

WEDNESDAY
July 21, 1999



**Positively ...
Big Spring**

TCA schedules reception for 10 a.m. Thursday

A reception will be held from 10 a.m. to noon Thursday at TCA Cable, 2006 S. Birdwell, for new general manager Barry Threadgill and former general manager Archie Kountz.

The public is invited.

Salvation Army now collecting school supplies

The Salvation Army is collecting school supplies for its fourth annual Back to School Supply Drive through the month of July.

All basic school supplies for students in grades kindergarten through eighth will be accepted to go into the kits the Salvation Army will hand out before school begins Aug. 9.

During the 1998-99 drive, 358 students received their supplies from the corps, and demand is expected to exceed that number this year.

Eligibility for the program is based on the income and expense budgets for the family.

Those supplies requested this year are: No. 2 pencils, Fiskar scissors, eight, 16 and 24-count crayons, 12-ounce bottles of glue, 200-count, wide-rules notebook paper and two-inch notebooks.

Also school boxes, zipper bags, blue and black ink pens, pocket folders with brads and erasers are needed.

Map colors, markers, manila paper, dividers, construction paper and boxed tissues are also requested.

Drop the supplies off at the Salvation Army, 811 West Fifth, or call 267-8239.

WHAT'S UP...

TODAY

□ Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie, 7 p.m., Eagles Lodge, 704 W. Third.

THURSDAY

□ Gideons International Big Spring Camp No. 4206, 7 a.m., Hermans.

WEATHER

Tonight:



PARTLY CLOUDY

TONIGHT 69°-72° THURSDAY 90°-92°

INSIDE TODAY...

- Abby 3B
- Classified 2-3B
- Comics 4B
- General 3A
- Horoscope 6A
- Life 5-6A
- Obituaries 2A
- Opinion 4A
- Sports 1B

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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.

Need for O-negative blood reaches critical stage; drives scheduled

By **BILL McCLELLAN**
News Editor

United Blood Services — in critical need of type O-negative blood — will hold three drives in Big Spring during the next week.

"Presently, we do not have enough O-negative blood to supply our hospitals," said Ann Phillips, United Blood Services (UBS) spokesman. "The shortage is due to fewer O-negative donations recently. It's not because we had one patient who needed a lot."

The first drive will be held Saturday from 1 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. at Big Spring Mall. To make reservations to donate, call 267-3853.

Reservations are not necessary in order to donate blood, but do speed the process.

"We encourage appointments just because makes it easier for every one involved," said Phillips. "That way, we know how many to schedule for and the donor knows he or she will get in and get out quickly. We take walk-ins, of course, but if you walk in you may have to wait before we can work you in.

That's why it is better to make an appointment."

Scenic Mountain Medical Center will host a blood drive on Wednesday, July 28, from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Reservations can be made by calling 268-4960.

On Thursday, July 29, a blood drive will be held at the Veterans Administration Medical Center. To make reservations for that drive, planned from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m., call 264-4824.

Donors must be between age 17 and 79 and weigh at least 110 pounds. Some sort of identification, such as a driver's license,

is also required.

Phillips stressed that everyone is encouraged to donate, no matter what their blood type. However, there is a special need at this time for O-negative blood.

"We are not to an emergency state, but it is critical," said Phillips. "The hospitals still have a few units, but we are running very low. We don't want to get to an emergency state."

O-negative is not a common blood type. Only 6 percent of

See **DRIVES**, Page 2A

BLOOD DRIVES

SATURDAY, JULY 24
Big Spring Mall, 1-5:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 28
Scenic Mountain Medical Center, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

THURSDAY, JULY 29
Veterans Administration Medical Center, 8 a.m.- 2 p.m.



A historic artifact of West Texas history has been restored by The Heritage Museum of Big Spring. Putting the last coat of paint on the old Eclipse windmill Tuesday are, left to right, Valentine Lobajon, Boosie Weaver and Victor Lobajon. The Eclipse windmills were made around the turn of the century and made it possible to ranch in arid climates. The end of the wooden windmills came about 1920 when they were replaced by metal windmills.

HERALD photo/Rick McLaughlin

Tax cut

Big Spring ISD board considering 1-cent tax reduction for 1999-2000

By **MARSHA STURDIVANT**
Staff Writer

Taxpayers in Big Spring may see a 1-cent tax reduction, following a consensus of the Big Spring Independent School Trustees Tuesday at the conclusion of their budget workshop.

"Last year's tax rate was \$1.5763, and we are looking at a tax rate this year of \$1.5663, a proposed 1-cent tax cut," said Larry McLellan, president of BSISD school board.

A budget hearing will be set in August, and a tax rate hearing in September. The proposed budget for the 1999-2000 school year is \$24,789,566, which will result in a \$512,198 budget deficit, he said.

"And that is the worst-case scenario. We are showing that we are good stewards for the taxpayer dollar. The fact is that we have a \$61 million loss in evaluation, yet we are still able to give the 1-cent tax break, primarily due to more help from the state this year," he said.

He said the state included a taxpayer relief on the I&S (Interest and Sinking) balance, which was one of the most anticipated actions by the recent Legislature.

"They did come through for us," McLellan said.

Also projected is a fund bal-

ance of \$4,491,767 for the district by August 2000, he said.

"We are saving for a rainy day, as good stewards," he said.

During the last night of the budget session, trustees pared the budget by more than \$600,000. Placed back into the expenses for the year was \$50,000 for the track at Blankenship Field, and \$6,000 for a small vehicle capable of hauling dirt, called a "Gator."

"Ron Logback said he could get the work done with just one of these, instead of the two he had requested. These 'Gators' are used to haul dirt onto the softball and football fields. Also, many of the other items, such as a covered walkway at Golliad Elementary and floor repairs at the high school, he said he will attempt to do in-house, as time and workload permits," McLellan said.

This new budget also includes the \$3,000 raise for all teachers that was required during the last legislative session. Across the board, all teachers received a \$3,000 raise plus the annual step increase, he said.

"I think the teachers will be appreciative of this, as this is a good raise. And I believe they deserve it for the job they do. If we want to get qualified, quality people and keep them, then we have to pay them," McLellan said.

And the concern about desks for the high school continued during the workshop. Trustees visited Runnels, which is where several hundred desks and chairs are stored, to see if there

See **BSISD**, Page 2A

Court denies appeal in lawsuit brought against Scenic Mountain Medical Center

Rick McLaughlin
Staff Writer

An appeal in a lawsuit brought against Scenic Mountain Medical Center in 118th District Court was denied July 8 by the 11th District Court of Appeals, which affirmed the lower court's decision in favor of the medical center.

The trial court had earlier found in favor of the Medical Center in a medical malpractice lawsuit brought against the medical center and others by Williard Denton Jr. and others in September, 1994.

The original complaint said that Williard was throwing watermelons over a fence when he developed "burning pain" in his neck and shoulders. His wife took him to the emergency

room of the medical center where he complained of numbness in the right leg and hand.

Emergency room personnel diagnosed him with chest pain and coronary insufficiency (or inadequate circulation to the heart), but could not exclude myocardial infarction (a heart attack usually caused by interruption of blood supply to the heart), according to court records.

At that point, Denton was admitted to the hospital and subsequently developed weakness in his arms and was unable to move his legs.

He was transferred to Methodist Hospital in Lubbock where magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) revealed an epidural hematoma (a blood vessel leaking blood into the

covering of the spinal cord).

It was removed and he was discharged Sept. 28, 1994.

The original complaint the medical center and others of gross negligence involving diagnosis, care and treatment. Denton settled with the doctor and "non-suited" the remaining parties with the exception of Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

The medical center filed a motion for summary judgment on the issue of "vicarious liability and credentialing." The trial court granted the motions and the case proceeded to trial on the remaining claims against the medical center.

The jury returned a verdict in favor of Scenic Mountain in two

See **DENIED**, Page 2A

Rural transportation, Head Start funding earn approval from planning commission

Rick McLaughlin
Staff Writer

Rural transportation and Head Start projects submitted by West Texas Opportunities, Inc. were passed with favorable comment at the regular meeting of the directors of the Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission, according to Jerry Tschauner, director of regional services for the Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission.

The rural transportation funding would be through the Texas Department of Transportation and would continue WTO's rural transportation project in 15 counties, including Howard, Borden, Glasscock and Martin. Tschauner said the transportation program is a continuous funding project with which the Planning Commission directors were already familiar.

Specifically, the \$967,782 request seeks \$171,054 in administration costs and \$796,728 in operating costs. Administrative costs include salaries, office supplies and equipment, insur-

ance, marketing, travel and utilities. Operating costs include salaries for drivers and dispatchers as well as fuel, oil, maintenance and repairs.

WTO is requesting \$280,964 from the Section 5311 program and \$534,641 from the state public transportation fund and other state funds. Those will be supplemented with \$152,177 in local funds.

The second request was for an application to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for supplemental funding for Head Start in seven counties, including Glasscock and Martin, and nine school districts.

It coincides with a mandate that requires at least half of all Head Start teachers in center-based programs to have an associate, baccalaureate or advanced degree in early childhood education or a degree in a related field with preschool teaching experience by Sept. 30, 2003. In response, WTO is seeing \$22,900 from the Department of Health and will provide

\$5,725 in in-kind funding, for a total project cost of \$28,625.

"The federal government has come up with this to give the Head Start program better qualified teachers, advanced degrees and that sort of thing," Tschauner said. "This is the first year it has been made available. Once they get it, it will become automatic every year."

Tschauner noted that the commission's directors "don't have anything to do with funding and don't approve or disapprove, but merely give favorable, unfavorable or no comment."

The Head start application has been submitted to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services while the Federal Transportation Act project is through the Texas Department of Transportation.

"While funding agencies are looking, our agency is reviewing them," he added. "This shows the funding agency that the local agencies has complied with federal requirements."



Heat or no heat, Patrick Rodriguez, 6, of Milwaukee, Wis., was enjoying an afternoon at Comanche Trails Park Tuesday. He and his sister are spending the summer with their father, Uvaldo Rodriguez of Big Spring.

HERALD photo/Rick McLaughlin

JULY 21 1999

Kennedy, airplane wreckage located

WASHINGTON (AP) — The wreckage of John F. Kennedy Jr.'s airplane was located today, with Kennedy's body still aboard, off the coast of Martha's Vineyard, Mass., The Associated Press was told.

"They've got the fuselage and John Kennedy's in it," a high-level government source said.

Jim Hall, chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board, and Coast Guard Rear Adm. Richard Larrabee, who was overseeing the search, canceled a round of morning TV appearances and went to the USS Grasp, the ship where the wreckage was to be deposited after being raised from the ocean floor.

The heightened activity took place after ships from the Navy, Coast Guard and National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration spent Tuesday night scouring a site 7 miles southwest of the Martha's Vineyard coast, a spot

that investigators had speculated was the likely splash point for the plane.

It crashed Friday night while carrying Kennedy, 38, his wife, Carolyn Bessette Kennedy, 33, and her sister Lauren Bessette, 34. There was no immediate word about whether the women's bodies had been located.

Government sources said Kennedy family aides and friends were in New York, planning a memorial service for all three victims, perhaps on Saturday.

Several experienced pilots who flew into the Vineyard on Friday night said the hazy skies and darkness were challenging even for them. Kennedy obtained his pilot's license in April 1998.

At a briefing Tuesday, Robert Pearce, who is heading the investigation for the National Transportation Safety Board, gave a more detailed explanation

of the approach.

All seemed fine about 34 miles from the airport, with the plane descending from 5,800 feet to about 2,300 feet at a slightly faster-than-normal rate of 700 feet per minute.

About 20 miles from the airport, the plane started turning to the right and climbing back to 2,600 feet. After leveling off, it flew for a short time before beginning another turn to the right and starting "a rapid rate of descent" that may have exceeded 5,000 feet per minute, or about 10 times faster than normal.

The descent was 3,000 feet per minute faster than what would be a stressful approach for even the most experienced flier, experts said.

Pearce would not speculate on the damage caused by such a crash, but said: "I'm sure you can draw a conclusion by the debris we've been bringing in, which is fragmented."

On the fourth full day of the search, the FAA acknowledged it was asked in a phone call from an intern at the Martha's Vineyard airport to help locate the plane Friday night.

The caller, 21-year-old Adam Budd, expressed no great urgency as he telephoned an FAA station in Bridgeport, Conn., at 10:05 p.m. Friday, FAA officials said.

He said he called at the request of an unidentified couple who had come to the airport to meet Lauren Bessette. Kennedy and his wife had planned to drop her off on their way to Hyannis Port for his cousin's wedding.

Budd asked if the agency could track the airplane, but the person at the FAA station questioned him about who he was and finally said: "We don't give this information out to people over the phone."

Budd gave up, saying, "It's not a big deal."

Changes in teacher hiring program get threat of veto

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton says he will veto a House-passed teacher improvement bill that Republicans say will give schools more choice but the president says would trample on his goal to put 100,000 new teachers in the nation's elementary schools.

The legislation, passed 239-185 Tuesday with support from 24 Democrats, carries forth the longtime Republican priority of moving control over education dollars from Washington to the states and local school districts.

It provides some \$2 billion annually over five years in the form of block grants to states and localities, consolidating several programs aimed at improving the nation's teaching pool. Those include the administration's "Goals 2000" program to raise academic achievement and the class-reduction program Clinton won from Congress as part of last year's budget negotiations.

Under the bill, local school districts would be held accountable for raising student achievement but could decide how best to use the money to improve teacher quality, whether that be by hiring more teachers, teacher training or expanding special education.

Reducing class size is of little value if the newly hired teachers aren't qualified, said Rep. Bill Goodling, R-Pa., chairman of the House Education and the Workforce Committee. "We're trying to make sure that every teacher out there at the present time is properly qualified to teach."

"I know firsthand that it isn't necessarily the quantity of teachers that makes a difference, but the quality of teachers you put in the classroom," said

"I know firsthand that it isn't necessarily the quantity of teachers that makes a difference, but the quality of teachers you put in the classroom."

House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., a former high school teacher.

But Clinton, who last fall made the teacher hiring program a key bargaining chip in the budget talks, said in a letter that he would veto the House bill "in order to protect our nation's commitment to smaller classes and better schools."

Reducing class size, he added in remarks to the National Bar Association, is "particularly important to poor children and people who don't come from strong educational background."

He said he had just released funds to hire the first 30,000 new teachers. "But now, unbelievably in this non-election year... there are some who propose to kill the class size initiative and replace it with a program that doesn't guarantee that one red cent will go to hiring a single teacher or reducing the size of a single class," he said.

Goodling insisted that no school district would lose funding because of the consolidation, but Democratic opponents of the measure said the bill also falls short in failing to target school districts with the greatest needs.

House GOP pushes \$792 billion tax cut to floor

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a risky roll of the political dice, House Republicans launched their \$792 billion tax cut today with no guarantee there was enough support to pass it.

Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., met late into the night Tuesday with about a dozen shaky GOP moderates and said the votes needed for passage likely would be whipped up at the last minute on the House floor. Debate was expected to begin in the early afternoon.

"We never have them until right before the vote," Hastert told reporters.

Earlier, he had appealed to GOP rank-and-file in a private caucus for party unity: "I need

each and every one of you."

With only a wafer-thin majority in the House, GOP leaders could ill afford to lose their own members as long as Democrats remained virtually united in opposition — particularly on a bill so central to the Republican political agenda.

But the Republican moderates stood in the way.

Some questioned the accuracy of projected budget surpluses totaling \$2.9 trillion over 10 years, while others wanted more of the money used to pay down public debt. Still others said it would eat up the money needed for Medicare and critical government spending — particularly if the economy turns sour.

"The votes are not there at this point," said Rep. Michael Castle, R-Del., who has offered a \$514 billion alternative tax bill.

GOP leaders planned to offer moderates a chance to vote on a non-binding resolution stating that Congress would commit to reducing the \$3.6 trillion debt to \$1.6 trillion over 10 years, but many of them complained it had no teeth.

"It's being tossed out at the 11th hour and it has no meaning," said Rep. Ray LaHood, R-Ill.

In part to placate the moderates and in part to meet Senate budget rules, Archer on Tuesday reduced the bill's overall cost from \$864 billion to \$792 billion — the same level as a

Senate GOP alternative. That means almost no significant tax relief would occur until 2001.

The Texas Republican said the savings would come by phasing in the 10 percent income tax cut slower, delaying the pace of repeal of both estate taxes and the alternative minimum tax, and by cutting corporate capital gains rates from 35 percent to 30 percent, instead of down to 25 percent.

The bill also would cut top individual capital gains rates from 20 percent to 15 percent, give new breaks for health care and education and raise the standard deduction for joint filers to ease the "marriage penalty" that hits millions of two-income couples.

SCLC group cancels convention in South Carolina flag flap

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — The Southern Christian Leadership Conference has canceled a 2,500-member convention in Charleston because the state flies the Confederate flag over its Capitol.

The move announced Tuesday follows last week's vote by the National Association for the

Advancement of Colored People to boycott the state for continuing to fly the controversial banner.

SCLC President Martin Luther King III said the prominent civil rights organization "will urge every organization and corporation who loves justice to join this effort to push

America back from the brink of senseless tribalism."

"We cannot, at this point in history, resurrect ghosts of the past and allow the resurgence of racism, discrimination and the politics of resentment that the Confederate flag reclaims," said King, the son of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

The SCLC had chosen Charleston as its national convention site for the first time in 30 years to honor the 30th anniversary of a local hospital workers' strike. The three-day convention beginning this weekend would have filled more than 600 hotel rooms and several banquet halls.

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JULY 21 1999

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

Time to get children ready for school year

It may seem like only yesterday we were celebrating graduation, but in less than three weeks, local students will be back in class. That means now is the time to buy supplies and clothes, have a dental checkup and get required immunizations.

Big Spring students are called back to the books Aug. 9, so time is running short to catch up on the shots that will be your child's ticket to class. If you received a letter at the end of last school year notifying you that certain immunizations were due, now is the time to take care of them.

If you don't have a family doctor or pediatrician, the Texas Department of Health, anticipating a late-summer rush, has scheduled a shot clinic this Saturday.

You can take your child, along with his or her shot record or the note from school, between 8:30-11 a.m. or 1-4 p.m. In addition, regular shot days are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday during the same hours. That means there are plenty of opportunities to get your child's shots at a time that is convenient for you.

Don't neglect this important part of your child's health. In many cases, he or she won't be allowed back in school without required immunizations. And neglecting immunizations leaves your toddler or young child vulnerable to serious or even deadly diseases.

Even if your little one is too young for school, we urge you to keep up with the required immunizations. Keep that shot record up to date, and keep your child healthy.

For the most part, our local schools do a good job of reminding parents when their child needs shots. Let's do our part as parents and see that it is taken care of in plenty of time.

YOUR VIEWS

TO THE EDITOR:

The passage of Independence Day again brings to mind that the liberty of our citizens is paid for by the sacrifices of our veterans. From the Minutemen of Concord to the men and women who are now serving in Kosovo, our citizen soldiers have served, were wounded, and died for the liberty all of us enjoy today.

That's why it is especially sad that our nation's veterans need the help of the American people so much today.

America's sick and disabled veterans continue to serve their nation by bearing an excessive burden of deficit reduction.

The ratcheting down of spending for veterans medical care over the past decade helped make it possible for the federal government to achieve its deficit reduction goals.

Now that there is a projected \$14 billion budget surplus for next year, increased federal funding for veterans health care must be a top priority for our nation and the citizens who owe so much to veterans.

The veterans health care system has received no significant funding increases in the past three years. By the Department

of Veterans Affairs' own estimates, sticking to the current budget will mean thousands of health care workers will be laid off. Half the hospital beds in the system already have been closed, with more massive bed and hospital closures on the way. Thousands of sick and disabled veterans are being turned away or going without adequate health care.

With a \$14 billion federal budget surplus for the coming year, the nation's fiscal health has never been better. Now is the time for Congress to provide adequate funding for veterans health care. Our legislators can act knowledgeably and honorably if they know how their constituents feel about veterans' health care funding.

Veterans have served our nation courageously and valiantly for 223 years. They now look to you, the average citizen, for support. Your help is needed immediately in urging Congress to add \$3 billion to provide adequate health care for America's veterans.

Don't let veterans fall victim to the politics of prosperity as Congress finds other ways to spend the budget surplus.

HEIDRUN COVINGTON
WIDOW OF A DISABLED VETERAN

When it comes to tax cuts, it's the same old song

By WALTER R. MEARS
AP Special Correspondent

In an old argument about new numbers, President Clinton and the Republicans are colliding on tax cuts again — on party lines that were drawn long before there was a budget surplus to spend or refund.

Players and roles have changed, but essentially, Republicans want to be the party of the tax cut, arguing that Democrats are bent on spending money from Washington that ought to go back to the taxpayers. Democrats argue that GOP tax cuts would benefit the rich at the expense of programs the rest of America needs.

They were debating that when Republicans held the White House and the Democrats controlled Congress, when the outlook was for deficits, not surpluses, for as far as the budget projections could see.

In 1981, President Reagan won tax cuts in a Democratic House — the Senate was Republican then as now — that went far deeper than the reductions now on the GOP agenda. The Reagan tax cut was projected at \$750 billion over five years, on a smaller budget base, in a time of deficits, not surpluses.

The Republican aim now is a cut of \$792 billion over 10 years. That's not as much as House GOP leaders wanted, but it may be as much as they can get in the Senate. The House is taking up taxes this week.

Clinton has his own tax cut proposal, about \$250 billion over 10 years. Not enough, and not broad enough, Republicans argue. "He says we want tax cuts but only a little bit," said Sen. Trent Lott, the Senate majority leader. "Oh, and by the way, he proposes about \$100 billion in tax increases."

The administration doesn't call them that. They are adjustments and steps to close loopholes. Not that Clinton invented semantic sidesteps about taxes. The Reagan White House devised the description "revenue enhancement" to avoid calling an increase an increase, the president having said he would veto any bill to raise taxes. Enhancing them was OK.

Now Clinton is saying he will veto tax cuts in the range of those Republicans are pushing, saying they would cost money

that should go into Social Security, Medicare and spending on such programs as defense and education.

"Tax cuts of that size are quite simply bad economic policy," Clinton said in his radio talk on Saturday. He said the Republican tax cuts would balloon after 2010, just as the baby boom generation begins retiring.

He said that would "blow a \$3 trillion hole in the federal budget, threatening our ability to secure Social Security and Medicare for the next generation."

The Republicans say their plan locks away Social Security revenues, then puts one-third of the projected surplus into tax cuts. Clinton said his would go further, to strengthen Social Security and Medicare financing, and to pay down the national debt.

"I think what he wants is typical of Democrats," Lott said on Fox TV Sunday. "They want to keep it in Washington and spend it. ... That's the way they always are."

And that's the way the argument always goes, like a broken record. That may be why the

tax cut issue doesn't seem to be stirring the people both sides are trying to convince. The polls indicate that most Americans think they are overtaxed, but that few put tax cuts near the top of their Washington wish list.

Eventually, Clinton and the Republicans are going to have to settle on a budget, and that means dealing with taxes. The deadline is Oct. 1, although stopgap measures can delay that.

So there's ample time to argue. The word from the White House is that Clinton isn't interested in a deal to split the difference between his tax cut and the Republicans' plan. Nor is Lott. "Nope," he said to that idea.

"Now if he wants to get serious, join with us, great," Lott said. "But I think maybe some of the demagoguery needs to be toned down."

But neither the Clinton administration nor the Republican Congress can get what it wants without the other. They'll have to pass a version he will sign. So eventually, it will take a compromise to do anything.

VOTE
THE RIGHT
CLINTON
NEXT TIME
FOR PRESIDENT



Some hazards of slow driving

Jo Bird has been stopped for speeding in Rockdale. She lives three miles from the city limits and has a tendency to drive a little fast when she goes to town. Her husband, Jack, on the other hand, is a slow driver.

"He's a real menace," says Jo. "He does not believe in turn signals."

One day Jo and Jack were in town in Jack's pickup. That's sort of a rare thing because Jo usually does not do pickups, especially those duellies, the ones that have four wheels in the rear and look like if they run over something in the street they'll turn around, come back and eat it. "Those things will run you right over," says Jo. One did and totaled her car.

Anyway, she and Jack were doing some errands and Jack was driving real slow in downtown Rockdale. Jo leaned over



TUMBLEWEED SMITH

and asked her husband, "Hon, who we sneak on?"

Jack sometimes gets irritated when Jo says things like that.

Another time they were creeping along and Jo was thinking that someone was going to crash into them from behind. "I was afraid one of those duellies was gonna cream us and knock us all the way to California."

Jo said, "I think we've got a problem over here, Hon."

Jack slowed down even more and asked Jo what she meant.

Jo told him, "We've got a dog running along wettin' on the wheel."

When Jo was growing up, her dad used to call her Dude. She was the oldest of six children in the family.

"One time I was trying to tell three of the younger kids they would get hurt if they jumped off a chicken house on our property. That thing was about six feet tall, about as tall as my daddy, who built the thing."

"Those kids were just determined that they were gonna climb up on that chicken house and jump off. I kept telling them would get hurt if they did it, but they wouldn't believe me."

"I'm supposed to be Mom's smartest kid, see. I got up there and jumped off to show those three kids that it really would hurt them. And Boy, was I right. Next time I woke up I was looking up into three little bitty faces looking down at me, terrified because they thought they had killed me. That jump knocked me out colder than a cucumber."

She never had any trouble about that chicken house again.

Jo encourages visitors to call before they come to see her. If you drive out to see her without warning, she's liable to come to the door in her gown, robe, woolly socks and Big Bird T-shirt.

"No make-up, no hair-do and no personality," says Jo. "I've even had people jump back, look startled and say, 'Jo, is that you?' Who do they expect? Liz Taylor?"

Jo is fun. She laughs a lot. Her sense of humor is world class. She is an excellent storyteller in describing her everyday experiences.

She wants her tombstone to read "She had a good time." Seems fitting.

- #### ADDRESSES
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How To CONTACT Us

In order that we might better serve your needs, we offer several ways in which you may contact us:

- In person at 710 Scurry St.
- By telephone at 263-7331
- By fax at 264-7205
- By e-mail at either bsherald@xroadstx.com or jwalk-er@xroadstx.com.
- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721
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Mallard Fillmore
by BRUCE TINSLEY

NEW TELS SHOW THAT, EVEN IN A ROBUST ECONOMY, THERE REMAIN SOME DECEPTIONS THE AMERICAN CITIZENRY SIMPLY WON'T TOLERATE.

"... SAYING YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN A YANKEES FAN, FOR INSTANCE..."

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Kids

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New dance craze storming two-step country

ODESSA (AP) — Cab Calloway croons the words to his immortal "Minnie the Moocher." The easy rhythm of the song makes even the wall-flowers tap their feet. Out on the dance floor, a couple does a triple step swing in time with the music.

As the song fades away, the beat picks up and Calloway is replaced by one of the new kings of swing, Big Bad Voodoo Daddy.

The song is "Jump With My Baby Tonight," and that is exactly what the dancers do.

Partially inspired by the Gap commercial and the hit "Zoot Suit Riot," by the Cherry Poppin Daddies, the retro swing movement has established itself firmly in many cities across the country.

Here in West Texas, the movement is still small but a core of dedicated dancers keep it going. Midland High School student Barbara Lawhon spins smoothly in the arms of her dance partner, Jeremy Jacob, a student at the University of Texas of the Permian Basin.

"I've always loved to dance," Lawhon said. "I have been swinging for about five months now."

Jacob casually leads her into an aerial move they call the Big Apple. She is lifted into the air, her feet nearly touching the ceiling.

Crooners like Frank Sinatra and Bobby Darin are mixed with the big band sound of Glenn Miller and Duke Ellington.

There is a very carefree atmosphere with swing, Jacob said.

"It is more of a social thing as opposed to just going out."

The couple and other area swingers dance at the Ground Floor coffee shop in Midland. Every week chairs and tables are pushed against the wall and a floor is opened up for dancers.

Traditionally reserved for an older generation, the dance has been picked up by the Generation X crowd. High-energy swing as shown in the Gap commercial danced to old hits like Louis Prima's "Jump Jive and Wail" has made the old cool again.

The setting is informal, and people of all ages come to dance and to enjoy the wholesome atmosphere, said John Neute, owner of the Ground Floor.

"Swing appeals a lot to the younger crowd," said Sergio Moraes, instructor and owner of Dance Design in Odessa.

Most people want to learn to swing, which is very easy to pick up, Moraes said. Everybody can learn.

"You do not need to be coordinated or to have played sports all your life to learn to dance," he said.

On the dance floor, Jacobs black-and-white shoes, watch chain and dark suspenders cut a flashy image as he leads Lawhon into a Lindy hop, a fast dance that spins quickly about the floor.

A brown fedora rests on a nearby table, another piece of the swinger ensemble.

Zoot suits, twirling skirts, two-toned shoes all lend to the swinger look. Yet swing is a blend of the old and new so any fashion is suitable.

Everyone dresses up in his or her own style, Lawhon said. "People always look good when they come out."

There actually are several types of swing, Jacob said, including East Coast, West Coast, shag and the Lindy hop. The music also includes a variety.

Crooners like Frank Sinatra and Bobby Darin are mixed with the big band sound of Glenn Miller and Duke Ellington. Jazz and blues singers share time with new

bands such as Royal Crown Revue and Allen Fashion Show. The new music has a lot more energy and is more oriented for faster dancing, Jacob said.

"Everybody has a different style and everybody has their own rhythm," Moraes said.

Swing is different from other dances because there is not really a right or wrong way of doing it, Lawhon said. All it takes is for someone to get out there and dance.

People have come as far away as Big Spring to dance, Neute said.

Once, an older man came in just for coffee and ended up dancing several songs with Lawhon, Neute said. On the dance floor the song begins to fade away.

Lawhon twirls easily back into the arms of Jacob. The music dies out as he leads her into a low dip that leaves her hair dangling only a few inches from the floor.

"Swing is just a ton of fun," Jacob said. "That is why I like to dance."

The music is silenced and for now the dance is over, but for the swingers there is always another song.

Swing is more than just a dance. It is a fashion and a style. As the old big band classic says, "It don't mean a thing if it ain't got that swing."

HOROSCOPE

**BY JACQUELINE BIGAR
HAPPY BIRTHDAY** for Thursday, July 22, 1999:

Projects initiated and ideas launched may require frequent revisions this year. Stay focused, but recognize the importance of being creative and carefree. Allow living to become more important than doing. An overly serious approach doesn't work, so why bother? Spend more time with children and loved ones. **SCORPIO** is provocative.

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

ARIES (March 21-April 19) *** Much you are dealing with is the aftermath of yesterday. Review others' positions on an important matter. Decide what is important in your different work and personal relationships. Talk with others one-to-one, and you'll move into more dynamic thinking. Tonight: Web-surfing.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ***** Do little as others regroup. You're in demand socially. Keep a safe distance and evaluate what is being presented. There is no reason to go along with anyone else's demands. Your own sense of direction helps others find their course. Tonight: Be a steady influence.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) *** Get to work, but don't forget the gym or the doctor. Sometimes you push too hard, forgetting what is needed in order to make your life work. Your sense of humor helps others relax, although tension could still run high after yesterday. Tonight: Errands on the way home.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) **** Build on established ground, adding your special, creative touch. Others need your laughter and ingenuity. Some people take themselves way too seriously! Put your all into a special relationship with a loved one or child. Tonight: Do what you enjoy.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) *** Stay on topic, while others remain distracted. Give home life, long-term goals and family the highest priority. Don't let another push your buttons. Take time out when necessary. Creativity surges later on if you relax and let others be. Tonight: Sprint out the door!

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ***** Make that additional effort; know what you want. Communication surges. Understand why people have made the choices they've made. Lighten up and remain sure of yourself. Calls keep coming in; sort through messages. Tonight: Take time for friends.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) *** Take a hard look at finances and present agreements. You may not want to commit to anything new. Others continue to make demands. Establish boundaries. Make calls in the late afternoon, when others are likely to be more receptive. Tonight: Nap, then decide.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ***** Realize that a partner doesn't really have to agree with you. Others are only too happy to go along with your ideas. Reach out to friends who are at a distance. Make plans for the future, but don't feel that you have to share them with the world just yet. Tonight: Make it an early one.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ** Conserve your energy. Don't get caught up in another's tangles. Listen to feedback regarding finances and emotions. Postpone all decisions; you will gain a different perspective in a few days. Tonight: R & R first.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ***** Aim high, but don't think you can make waves now. Your sense of humor comes out when dealing with others. Understand why people recently reacted as they did. Make calls; connect with friends and work-related buddies. Let your guard down. Tonight: Where the gang is.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) *** Handle pressure and stay on top of work. You could be overwhelmed by what is dumped on you. No one can hammer out problems and get work done like you can when you're focused. An avant-garde route to solving a problem proves to be successful. Tonight: Join a friend.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ***** An overview helps you figure out what to do and where you are heading. Don't listen to office gossip. Stay on top of news. Information you receive helps you make sound choices. Ingenuity surges when you go with the flow. Tonight: Rent a movie.

Capital city home to state's priciest pads

AUSTIN (AP) — When Shelly Davis moved to Austin last year the reality of finding a one-bedroom apartment hit hard.

"One bedroom is totally out of the question," said Ms. Davis, a doctoral student in marine biology at the University of Texas. "It's like four times the amount it was in Michigan, I was ready to move back."

At first, Ms. Davis says she shared a two-bedroom apartment with three other people. Now she rents a three-bedroom apartment with two roommates, but has a 30 minute commute to work. Her portion of the rent is \$315 a month.

Austin's economic opportunities are drawing a steady influx of newcomers to the area, giving the city the one of the tightest apartment markets in the nation. More than 97 percent of the area's 87,574 units are full, according to Capitol Market Research, an Austin real estate market research firm.

Rent has jumped 21 percent over the past

five years, according to the Austin American-Statesman.

In some of the cities' most upscale areas, rent can be \$2,500 a month, more than a mortgage payment for a \$350,000 house, the American-Statesman reported. That doesn't include a down payment.

Many complexes have waiting lists of two or three months and people are showing up at rental offices with check in hand, signing leases for units sight unseen.

Rent hit an average of \$880 for a 1,000-square-foot unit during the second quarter, up \$20 over the past three months, according to Capitol Market Research. That makes Austin's average rental rates the highest in Texas.

Austin is behind Washington, D.C. and South Florida as the most expensive rental market in the South.

Some renters have struggled to find any apartment — affordable or otherwise.

"It's tough as hell," said Patricia Lucero,

who has lived with her parents for the last two months while she looked for a place to live.

Unless the economy stumbles, renters may face even more increases.

For some business leaders already struggling to find workers in a tight job market, the rising rents are reason for alarm. There are stories about job applicants who turned down jobs because of the high cost of living.

This is the most difficult time in Austin history for working people to find an affordable apartment or house, said Kerry Tate, a leader in the movement to create more affordable housing.

"If the issue goes unaddressed, we will lose the Austin we have loved," said Ms. Tate, president of TateAustin, an advertising and public relations firm. "In its place will be a city that is home to only the rich who can afford the higher cost of living and the poor who cannot escape it."

in a house.
On the beach. In a car. On a train.
with your spouse.
With your Aunt Ethel. With a cat. With a smile.
here or there.
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anywhere.

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THIS DATE IN HISTORY

The ASSOCIATED PRESS
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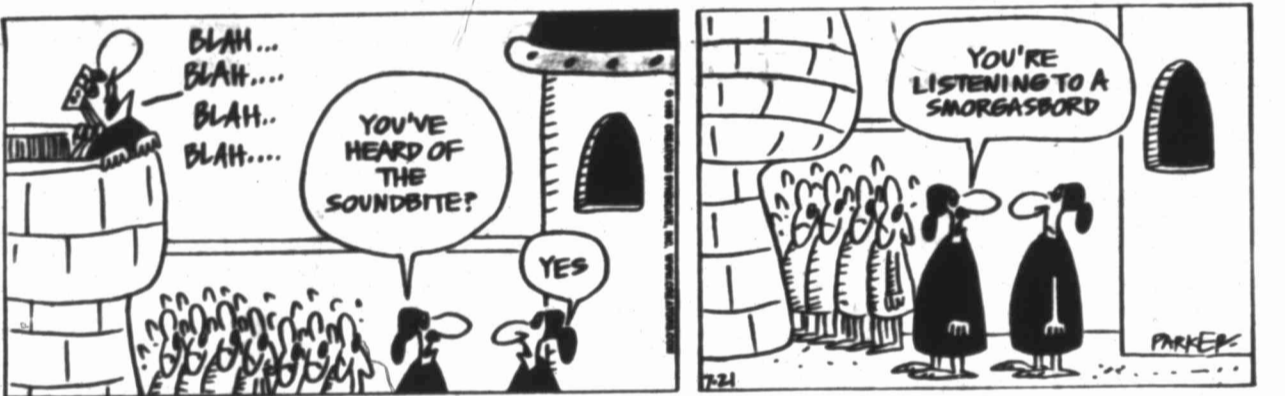
THE Daily Crossword

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

ACROSS

- Small salamander
- Take the bus
- Shaving-cream additive
- Linger
- Lamb's pen name
- Spare none
- Individual
- Come up
- Costume jewelry
- Impersonator
- Christmas song
- Greetings
- Musical or Laurel
- Part of MD
- Help
- Bench or bucket
- Hindu garment
- Endure
- punishment
- Biblical garden
- Walk in water
- Blackmore's
- Doonee
- Plaines, IL
- Quick swims
- Newly
- Kind of dancer
- Garfield's pal
- Asian capital
- Delicate Condition
- Shooters' grp.
- Be honorable
- Does wrong
- Castle or Durne
- Opposed to: prof.
- Superior and Erie
- Dispatches
- Domesticated
- Home in a hemlock
- Ben and Bobby
- Face east
- Abnormal: pref.
- 10 of the kidneys
- French islands
- Soil
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- City in southern Italia
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- Pledge
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- Get out of the way
- Superior and Erie
- 28 Dispatches
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- Gray and Moran
- Shore or Washington
- Washington
- Daytime drama
- Twenty
- Slender branch
- Mischievous
- Lumox
- Old sayings
- Visitor
- Voice one's thoughts
- Dance movement
- Husband of a countess
- Gumbo vegetable
- Interruption sound
- Fourth piggy's fare
- Ship deserters
- Mine entrance
- Broadway smash
- Took off

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founder of the British news agency bearing his name, was born in Hesse, Germany.

In 1831, Belgium became independent as Leopold I was proclaimed King of the Belgians.

In 1861, the first Battle of Bull Run was fought at Manassas, Va., resulting in a Confederate victory.

In 1925, the so-called "Monkey Trial" ended in Dayton, Tenn., with John T. Scopes convicted of violating state law by teaching Darwin's Theory of Evolution. (The conviction was later overturned.)

In 1944, American forces landed on Guam during World War II.

In 1949, the U.S. Senate ratified the North Atlantic Treaty.

In 1954, France surrendered North Vietnam to the Communists.

In 1961, Captain Virgil "Gus" Grissom became the second American to rocket into a sub-orbital pattern around Earth, flying aboard the Liberty Bell 7.

In 1969, Apollo 11 astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin blasted off from the moon aboard the lunar module.

In 1980, draft registration began in the United States for 19- and 20-year-old men.

Ten years ago: The State Department confirmed an ABC News report that Felix S. Bloch, a veteran U.S. diplomat, was being investigated as a possible Soviet spy. (Bloch was never charged with espionage, but was fired from his job in 1990.)

Five years ago: Former Senate Republican leader Hugh Scott died in Falls Church, Va., at age 93. Britain's Labor Party elected Tony Blair its new leader, succeeding the late John Smith.

One year ago: President Clinton announced a crack-down on nursing homes that were lax about quality and on states that do a poor job of regulating them. The Pentagon said it found no evidence to support allegations in a CNN report that U.S. troops had used nerve gas against American defectors in Laos. Astronaut Alan Shepard died in Monterey, Calif., at age 74. Actor Robert Young died in Westlake Village, Calif., at age 91.

Today's Birthdays: Violinist Isaac Stern is 79. Jazz musician-critic Billy Taylor is 78. Singer Kay Starr is 77. Actor-comedian Don Knotts is 75. Movie director Norman Jewison is 73. Actor Paul Burke is 73. Attorney General Janet Reno is 61. Actress Patricia Elliott is 57. Actor David Downing is 56. Actor Edward Herrmann is 56.

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