

BIG SPRING HERALD

"Reflecting a proud community"

50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

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LABOR DAY September 6, 1999

WEATHER

Today:



SHOWERS

TODAY 85°-90° TONIGHT 60°-65°

Power Points gets under way in Tuesday paper

Power Points, the ritual contest of the football season, gets under way in Tuesday's edition of the Herald.

Each Tuesday, local merchants will sponsor the contest — which tests the prognostication prowess of our readers.

While either original or facsimile entries are eligible, all entry forms must be deposited in an official entry box at participating merchants.

Entries are due by 2 p.m. Fridays and results will be published each Thursday.

Entrants will compete for both state and local prizes — including the weekly \$1,000 state prize for the person scoring the highest out of a possible 136 points.

The names of local weekly winners will be placed in a hat and drawn at the end of the season for a variety of

WHAT'S UP...

TODAY

□ MDA Telethon, 8 a.m. until 6 p.m., Big Spring Mall.

TUESDAY

□ Intermediate line dance classes, 9 a.m., Senior Citizens Center.

□ Coahoma senior citizens luncheon, noon, Coahoma Community Center.

□ Big Spring Quarterback Club, 7 p.m., BSHS Athletic Training Center.

□ VFW Post No. 2013, VFW Hall, 7 p.m.

□ Big Spring Chapter No. 67, Order of the Eastern Star, 7:30 p.m., Masonic Lodge, 219 Main.

WEDNESDAY

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

□ Senior Circle Big Spring Mall Walkers meet at 9:15 a.m.

□ Line dancing, 10:30 a.m., Senior Citizens Center, Industrial Park.

□ Big Spring Downtown Lions Club, noon, Howard College Cactus Room.

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

INSIDE TODAY...

Abby	7
Classified	6-7
Comics	8
General	3
Horoscope	7
Obituaries	2
Opinion	4
Sports	5

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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.

United Way Kickoff Luncheon slated for Tuesday at Garrett Hall

By **BILL McCLELLAN**
News Editor

Ticket sales for Tuesday's United Way of Big Spring and Howard County Campaign Kickoff luncheon were supposed to be on sale through the close of business Friday, but they didn't last that long.



Savage

"I don't know exactly how many tickets were sold, but I do know we've sold out," Clara Savage, campaign chairman, said Friday afternoon.

The Bellamy Brothers will provide entertainment for the luncheon, which begins at 11:30 a.m. in First United Methodist Church's Garrett Hall.

Organizers are anticipating an overflow crowd.

"It will be necessary to arrive a little bit early because of the number of people," Savage said.

Those attending will get in a

campaign and the generous contributions we have already received."

Tuesday's event will also serve as the quarterly Community Luncheon held by Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce.

"We want to show our support of the United Way and encourage others to do the same," said Chuck Williams, chamber president.

The United Way campaign goal this year is \$225,000, up from last year's goal of \$217,500. Some \$223,174 was raised last

year, according to United Way organizers.

United Way agencies are: The American Red Cross, the Boys Club, Boys Scouts and Girl Scouts, Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, Northside Community Center, Rape Crises/Victim Services, the Salvation Army, West Side Day Care Center, YMCA and Westside Community Center.

Campaign division chairmen are: Sue and Stan Partee, Pacesetters, Gloria McDonald

See **UNITED WAY**, Page 2

Northside Community Center provides diverse services to its many clients

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the first of 11 weekly stories on the member agencies of the United Way of Big Spring/Howard County. Next week: Boy Scouts.

By **MARSHA STURDIVANT**
Staff Writer

The rewards of motivating individuals toward success keeps Max Webb, the director of Northside Community Center, coming into the office each day.

"Being in this job is so rewarding. I try to do whatever it takes to motivate people into being better human beings," Webb said.

Northside Community Center, a United Way agency, provides diverse services to many individuals each year. An annual budget of about \$55,000 enabled Webb to assist 638 clients in 1998-99, he said.

An additional 29 people attended certified nurses aide training at Howard College, and Northside Community Center paid for their tuition and program costs, he said.

Also, about 15 individuals completed training and passed their GED classes through Northside Community Center and 100 children were helped with the Back To School program with clothes and supplies, Webb said.

"I work with a lot of other agencies in town, to assist peo-



Max Webb, director of the Northside Community Center, pauses to talk with 4-year-old Freddie Joe Sanchez. Webb was offering employment counseling to a member of the Sanchez family.

ple who wish to become self sufficient and productive. Life on welfare is tough, and it's not supposed to be easy, and that's what I have to tell some people," Webb said.

Along with the educational programs available, Webb also helps with rental and utility bill assistance for families who qualify, on a once-a-year basis.

And prescription medication is another valuable service he offers through the center, espe-

cially for elderly people who live on a fixed income, he said.

"With the cost of medication, I don't know how some of these elderly people can make it," he said.

Webb said he also has requests from individuals for assistance with securing birth certificates or identification, or perhaps commercial driver's license.

"These are the type of things that might prevent a person

from seeking and obtaining employment," Webb said.

Each fall Northside Community Center organizes a winter coat drive, which are then given to individuals who have need, he said.

Work clothes are available for those willing to work, and the center also operates as a clearing house for other community organizations involved in char-

See **NORTHSIDE**, Page 2

Concho snake

Time on list may be short for reptiles

By **RICK McLAUGHLIN**
Staff Writer

The Concho water snake may eventually be on its way off the threatened species list following a meeting here last week with Colorado River Municipal Water District officials and representatives of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife, the governor's office, U.S.



GRANT

Rep. Charles Stenholm's office and State Rep. David Counts' office.

CRMWD General Manager John W. Grant said Friday he is cautiously optimistic after the interagency meeting that "we are moving forward" in getting the troublesome reptile off the list. "The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will work with us."

He said the federal agency will begin its review of the Concho snake question at the start of its fiscal year next

See **SNAKE**, Page 2

Heat, lack of rain prompts court to reinstate burn ban

By **RICK McLAUGHLIN**
Staff Writer

Howard County commissioners reinstated the off-and-on again outdoor burn ban of the past three years during a special meeting Friday — just hours before a line of thunderstorms moved through the county.



LOCKHART

Howard County Judge Ben Lockhart said the action was taken because "a state of disaster has been declared based on the imminent threat of disaster from wildfire."

Prohibited actions include "all flames and/or sparks, or ordering such burning by others."

The thunderstorms, which developed in the Big Bend and Guadalupe Mountains regions, moved into the area about 8:30 p.m. — prompting the National Weather Service to issue thunderstorm warnings and watches, as well as flash flood watch-

es, for an area along a line from southeast of Stanton to Vealmoor and on to Gail.

With hot temperatures forecast to return this weekend, the moisture was not expected to have any effect on the burn ban.

The commissioners' action came on the heels of a federal emergency declaration for 227 of Texas' 254 counties in order to supplement state and local efforts to prevent fires across the state.

"The emergency money will come through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) or the Forest

Service," said Howard County Volunteer Fire Department chief Tommy Sullivan. "I don't have all the particulars on how it's going to come down yet," he said. "I just know that it has been appropriated. Fire departments will have a chance to put in for equipment and apply for reimbursements for mutual aid."

Sullivan expected to have more information "in a few days. I'm going to look into it hard and put in for all we can get."

The federal money will pay for putting fire-fighting equip-

ment in places that local jurisdictions can't afford, such as helicopters, air tankers and bulldozers. By setting up such equipment around the state, the Texas Forest Service hopes to keep any fires to a minimum.

The only counties exempt from federal support this year are 27 in South Texas and parts of the Texas Panhandle.

Other area counties included in the emergency declaration include Borden, Glasscock, and Martin counties.

(Staff writer John H. Walker contributed to this report.)

Are armory's active days numbered?

By **RICK McLAUGHLIN**
Staff Writer

The Big Spring armory of the Texas Army National Guard may be one of an endangered species — the hometown armory in smaller, rural communities.

All National Guard armories are currently under review for possible closures and cutbacks, including the one in Big Spring. That's because of state and national reductions in force and facilities in regular and reserve components, according to Lt. Col. John Stanford, public affairs officer with the Texas National Guard headquarters in Austin. A decision on a first round of closures is expected soon, Stanford said.

"All armories in Texas are up for review. Big Spring's armory is being considered for closure

only because the National Guard is looking at all armories to see if it is good business practice to keep them open," he said.

"It's a multiple dilemma," he added. "Nationwide, the National Guard has been reduced in size, and all divisions have been ordered reduced."

Texas is the home of the 49th Armored Division, of which Big Spring's company is a part. The state commanding officer of the Guard, adjutant general Maj. Gen. Daniel James III, is looking for 800 cuts in the division's current strength of 15,000 in the latest reduction in force, Stanford said.

Furthermore, the military is looking at demographic factors in the closing or keeping of guard armories. "Are we up to strength in this unit? Can we

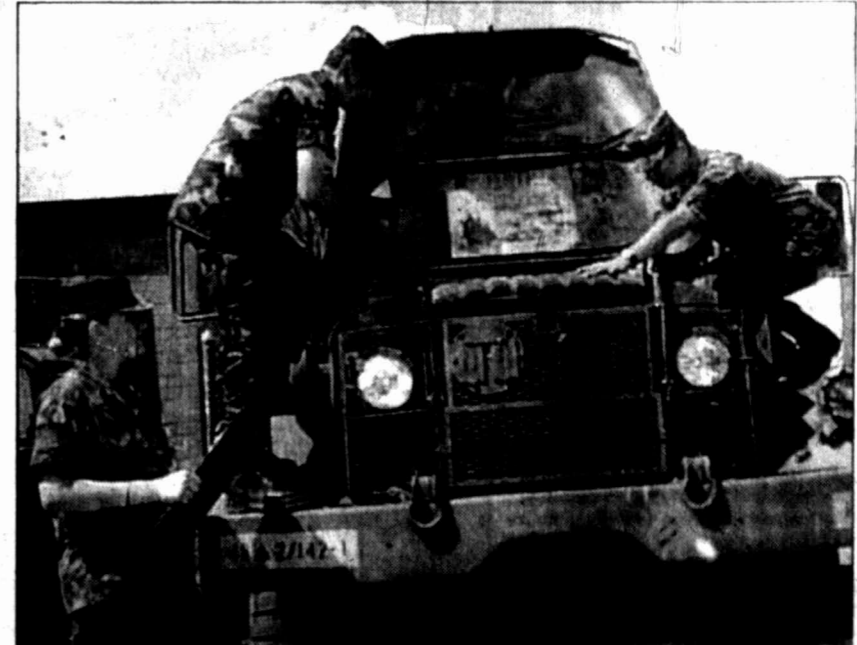
continue to recruit in this unit?" he asked. Stanford noted the continued movement of populations to bigger cities and the comparative decline of small towns and cities.

He also pointed to the trend to move to so-called "super armories" such as Lubbock's, where army facilities are shared with U.S. Army Reserve Units.

He also noted the difficulty of keeping recruitment up in the era of all volunteer military organizations.

"People just aren't as interested in joining anything military as they used to be," he said. Without a draft or serious military confrontation such as the Cold War, interest in the military, including the National Guard, has waned.

See **ARMORY**, Page 2



Sgt. William Grant, left, on truck, and PFC Johnny Leos Jr. check the lubricants on a National Guard 6X6 truck at the Big Spring armory, while Spec. Elizabeth Parsons takes notes for the records. Grant is the only full-time person at the armory. Leos is a corrections officer and Parsons is in school studying nursing.

SEPTEMBER 6, 1999

OBITUARIES

Thelma A. Morehead

Thelma A. Morehead, 91, former longtime Big Spring resident, died Saturday, Sept. 4, 1999 in Amarillo.

Service will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 7 at the First Baptist Church of Amarillo. Graveside service will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday at Trinity Memorial Park, Big Spring, with Mr. Rick Cunningham, Church of Christ minister, officiating.

Mrs. Morehead was born in Stonewall, Okla., and married Gilbert "Gibby" Morehead in 1927. They moved to Big Spring in 1936 and Mr. Morehead preceded her in death in 1978.

She lived in Big Spring for 45 years and was a homemaker and member of the First Baptist Church, where she also taught a Sunday School class. She was also active in Gideons International auxiliary.

Arrangements under the direction of N.S. Griggs and Sons in Amarillo and Nalley-Pickle & Welch.

R. E. Haney Sr.

Robert Etheridge "R.E." Haney Sr., 80, of Big Spring, a loving husband, daddy, grandfather and great-grandfather, died on Friday, Sept. 3, 1999, in a Lubbock hospital.

Service will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 7, 1999, at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with Rev. Wanda Hill, pastor of First United Methodist Church in Coahoma, and Rev. Ricky Carstensen, pastor of Wesley United Methodist Church, Big Spring, officiating.



Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park. He was born on March 20, 1919, in Cleburne, Texas, and married Edith Wallace on February 15, 1941, in Big Spring, Texas.

He was a member of the North Birdwell Lane United Methodist Church in Big Spring. R.E. had lived in Howard County all of his life. He was a retired farmer.

Survivors include his wife, Edith Haney of the Luther Community; one daughter and son-in-law, Glenda and Gorman Finley of Beaumont; one son and daughter-in-law, Robert E. Jr. and Suzanne Haney of Big

MYERS & SMITH
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24th & Johnson 267-8288

NALLEY-PICKLE & WELCH
Funeral Home
Trinity Memorial Park and Crematory
906 Gregg St. (915) 267-6331

Robert Etheridge "R.E." Haney Sr., age 80, of Big Spring died Friday in a Lubbock hospital. Funeral services will be at 10:00 AM, Tuesday at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with interment in Trinity Memorial Park. The family will receive friends at the funeral home from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM, Monday.

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Spring, four grandchildren: Jim Bob Finley of Beaumont, Shana Finley Turow and husband John, of Lewisville, Paul Haney of Texas A&M at College Station and Sarah Haney of Big Spring; one great-grandson, J. Parker Turow of Lewisville; one brother, Edward Haney of Carlsbad, N.M.; and three sisters: Opal Barber, Vera Peterson and Edna Cook, all of Big Spring.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W.H. Haney, three brothers and four sisters.

Palbearers will be nephews Scott Tiller, Brandon Haney, Stanley Haney, Woody Ervin, J.O. Haney Jr. and Joey Haney.

The family suggests a memorial to the donor's favorite charity.

The family will receive friends at the funeral home from 6:30 p.m. until 8 p.m. today.

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

NORTHSIDE

Continued from Page 1

itable work. "Other agencies or individuals may donate things to us that we then give to our clients; as needed. We receive donations of goods at the holidays," Webb said.

And the future for the Northside Community Center seems brighter than ever, as Webb continues to plan for more services.

"We desperately need a new building, and I am in contact with individuals and preparing research on obtaining a grant for a multi-use building here," Webb said.

His vision is a new building that might serve the needs of several populations, such as the Girl Scouts, the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) program, ALSA, and any others that need a meeting facility.

"I see this as a building for the entire community, as well as the Northside residents, who might use the building for neighborhood watch organizational meetings," Webb said.

Webb achieved one goal through his grant writing efforts, when the remodeling of the basketball courts to include large lights, which now may be used at night.

Webb has plans for the center's programs also. He hopes to create a food and nutrition program that will help consumers learn the best method of food purchase and preparation.

"I see this as a way to make food stamps stretch farther," he said.

And Webb is also hoping to expand Back to School program to include another 50 children, he said.

"I tell people I made it through college and I work, and you are not handicapped and don't have a disability. If I did it, so can you," Webb said.

SNAKE

Continued from Page 1

month and that no more field data will be needed. "It will be from 12-to-18 months before they finish their studies. They will take a long look at it again and will decide if there is enough information to delete it or not," said Grant.

The CRMWD board of directors voted unanimously to do whatever necessary to obtain the removal of the snake from the endangered species list and approved funding up to \$25,000 to carry on the fight at the regular board meeting last month.

The snake has been a long-term problem for the district dating back more than a decade. The snake has cost the district some \$4 million, according to Grant. He said the Fish and Wildlife Service required the district to spend \$40,000 to \$100,000 for studies and special permits "every time we want to do some work on (lakes) O.H. Ivie and Spence."

The Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife has been supportive of efforts to delist the snake and will begin efforts to do just that starting as early

as next week, said Grant. The Concho water snake is non-poisonous reptile inhabiting the Concho and Colorado rivers. More than 3,000 have been found, most in areas the Fish and Wildlife Service said could not support it.

ARMORY

Continued from Page 1

Company B, 2nd Battalion of the 142nd Infantry Regiment, 49th (Lone Star) Armored Division in Big Spring has only recently been reorganized along those lines.

The former Co. B will be part of Co. C, 2nd Bat., 142nd Inf. of the Texas National Guard in Midland as of Oct. 1. The local armory is home only to a detachment of Co. B.

Still another consideration is age. Stanford said that in the next five years, half of all the armories in Texas will be 40 to 50 years old. If that is a consideration, the Big Spring armory may have a problem because the local facility is already 45 years old, having been built near the end of the Korean Conflict.

If the Big Spring armory goes, it will be declared surplus, Stanford, said and sold through the surplus property disposal program.

UNITED WAY

Continued from Page 1

and Doris Huibregtse, Community Division; O.L. Cooper and Allan Johnson, Commercial Division; Bobby Cordova, Combined Federal Campaign; Maureen and Rudy Haddad and Betty Kelly, Professional Division; Scott Edwards and Mark Odle, Loaned Executive Division; and Jody Nix, Special Events.

BRIEFS

HANGAR 25 AIR MUSEUM is making available memberships to interested citizens.

Members will get discounts at the gift shop, receive a quarterly newsletter, and invitations to member-only parties. Anyone who purchases a membership through the end of this year will be considered a charter member. The membership will be valid through 2000.

Memberships available are Founder, \$1,000; Patron, \$500; Supporting, \$250; Family, \$60; Individual, \$30; and Student, \$15.

For more information, contact Nelda Reagan or Susan Lewis at 264-2362.

THE BIG SPRING EVENING LIONS Club will have free eyeglasses for all adults Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon at the Big Spring Evening Lions Club bingo building, 1607 East Third.

All adults needing eyeglasses who don't have the income to purchase the exam or glasses are welcome. The recycled eyeglasses are donated by the community as a service project of the Lions.

The Lions group offers the eyeglasses the second Saturday of each month. For more information call Janis Dean at 267-3068.

SENIOR CITIZENS WHO HAVE witnessed the effects of childhood diseases are needed to staff a new volunteer program that will promote immunizations.

Volunteers 55 and older are sought for the effort, to be known as the Seniors for Childhood Immunization Program. RSVP volunteers will visit new mothers at Scenic Mountain Medical Center and remind them of the importance of the immunizations.

To find out more about the program or to volunteer, call 264-2397.

THE MOBILE MEALS PROGRAM, also known as Meals on Wheels, needs volunteers to deliver meals.

If you can spare one hour per week to deliver eight or 10 meals, we need you. About 85 to 90 meals are prepared, packaged and delivered within the city limits of Big Spring. If you can



Maxine Miller, left, past president of the Eagles Ladies Auxiliary and Sherry Adams, chaplain of the Eagles Ladies Auxiliary, box the 300 cans of food collected for the Salvation Army Food Pantry. It was the groups special project for the month of August.

volunteer, please call 263-4016 before 3 p.m.

ALL BSHS VIETNAM AND Korea veterans are asked to contact Craig Fischer at the high school so they can be recognized during the homecoming activities this October.

World War II veterans were recognized during a previous year's ceremony.

Veterans of Korea and Vietnam are asked to send their name, address, class at BSHS, service time and year to: Craig Fischer, Big Spring High School, 707 11th Place, Big Spring. You may also call him at 264-3641.

THE HARLEY-DAVIDSON SHOP will have a 70th anniversary party on Saturday. There will be live bands, eats and drinks and hourly door prizes. The party begins at noon and ends at 6 p.m.

SUPPORT GROUPS

MONDAY
•TOPS Club (Take off pound sensibly), weigh-in 5 p.m. and meeting at 6 p.m., College Heights Christian church, 21st and Goliad.

•Project Freedom, Christian support group for survivors of physical/emotional/sexual and/or spiritual abuse. Call 263-5140 or 263-2241 for dates/times of upcoming groups.

•Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon open meeting.

•Alzheimer's support group, 7 p.m., Canterbury South, 1700 N. Lancaster, first Mondays of each month. Call Galynn Gamble at 263-1271.

•Narcotics Anonymous, 6 p.m., St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 1001 Goliad. Call 268-4189 (pager no.)

•Alzheimer's support group, 6:30 p.m., Marcy House, 2301 Wason. Call 268-9041.

•Association of Retarded Citizens of Howard County meet 7 p.m. the first Monday of each month at 806 E. Third Street, the HARC bingo building. Call 264-0674 for more information.

•Family Education and Support, sponsored by Howard County Mental Health Center, meets the fourth Monday of each month at 6 p.m. at 409 Runnels, Clyde Alsop Building. AMI meeting to follow. For

more information call 263-0027 or 267-7220.

TUESDAY
•Support for MS and Related Diseases, 6:30 p.m. second Tuesday of each month, Canterbury South. Public invited. Call Leslie, 267-1069.

•Al-Anon, 8 p.m., 615 Settles.

•Seniors' diabetic support group, 2 p.m., Canterbury South. Call 263-1265.

•Compassionate Friends support group for parents who have experienced death of a child, 7:30 p.m. first Tuesday in February, April, June, August, October and December in the Family Life Center Building, First Baptist Church, 705 West Marcy. Enter by southeast door. Call 267-2769.

•Cancer support group, first Tuesday of each month, 7-8 p.m., VA Medical Center room 213. Call Sue Jones, 263-7361 ext. 7179 or 264-7518.

•"Most Excellent Way," an addiction support group, 8610 Dixon, call 264-9900.

•Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon open meeting and 8 p.m. closed meeting.

•Samaritan Counseling Center of West Texas will have Dr. Ronald Meyer, D.Min., LCDC, LMFT, specializing in individual and marriage counseling, Attention Deficit Disorder and chemical dependency, available for clients in Midland. Appointments for counseling services are made by calling 1-800-329-4144.

•Narcotics Anonymous, 6 p.m., St. Mary's Episcopal Church. Call 268-4189 (pager no.)

•Innovators in glyconutritionals are an independent group focusing on sickness prevention and management utilizing non-toxic simple saccharides to help our body heal itself.

Training sessions are the second and fourth Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. at 1909 S. Gregg. For more information call 267-3013 or 267-2424.

IF YOU HAVE A SUPPORT GROUP LISTING, PLEASE SUBMIT IT IN WRITING.

NOBODY ASKS FOR IT
Help STOP Sexual Assaults
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Rape Crisis Services/Big Spring

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

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POLICE

The following activity was reported by the Big Spring Police Department for the period ending at 7 a.m. today:

•GUADALUPE GARCIA, 42, arrested for public intoxication.

•ERASMO PEREZ, 32, arrested for public intoxication.

•JEREMY MINTER, 20, arrested for minor in consumption.

•BENJAMIN MOORE, 18, arrested for minor in consumption.

•TRACEY GRIFFITH, 36, arrested for public intoxication.

•THOMAS MURPHY, 20, arrested for failure to identify.

•WILLIAM HUTCHISON, 17, arrested for public intoxication on local warrants.

•ALMA GRAY, 23, arrested for DWI, third or more offense.

•JOHN LAWLER, 46, arrested for driving with invalid license.

•RICKI BENTON, 31, arrested for displaying a suspended driver's license.

•INVESTIGATION OF SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITIES reported in the 2400 block of Scurry, 200 block of E. 11th, 500 block of N. Lamesa, 12th & Settles and 1000 block of N. Birdwell.

•BURGLARY OF A HABITATION reported in the 3300 block of Business I-20.

•JUVENILE PROBLEMS reported in the 500 block of Goliad, 1000 block of Stadium and at NW Eighth and San Antonio.

•DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE reported in the 500 block of Aylesford, 1500 block of E. 15th, 1500 block of Kentucky Way and 2000 block of Birdwell.

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Republicans pledge investigation into Branch Davidian assault

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congress returns this week with Republicans intent on investigating the latest Waco dispute and asking whether Janet Reno should resign over what one senator said was a Justice Department "in shambles."

On the Democratic side, Sen. Charles Schumer of New York said Sunday he had written GOP committee chairmen asking them to put off hearings until an independent investigator finishes looking into new controversies swirling around the 1993 siege of the Branch Davidian compound.

Schumer, on ABC's "This Week," said hearings would probably descend into partisan squabbling. "My worry is that congressional investigations would bring up a lot of heat and not very much light."

But Sen. Phil Gramm, R-Texas, said Congress must be involved. "You can't have the country misled for six years by the Justice Department and the FBI and not have Congress do something about it," he said on ABC.

At issue is recent FBI revelations it fired several flammable tear gas canisters at a storm shelter hours before the main Branch Davidian building went up in flames. The FBI and Justice Department had previously denied use of any incendiary devices, and investigations will focus on whether this misinformation was the result of a slip-up or a coverup.

The Justice Department

insists there is no change in conclusions that it was David Koresh and his followers that started the fatal fire. The department also stresses that military special operations officers were on the scene only as observers and advisers, and not in an illegal capacity as participants in the operation.

Any GOP-led investigation would be sure to touch on the competence of Reno, who has constantly clashed with Republicans over campaign finance and Chinese spying scandals, to be attorney general. Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, on NBC's "Meet the Press" and CNN's "Late Edition," said he had lost confidence in Reno's ability to lead. "The Justice Department is in a shambles. There is a demoralization over there because they realize they are not doing the job."

FBI Director Louis Freeh, in contrast, is the "single best" director he had known, Hatch said. On Freeh's reported differences with Reno, Hatch said "you don't want some milque-toast guy in there who won't stand up and do what's right."

Schumer, however, said there was a double standard in attacking Reno and defending Freeh when it was the FBI that was apparently responsible for not getting the facts to Reno, their ultimate superior.

President Clinton, asked by reporters Saturday if he had confidence in Reno and Freeh, pointedly supported Reno but not Freeh. On Freeh, he said he

said there wasn't "any purpose to assign blame until the investigation is concluded."

Reno is expected to name an outside investigator sometime this week, with the emphasis on an impartial judge, possibly a Republican, who is respected by both sides.

"As the attorney general has said, she wants to get to the bottom of this and will appoint an outside investigator to do just that," Justice Department spokesman Myron Marlin said. Freeh was not FBI director at

the time of the Waco siege, but did head the agency later when Reno, relying on FBI information, was denying that flammable devices were used against the Branch Davidians.

"Maybe Louis Freeh is to blame too," Gramm said. "Maybe they both should go."

Former Attorney General Dick Thornburgh, on CNN, said it was "very regrettable that people up to and including the president are now being asked to choose sides. This is unprecedented. I have never seen a sit-

uation like this where there has been this split between the two agencies."

But Hatch also said he had talked to both Reno and Freeh and had been assured by both they were on good terms and reports of differences between them were blown out of proportion.

Also on Sunday, filmmaker Michael McNulty, who has questioned government findings that the Davidians were responsible for their tragic end, said on "Fox News Sunday" that he

had new evidence that federal operatives were firing "long streams of automatic weapons fire" at the back of the compound, preventing those inside from escaping the fire.

Former FBI agent Richard Schwein, who was at Waco, said that was "absolutely false," that "not one round was fired by an FBI agent during that tragic day." Schwein, on Fox, also denied that military officers on the scene as observers had any role in operations against Koresh and the Davidians.

Waco revelations reopen OKC conspiracy theory

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Ever since her grandsons were killed in the Oklahoma City bombing, Jannie Coverdale has doubted whether the government has been entirely truthful about what happened.

Revelations about the FBI's use of flammable tear gas canisters at the 1993 Branch Davidian standoff in Waco, Texas — accusations previously denied by the government for six years — have raised even more questions, Ms. Coverdale said.

"After what I've heard about Waco, I'm beginning to blame the federal government for my grandchildren dying," said Ms. Coverdale, whose grandsons, Aaron and Elijah, were among the 168 people killed in the April 19, 1995, bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building.

"I don't trust the information we've gotten so far about Waco or the information we've gotten on the bombing," she said. "I can't believe what we've been told."

Survivors of the bombing and relatives of those killed are divided over whether the government's new information about its role at Waco has any bearing on its investigation of the Oklahoma City bombing.

Government prosecutors have said the bombing was in part retaliation for the April 19, 1993, fire that killed Branch Davidian leader David Koresh and more than 80 of his followers at Waco.

"Some of these people like to blame the government for everything. That is such a shallow interpretation of the real evidence," said Dr. Paul Heath, a psychologist for the Social Security Administration who survived the bombing.

"What can you say about conspiracy theorists? They have their theories and that's what they are — theories," said Bud Welch, whose daughter, Julie, died in the blast.

"I'm not mad at my government over that," said Dan McKinney, whose wife, Linda, a Secret Service agent, was killed. "It's just something else that people are looking to blame the government about."

But Ms. Coverdale's distrust is shared by others.

"I'm thrilled to see the truth surfacing. It's sure cleaning the slate for the people who have been deemed the right-wing nuts," said Kathy Wilburn, who also lost two grandsons in the bombing.

Conspiracy theorists contend the government started the fire that ended the 51-day siege at Waco. The government says the fires were set by the Branch Davidians.

"I know it's hard not to trust your government," said Ms. Coverdale, who has demanded a congressional investigation into the Oklahoma City bombing. "Now, I have no trust whatsoever. I just can't believe what they are telling us."

Mrs. Wilburn and her late husband, Glenn, spearheaded a campaign to convene an Oklahoma County grand jury that investigated the bombing for more than a year.

The grand jury adjourned in December after finding no evidence of a government cover-up of the bombing or of a wider conspiracy beyond convicted bomber Timothy McVeigh and convicted co-conspirator Terry Nichols.

"Truth has a way of surfacing after a while," Mrs. Wilburn said. "I'm hoping that the truth also comes out about the Oklahoma City bombing. The more truth we get, the more it vindicates my husband and I."

Dennis in East, wildfires in West put damper on Labor Day holiday weekend

BELHAVEN, N.C. (AP) — As coastal residents began to dry out and sweep up, stormy Dennis lingered in North Carolina as a tropical depression, dumping heavy rains and causing floods in central and western regions.

As the storm — once a hurricane, then a tropical storm — drifted northwest toward Virginia, it left behind a trail of flood warnings and watches.

Rainfall amounts ranged from just over 2 inches in Greensboro and Winston-Salem to close to 7 inches in the Raleigh-Durham area. The heaviest flooding was in the coastal areas of Pamlico, Craven, Carteret and Beaufort Counties.

The storm was expected to leave the state by tonight.

"We've had some very dry areas, some areas in desperate need of rain," Highway Patrol Sgt. Jeff Winstead of the state's emergency response team told The Charlotte Observer in today's editions. "Still, I don't think torrential rain is really what people were hoping for."

The Highway Patrol said five people died in accidents on rain-slickened roads over the weekend.

Formed Aug. 24, Dennis skirted North Carolina's coast Aug. 30, went seaward 165 miles, stalled and then backtracked. All week long, it assailed North Carolina's coast with 14-foot waves and gale-force winds as forecasters tried to guess where it would go next.

"This is the first time that I remember that a hurricane hit

us directly and then turned around and came back and hit us again," said Henry "Farmer" Styron. "It was a double whammy."

Styron is among the residents of Cedar Island, which was sideswiped by Dennis on its way up the coast and clobbered again Saturday when its eye passed directly overhead. About 100 homes and businesses were flooded on Cedar Island, northeast of Morehead City.

Hatteras Island's main road, N.C. 12, was reopened Sunday after thundering surf buried it in drifted beach sand. But only four-wheel-drive vehicles were permitted on the southern end of the island, where state highway crews spent Sunday laying a new asphalt road.

Officials said tourists would not be allowed back on Hatteras Island before Wednesday. Hatteras' neighbor, Ocracoke Island and its 700 residents, also suffered through a week with Dennis. Much of the island lay underwater Sunday, and the only ferry service was to bring emergency workers and supplies from the mainland.

Flooded streets were nothing new in Belhaven, where nearly 6 feet of water surged from nearby creeks into the community of 2,400 that lies 6 feet above sea level on the Pongo River.

"We've had five storms in the last four years that have hit us," Town Manager Tim Johnson said Sunday. "And we thought we had finally missed

one. But darned if it didn't come back and get us."

Hurricane Bonnie sent water into Belhaven homes last year. Afterward, the federal government announced it would pay to elevate 379 homes so they wouldn't be out of the flood

plain. The project hasn't been completed yet.

"It's been demoralizing to be flooded this often," Johnson said. "People here expect to experience hurricanes. But this is a bit much for anyone to stomach."

Big Bear fire stifles tourism in San Bernardino Mountains

BIG BEAR LAKE, Calif. (AP) — Dry winds fanned scattered wildfire flare-ups in the San Bernardino Mountains, while shops and hotels throughout this resort tallied losses from a low tourist turnout over the Labor Day weekend.

Although no flames from the contained 63,486-acre blaze reached town, the heavy smoke from the fire burning to the northeast led many would-be vacationers to cancel trips.

"It's sad because this is a totally tourist-driven town," Linda Goldsmith, co-owner of Goldsmith Ski & Snowboard Rental, said Sunday. "This is an important weekend for this valley."

Though she hadn't added up sales receipts, she said the number of customers and traffic on the road in front of the store were definitely down.

Lee Budd, owner of the Fireside Lodge, said the fire threat "absolutely destroyed us." On most Labor Day weekends, the lodge is full, he said. But by Sunday, they were working at 80 percent occupancy.

Firefighters had the blaze contained by Saturday night, meaning a defensible fire line had been constructed around its perimeter. The fire information center for the San Bernardino National Forest estimated the blaze would be controlled by later today.

About 1,200 firefighters remained Sunday night to mop up the blaze, which has destroyed 19 structures and cost \$9.7 million to suppress. At its height, some 2,700 firefighters from across the nation battled the fire 90 miles east of Los Angeles.

The blaze was one of seven California wildfires that burned more than 130,000 acres.

The fire near Big Bear Lake started Aug. 28 near Lake Arrowhead. By Friday, many vacationers had canceled their trips, fearing that a shift in wind could send the blaze into town.

Still, some people held firm.

"We rented a cabin a few weeks ago and kept checking with the place to make sure everything was OK," said Chris Hager, 32, as he relaxed, next to Big Bear Lake while his 13-year-old son, Tyler, jammed salmon eggs onto a fishhook.

Holiday death toll climbing

HOUSTON (AP) — An illegal turn turned into a trip to jail for 17-year-old Philip Paras, as Harris County Sheriff's deputies conducted a "zero-tolerance" crackdown over the weekend in a part of the county known for drag racing.

The teen's mom said he was caught driving in the wrong place at the wrong time.

"He knows what goes on in that area, but he wasn't doing any of that," said Millette Paras. "He just made an illegal turn, and they took him to jail."

Harris County deputies carted 27 people away for overnight jail stays Saturday evening and Sunday morning. Meanwhile, the statewide toll of Labor Day weekend traffic fatalities grew to 11 by Sunday afternoon, according to the Texas DPS.

The 11 people died in nine crashes since 6 p.m. Friday. That compares to 18 deaths in the same span last year. The DPS estimated 39 people would die in traffic this holiday period. The forecast is down from the 45 deaths recorded in 41 accidents during the 78-hour Labor Day holiday period last year.

The Harris County violations

include tail-light violations, playing music too loud and improper lane changes. The zero tolerance enforcement was directed at all violators, "especially the ones with high-performance vehicles," according to a statement from the department.

It was uncertain why the motorists were not simply issued citations.

Some parents described the people arrested as "kids," but all of them weren't exactly youths.

Karen Usmani said her 27-year-old nephew was put in Harris County Jail for an improper lane change.

"He'd never even gotten a traffic ticket before," Usmani told the Houston Chronicle.

While Harris County deputies concentrated their efforts in one part of the county, the Department of Public Safety's effort to reduce Labor Day traffic fatalities was under way across the state.

Officials said about 1,500 troopers were assigned to patrol highways over the weekend. The troopers were focusing on speeders, drunken drivers, reckless drivers and seat belt law violators.

PUBLIC AUCTION

SUNDAY, SEPT. 12, 1999
STARTS 1:04 PM* VIEWING 12:00 P.M.

Removed to: Dorothy Garrett Coliseum - East Room,
 1001 Birdwell Ln., Big Spring, TX

AUCTIONEERS NOTE: There is a large variety of many special items in this auction.

Furniture 53 Pieces: French Oak Hunt Cabinet with carved figures c(1870-1880), Mahogany (S) roll top desk. Large Philadelphia chest on chest, Burial front marble top side board c(1910-1920), Victorian marble top chest of drawers, Chippendale settee, French wardrobe with beveled mirror front c(1895-1905), Nice dome top China cabinet with carving, Early French marble and brass center tables c(1905-1915), Nice shell back plantation sofa, 9 piece carved Belgium dining room set c(1901-1920), Two large oak wood carved wardrobes, Beautiful marble top side board with beveled glass top c(1890-1905), Tilt top parlor table with pie crust edge, Rare mission style oak cabinet with carvings c(1905-1910), Marble top parlor table with fancy flowers and leaf on rod iron base, Large Mahogany claw foot dining table with 8 matching chairs. Too many items to list.

Unusual Items of Interest: Camel back mantel clock, Unusual cane side magazine rack, Nice brass Victorian coat rack with fancy top c(1915-1918), Magnificent 3 piece art deco marble and bronze clock set, Early barley twist smoking stand, English cooper and brass coal bucket, Large early linen lace table cloth, Large marble clock with sconces UCRA maker, Bisque doll marked B. Moore S.E.B.J. "Paris" - 252 14" Potting, Original advertising package Aratex collars c(1920), Rare Braniff international air line sauce set, "1910" Hammer cooper tray with sterling edge. **Collection of cut glass:** Set of 5 sandwich cased glass supper trays, Victorian "1908" cup and saucer of the capitol in D.C., Matched set of 12 Heisey signed punch cups, Set of wedge-wood China, Adams England Est. 1657 Iron stoneware, "Occupied Japan" Phoenix dishes, "Sterling" dish by Amston, Reid and Barton bowls, Lovelace silver bowl, "Rare" black case Lionel train set in original box, Metal saving bank-First State Bank of Pittsburgh, KS, Metal saving bank-First National Joplin, MO., Linen and lace, golden harvest pottery, Noritake pieces, Bird pictures, Glass cigar store jars, 6 civil war early wine glasses, 1950 Hostess glasses by Libby. Partial Listing Only.

Coin collection: Fifty-two items including U.S. Gold Coins, Morgan Silver Dollars, Silver Walking Half Dollar, V-Nickels and Roman Coins.

Firearms: Selections of antique pistols and rifles.

Jewelry: 31 lots Emerald, Sapphire, Ruby and Diamond rings, Opera Link Pearls, Diamond tennis bracelet and Diamond necklaces.

Consignments accepted for this auction and future auctions

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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

Prayer issue should be a 'no brainer'

The fact Christians who have had the privilege of pregame prayer at high school football games denied can, through brainstorming across denominational lines, develop an alternative solution to the dilemma is a sign to us that the movement to take back our country is gaining.

Yes, the laws are there to protect all — especially those in the minority in the face of an overwhelming majority — but, as we've said before, no one makes you pray at a football game just like they don't make you watch television, read a newspaper column or talk to someone you don't like.

We really don't think any of our communities in the Crossroads are different from the vast majority out there. You know the catch-phrases ... hard-working, God-fearing, good Christians, honest to a fault, strong family values ...

And because of that, we also believe there are thousands and thousands — growing into millions and millions — all across our great land who question what is going on within all three branches of our government.

At the highest level, we have an adulterer and a liar. At the legislative, we have men and women who would rather score victories for their political parties than honestly work for their constituents.

And at the judiciary, we apparently have a lack of common sense when it comes to decisions on issues like pregame prayer.

As Christians, we shouldn't want to force our beliefs of people of other faiths. But just like we would expect to hear, say, a Shinto prayer in Japan, shouldn't persons of other faiths expect to hear a Christian prayer in the Bible Belt?

But it really goes beyond that, doesn't it? We're not talking a get down on your knees and beg forgiveness prayer ... we're talking a "Lord, please watch over the players and spectators both during the game and on their way home."

And that's a prayer that crosses all denominational lines ... and should meet the common sense test for the courts.

YOUR VIEWS

TO THE EDITOR:
Your article in (last) Sunday's Herald regarding the physician's lawsuit against Scenic Mountain Medical Center surprised me. Particularly because I felt many of the statements attributed by the physicians were false.

I have had the privilege of working at Scenic Mountain Medical Center for three years. I have never heard anything like this before. The amounts of money that are mentioned are simply incredible considering the 67 percent of the residents of Howard County make less than \$30,000 per year. Consider also that these physicians do not want to fulfill the contract responsibilities. They should have read and understood their contracts. When they signed their names, they should have intended to fulfill the responsibilities for which they were receiving considerable sums.

I fear that this dispute will hurt the image of our hospital. Where would you go in an emergency? Lubbock and Midland may be hazardous destinations when you are traveling in a true emergency. You may never be able to get there in time. Many people have said that they would never use our hospital because of one allegation or another. But when they are struggling to breathe or bleeding on the ambulance stretcher, you may be assured they know where to come. Here, to Scenic Mountain Medical Center, where we as employees, who are your neighbors, work every day to provide the best possible care. This will continue, despite the allegations by people who see money rather than service as the goal of their profession.

CAROL L. PETERSON, R.R.A.
Director, Health Information SMMC
Big Spring

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 jwalker@xroadstx.com.
• By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

Couple finds it never easy to leave West Texas

By EMILY LUNDY
Guest Columnist

There's an old saying that if you live in West Texas for five years, you won't ever leave, especially for East Texas. My husband and I proved that wrong, although we even bought a home near Big Spring in Coahoma. But after eight years and three children, the trees and proximity of living families, shady creeks, and mysterious rivers brought us back to Henderson county. However, our loyalty still remains to that vast section of the state out west, an unrelenting loyalty that reveals itself when someone says, "Oh yeah, I'm from West Texas. It was raised in Abilene."

Abilene is only the cusp of West Texas. Living in Odessa means really living in the West. El Paso is too far to even think about. Then someone in this area will say, "We're having a sand storm today," and I feel really smug, having experienced those storms of the sixties that came in three different colors and could drift sand against an interior wall of the home like snow against a picket fence. Better soil preservation efforts now abate those breath-stopping storms of the past we hear, but we'll see.

How? Presently, our younger son and his wife have moved to Midland, only last Friday in fact, although they had made earlier visits to this city to check out the terrain, distances, civilization, etc. They were to leave midday Friday in a self-rental truck, our son driving and towing one car and his wife driving the other vehicle. A crew had already been hired to unload for them upon arrival.

Since Dad and I were needed only for unpacking inside the house and had half an invitation to come, we drove that same day to Crockett to deliver two grand-

children to their mother — a halfway distance between here and Beaumont. Then, alone at last, we headed toward the sun at 4 p.m. Once our highway crossed the fold in the double-paged atlas on my lap, I felt more optimistic about reaching Midland in this lifetime.

Even in our forties we could drive late into the night or all night, take a short nap, and recover in a day. Why we thought it possible almost twenty years later, I don't know. Anyway, by Brady, Texas, my chauffeur began to mention "motel." We bypassed San Angelo, however, and aimed for Sterling City. Sleeping there, we'd wake up to a short journey to Midland. One problem. Sterling City has no motels. We pushed on across the lonely highway connecting Garden City to Midland.

Early Friday morning before we left I had call our daughter nearby to tell her our plans and gave her the phone number of friends we knew in Midland in case she needed to reach us as we had no address or phone number for the child we planned to visit. He did say his newly rented home was on the corner of two well-known streets within Midland, which I considered a challenge to find, almost adventuresome.

Around midnight Friday, we checked into a Best Western and early Saturday morning began the treasure hunt. No directions matched our son's. What he said he was paying for rent kept us in logical areas, but it was clear we had no idea where to find him. In a Wal-Mart store we had him paged because the couple might just be there. Before doing the same at Home Depot, I thought of the friend whose number I had with me and called.

Yes, my friend of the past had heard from our son the night before because he had called us here at home, not reached us, and called his sister to see what we

had done now. (The children worry about us.) A connection. This friend had our son's address, the directions to reach it, and a phone number. We've always liked casual, surprise drop-ins, and since we weren't far from their destination, we found them after only two wrong turns.

Very little was unpacked, and the daughter-in-law wanted the master bedroom painted a lighter color than two-toned evergreen. Thus, we were needed although extra bedding was lacking, and the new refrigerator could not be delivered for three more days.

In reuniting with former friends in Midland and Coahoma, and seeing the charm of Midland, long forgotten, as we were more acquainted with Big Spring, we really had a nice extended weekend. Our mistake after a get-together dinner at one house on the eastern edge of Midland Monday night was to leave for home in East Texas. It was 10 p.m. with miles and miles of open country to cover.

"We'll stop in Abilene," I promised my son. We did at a rest stop for two or three hours of sleep then Dad pressed on, like a man obsessed. I never fully awakened except to hear him say he was leaving Interstate 20 at Eastland to take the "old way" back, then to point out the beauty of Lake Whitney (even at night), and to be told in Hillsboro he could not drive home awake. I drove the rest of the way, getting us home by 7:30 a.m. and my husband, on this Wednesday, still walks in a stagger. I'm not out of the sitting and staring stage.

I hope our children love Midland. They left Austin for the move. Since this child of ours and his siblings were born in Big Spring, except for their adopted sister, he has, as his dad explains "come full circle." He and his wife are excited about Midland's snow levels and already know

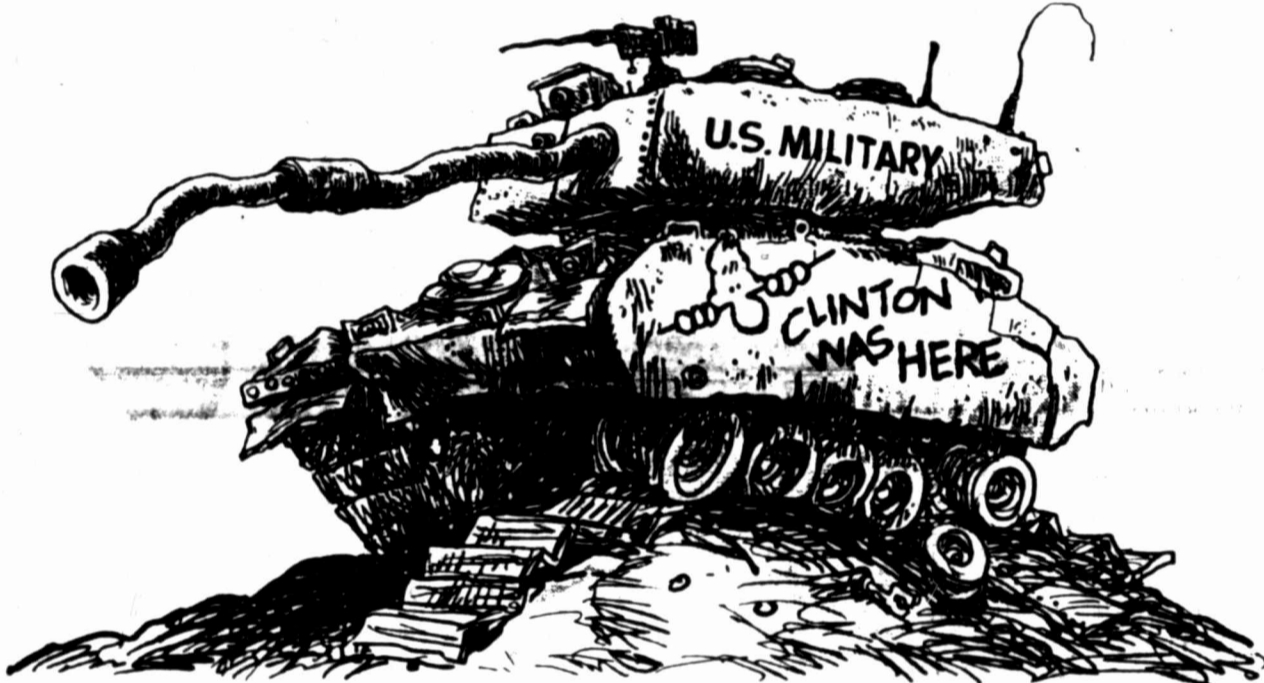
about the cooler mornings and evenings, the lower humidity. We've only casually mentioned the distance between most towns. They'll have to cope with that as we did three decades ago.

In Coahoma, when we drove out to see the ranch house of old friends whose children and families are scattered afar, I really weakened for the western area, wondering what we might be doing or where we might be living had we stayed there in 1971 instead of coming East. Just behind this ranch house, a two-story built with lots of nostalgia surrounding it, lies a rugged valley of mesquite trees and other bushes, with multiple-shaded rocks mixed in for miles of viewing. A less traveled dirt road lies in front of the home, and the sounds of nature surround the area like a natural split-rail fence.

I love both the East and the West. Thanks to one of our children, there'll be more excuses now for us to see the West more frequently. In fact, I'm being rented for three weeks in August to stay with my daughter-in-law while my son prepares for his new assignment in a training center in New York City. My husband asked, "New York, Texas?" The other one doesn't matter much at all. It's not even in North Texas. But the North Texas out west is really the panhandle area, not the metropolis and what lies above it between Dallas and the Red River. West Texas ought to know.

Editor's Note: Mrs. Lundy's husband was a junior high coach for Coahoma ISD in the mid sixties to the early seventies. She taught in Coahoma High School two years and then five years at Howard College, in between giving birth to three children in the old Malone and Hogan Foundation Hospital. They say their son and his wife are really enjoying this area.

BRACKINS, HERNDON TIMES, PROPRIETARY



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0001; Fax: 512-463-0326.

203(k) — Government retirement plan for swindlers

Attention swindlers: Your government has a wonderful opportunity for you. Let your fellow citizens have their 401(k) retirement plans; your government has a 203(k) for you.



JACK ANDERSON

"The government has nothing — no program or oversight — to review 203(k) inspectors," Jim Hawthorne, a 203(k) inspector in New Jersey tells us. "I would have a one in 5,000 chance of getting caught if I fudged a 203(k) inspection."

Despite condemning audits and warnings from the private sector and government reviewers, the Department of Housing and Urban Development continues to express pride in the 203(k) home mortgage and rehabilitation program.

It is a complex version of the Federal Housing Administration's mortgage insurance program, and it has grown exponentially in the last

two years, being used 800 times more than five years ago.

Normally, the FHA backs loans made by a conventional bank with the full faith and trust of taxpayer money. Should someone with an FHA loan be unable to make the mortgage payments, FHA will pay the total value of the loan to the bank and seize the house. This insurance prompts many banks to make loans they would otherwise deem too risky.

But that risk does not compare to 203(k), which includes not just the price of the home in the mortgage but also rehabilitation work to the house to make it livable, allowing prospective homeowners to borrow more money in one large loan.

From 1994 to 1998, the program lost \$25 million in taxpayer money from 62,757 203(k) loans, with higher losses forecast for the next five years. This is due to a foreclosure rate that is double the rate for regular FHA loans.

Hawthorne attributes the problem to fraudulent inspectors and lenders: "A person is cleared through FHA for a certain loan limit; of course the

lender wants to close the loan for the full limit, because they get their fee on percentage. The lender tells the inspector know the FHA limit, and the inspector (who gets paid by the lender) writes a package and curves the numbers to make the limit."

Sometimes, this means bidding the construction under the actual value or bidding over the cost and value, according to Hawthorne. The problems arise when the lender and appraiser make the numbers work without regard to the dollar figure that is required to make the home livable.

Hawthorne told us about several unfit homes that were sold with 203(k) loans and will probably lead to foreclosure.

One in Egg Harbor Township, N.J., has a caving roof, a sinking driveway, no gutters and a cracked foundation set on movable cinder blocks. The homeowner was only granted \$10,000 for all the repairs plus clean-up and permit. This isn't even a fraction of cost for the work, Hawthorne tells us, but the repair price was intentionally bid low so they could come in under the FHA's loan limit for

the homeowner.

Worse, a contractor was paid several thousands from this paltry \$10,000 repair fund to fix the attic in this house, and the work was never done. The homeowner is barely hanging on, trying to find a way to pay for necessary repairs and pay the mortgage.

These are not uncommon circumstances.

A Government Accounting Office report issued in June lists the biggest problem as a lack of oversight of 203(k) inspectors charged with designing and overseeing the home rehabilitation process. Most are not properly trained, and HUD conducts little if any review of their work. The report recounted several incidents where contractors were overpaid for work not done right or not done at all.

HUD tells us that monitoring lenders with large default rates may stem the losses from 203(k), but HUD has been downsizing for several years now and doesn't have the manpower to back up the promise.

So, carry on, swindlers. Your government will continue to fund your 203(k) retirement plan.

Mallard Fillmore by BRUCE TINSLEY

THIS IS A PUBLIC-SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING THE FIRST-LADY'S ASSERTION THAT THE PRESIDENT'S ADULTERIES ARE THE RESULT OF HIS STRESSFUL CHILDHOOD...

...THE CLINTONS ARE HIGHLY TRAINED PROFESSIONALS, RATIONALIZING UNDER CONTROLLED CONDITIONS...

PLEASE DO NOT TRY THIS AT HOME!

IN

Bulldog at cross

Rachel an impr 13:24 to girls' title Bulldoget team fin County I District C in Odessa William better tha competio division, first win Garden Ci Leann fourth Bulldoget Atkinson Lang wa Kinard wa The Bull ty team w Salva, wh the field o

Coahoma meeting

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Beach vs schedule

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Cowboys Tucker, T

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SPORTS

BIG SPRING HERALD

Do you have an interesting item or story idea for sports? Call John Moseley, 263-7331, Ext. 233.

IN BRIEF

Bulldogettes second at cross-country meet

Rachel Williams turned in an impressive clocking of 13:24.0 to take the individual girls' title and lead Coahoma's Bulldogettes to a second-place team finish at the Ector County Independent School District Cross Country Meet in Odessa Saturday.

Williams time, which was better than any turned in by competitors in the Class 4A-5A division, also gave her the first win of her career over Garden City's Michelle Fuchs. Leann Smith provided a fourth place for the Bulldogettes, while Crystal Atkinson was 16th, Ashley Lang was 25th and Kristi Kinard was 26th.

The Bulldogette junior varsity team was paced by Rachel Salva, who finished 20th in the field of 95 competitors.

Coahoma boosters slate meeting for tonight

The Coahoma Athletic Booster Club will meet at 7 tonight in the Coahoma Elementary School cafeteria.

A short business meeting will be followed by viewing highlights of the Bulldogs' season opener with Lorenzo.

The public is invited to attend.

Beach volleyball tourney scheduled for Sept. 18

A beach volleyball tournament sponsored by the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce Sports Committee has been scheduled for Sept. 18 at Comanche Trail Park.

Entry fees for the event are \$40 per team. Each team must have at least six players.

Three sand courts will be set up just west of the Dora Roberts Community Center for the tournament.

For more information, call Javier Becerra at 664-9874 or 267-4560.

YMCA inline hockey registration continues

Registration is now under way for the Big Spring Family YMCA's fall inline hockey program.

Boys and girls between the ages of 8 and 17 are eligible to play. No tryouts will be conducted, all children registering will be placed on a team.

Fees for the program are set at \$15 for full YMCA members, \$25 for program members and \$32 for non-members.

A seven-game schedule will begin the week of Sept. 13. Games and practices will be played at Marcy Elementary School.

For more information, call the YMCA at 267-8234.

Cowboys cut Stoutmire; Tucker, Thomas make it

IRVING (AP) — Omar Stoutmire, who started 12 games at safety for the Dallas Cowboys last season, was the most notable among the team's 17 cuts Sunday to reach the NFL's 53-man limit.

Avoiding the ax were receiver Jason Tucker, linebacker Robert Thomas and defensive lineman Brandon Noble, all of whom helped themselves by spending the spring playing in NFL Europe.

The overseas work wasn't enough to save offensive linemen Jeremy Akers and Chris Brymer. They were dropped, along with former CFL star Freddie Childress and Oliver Ross.

ON THE AIR

Radio
COLLEGE FOOTBALL
5:15 p.m. — Texas Tech Red Raiders at Arizona State Sun Devils, KBST-AM 1490.

Television
MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL
6:30 p.m. — St. Louis Cardinals at Atlanta Braves, TBS, Ch. 11 and ESPN, Ch. 30.
COLLEGE FOOTBALL
7 p.m. — Texas Tech at Arizona State, FXS, Ch. 29.

TENNIS
6:30 p.m. — U.S. Open men's and women's fourth rounds, USA, Ch. 38.

Lady Steers finish fourth at Wayland Baptist tournament

By HERALD Staff Report

PLAINVIEW — Big Spring's Lady Steers, despite struggling with inconsistent play, managed a fourth-place finish Saturday at the Wayland Baptist University Coca-Cola Classic volleyball tournament.

After posting a 5-1 record in pool play on Friday, the Lady Steers dropped a three-game match to District 5-4A rival Snyder in the tournament's semifinals Friday and followed that with a three-game loss to Borger in the third-place game.

It had been incorrectly reported that the Lady Steers had beaten Snyder in the semifinal, but the Lady Tigers rebounded from a 15-8 Big Spring win in the showdown's opening game to post back-to-back 15-13 wins and advance to the championship game where they fell to Lubbock Monterey, 15-11, 16-14.

The loss left the Lady Steers facing Borger — the only team to split pool play games with Big Spring — in the third-place contest.

Borger opened the match with a 15-10 win, only to see the Lady Steers come back for a 16-14 victory in the second game and force a rubber game.

The Lady Bulldogs claimed the third-place trophy with a 15-12 win, holding off a furious Big Spring rally that saw the Lady Steers come back from a 10-2 deficit to make a game of things.

Big Spring senior Nina Evans earned her second all-tournament team selection, joining the Monterey tandem of Angela Mooney and Ashley Dickerson, Snyder's Ashley Delce and Kameron Kallemeyn, Borger's Kelli Mitchell, Plainview's Alesha Robertson and Sanford-Fritch's Rachel Smith.

"We just didn't have a good weekend," Lady Steers coach Traci Pierce noted.

"We played well enough in our pool games, but didn't really have it together Saturday. We've just got to regroup and be ready to go to Lamesa on Tuesday."

Pierce admitted the Lady Steers with a 9-5 match record with three matches remaining before they open District 5-4A play in Fort Stockton on Sept. 14.

After traveling to Lamesa on Tuesday, the Lady Steers will close out their non-district schedule Saturday by playing host to Water Valley's Lady Eagles and Monahans' Lady Lobos in Steer Gym.

"The kids are really disappointed, because they really feel they should have been playing Monterey in the championship game, and when you look at the talent on the court, we should have been," the Lady Steers coach noted.

"I think that sometimes these girls want to be the team we all know they can be that they put too much pressure on themselves," Pierce added. "As a result, we start pressing, rather than playing the game the way we know how to play."

To some extent, Pierce added, the Lady Steers are trying to settle into a "groove."

"We're in a new position ... one that we've never been in before," Pierce explained. "When nobody expected us to be very good, there wasn't any pressure ... not from the people we were playing and none that we put on ourselves. All that has changed now, though."

"We've just got to find the solid volleyball we played on Tuesday against Greenwood and San Angelo Central," she added. "If we'll do that, we're going to be all right when we get to district play."

HC's Blackburn a 'Hall of Famer'

By JOHN H. WALKER

Editor

For someone whose job is to surprise award recipients for the Southwest Athletic Trainers Association (SWATA), Everett Blackburn had the tables turned on him this summer.

Blackburn, who is in his ninth year as head athletic trainer at Howard College, chairs the SWATA awards committee.

But for someone who is supposed to know about every award being given out at the association's annual meeting, Blackburn was left out in the dark on Thursday, July 22, when he was inducted into SWATA's "Hall of Fame."

"I was totally surprised. I had no idea," Blackburn said, shaking his head from side-to-side.

"This is my job — to handle these awards — then to have no knowledge, especially with the number of people who had to know about it, it was tremendous," he said.

Blackburn, a Kansas native who came to Big Spring from Emporia State, is now in his 20th year in the Spring City, having spent three years at Washington Elementary School and eight at Big Spring High School before moving on to Howard.

He said as he looked around the room at the awards ceremony, he saw a large number of his former student trainers, but thought nothing of it.

"There were so many of my former student trainers there that they were afraid I'd pick up on that, but I just thought 'Hey, this is great, they've caught the bug to get involved,'" he admitted.

Blackburn said when he sat down from his portion of the program, the new president went to the podium and told him he hadn't completed the awards session.

"I kind of leaned out from the table and looked at him, but



Howard College trainer Everett Blackburn discusses a project with student trainer Brenda Griffin, a freshman from Borden County, while Kevin Park, a sophomore from Big Spring, answers the phone in the training room at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. Blackburn, now in his ninth year at Howard College, was recently inducted into the Southwest Athletic Trainers Association's Hall of Fame.

didn't know who or what they were talking about.

"That's when he said 'Gotcha,'" Blackburn recalled.

He said the ceremony was made even more special because SWATA officials had brought his mother in from Kansas.

"It was really special that she was there plus, my fiancée was there ... I was totally surprised."

Blackburn, who was also inducted Pete Carlton, former UT-Arlington trainer and now athletic director and Sandy Miller, head trainer at Stephen F. Austin, said Baseball Hall of Fame inductees Nolan Ryan and George Brett have nothing

on him. "That's because I'm in awe of these people who are in the hall," he said. "They're the very best of the best. To be among them is just unimaginable."

"I don't think my picture belongs up there (with theirs), but I'm really appreciative of the honor."

Blackburn is the youngest member ever inducted into the hall, the first non-president of the SWATA to be inducted and the first athletic trainer from a junior college to be inducted.

As much as his reputation for keeping Howard College athletes healthy, Blackburn is known for the number of stu-

dent trainers he has who advance on to four-year programs.

"A lot of schools are only taking transfers now," he said. "I'd like to think that when I recommend someone, that trainer knows they're going to work."

"When a trainer successfully leaves my program, they understand the work ethic."

In addition to being elected to the Hall of Fame, Blackburn received the Athletic Trainers Achievement Award at the 50th annual convention of the National Athletic Trainers Association — one of just eight selected from 25,000 members of the association.

No. 15 Arizona rallies late for 35-31 win over TCU

FORT WORTH (AP) — The safety on their first snap was a bad sign for the Arizona Wildcats. Another safety on their first drive of the second half seemed like a sure sign this wasn't their night.

Then, something clicked. The powerful offense that had been dormant for the first six quarters of this season erupted for three touchdowns in a span of 3:46, sending No. 15 Arizona on its way to a 35-31 victory over Texas Christian on Sunday night.

The flurry that turned a 25-7 deficit into a 28-25 lead was only the beginning of the Wildcats' comeback. They also needed a six-play, 77-yard drive led by quarterback Keith Jones to score the game-winning touchdown with 2:10 left.

"Our team has tremendous heart," said coach Dick Tomey, who avoided his first 0-2 start in 13 years at Arizona. "I'm proud of the way they fought back from a big deficit. I also was impressed with the heart that TCU showed."

The Wildcats were meek in a season-opening 41-7 loss at Penn State that dropped them from a No. 4 ranking. Another loss would've been disastrous, but it appeared they were headed that way with a combination of their blunders and great plays by the Horned Frogs (0-1).

"TCU kept Arizona off balance with a variety of formations, even though most of them ended with quarterback Patrick Batteaux keeping the ball or pitching it to LaDanian Tomlinson.

The Wildcats (1-1) figured it out by the middle of the third quarter, and as the stops mounted, so did their confidence. Linebacker Marcus Bell exemplified the attitude shift when he stepped on Tomlinson after getting up from a tackle. He wasn't penalized.

"TCU presented some difficult things for us, as option teams do, but the more you see the option, it seems you get better against it," Tomey said. "That was true for us in the second half."

Reds go on home run binge in 9-7 win over Philadelphia

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

Forget about Sammy Sosa and Mark McGwire. For one weekend, at least, the Cincinnati Reds were baseball's home run kings.

The Reds set a major league record with 14 homers in two games, including five in Sunday's 9-7 win over the Philadelphia Phillies.

"I knew we had to be doing something right with all those round-trippers," said Jeffrey Hammonds, who hit one Saturday and two Sunday. "It's a lot of fun in that dugout right now, seeing who's doing what."

Hammonds, Greg Vaughn, Eddie Taubensee and Dmitri Young all homered for the second straight day at

Veterans Stadium. "You may not see something like that again for 60 years," Reds manager Jack McKeon said. "It's pretty hard to do what we did over the last couple of days."

One day after setting an NL record with nine homers in a 22-3 rout of Philadelphia, the Reds hit five more to surpass the 1939 Yankees of Joe DiMaggio and 1961 San Francisco Giants of Willie Mays and Willie McCovey for the two-game record.

The Reds also got a strong pitching performance from Denny Neagle (5-5), who limited the Phillies to a pair of solo homers in eight innings and left with a 9-2 lead.

The Phillies scored five runs in the ninth off reliever Gabe White on RBI sin-

gles by Kevin Jordan and Rico Brogna and a two-out, three-run homer by Torey Lovullo. But Scott Sullivan came in and retired Alex Arias on a popup for his third save.

The Reds remained 2 1/2 games behind first-place Houston in the NL Central and four games behind the New York Mets in the wild-card race.

In other NL games, it was Arizona 7, Atlanta 5; Pittsburgh 8, San Francisco 4; Houston 6, Montreal 2; New York 6, Colorado 2; Los Angeles 4, Chicago 1; St. Louis 13, Milwaukee 9 in 10 innings; and San Diego 5, Florida 2.

In American League games, it was the Boston 9, Seattle 7; Yankees 8, Anaheim 3; Cleveland 15, Baltimore 7; Kansas City 6, Toronto 3; and Minnesota 4, Tampa Bay 1.

The White Sox-Rangers game at Texas was rained out and will be made up as a doubleheader tonight.

Mets 6, Rockies 2

Darryl Hamilton hit a grand slam against his former team and Masato Yoshii struck out nine in six innings at Shea Stadium as New York closed with in 21/2 games of first-place Atlanta in the NL East.

John Franco, making his first appearance since July 2, pitched a scoreless eighth inning for the Mets. Franco missed more than two months because of a strained tendon in the middle finger of his left hand.

Hamilton's grand slam was his eighth homer of the year and fourth since the Mets acquired him from the Rockies.

MONDAY

SEP. 6

Table listing TV channels (KMYD, KPEJ, KERA, etc.) and their respective programs for Monday, September 6, 1999.

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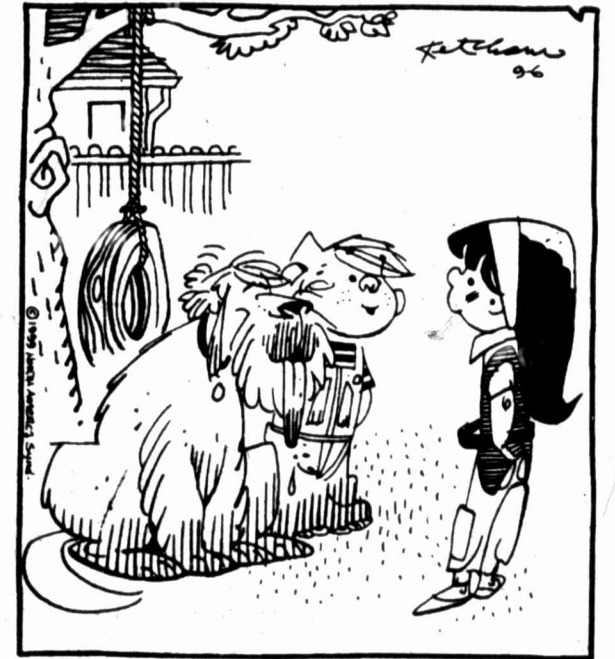
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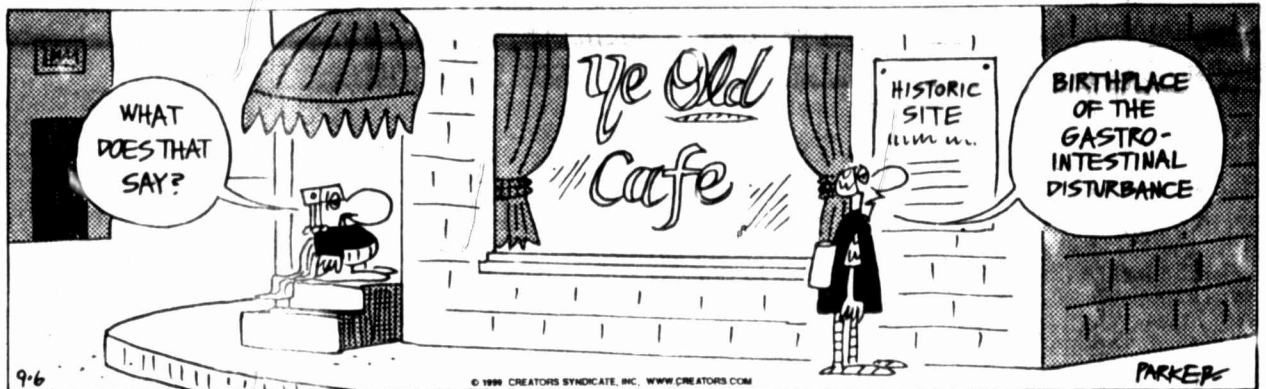
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THIS DATE IN HISTORY

The ASSOCIATED PRESS Today is Monday, Sept. 6, the 249th day of 1999. There are 116

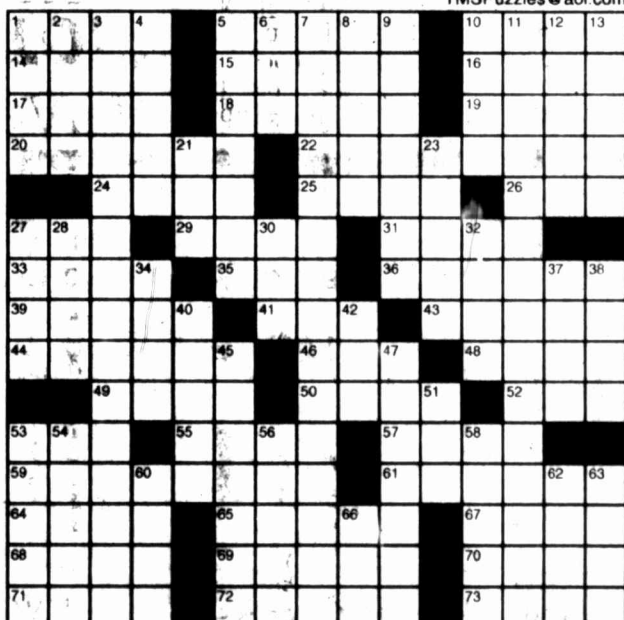
days left in the year. This is Labor Day. Today's Highlight in History: On Sept. 6, 1901, President McKinley was shot and mortal...

On this date: In 1837, what is now Oberlin (Ohio) College became co-ed. In 1909, American explorer Robert Peary sent word that he had reached the North Pole five months earlier.

THE Daily Crossword

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

- ACROSS 1 Toothpaste container 5 Golden-touch king 10 Attention-getting sound 14 Latin way 15 Passive 16 Hoarfrost 17 Vesuvian flow 18 Glide on ice 19 Shade trees 20 Dissertation 22 Custardlike dishes 24 Take five 25 Blood, pref. 26 Pig's pad 27 Pointed tool 29 Emcee Griffin 31 Way out 33 Sets down 35 Little legume 36 Court judgment 39 Fire remains 41 Three-letter sandwich 43 Squallid 44 Pinnacles 46 Down in the dumps 48 Actress Russo 49 Jump 50 Fencing sword 52 Small amount 53 Hairstyling product 55 Shade of blue 57 Metrical foot 59 Withstood 61 Metal grating 64 Circle segments 65 Refuse 67 Middle East canal 68 Celine of song 69 Pharaoh's land 70 Venison 71 Calendar abbr. 72 State again 73 Peak in Thessaly



By Stanley B. Whitten Highwood, IL 9/6/99

Saturday's Puzzle Solved



- 4 Remove permanently 5 Blunder 6 Printer fluid 7 Long-running radio series 8 Bandleader Shaw 9 Like pipes and flowers 10 Location 11 Bochco show 12 Irish patriot Robert 13 Disorderly 21 Doctrine 23 Cartons 27 Lament's comment 28 Stinging insect 30 Gray soldier, briefly 32 Bakery employee 34 Withered 37 St. Vincent Millay 38 Observed 40 Cornery and Penn 42 Zenith 45 Splash and spot 47 Heavy 51 Auditory organ 53 Students with dogs 54 Strange 56 Border 58 Accomplish incorrectly 60 "It Romantic?" 62 Marvin and Majors 63 Pound of poetry 66 Healing waters

Advertisement for Big Spring Herald, including contact information and a list of staff members.

On this date: In 1837, what is now Oberlin (Ohio) College became co-ed. In 1909, American explorer Robert Peary sent word that he had reached the North Pole five months earlier. In 1939, South Africa declared war on Germany. In 1941, Jews aged 7 and up in German-occupied areas were ordered to wear yellow Stars of David. In 1944, during World War II, the British government relaxed blackout restrictions and suspended compulsory training for the Home Guard. In 1948, the Netherlands celebrated the coronation of Queen Juliana. In 1952, Canadian television broadcasting began in Montreal. In 1966, South African Prime Minister Hendrik Verwoerd was assassinated by a deranged page in parliament in Cape Town. In 1970, Palestinian guerrillas seized control of three jetties which were later blown up in Jordan after passengers and crews were evacuated. In 1997, Britain bade farewell to Princess Diana with a funeral service at Westminster Abbey. Ten years ago: The National Party, the governing party of South Africa, lost nearly a quarter of its parliament seats to far-right and anti-apartheid rivals, its worst setback in four decades. Five years ago: Irish Prime Minister Albert Reynolds and Gerry Adams, head of the IRA's political ally, Sinn Fein, made a joint commitment to peace after their first face-to-face meeting. One year ago: Japanese movie director Akira Kurosawa died in Tokyo at age 88. Today's Birthdays: Comedian JoAnne Worley is 62. Country singer David Allen Coe is 60. Country singer Mel McDaniel is 57. Actress Swoosie Kurtz is 55. Comedian-actress Jane Curtin is 52. Rhythm-and-blues musician Claydes Smith (Kool & The Gang) is 51. Country musician Joe Smyth (Sawyer Brown) is 42. Actor-comedian Jeff Foxworthy is 41. Actor-comedian Michael Winslow is 39. Rock musician Perry Bamonte (The Cure) is 39. Pop musician Pal Waaktaar (a-ha) is 38. Country singer Mark Chesnutt is 36. Actress Rosie Perez is 35. Singer CeCe Peniston is 30. Rhythm-and-blues singer Darryl Anthony (Az Yet) is 30. Rock singer Dolores O'Riordan (The Cranberries) is 28. Actor Justin Whalen is 25. Rock singer Nina Persson (The Cardigans) is 25. Rapper Foxy Brown is 20.