

LEXINGTON, Va. (AP) — Virginia Military Institute handed diplomas to two women on Saturday, the first time in the school's 160-year history that females have graduated.

More than a dozen female cadets stood in the bleachers and shouted when Chih-Yuan Ho became the first woman to earn a VMI degree. Later in the ceremony, Melissa Kay Graham

also graduated to cheers.

"You work hard, you keep on going and going and it feels like nothing will change," Ms. Graham said after the commencement, adding that she once called her father and told him she wanted to leave VMI.

"I don't think I could have left," she said. "I'm more than glad I stayed."

Ms. Ho, 23, and Ms. Graham,

21, entered VMI in August 1997 as transfer students along with 28 other women who were freshmen. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 1996 that the state-run school's all-male admissions policy was unconstitutional.

Commencement speaker G. Gordon Liddy, the Watergate figure and talk show host, told the audience that women should not fight in wars.

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BIG SPRING Sunday, May 16, 1999

Spurs

MINNEAPOLIS — Robbinson came the San Antonio finished with Timberwolves the second round.

Robbinson had rebounds as the Spurs th against Minnesota fought 92-85.

The Spurs, the Western Conference series 3-1 by and 4 at Target.

Robbinson had rebounds Thursday. Avery Johnson just 9.7 points season, added 1 him a 19.5 score the series.

Minnesota trailed for four minutes Elliott sank two Robbinson dunked when the offic Tim Duncan for Smith tripped off the rebound.

Duncan added for an 88-81 lead. Terrell Brandon son-best 27 points Garnett added Wolves, who sh Wolves to San Ar

The game took late in the first Peeler put a de Mario Elie's right foul with 3:37 left, Robbinson a gled with 1:14 left Peeler and Will u flagrant fouls.

With 17 second fouled Garnett a by Tom Hammo in a double techn The officials d thing go in the se that didn't bow Wolves, who quic their starters w more fouls.

The Spurs of Wolves 32-16 from 76ers 101, Ma PHILADELPHIA Iverson exited to a tain call. Penny H over and chuckled Iverson scored 3 saved the 76ers af an 18-point, secon

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Class 223A... Class 224A... Class 225A...

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Class 247A... Class 248A... Class 249A...

Class 250A... Class 251A... Class 252A...

Class 253A... Class 254A... Class 255A...

Class 256A... Class 257A... Class 258A...

Class 259A... Class 260A... Class 261A...

Class 262A... Class 263A... Class 264A...

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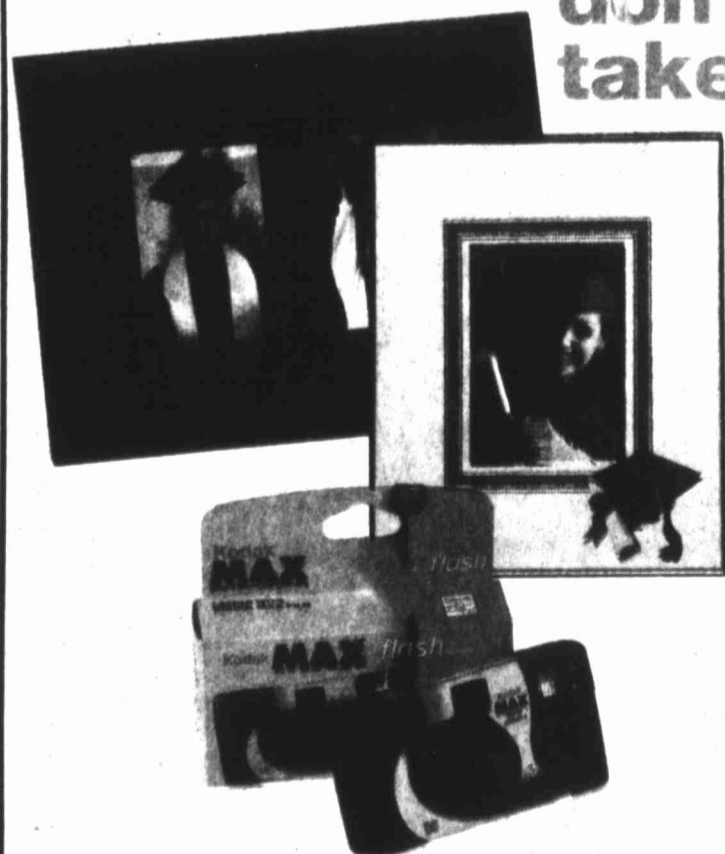


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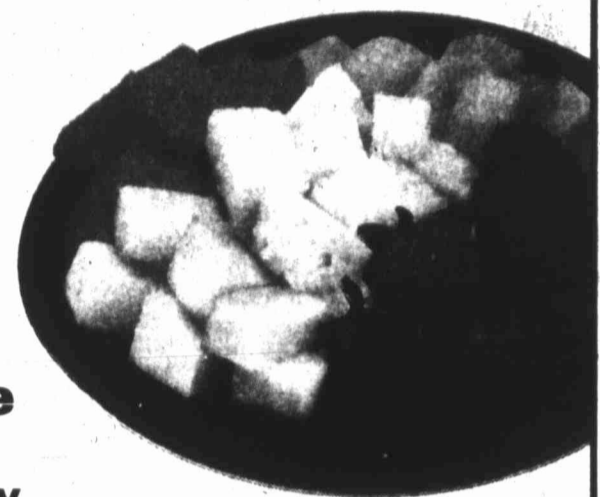
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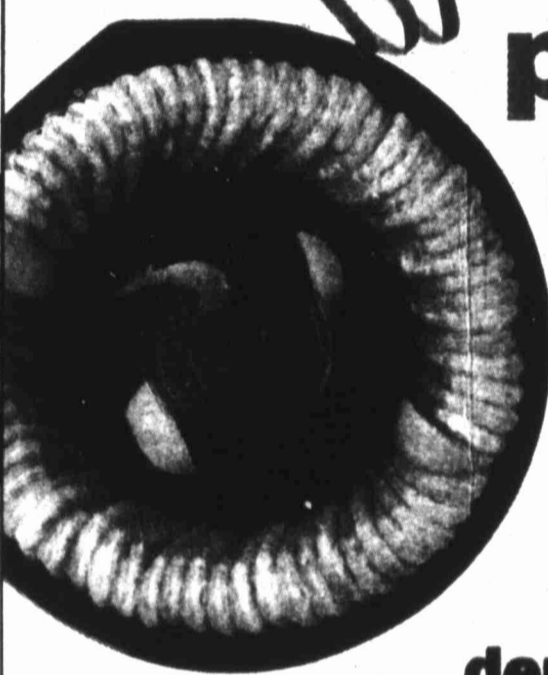
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\$24⁹⁵ Ea.

Large All American Meat & Cheese Party Tray

Serves 20-25

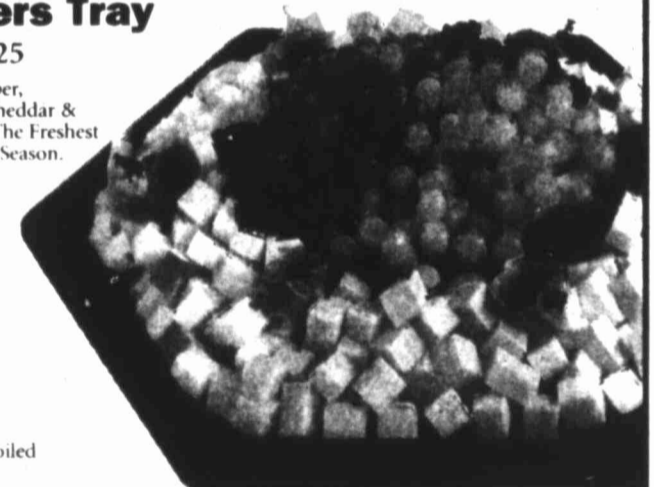
Cooked Ham, Deli White Turkey, Deli Smoked Turkey, Turkey Ham, Muenster Cheese, Yellow American Cheese & Potato Salad



Large Cheese Snackers Tray

Serves 20-25

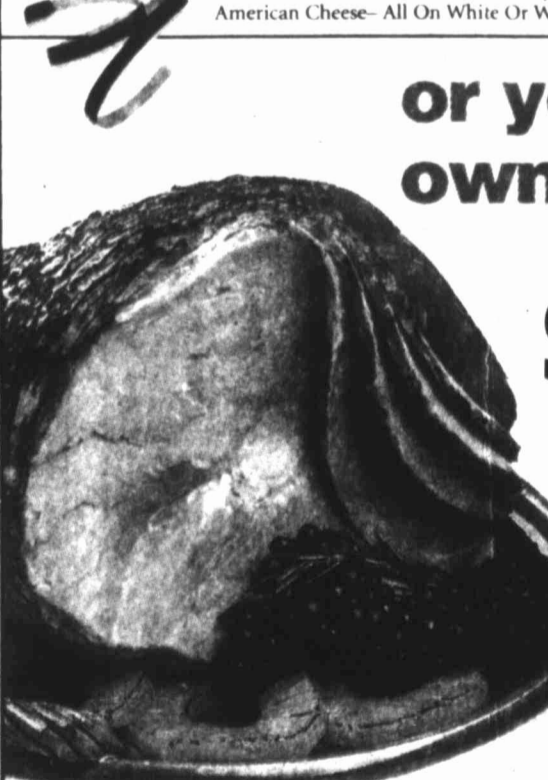
Colby, Hot Pepper, Swiss, Smoky Cheddar & Muenster Plus The Freshest Grapes Of The Season.



Large Party Finger Sandwich Tray

Serves 20-25

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QUICK TRIVIA

◆Clara Barton, the nurse who founded the Red Cross, was also the first woman clerk in the U.S. Patent Office.

◆The largest fish is the whale shark, weighing up to 15 short tons. That's twice as much as an African elephant.

Got an item?

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

GOOD Dogs

Trellis Lucas thinks most dogs are good dogs. Even yours could be — with a little help from obedience training.

"Your dog can be taught that if you are eating a sandwich, and the phone rings, you can get up and leave the room, and the dog doesn't touch that sandwich," said Lucas, who is teaching obedience classes through the Big Spring Kennel Club. "This is just general good manners."

But it all starts with "sit, stay," and "go to bed," "heel" and "good dog."

"Good dog is like your dog's everyday paycheck," Lucas told her students Thursday evening. "Petting is like a holiday or a vacation."

Lucas said dogs, being pack animals, need a leader. That leader should be its owner. And a family dog should be taught that every person in the family, even a small child, is "alpha" to him, or his boss.

June Moore of Midland, another obedience teacher, told puppy owners in last week's class that if they want their dog to behave, the shouldn't ask nicely.

"Don't ask your dog to do something," she said. "They should obey on the first command."

In many ways, she said, dogs (especially puppies) are like children. They are intelligent, need direction, and can have bad attitudes.

"I think a lot of it must be like having a child," said puppy owner Terry Gray, who was working with Colonel, her 3-month-old corgi. "They have a short attention span."

"With puppies, it's all treats and praise," said Lucas, who added that the best time to begin teaching obedience is 3-6 months. "Puppies learn the little stuff much easier."

But you can teach an old dog new tricks. Lucas had a friend who began teaching her dog obedience when it was 13.

And mixed breeds — commonly referred to as "mutts," can learn obedience just as well as those with a pedigree.

"They are some of the smartest dogs," Lucas said. "You should be as proud of your mixed-breed dog as the queen is of her corgis."

The ongoing obedience classes is six weeks long, and owners are given homework each week. They are expected to practice every day for at least 20-30 minutes.

"With a little more time, you've got a pretty well-behaved dog," she said. Lucas said dogs can be taught not to bark at everyone who comes to the door, not to jump on people and not to make a break for it every time the backyard gate is opened.

"Dogs love people," she said. "They want to please their owners."

But most of the time, teaching a dog obedience begins with a few lessons for the owner. Lucas said personality problems in a dog's owner can lead to trouble with the dog's behavior.

And having a dog is a relationship, much like one between humans.

When one man's dog refused to "stay" during class last week, Lucas discovered that the owner had been out of town for the last few days. The dog's refusal to "stay" while its owner walked a few feet away, she said, was due to a kind of separation anxiety.

"She's missing you, that's what it is," Lucas said. "You've been gone, and she's afraid you're going to leave her again."

She added that people who want good dogs have to be willing to learn a few things themselves.

"I train people, really," she said. "I enjoy training dogs, but the community, and the dogs I love, benefit more from me training people."

The Big Spring Kennel Club hopes to conduct dog and puppy obedience classes at least six times a year. If you are interested in attending, or need more information, call Lucas at 267-4194 or Treasa Wells at 264-6427.



Above, Treasa Wells with her "puppy," Mo, a 100-pound, 6-month-old Mastiff. At left, Terry Gray works with Colonel, a Welsh Corgi, on the "go to bed" command. Below, instructor Trellis Lucas demonstrates to owner Dee Speck how to maneuver the "heel" command with her Sharpei Buckus.



Story and photos by
Debbie L. Jensen



John Leubner, above, gets the correct standing position for his puppy, Dach, during puppy obedience training classes last week, sponsored by the Big Spring Kennel Club. Below, Kandis Brown and her Akita, Nikko, practice the "sit, stay" command on a leash during adult dog obedience classes.



Dog do's and don'ts

- Don't ask your dog to do something. Command!
- Don't use your dog's name when giving him a command. Just use the word, such as "Sit."
- Be sure your dog knows you and all other people in the household are "alpha" to him, or his boss.
- Practice obedience every day, or your dog will not understand and remember his "job."
- Don't give up on a dog that misbehaves. Try professional help first.
- Say "Good dog" as a reward for your pet.
- You can teach an old dog new tricks. Obedience training will make a better pet for the family.

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Why do we continue to damage our most precious commodity?

Have you ever given any serious thought to what Earth's most precious commodity might be? Probably not. It is another of those things we take for granted. It is also probably the most wasted of the resources.

Gold? No. Precious gems including diamonds? No. Money? No. Technology? No. The list could go on and on, with no for the answer. This commodity seems to be unique to our planet, at least in any measurable amount. Without it,

life as we know it would not exist. What is this special thing? WATER! H-2-O is the answer.

If all water were to suddenly be depleted from Earth, within days there would be no life — not even a tree or blade of grass. Awesome isn't it?

But suppose we narrow our thinking to just the U.S.A. since we know it better than much of the planet. Our sanitation system alone uses billions of gallons daily. It can be a powerful force besides a life-

giving agent. For instance, the fearsome power of floods or the power produced electrically with water.

We humans contaminate and waste it without a thought of its importance to us. American



MYRTLE GRIFFITH

people are wasteful by nature. We live in a land of plenty, so we go happily on with our individual lives in a more or less carefree way.

Recently groups of people gathered here in Big Spring to pray for rain. We are drought conscious in West Texas and realize how much we depend on rain for individual well-being.

The human body has a large percentage of its weight in the form of water. We are normally supposed to drink at least eight

eight-ounce glasses of water daily for maximum health.

It torments my thoughts when on various trips I see beautiful rivers, lakes, even the ocean being contaminated by the carelessness of humans. And humans are the most intelligent creatures on earth.

There was a time when you could safely drink from most any stream or spring. That sadly is no longer true. Will the American people wake up in time? I hope so. The trend seems to be beginning in the

right direction to clean up our waterways.

I do not know the answers. Perhaps our atmosphere is a close relative to water in importance. It, too, has much contamination. Without oxygen, life would cease also. Thinking people who are also willing to act may, in time, solve many of the contamination problems. Will YOU be one of them?

Myrtle Griffith writes a monthly column for the Big Spring Herald.

WEDDINGS

Seale-Bishop

Kayla Seale and Ty Bishop were united in marriage on March 6, 1999, in Bangs with Herman Merritt, of the First United Methodist Church, officiating.

She is the daughter of Hubert Seale of Littleton, Colo., and Pam and Larry Beasley of Bangs.

He is the son of Virginia and Lowell Bishop of Bangs.

Sharon Rambo was the organist.

Given in marriage by her father, the bride wore an Italian matte satin A-line gown with a Venetian lace overlay. She carried a bouquet of white roses and daisies.

Matron of honor was Julie Dumas of Eules.

Bridesmaids were Tanya Walters, Taras Kellam, both stepsisters of the bride, Brec Aston and Karen Cothran.

Rylie Jacobs, niece of the groom, was the flower girl, and Kane Kellam, nephew of the bride, was the ringbearer.

Eric Bishop, brother of the groom, served as best man.

Serving as groomsmen were Keith Fitzgerald, Daniel Weedon, Joey Estrada and Jason Cothran.

Ushers were Alan Seale, brother of the bride, Rodney Fuqua, Kyle Cress and Efrain Moreno.

Following the ceremony, a reception was held in the fellowship hall.



MR. AND MRS. TY BISHOP

The bride is a 1993 graduate of Bangs High School and a 1998 graduate of Hardin-Simmons University. She is currently attending graduate school at Texas Woman's University and is employed by the Big Spring ISD as a speech therapist.

The groom is a 1993 graduate of Bangs High School and a 1998 graduate of Hardin-Simmons University. He is currently student teaching in the Big Spring ISD school system.

Following a wedding trip to Las Vegas, Nev., the couple will make their home in Big Spring.

GETTING ENGAGED



Alicia Rowland and Allen Johnson, both of Midland, will exchange wedding vows on June 26, 1999, in Midland with Pete Campbell of Cottonflat Baptist Church officiating.

She is the daughter of Lupe and Rufus Rowland of Big Spring and Randy and Kathie Wilson of Fort Worth. She is the granddaughter of Marie and Grady Brown of Big Spring.

He is the son of John and Carol Johnson of Midland.



Summer Dawn Fowler of Austin, and Clinton Samuel Best of Jacksboro, will unite in marriage on June 19, 1999, at the Brentwood Church of Christ in Austin.

She is the daughter of Jerry and Pam Fowler of Austin.

He is the son of Tommy and Phyllis Best of Jacksboro, and the grandson of Loma Jean Wynn and the late Phillip Wym of Coahoma.



Tamara G. Dove, Midland, and Chad S. Fouts, Big Spring, will be united in marriage on June 12, 1999, at the First United Methodist Church in Midland, with Marlon McWilliams, minister of the Church of Christ in Mayhill, N.M., officiating.

She is the daughter of Donnie M. Dove and Linda F. Dove of Midland.

He is the son of Mrs. Janice L. Fouts and the late David E. Fouts of Jal, N.M.

'The Best of Friends' is to be treasured

"The Best of Friends." Joanna Trollope. Berkley Books, New York, New York, April, 1999. 311 pages. \$6.99.

Hilary and Lawrence, Gina and Fergus — two married couples whose complicated and complex friendships set the stage for this compelling story of relationships and the ever-expanding consequences of change.

The friendships had begun before either couple was joined in marriage, and continued for years. Gina, Fergus and their daughter were blessed with a comfortable lifestyle, while Hilary and Lawrence worked hard running a hotel as they raised their three boys.

Change came swiftly to everyone when Fergus suddenly decided he no longer wanted to be married, leaving Gina, bereft and confused, to make a life for herself and their child.

Soon after, Lawrence determined his long-time affection for Gina was reason enough to end his own marriage and plan to make a new life with her.

The reverberations affected everyone intensely: the four adults were overwhelmed with uncertainty and strong emotions, the children felt betrayed, and everyone seemed to carry a massive burden of guilt.

While traveling these new and heavy-laden paths of life, each individual finds an inner strength with which to carry on, and resolves to make something good out of what appears to be a human wreckage.

Joanna Trollope has done a masterful job of describing the emotions experienced in situa-

tions in which one feels little control. As she portrays the passion of each individual's unique situation, she also builds a subtle thread of suspense as the various lives intertwine and impact on each other.

Change continues as the theme through "The Best of Friends," and Trollope's powerful writing causes the reader to examine how these situations would cause each of us to act and react.

In doing, so, Trollope reminds us the value of true friendship, and in many cases, how fragile are the ties that maintain this bond.

This is one of those special books whose thoughts and ideas haunt you long after you have finished the last page. If nothing else, it will make you treasure your special friendships that give life its sparkle and meaning.

RATING: (****) four out of four=A real treasure!



PAT WILLIAMS

John Williams looks backward in composing music for new Star Wars

UNIVERSAL CITY, Calif. (AP) — From a modest bungalow in a movie studio compound have emerged some of the most stirring sounds in motion pictures: the shark attack of "Jaws," the victory march of "Star Wars," the chase music of "Raiders of the Lost Ark," the bicycling-over-the-moon melody of "E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial."

And now — "Star Wars: Episode I — The Phantom Menace."

This is the workshop of Hollywood thememeister John Williams, tucked away in the Universal Studios compound of the Amblin Entertainment and DreamWorks headquarters of Steven Spielberg, for whom Williams has scored 16 movies.

Williams has amassed an astonishing record: 37 Academy Award nominations and five Oscars; 12 Grammys; scores for seven of the 10 top moneymaking movies; album sales in the millions.

Some conductors have reputations for being brusque if not bombastic. Not Williams. With round face, friendly eyes and neat goatee, he is a courtly man who welcomed a reporter and photographer into his office, three times thanking them for coming.

The room is about the size of a tract-house living room, the major elements being a grand piano and, next to it, an architect's drawing board on which Williams writes his scores.

He was asked about "The Phantom Menace," which takes place years before the earlier "Star Wars" trilogy.

"I didn't know the word 'prequel,'" Williams admitted. "It may be a word George (Lucas) invented."

"It was interesting to me, because it triggered a few unique things of construction, in the following way: There is in this film 120 minutes of music — two hours of music!"

"But the 90 percent that is new comes to something like this: I was able to take some of the old themes and 'de-compose' them — take them apart and write them, in a sense, backward."

IN THE MILITARY

Army Pvt. Carrie D. Robinson has graduated from basic military training at Fort Leonard Wood, Waynesville, Mo.

Robinson is the daughter of Amy Robinson of Big Spring.

The private is a 1998 graduate of Forsan High School.

The 1st Calvary Division Association will be conducting its 52nd Annual Reunion in Killeen, Aug. 4-8.

The reunion headquarters will be located in the Plaza Hotel, Killeen.

For more information or to register for attendance, 1st Cav. Div. veterans may contact the Association headquarters at 302 N. Main; Copperas Cove; 76522-1799 or call (254)547-6537 or by e-mail: <firstcav@vvm.com>

Marine Pfc. Billy B. Sumpter, son of Cecil Sumpter of Big Spring, recently completed basic training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, Calif., and was promoted to his present rank.

He is a 1992 graduate of Big Spring High School.

Air Force Airman 1st Class

Estella L. Virella has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio.

Virella is the daughter of Maria V. Perez of Coahoma.

She is a 1998 graduate of Coahoma High School.

Air Force Airman Tanya N. Tucker has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio.

Tucker is the daughter of Eileen M. Kinney and the stepdaughter of Clifford W. Kinney, both of Big Spring.

She is a 1997 graduate of Kenedy High School.



VIRELLA



TUCKER

All photos used in the life! section must be picked up within 30 days or they will be discarded!

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Malone & Hogan Clinic is pleased to announce Jose E. Chavez, M.D., as our newest physician.

Dr. Chavez received his Doctor of Medicine from the University of New Mexico and completed his residency in pediatrics at St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center in Phoenix. He is bilingual and ready to treat your children, so call today for an appointment at 267-6361.

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B. Ray Owen, M.D.
Board Certified, Pediatrics

Kim Shafer, R.N., F.N.P.
Board Certified, Family Nurse Practitioner

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ON THE MENU

SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER
MONDAY - Chicken, okra/tomatoes, beans, salad, milk/rolls, pudding.
TUESDAY - Meat loaf, potatoes, blackeyed peas, salad, milk/rolls, fruit.
WEDNESDAY - Chopped steak, corn, broccoli, pea salad, milk/roll, cake.
THURSDAY - Pork chops, noodles, zucchini, gelatin salad, milk/rolls, fruit.
FRIDAY - Catfish w/tartar sauce, potatoes, carrots, vegetable salad, milk/roll, apple crisp.

ELBOW SCHOOL
MONDAY - Chicken fajitas, salad, refried beans, fruit, milk.
TUESDAY - Sloppy joes, french fries, salad, pickle, fruit, milk.
WEDNESDAY - Steak, scalloped potatoes, black-eyed peas, fruit, milk.
THURSDAY - Tamales, pinto beans, salad, corn, fruit, milk.
FRIDAY - Cheese sandwich, chips, veggies, fruit, milk.

BIG SPRING SCHOOLS
MONDAY - Rib sandwich (managers choice), potato rounds, pickle, spears, mixed fruit, milk.
TUESDAY - Chicken pattie (managers choice), mashed potatoes, english peas, pear halves, hot roll, milk.
WEDNESDAY - Taco (managers choice), salad, spanish rice, refried beans w/cheese, grapes, milk.
THURSDAY - Spaghetti w/meat sauce (no 2nd choice), glazed carrots, green beans, rosy applesauce, hot roll, milk.
FRIDAY - Deli sandwich (no 2nd choice), chips, pickles, fresh fruit, ice cream bar, milk.

FORNS SCHOOLS
MONDAY - Steak fingers and gravy, whipped potatoes, corn, hot rolls, fruit, milk.
TUESDAY - Pizza, black-eyed peas, salad, cookies and creme, milk.
WEDNESDAY - Hamburgers, french fries, salad, pickles and

onions, cookies and fruit, milk.
THURSDAY - Bar-B-Que on a bun, salad, beans, chips, brownies and applesauce, milk.
FRIDAY - Fajitas, spanish rice, cheese and sour cream, salad, ice cream, milk.

SANDS SCHOOLS
MONDAY - Corn dogs or burritos, ranch style beans, scalloped potatoes, cake, milk.
TUESDAY - MANAGERS CHOICE
WEDNESDAY - MANAGERS CHOICE
THURSDAY - MANAGERS CHOICE
FRIDAY - MANAGERS CHOICE

STANTON SCHOOLS
MONDAY - Cheeseburger or managers choice, french fries/catsup, sandwich salad, fruit cup, cookie, milk, fruit drink.
TUESDAY - Country steak or managers choice, mashed potatoes/gravy, blackeye peas, fruit gelatin, hot roll, milk, fruit drink.
WEDNESDAY - Beef enchiladas or managers choice, pinto beans, lettuce/tomato salad, fruit cup, cornbread, milk, fruit drink.
THURSDAY - Pizza or managers choice, seasoned corn, tossed salad, fruit cup, chocolate cake, milk, fruit drink.
FRIDAY - Choice of sandwiches, french fries/catsup, sandwich salad, fruit cup, peanut butter bar, milk, fruit drink.

COAHOMA SCHOOLS
MONDAY - Chicken strips, gravy, potatoes, carrots, rolls, milk.
TUESDAY - BBQ beef on bun (corn dogs), fries, jello/w fruit, milk.
WEDNESDAY - Chili cheese fries, salad, crackers, fruit, milk.
THURSDAY - Pizza, tater tots, salad, milk. No salad or baked potatoes.
FRIDAY - HOLIDAY

HUMANE SOCIETY



Pictured: "Buckie" Australian Shepherd mix, male, neutered, 2 years old.
Special Note: All dogs and cats presently available for adoption at the shelter have received their vaccinations, including rabies.

"Billy Gun" Boxer mix male, neutered, 2 years old.
"Brook" Rottweiler/shepherd mix female, spayed, 3 years old.
"Red" Pitt mix male, neutered, 1 year old.
"Jade" Black Chow mix female, spayed, 3-4 years old.
"Rosco" Rott mix, black/brown male, neutered, 1 year old.
"Jack" Lab mix, black male, neutered, 2-3 years old.
"Blue Eyes" Chattahoula mix female, spayed, 2-3 years old.
"Bopeep" Border Collie mix, flack spayed female, 1 1/2 years old.
"Sandy" Golden Lab mix, spayed female, 1 1/2 years old.
These, plus many more dogs and cats are awaiting adoption. Adoption fees for dogs are just \$60 and cats are \$50. This includes spaying or neutering, vaccinations, wormings and rabies shots. Also covers feline leukemia tests for cats. All pets come with a two-week trial period. Call the shelter at 267-7832 for more information.

STORK CLUB

Zachary Keto, boy, May 5, 1999, six pounds 15 ounces; parents are Barbara and Ron Keto of Spokane, Wash.
Grandparents are Linda Holmes, Big Spring, and the late Jim Holmes.

Temple Reagan Hamlin, May 4, 1999, 3:28 a.m., seven pounds 10 ounces and 19 1/2 inches long; parents are Kevin and Michelle Hamlin.
Grandparents are Handley and Temple Ann Driver of Midland, Joyce Hamlin and L.E. and B.J. Hamlin, all of Big Spring.

ODDS-N-ENDS

MIAMI, Fla (AP) — Someone has been dialing up Cuba at Miami taxpayers' expense, accumulating nearly \$2,000 in telephone charges since 1996.

A review of city phone records by The Miami Herald shows calls to the island, made from Dec. 3, 1996 to March 30, 1999, cost the city at least \$1,963.87.

Records show the calls were made from Miami City Hall dur-

ing day and evening hours. Officials couldn't determine from which office the calls were made.

The most expensive Cuban call was a 44-minute conversation on Valentine's Day 1998 totaling \$132.27.

"There are no justifiable reasons why money should be spent on this," Mayor Joe Carollo said. "We have no business relationship with Cuba."

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The State National Bank of Big Spring would like our customers to know that for the last several years we have been making every effort to ensure that all of our affected computer systems will operate properly when the century date change occurs. We do not anticipate any interruption in continuing to provide the quality service that our customers have come to enjoy.

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International Science Fair displays science's future

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — The work and 25-hour bus ride it took for 17-year-old Taylor Griswald to get to Philadelphia to take part in one of the world's most prestigious science fairs for high-schoolers was hard enough.

So Griswald's father, Mike, says he'll be rewarded enough even if Griswald's robotic project doesn't come out ahead of some of the 1,100 other students in the annual Intel International Science and Engineering Fair in Philadelphia.

Taylor took a plane home in time for his prom at Trinity Presbyterian School in Montgomery, Ala.

"His prom is Saturday night," Mike Griswald said Thursday. "He worked hard, and we figured it was worth it for him to make it there on time."

The rest of the makeshift corridors that divided up the floor of the Pennsylvania Convention Center were lined with aspiring scientists like Taylor, preaching their concepts to onlookers trying hard to understand. Thursday was the only full day

of the week-long fair that was open to the public.

Once you get to this level, the stakes are higher, said fair spokeswoman Ann Simonetti. Over \$2 million in awards and scholarships will be presented Friday to finalists in 15 categories. What's more, it gives the future Albert Einsteins and Stephen Hawkings of the world a chance to share their knowledge, she said.

"(The kids) eat this stuff up," Ms. Simonetti said as a group of students rushed by and marveled.

As friends, competitors and reporters milled about her, 14-year-old Natalia Toro calmly recited her science project presentation with a steely reserve that would make even the most seasoned television anchor proud.

In between brief grins, words like "neutrinooscillation" and "Super-Kiamokande" flowed easily out of her mouth. Natalia, a senior at Fairview High School in Boulder, Colo., is used to the spotlight — she's already a veteran of three competitions.

NEWCOMERS

New residents welcomed recently by Joy Portinberry and the Newcomer Greeting Service include:

David and Linda Hudgins, Lubbock. He is retired.
Brant Murphy, Lamesa. He is employed by the Federal Correctional Institution.

Kevin and Dawn Joyce and daughters Kalee and Taylor, Leavenworth, Kan. He is employed by the Federal Correctional Institution.

Margarito and Mary Hernandez, daughter Lola and sons Daniel, Margarito Jr. and Raymond, San Antonio. He does farm work.

Edward and Melissa Antrum and daughter Asia, Sanford, Fla. He works for Montary Massery in Post.

Jody Daniels, Azle. she is an occupational therapist at Comanche Trail Nursing Center.

Correy and Cindy Mitchell, Plainview. He works for Cornell Corrections, and she is employed by the VA Medical Center.

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Come join Dr. Mike Stephens and his staff celebrating One Year Anniversary of Big Spring Practice. Dr. Stephens will host an **OPEN HOUSE** Tuesday, May 18th 2 pm-4 pm 1605 West 11th Place. The community is invited to come and celebrate with Dr. Stephens and his staff. **Come enjoy free food and refreshments!**

MAY 16 1999

WHO'S WHO

Kamie Schwartz has been inducted into West Texas A&M University's chapter of the Gamma Beta Phi National honor society and service organization. She has also been named as secretary for Chi Omega Sorority and will serve on the Executive Board. Kamie is a 1998 graduate of Garden City High School and is currently a sophomore at WTAMU.



MIDDLETON

She is the daughter of Floyd and Martha Schwartz of St. Lawrence and the granddaughter of Emma Dope of Big Spring and Joe and Rose Schwartz of Garden City.

Lauren Middleton, a 1998 graduate of Big Spring High School and a freshman at Western Texas Junior College, was recently inducted into the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. Lauren was awarded an academic scholarship to attend Western Texas and in April received the Outstanding Female Academic Rodeo Award. She will be attending Texas Tech University in the fall of 1999. She is the daughter of John and Cindy Middleton and the granddaughter of Harry and Janet Middleton.

Malissa McKay Arnold, daughter of G. Arthur and Ruth Ann McKay, will graduate with honors on May 19, from Rutgers State University in New Jersey, with a Masters Degree in Public Policy and Administration. She was recently inducted into Pi Alpha Alpha, the International Honor Society for Public Policy and Administration.

Arnold served as graduate student body president and Public Administration Student Association president. She will work for the Social Security Administration in the New York Regional Office, New York City, under the Presidential Management Internship program as a policy analyst for the Disability Division. Arnold is a 1993 graduate of Forsan High School.

Recently Kristen LeAnne Wells, 23, formerly of Big Spring, won the title of Mrs. Austin/America. She will represent this title at the 1999 Mrs. Texas America Pageant competition on June 4-6, in Houston at the Greenspoint Marriott Hotel. This is a preliminary to the Mrs. America Pageant which will be held in Las Vegas.



WELLS

Kristen will hold the title of Mrs. Austin/America for one year. She will be active throughout Austin and surrounding areas as well as around the state of Texas. She will have the opportunity to speak to many organizations, schools, libraries as well as participate in parades and various festivals.

She is the daughter of Johnnie and Dee Sevey of Big Spring and is married to Jeremy Joe Wells and is employed by Norwest Bank in Lubbock.

Martha Anderson Peugh, of Big Spring, reached the semifinals in a National Poetry Contest, sponsored by The Poetry Guild, and her poem was selected to be published. The Poetry Guild chooses poems for publication that exhibit considerable merit and offers a grand prize of \$1,000 per poetry contest. Her poem "This Day Is Mine" has been published in The Poetry Guild's latest anthology "Searching For Answers."

The University of Texas at the Permian Basin held its commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 8. Among those graduating was Alicia Buzbee of Big Spring.

Buzbee graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree with a major in Psychology. Because she attained a GPA of 3.72, she graduated with Cum Laude and Psi Chi honors.

Aside from achieving Cum Laude and Psi Chi honors, she was listed on the Dean's List, President's List and has been named an All-American Collegiate Scholar.

Buzbee plans to continue her education at UTPB in hopes of receiving her Master of Arts Degree in Psychology. Her plans include working in Big Spring to provide counseling services to children and adolescents.

Buzbee is the daughter of Charles and Marian Buzbee of Big Spring, and the granddaughter of Hubert and Gordie Gilbert and Sony and Sis Buzbee, all of Big Spring.

Bryson and Alexis Willis of Big Spring, competed in a pageant recently in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. Bryson won best interview and overall Universal Boy. Alexis won best sports-wear and overall Baby Petite.

Both Bryson and Alexis won plaques, medals, trophies and both were crowned. They will be competing in the State Competition in the Houston area at the end of June.

Their parents are Brad and Sherri Willis of Big Spring.



BUZBEE



BRYSON



ALEXIS

From Posada to Beltran, a look at the history of Mexican print making

SAN ANTONIO (AP)— From the first printing press in the New World in 1539 to one of the first lithographs made anywhere, Mexico has the longest history of printmaking of any country in the Americas.

In the tradition of the father of Mexican printmaking, Jose Guadalupe Posada, prints were used to educate and politicize a largely illiterate rural population during the Mexican Revolution.

In the 1880s, Posada worked for the "penny presses" of Mexico City creating broadsheets, which featured a printed text accompanied by an illustration or two. "Before tabloids and press photography, broadsheets provided news of sensational murders, political elections, natural disasters and miracles as well as Day of the Dead skeletal caricatures.

The editions were large; the prices low — from one to five centavos, which gave them the name "penny sheets." The romantic realism of the broadsheet printmakers inspired muralism, the most internationally famous Mexican art movement.

As pervasive as his influence is today, Posada died in poverty in 1913. He would be a forgotten figure if not for Jean Charlot, a French artist who recognized the honest and direct artistry of Posada's mass-produced prints. Charlot curated exhibits in the 1920s that introduced Posada to 20th-century Mexican artists.

Since then, Posada has become almost mythical: the first modern Mexican artist, the touchstone for the "Mexican-ness" of Mexican art. Though his prints are often crude, Posada's boldly expressive images illuminated the universality of human emotions and deeds. His wit is often compared to the legendary French printmaker, Honore Daumier, and his political conscience to the Spanish artist Francisco Goya, especially his "Los Caprichos" and "The Disaster of War" etchings.

On view through June 6 at the McNay Art Museum, "Imágenes Mexicanas: Rivera, Siqueiros and Their Contemporaries" showcases one of the best Mexican print collections in the country. Among founder Marion Koogler McNay's first major purchases was a Diego Rivera print, "Delfina Flores." The McNay now owns more than 200 prints by Mexican artists, but this exhibit, curated by Lyle Williams, is the first to take an in-depth look at one of San Antonio's overlooked art

treasures.

The tradition of Mexican printmaking is largely the legacy of a pair of Italian travelers. Giovanni Paolo established the first printing press in Mexico City, while Claudio Linati introduced the technique of lithography in 1826. Bold and graphic, lithography is one of Mexico's most significant art forms.

The European influence was pervasive throughout most of the 19th century. European or European-trained artists created detailed but fanciful images of Mexico, exotic landscapes or romantic genre scenes, such as Casimiro Castro's "Mexican Costumes," that are fascinating but fail to capture the reality of Mexico.

That's why Posada is such an important figure. What his work lacks in academic technique, it more than makes up for in artistic honesty and integrity. Posada looked at Mexican life with a slightly jaundiced eye, though a lens saturated with black humor.

"In an epoch dominated by academism and a preoccupation with form, Posada's work was genially bad," critic Fernando Benitez notes in his essay, "The Demons of Jose Guadalupe Posada."

"His was a bedeviled world, which the Porfirian government attempted to conjure, dressing it up in trousers; the world of drunks, of dagger stabbings, of those shot by firing squads, of miracles, of cacique victims, of money-lenders, landlords, those hooked into military service — in short, the world of the earth's condemned."

Friendly people drew rabbi to Houston two decades ago

HOUSTON (AP) — Looking back, Rabbi Samuel Karff chuckles at the misgivings he once had at the idea of moving from Chicago to Houston.

"There were some," the tall, scholarly looking rabbi admitted. His face turned thoughtful in the soft light of his book-lined home study. "The culture shock at moving from the Midwest to the Southwest.

"What led me to say yes was that I loved the people I met in Houston. I felt that there was an openness to change, an openness to growth, a responsiveness to vision — in this city and in the congregation."

Born in Philadelphia, Karff served congregations in Connecticut, Michigan and Illinois before moving to Houston in 1975.

After 24 years as senior rabbi at Houston's oldest Jewish congregation, Congregation Beth Israel in southwest Houston, the 67-year-old Karff is retiring this month. He steered his Reform synagogue during a critical developmental period for Houston Jews and for the city as a whole. He remembers the years of Houston's oil boom, counseling people who lost everything in the oil bust, and watching the city rebuild with a more diverse economy.

In his years of service, he earned a reputation for integrity and leadership. Both colleagues and congregation members hold him in high regard.

Asked if the influential cleric had faults, his old friend Barry Margolis responded, "Surely he must have some shortcomings — I just can't think of any."

Among Karff's strengths are his tact, patience and open mind, Margolis said.

"Rabbi Karff has always lis-

tened to everyone's thoughts and validated them," said Margolis, a Houston CPA and former congregation president of Beth Israel. "He then has been able to build consensus."

Karff's years at Beth Israel have been a time of growth, challenge and change for the synagogue, the city and Jewish-Christian dialogue. Similar themes ran through his professional life in the same period.

When he came to Houston, Karff was a rising star in national Jewish circles, but a relative unknown here. At 44, he made a momentous career move, leaving familiar turf for Houston to take the place of one of the city's most beloved and influential rabbis.

The young rabbi succeeded Rabbi Hyman Judah Schachtel, a powerful presence in Houston religious circles.

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We're Up For The Countdown.

As you've probably heard, the Year 2000 (Y2K) presents a unique problem where computers are involved. The "problem" is a programming code that might cause some computers to interpret the year 2000 as the year 1900. Meaning 100 years of history could disappear and all of our lives would be greatly affected. Computers everywhere could cancel insurance policies, shut off electricity, stop cars from running, etc. Right? This is not likely to happen, since government agencies and businesses have been working diligently to make sure that life goes on as usual when 2000 arrives. H-E-B is no exception.

What We're Doing

Whatever problems might arise, the H-E-B Y2K Team is addressing them now, so that we'll be running smoothly when 1999 runs out. Our Y2K Team is diligently analyzing, testing and updating programs and making sure our suppliers will be "Y2K ready," as well.

If The Bug Bites

We're working hard to find and prevent any possible H-E-B system glitches before January 2000. But, if the Y2K bug bites, we're prepared for that, too. No matter what the millennium brings, you can count on H-E-B to be there, with the same low prices and great service you and your family have come to trust.

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