

BIG SPRING HERALD

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

FRIDAY
September 17, 1999

WEATHER

Tonight:



PARTLY CLOUDY
TONIGHT 58°-60° SATURDAY 82°-86°

Celebration set for Dr. Sanders, former hospital

A dual celebration is planned from 2-5 p.m. Saturday at the site of the former Medical Arts Clinic and Hospital, 710 Gregg St. to honor Dr. Nell Sanders on her 90th birthday and to recognize the 50th anniversary of the building of the hospital.

All former patients, employees and students — along with friends — are invited to attend.

Dr. Nell Sanders and her husband, Dr. Virgil Sanders, along with his brother, Dr. Preston Sanders, built and opened the hospital on Feb. 1, 1949 with a staff of three. After Dr. Preston Sanders died in 1950, Dr. Floyd Mays was added to the staff.

In addition to being a full hospital, Medical Arts also operated a Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN) training school from September 1952 until Feb. 1, 1968. Over the years, the school graduated 169 LVNs.

The 25-bed hospital, built at a cost of about \$150,000, served the community for nearly 31 years before it was closed on Dec. 1, 1979. Dr. Nell and Dr. Virgil maintained Medical Arts Clinic until they retired from active practice in 1993. Dr. Virgil died on Feb. 3, 1998.

Congressional candidate slates Big Spring visit

Darrell Clements, a criminal district court magistrate from Rhome, will visit Big Spring Saturday to kick off his campaign for the 17th Congressional District seat.

The district is currently represented by Charlie Stenholm, D-Stamford. Clements, a Republican, will hold a press conference at noon Saturday on the Howard County Courthouse steps.

Knights to offer ID kits Saturday

Knights of Columbus Council 9130 members will be distributing free identification kits for children at the Big Spring Wal Mart store Saturday from 9 a.m. to about 4 p.m.

In addition to the kits, the Knights will be selling fajita burritos.

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Rep. Counts to be decorated as honorary brigadier general here

By JOHN H. WALKER
Editor

State Rep. David Counts, D-Knox City, a retired colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve, will be decorated with the honorary rank of brigadier general in the Texas Military



COUNTS

Forces in ceremonies at the Big Spring Vietnam Memorial on Saturday, Oct. 23.

Major Gen. Daniel James III, commander of the Texas Army National Guard, will be in Big Spring for the presentation.

"This is quite an honor for me and I'm so pleased that the members of the Vietnam Memorial Committee (VMC) would want to hold the ceremony at the Vietnam Memorial," Counts said.

"The members of that committee gave of themselves in

Vietnam and they continue to work to ensure that the men and women who served in Southeast Asia are not forgotten."

He also said that with the addition of the Gold Star Chapel last Memorial Day, the Vietnam Memorial was expanded to recognize those who served in a number of theaters in addition to Southeast Asia.

Counts said no place else in his district is the veteran, both living and dead, remembered as they are in Big Spring, adding

that that is why having the ceremony here, at the Vietnam Memorial, will be so special.

"David has been a good friend to the veteran and has been a good friend to the members of the Vietnam Memorial Committee and the Memorial," said VMC spokesman Jerry Groves.

"We know this is an honor for him ... it's an honor for him to want to have the ceremony at the memorial," he added.

The ceremony will begin at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 23.

A private reception, hosted by the Heritage Museum, Carriage Inn and VMC, will follow at the museum, located at 510 Scury St.

Counts first went to the Texas House of Representatives in 1988 and represents 12 counties — including Borden, Scurry and Howard — in House District 70.

He serves as chairman of the Natural Resources Committee and sits on both redistricting and state affairs.



Ben Wehrich of Lee George Construction cuts the floor of the old Furr's store on 11th Place today while Steve Wells supervises. The 22,000 square-foot building, vacant for several years, has been purchased by Trinity Baptist Church and is being remodeled for classrooms and a fellowship hall.

Book discussion group reorganizes at county library, looking for members

By DEBBIE L. JENSEN
Features Editor

Love a great novel? Enjoy a biography, mystery or romance?

Then Howard County Library has the group for you. The library's book discussion group recently reorganized and plans to begin meeting at 7 p.m. the first Monday of each month.

On Oct. 4, they will discuss Steve Martini's legal thriller, "Undue Influence."

Librarian Loraine Redman



REDMAN

said the group is for people who not only love to read, but want to go a bit further.

"This is a great place for people who want to discuss what they read," she said. "A lot of people have more fun that way, if they can talk about what they have read."

But for those who don't want to talk, the discussion group is also a good place to listen, Redman said.

"Some people are afraid they might have to give a review of the book, but we don't do it that way." Instead, group meetings are conducted in a round-table discussion format.

The group has been meeting for about a year and a half, but took a break starting in May of this year. They read and dis-

cuss everything from the novels of Danielle Steele and Dean Koontz to non-fiction works and biographies.

Redman will order copies for the library of all the books to be discussed, so group members will have time to read them without having to purchase a copy for themselves. The November book, to be discussed Nov. 1, is "An American Childhood," by Annie Dillard.

December's meeting, on the 6th, will feature "Einstein's Dream" by Alan Lightman.

Redman said she would like to see as many as 15 members in the group.

The group meets in the library's reference area. For more information, call the library at 264-2260.

Overpass project funding promising; Texas 350 work continues

RICK McLAUGHLIN
Staff Writer

One road improvement project in the Big Spring area is nearing completion and an overpass beautification project is moving closer to fruition, according to Art Barrow, Big Spring area engineer for Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT).



BARROW

Barrow said that Wes Heald,

executive director of TxDOT, "signed off" or approved improvements Thursday to three consecutive overpasses along I-20 at Big Spring. The proposal is part of a TxDOT grant request under the Statewide Transportation Enhancement Program.

The three overpasses are at I-20 and U.S. 87, I-20 and FM 176, and I-20 and Business 80 near McMahon-Wrinkle Airpark.

The work is both cosmetic and functional, said Barrow, involving slope remediation, three- or four-tiered retaining walls, landscaping and irrigation.

"It's (highway overpasses) the

main showplace seen by people passing through," noted Barrow. The overpass beautification and erosion stabilization "is an extra project and doesn't cost the city anything," he observed.

The funding comes from the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century through the Statewide Transportation Enhancement Program. The grant provides 80 percent of the funding while TxDOT must provide the remaining 20 percent.

However, other entities can apply for the funding and TxDOT must compete for the grant money just like any other applicant, said Barrow, because

potential projects are not directly connected to moving traffic. Tourist attractions, gateway projects, rest areas, erosion control and beautification projects are all eligible. Barrow said funds received for the Hangar 25 Airpower Museum is an example of an enhancement program grant.

"Enhancement program grants don't actually add directly to transportation, but enhance transportation and they don't have to be a direct benefit to TxDOT," said Barrow.

TxDOT sought and received Big Spring City Council backing for the grant July 27.

In another local TxDOT project, work along Texas 350 (Snyder Highway) is nearly done, Barrow said, and should be finished by the proposed completion date of Oct. 4.

The Texas 350 resurfacing project is for reconstruction of four miles of pavement running from near the intersection of Texas 350 and FM 820 to about four miles south of the intersection.

"The northbound lane is predominantly done," said Barrow, "and the work on the wearing surface on the southbound lane is on schedule."

See TxDOT, Page 2A

FCI Big Spring getting ready for 20th anniversary celebration

By BILL McCLELLAN
News Editor

Federal Correctional Institution (FCI) Big Spring has invited some 300 employees, former employees, civic leaders and guests to join in a 20th anniversary celebration



BOOTH

next Friday.

"We're excited about it. We've got quite a number of folks coming to town. A lot of people who worked in this facility," said Alan D. Booth, FCI Big Spring executive assistant. "They're wanting to come back to Big Spring and share this with us. Some are traveling from some pretty great distances."

The celebration ceremony will begin at noon in Building 300, the camp visiting room. Tours will be conducted immediately after the ceremony with a recep-

tion to follow in the FCI Visiting Room.

Because of the need for control inside the facility, invitations for tours were not sent out to the general public.

"We're having to do this in a modified way, simply because of the logistics of that many people being inside at one time. But anyone who might want to take a tour and didn't get an invitation can contact me," said Booth.

However, everyone is invited to the celebration itself, planned

— weather permitting — in the fenced-in area behind Building 300 on Simler Avenue. Correctional officers will be directing traffic and showing visitors where to park.

As the celebration begins, the colors will be presented, along with the singing of the national anthem. Warden Ralph Payne will welcome special guests and members of the community.

Those who have made reservations will be able to take the tour, which follows.

"The tour will allow people to

see what our housing units look like now, and what they will look like in the future," said Booth, noting that the prison is in the middle of a six-year renovation plan.

Mostly, those taking the tour will be guests of employees, vendors, law enforcement personnel and those who have participated in FCI Big Spring programs, such as the mock job fair.

That evening, staff members

See FCI, Page 2A

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Letters reveal paranoid ramblings of church gunman

FORT WORTH (AP) — Before he went on a shooting rampage at a Baptist church, Larry Gene Ashbrook did what many people do when they have something to say. He wrote a letter to the editor.

In fact, he wrote two, both to the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. The rambling missives sent this summer refer to encounters with the CIA, psychological warfare, assaults by co-workers, being drugged by police and being suspected of murders committed by a Texas serial killer.

At one point, Ashbrook refers to a lack of due process in a purported police investigation of himself — "a serious injustice against me."

In the last several weeks, he contacted an alternative weekly newspaper and visited the Star-Telegram's office to meet with city editor Stephen Kaye.

"There were outlandish things in these letters," Kaye said Thursday. The first letter "rambled. It was hard to follow. It didn't seem very plausible. My immediate reaction was that there was not much we could do for him."

The letters, along with other writings found amid at

Ashbrook's home, are being looked at by authorities trying to determine a motive for Ashbrook's deadly shootings Wednesday night.

Ashbrook had boasted as early as three years ago of membership in the Phineas Priests, an anti-Semitic group that advocates killing Jews and minorities, according to the Houston Chronicle in a copyright report today.

Other members have been linked to violence in California, Georgia and Washington state. Three adults and four teenagers were killed when Ashbrook — shouting anti-Baptist rhetoric — opened fire in Wedgwood Baptist Church during a Christian music concert. Seven others were wounded before he killed himself.

Ashbrook, armed with two handguns, fired three clips and had stuffed six more in his pockets.

He also set off a homemade pipe bomb but it did not harm anyone.

Investigators found bomb-making tools, including files, pipes, fuses and gunpowder, inside Ashbrook's modest wood-frame home Thursday.

They also found various writ-

ings, like his letters to the Star-Telegram, in which he blamed bosses for his inability to keep jobs and get along with others.

The first letter was dated July 31 — 11 days after his father's death — and spoke of bizarre encounters with strangers that led him to believe he was a suspected serial killer.

Ashbrook, 47, said authorities suspected him of murders committed in the Fort Worth area, including those by Ricky Lee Green, who was executed two years ago for a 1985 sexual-mutilation slaying.

The second letter, dated Aug. 10, was written after he came to believe "it is obvious that you are uninterested in my story."

Sometime after the second letter, Ashbrook visited Kaye at the newspaper's downtown office.

"He was very cordial. He was very apologetic for bothering me," Kaye said. "I kept saying: 'You're not a bother; I just can't do anything for you. These are hard things to do that are in your letter.'"

Ashbrook repeated his concerns in an Aug. 19 telephone call to FW Weekly, a Fort Worth alternative newspaper. Ashbrook said he was being tar-

geted by authorities and that he was innocent of any crime, the newspaper said.

"I'm not a serial killer, although, I have always been something of a failure with women," the newspaper, in a story posted on its Web site Thursday, quoted Ashbrook as saying.

"I want someone to tell my story," he told the newspaper. "No one will listen to me; no one will believe me."

In his letters, Ashbrook wrote that he started contacting news organizations about his story in the 1970s, with no results.

"This has the appearance of being a very troubled man who ... sought to quiet whatever demons that bothered him," said Robert Garrity, FBI special agent in charge. "I don't know that we'll ever know the answer to the question of why it happened."

When police went inside Ashbrook's home, they found walls that had been bashed in, apparently with a crowbar and shovel, and chunks of concrete in the toilet.

Against the back of the house were four battered doors that appeared to have been punched and kicked.

The death of Ashbrook's father, who supported the son financially, "may have driven him over the edge," acting police Chief Ralph Mendoza said.

Neighbors said Jack Ashbrook, who died July 20 at age 85, often had to install new doors and drywall where his son had put holes. They said the son assaulted his father in the front yard more than once.

"Larry was cussing Mr. Ashbrook and knocked him down," said Phyllis Walls, 42, who grew up on the same street. "The way he did Mr. Ashbrook, you never knew if he was going to run you over with a car."

Wedgwood's senior pastor, Al Meredith, promised to hold regular services this Sunday at the large, red brick church if the police investigation was finished.

"Our heart's desire is that the king of darkness will not prevail over the kingdom of light," Meredith said.

Two of the those killed were students and another was a graduate of the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, where hundreds packed an auditorium Thursday to sing and pray.

Police won't pursue second complaint against Republican senator

LAKE JACKSON (AP) — A second complaint from a woman who alleged that state Sen. J.E. "Buster" Brown made unwanted sexual advances will not be pursued because the statute of limitations expired, the police chief says.

Paul Hromadka, the chief, said Thursday that the second complaint, made by an Alvin woman, alleged the senator

grabbed her and tried to kiss her as she was leaving his Lake Jackson office after consulting him about a legal matter.

Hromadka said that because the alleged incident occurred about six months beyond the two-year statute of limitations for misdemeanor assault cases, police will not look any further into the allegation.

The woman came to Lake

Jackson police Monday after reading news coverage of the first complaint made against Brown by Tiffany Black, a former employee of the senator, Hromadka said.

The chief said the woman notified authorities about what happened to her in an attempt to help support the allegations made by Ms. Black.

The woman did not want to

pursue criminal charges, he said.

Police did not interview Brown about the alleged second incident.

Brown, the ranking Republican in the Texas Senate, did not return a call for comment, the Houston Chronicle reported.

On Wednesday, Brown apologized to Ms. Black, a Brazosport College student who quit her job

with the senator on Sept. 2 after she told police he tried to kiss her and touched her breasts and buttocks at his Lake Jackson office.

The written apology by Brown, in which he acknowledged making unwanted sexual advances toward Ms. Black, stated he will seek "any necessary corrective measures, including counseling."

Defense ready to present case in second dragging death trial

BRYAN (AP) — Defense attorneys have offered no hint of the strategy they will use after the capital murder case against the second of three men charged with dragging a black East Texas man to death was presented by prosecutors.

Defense attorneys, Doug Barlow and Layne Walker said they would present evidence today, but would not say what witnesses they would call or whether they even intended to make an opening statement.

Prosecutors, meanwhile, rested their case Thursday, taking jurors through the final minutes of James Byrd Jr.'s life with testimony from a pathologist who described Byrd's massive injuries in grueling detail and a video following the 3-mile route where Byrd was dragged to his death on June 7, 1998.

Lawrence Russell Brewer, 32, is the second of three white men charged with chaining Byrd to the rear of a pickup truck and dragging him to his death along a country road northeast of Jasper. John William King, 24, was convicted of capital murder and condemned in February, while Shawn Allen Berry, also 24, is awaiting trial.

Jasper County District Attorney Guy James Gray said he felt the case against Brewer was stronger than the one that sent King to death row, primarily because of two areas of evidence — a photograph of Brewer's bruised toe taken just after Byrd's killing and letters, or "kites," Brewer wrote to King while they were in the Jasper County Jail.

"That big swollen toe is a bet-

ter piece of evidence on how physically active he was, and his kites are a little better than King's in expressing his claim of hero status," Gray said.

During testimony, Gray introduced a letter that was given to a jail trustee for delivery to King in another cell. But the trustee instead "turned" it over to jail authorities, who copied the letter and allowed the original to make it to King.

"Look at O.J. He beat his case, so nothing's impossible. I do believe we are bigger stars, or should I say hero of the day, than what we ever expected," Brewer wrote.

"We accomplished more than most ever dreamed of, as for being recorded in any type of history whatsoever."

Gray said the letter provides an important insight to Brewer.

"A man that commits an act like that and then uses those words about being a hero, it tells you a lot about them, and tells you a lot about future dangerousness," Gray said.

Prosecutors must provide evidence of future dangerousness to obtain the death penalty, which Gray is seeking for Brewer.

Brewer seemed to welcome the chance of execution by lethal injection, writing it is "much better to be taken out like this than to be in some fatal accident, fire, wreck, drowned. The way I picture it is all it will be is a little old sleeping medicine to slowly carry us out of the land of the free and home of the brave."

The letter also made reference to a centerpiece of the state's

evidence, the chain wrapped around Byrd's ankles and the bumper of Berry's truck. In an electric moment Thursday, prosecutors stretched the chain across the courtroom in a noisy fashion, causing one juror to cover his mouth and look away.

"What's the worst they can possibly do, pull prints off a 20-foot rusty-ass log-chain?" Brewer wrote.

Investigators did not, but they did match Brewer's DNA to a cigarette and beer bottle found at the site where Byrd was believed beaten, and then chained to the truck. An FBI DNA expert also testified he found Byrd's blood on a sneaker bearing the initials "L.B.," which was recovered from the apartment where Brewer was staying.

Other testimony Thursday focused on the condition of Brewer's right big toe, which Shawn Berry told authorities Brewer injured when he kicked Byrd during the initial attack.

Heather Hough, 17, said Brewer was unable to play volleyball at her house the evening after the killing, telling her he had broken the toe the previous night.

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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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News Editor

OUR VIEWS

We salute:

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

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

This week we salute:

- CAPT. ELISHA MACK CHAPTER** of the Daughters of American Revolution which is helping make the public aware of Constitution Week, today through Sept. 30.

- GLORIA JIMENEZ**, who was named postmaster at Coahoma.

- STUDENTS ACROSS THE CROSSROADS AREA** who participated in "See You at the Pole" and related events Wednesday.

- BIG SPRING AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**, which sponsored another successful Business After Hours event — this one at Beth Ann's — on Thursday.

- THE FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS COMMITTEE**, which has already began planning an even larger festival for the coming holiday season.

- BIG SPRING MODEL AIRCRAFT ASSOCIATION**, for an entertaining two days of fun in holding its annual Don McKinney Float Fly last weekend.

- HARLEY OWNERS GROUP**, and donors for raising funds to purchase a thermal imaging camera for the fire department.

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

YOUR VIEWS

TO THE EDITOR:

One of today's highest concerns are the shootings taking place in our public schools. This is the most tragic thing that could happen. One of the most ironic things to take place is to take God completely out of our schools. We have let them take God out of our classrooms and you can see what happens (kids are killing kids and teachers).

Prayer, I think, is the most powerful tool that can be used and yet it is the least used tool we have today. Prayer can change night to day. We need not only to pray at football games but we need to put it back into our classrooms as well.

People are calling and telling school officials their opinions and wanting prayer at our football games and this is very good, but the school boards and the administration's hands are tied. Thank the Lord, we as individuals, our hands are not tied. We, as a whole, can make a difference by writing or calling our senators and congressmen.

I would like to ask school boards, churches, businesses and individuals to write a letter stating their concerns. Sign each individually and send them in to our elected officials. Our children are worth this.

JOHN WAYNE METCALF
COAHOMA

LETTER POLICY

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

- Limit your letters to no more than 300 words.
- Sign your letter.
- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
- We reserve the right to edit letters for style and clarity.
- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period.
- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721.

HOW TO CONTACT US

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- 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
- Our normal hours of operation are from 7:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. Our offices are closed on weekends and holidays.

Covering the Courts: Public housing, private fears

In my formative years as a white Southerner, born in 1920, the rhetorical question was familiar: How would you like it if a black family moved into the house next door? The expected answer, of course, was that we white folks wouldn't like it at all. With few exceptions, we liked our lily-white neighborhoods, and we wanted to keep them that way.



JAMES J. KILPATRICK

In 1954 the landmark case of Brown v. Board of Education came down. It marked the beginning of the end to state-decreed segregation.

There had been many tremors before Brown, but this was an earthquake. With the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, the walls came tumbling down. It was high time, though 45 years ago many of us didn't think so.

Now the Supreme Court has an opportunity to speak to the most sensitive question of racial segregation that remains in limbo.

In the past the court has tackled segregation in education, in transportation, in the armed services and in the award of public contracts. If the court agrees to hear a pending case from Dallas, the justices will tackle another tough one: May the federal courts effectively decree the

racial integration of neighborhoods?

The case arose 14 years ago, when a group of black plaintiffs sued the Dallas Housing Authority. They charged, with good reason, that the city had willfully discriminated against blacks in its federally subsidized program of public housing. The case has been kicking around in Dallas and the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals ever since.

Last March Circuit Judge Edith H. Jones spoke for a three-judge panel in ordering a new look at racial criteria in the location of the area's public housing. She spoke bluntly of the past: "The history of public housing in Dallas is a sordid tale of overt and covert racial discrimination and segregation. Virtually all non-elderly public housing units were constructed in minority areas. No new public housing units were built between 1955 and 1989 at least in part for fear that they might be located in white areas."

In 1987 the city and the black plaintiffs consented to a sweeping reform decree. The Housing Authority agreed to demolish 2,630 units of public housing in West Dallas, "one of Dallas's worst slums." In their place, the city would develop 2,807 replacements in both public housing and Section 8 housing. (The Section 8 program provides vouchers for eligible low-income families to rent from private owners.) The decree required that 100 of the newly constructed replacement units be built in a predominantly white area. The Authority also was ordered to establish a "mobility plan" to

assist black families in finding Section 8 housing in white areas.

For five years the city dragged the heels of its cowboy boots. In March 1992, its patience exhausted, the District Court entered a summary order against the city. The court reaffirmed the main provisions of the 1987 consent decree, and ordered the Authority to develop an additional 3,205 new units of public housing in predominantly white areas. Moreover, the court ordered the city to locate all future units in white neighborhoods until the numbers were equal.

At about this point two associations of white homeowners came to life. They sued to prevent the construction of two new 40-unit public housing projects adjacent to their neighborhoods. The District Court refused to grant them injunctive relief, and thus the case reached Judge Jones in the 5th Circuit.

She and her colleagues came to a gratifying conclusion — gratifying, that is, to those who believe that race rarely should be a factor in judicial decrees. They found that the defendants "have begun making race-neutral, good-faith and effective efforts to remedy the wrongs of the past." Both local and federal officials are cooperating. They have become active participants "in crafting and implementing remedial measures to eliminate the vestiges of past discrimination."

Only after race-neutral remedies have been considered and found wanting, said Judge Jones, may race-conscious remedies be justified. In the

case at hand, local and federal officials still will have wide areas of discretion in locating public housing. "The District Court may entertain any number of site selection criteria, except for race." In the future, emphasis should be directed "toward placing public housing participants in neighborhoods of their choice."

As for the white homeowners, the court suggested in effect that they lighten up. Like it or not, low-income black families will win publicly subsidized housing in low-income white neighborhoods, but the black families will not land in the kind of public housing which "in the past has been disgracefully neglected in Dallas." Stringent criteria will be maintained for tenant selection under the Section 8 program.

Said the court: "Increased reliance on Section 8 demands that the public agencies implement a vigorous mobility plan that serves the relocation needs and concerns of black families, reaches out to white landlords, affords adequate fair-market rent exceptions, and combats illegal private discrimination." Ideally, homemaking decisions should be governed by "market forces and personal preferences."

Toward these ends, Section 8 "has not proven ineffective."

My guess is that the high court will speak loudly by silently denying an appeal. Racial considerations are going out of judicial style, to be replaced by color-blind decrees. This Southern white boy, now nearing 80, regards the trend as judicially sound and morally right.



- ### ADDRESSES
- **BILL CLINTON**
President
The White House
Washington, D.C.
 - **PHIL GRAMM**
U.S. Senator
370 Russell Office Building
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Phone: 202-224-2934
 - **KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON**
U.S. Senator
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Washington, 20510
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 - **CHARLES STENHOLM**
U.S. Representative
17th District
1211 Longworth Office Bldg.
Washington, 20515.
Phone: 202-225-6605
 - **HON. GEORGE W. BUSH**
Governor
State Capitol
Austin, 78701
Phone: Toll free 1-800-252-9600,
512-463-2000; fax 512-463-1849.

Travelogue of discontent has its good points

I read Bill Bryson's travelogue a decade ago, when it first appeared. "The Lost Continent" was divided, conveniently enough, into sections on the East, South, North and West, so naturally I read the part about the South first.



RHETA GRIMSLEY JOHNSON

His cheap jokes about my region made me so mad that I wrote a scathing column about Bill Bryson and his stupid book. Then I finished reading it.

Too late I discovered it wasn't just the South he hated. Bill Bryson didn't really like any place much. If he didn't outright hate a place, he found it boring.

I still maintain he threw lower punches at Mississippi than anywhere else, except Nevada, where I don't expect he can travel without armed

escort anymore.

But the book got really funny when he was visiting places that I don't like, which leads me to believe — if you can get past your regional defensiveness — Bryson has some kind of admirably perverse talent. He can't see the good in anything or anyplace.

But then, good isn't funny. Thus began my love-hate relationship with this writer, who grew up in Des Moines, Iowa, moved to England then came back to the United States to trash it. I loaned or lost the book, but every now and then I'd think about Bryson and remember his brilliant description of Gatlinburg, Tenn., which — I can see for myself — is an oozing sore on the face of the beautiful Great Smoky Mountains.

"America has never quite grasped that you can live in a place without making it ugly, that beauty doesn't have to be confined behind fences, as if a national park were a sort of zoo for nature..."

That's what he wrote. When I read that, I almost forgave Bryson for what he said about

the way we talk:

"The average Southerner has the speech patterns of someone slipping in and out of consciousness..."

(If you believe the book, the person in the South he had the longest conversation with was an Alabama gas station attendant who actually hailed from Ohio. Those two reassured one another that they were superior to the hicks all around, then resumed pumping gas and trash-traveling.)

There's been a kind of Bill Bryson revival, by that I mean you can find his book at the chain bookstores now. And I've noticed that the author also has a new title or two. So, being a glutton for punishment, I bought the new ones, plus the one I'd already read. I read it again.

His vicious little postcards hold up; I got just as mad in the Southern section this time as before.

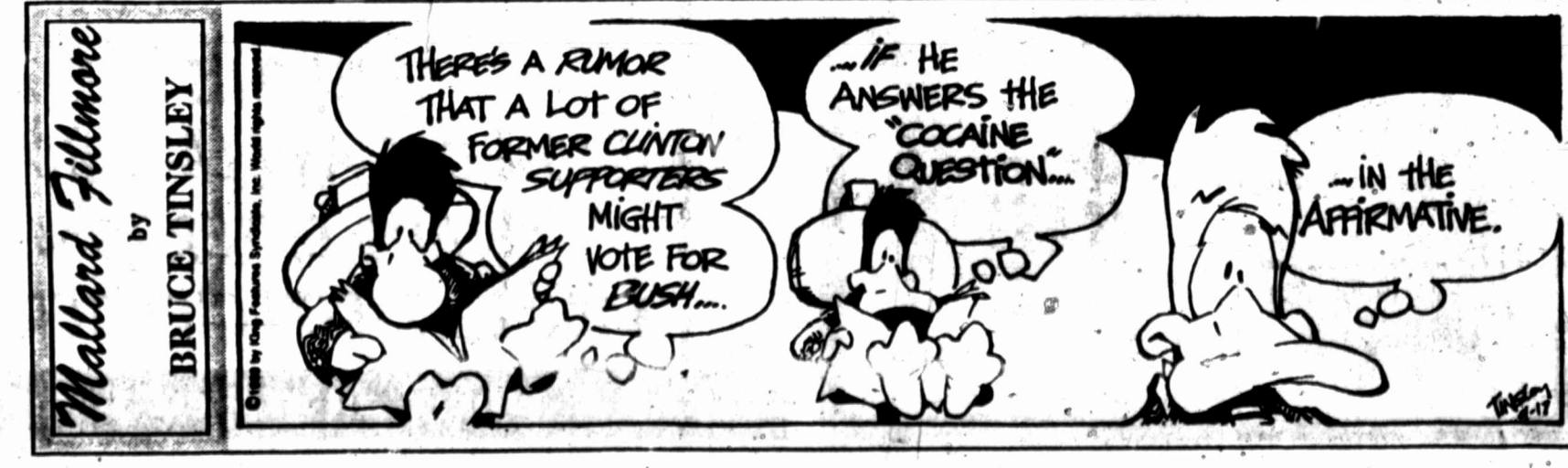
But I noticed, to Bryson's credit, he actually did like one Southern town. Even a British-born Iowan has to see beauty in Savannah, Ga. And he did: "I stood agog in Lafayette

Square in Savannah, amid brick paths, trickling fountains and dark trees hung with Spanish moss. Before me rose up a cathedral of exquisite linen-fresh whiteness with twin Gothic spires, and around it stood 200-year-old houses of weathered brick, with hurricane shutters that clearly were still used. I did not know that such perfection existed in America..."

I'm planning a trip to Savannah in a few weeks, so naturally to get the Bill Bryson Seal of Approval on a Southern town is a great comfort. "Though I have to say, any half-wit could step around his prejudice long enough to determine that Savannah is a visual blessing."

It takes more patience and perception to see the slower beauty of Senatobia, Miss., for instance, or Holly Springs, Miss. (By the way, Bill, anybody who can't find Rowan Oak in little Oxford, Miss., should give up traveling for a living.)

All that said, I now retract my earlier column and recommend his book. I think.



Floyd

SANDWICH
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Left behind damage and... from traffic... Pennsylvania... Two girls in... were swept i... Virginia and... both killed b... was presume

Three pe... Darby, Pa... people out of... "I don't kr... We have... Johnson, 38

How

WASHINGTON... lawmakers w... multi-billion-... farm econom... chairman... Agriculture o... time to consi... government's... farm policy.

"I don't kno... we have to b... with a 2-by-... this," said R... R-Texas.

Combest... Thursday to... next year w... implementin... the 1996 "Fre... by next fall.

Republican... ed rewriting... ended a Dep... of farm subsi... ty prices pl... because of a... grain and... remain depr

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TULSA, C... nearly a m... for her past... Tina Martin... difficult to l... On Thurs... authorities... learned Thu... a 37-year-ol... a husband... children... N.M.

But she j... the women... harbored h... deputy bro... "It's b... Secure," M... from the... "It's all I ki... is probably... things I'll e... It was a r... truck dri... woman so... stained alo... picked her... dropped M... a conveni... Springer... south of O... asked the... for help.

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Floyd floods East Coast, thousands without power

SANDWICH, Mass. (AP) — Tropical Storm Floyd spun into New England today, pelting the region with heavy rain as it delivered a final blow from its whirlwind race up the East Coast. In its wake, floodwaters caused havoc in a New Jersey town and travelers continued to face problems.

The storm packing winds of 60 mph was falling apart after flooding states from South Carolina to New Jersey. At 7 a.m. EDT, the remnants were centered just south of Portland, Maine, and moving northeast at 30 mph.

Left behind are millions of dollars in damage and at least 17 deaths, including 12 from traffic accidents in the Carolinas, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Massachusetts. Two girls in Delaware drowned after they were swept into a sewage pipe, a woman in Virginia and a man in Pennsylvania were both killed by falling trees, and one man was presumed drowned in the Bahamas.

Three people were missing today in Darby, Pa., where a foot of rain forced 700 people out of their homes Thursday.

"I don't know where we are going to go. We have no money," said Priscilla Johnson, 38, whose first-floor apartment

was flooded to her waist.

In Bound Brook, N.J., today, serious flooding from the Raritan River stranded some terrified residents on rooftops and set off a raging fire downtown. A Coast Guard helicopter plucked at least a half-dozen people from roofs.

The floodwaters rendered firefighters helpless to extinguish the fire in a pair of adjacent businesses, which was out of control this morning.

"This is just a very major situation here, and the river has not yet crested," Whitman said in an interview on NBC's "Today" show.

Nearly 10 feet of rain fell in some areas, disrupting travel along most of the East Coast and canceling a formal, open meeting of the United Nations Security Council in New York for the first time in recent history.

Traffic problems continued today across parts of the Northeast, with some commuter rail service still crippled in the New York City area. Amtrak service in the region also was disrupted. On Thursday, the storm grounded hundreds of flights, closed thousands of businesses and gave

nearly 3 million students a day off from school, including all public schools in New Jersey and New York City. The city schools reopened today but there were scattered closings elsewhere.

More than 1.1 million people were without power late Thursday and early today in eight states, from Maryland to Massachusetts.

Some 360,000 customers in Maryland were expected to be without electricity into the weekend. Hundreds of thousands more remained without power in the Southeast.

While the Southeast picked up the pieces after Floyd blew ashore early Thursday with 110 mph winds and torrential rain, residents farther north agreed the storm didn't pack much punch.

Nowhere along the Atlantic coast did Floyd strike as hard as it did in the Bahamas.

Authorities said hundreds of homes were flattened and roofless on several islands. Thousands of people faced weeks without telephone, electricity or reliable water service.

Authorities in the South expect losses to rise well above \$25 million.

Son's dream of wedding dance is nightmare for divorced mom

DEAR ABBY My son is marrying a wonderful lady in a few short weeks. My problem is, he's insisting that I dance with his father, whom I divorced a few years ago.

My divorce was very hard on me, but afterward I lived my life without fear — until now. I am engaged to a wonderful man whom my son appears to like. I am so upset over this request that I touch or put my arms around my ex-husband that I don't know what to do. This man put me through pure hell before I left, and my son knows it. When I left I had nothing. My parents paid for my divorce, apartment and my son's college education.

His father lied, would bring his girlfriend into our home with us there, never paid bills, even borrowed our son's cell phone, ran up \$900 in charges and refused to pay. When an important event is going on in my son's life, I'm there and always civil to his father. But I will not let that man touch me ever again.

Please help me. I want to attend the wedding, but I can't stand the idea of my ex touching me. I'm shaking as I write this. — SHAKING IN HARRISBURG, PA.

DEAR SHAKING: Stop shaking and speak up! Tell your son and his fiancée that you will not, under any circumstances, dance with your ex. Your reasons are valid; perhaps your son needs to be reminded of them.

DEAR ABBY: You stated to "Roman Catholic in New Jersey," who talked about a time in years past where we in America were more "tolerant and caring" toward our neighbors, that you remember a gentler time when "America pictured itself more a melting pot and less a patchwork quilt."

A gentler time for whom?



ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

Certainly not for ethnic minorities, whoever they happened to be at any time in our history. Whether they be Irish, Italian, Chinese, Japanese, Hispanic, African-American, etc., all were and some remain excluded from mainstream America. The patchwork quilt you mention is a product of that exclusion — and to think otherwise is looking at reality through rose-colored glasses.

A glaring example of that exclusion is here in Los Angeles. It is common knowledge that the fall television schedule has all but eradicated any sense of inclusion, with programming almost exclusively comprising white actors. Los Angeles is one of the largest multicultural cities in the world!

I certainly agree with you about how this world would be a more hospitable place if attitudes were more inclusive, and I recognize the efforts of individuals and organizations that work toward that goal. But please do not continue to perpetuate the myth about the so-called "gentler time." — IRMA R. BARRAGAN, MOORPARK, CALIF.

DEAR IRMA: Perhaps the "good old days" weren't so good for everybody. American history is a collection of events — many of which we can point to with pride, some of which are deplorable. Although we can learn from the mistakes of the past, we cannot change them. We can change only the future.

Flawed as it may seem to be, the United States of America still stands as the No. 1 land of opportunity in the world.

P.S. Let's hope the fall television schedule is a temporary aberration.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more attractive person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$3.95 (\$4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.) ©1999 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

House panel plans to reconsider farm policy

WASHINGTON (AP) — With lawmakers working on another multibillion-dollar bailout of the farm economy, the Republican chairman of the House Agriculture Committee says it's time to consider changes to the government's GOP-authored farm policy.

"I don't know how much more we have to be hit over the head with a 2-by-4 until we look at this," said Rep. Larry Combest, R-Texas.

Combest announced plans Thursday to hold hearings early next year with an eye toward implementing any changes to the 1996 "Freedom to Farm" law by next fall.

Republicans have so far resisted rewriting the law, which ended a Depression-era system of farm subsidies, but commodity prices plummeted last year because of a worldwide glut of grain and are expected to remain depressed through 2000.

The 1996 law scaled back price-supporting subsidies and ended restrictions on what farmers could plant. In return, farmers were guaranteed fixed but declining annual payments through 2002, when the law will expire.

Critics say that doesn't provide enough help when commodity prices are low.

Congress gave farmers \$6 billion in additional aid last year and is working on a similar package that could exceed the \$7.4 billion approved by the Senate last month.

Republicans have faulted the Clinton administration, saying it hasn't pushed hard enough to open new markets for U.S. crops.

Rep. George Nethercutt, R-Wash., said he is "fundamentally supportive" of the 1996 law but added, "I also think there can be some fine-tuning."

Combest, who became chair-

man of the committee this year, only reluctantly supported the law in the first place after voting against an earlier version in 1995.

Both Combest and the American Farm Bureau Federation, the nation's largest farmer organization, say they are interested in a proposal by Rep. Charles Stenholm, D-Texas, for a new system of subsidies that would be tied to crop yields and commodity prices.

The Farm Bureau has strongly supported the 1996 law and remains opposed to other changes sought by Democrats and organizations that tend to represent small-scale farm operations.

Combest's announcement came one day after the White House wrote to House and Senate appropriators, declaring that the 1996 law is failing because of "fundamental shortcomings" and urging lawmakers to consider finding a new way to subsidize growers.

President Clinton signed the measure into law but said then that it wouldn't provide a sufficient safety net when commodity prices were low.

"Chairman Combest should be applauded," said Tom Buis, a lobbyist for the National Farmers Union, which has long opposed the law. "Something isn't working when we're not getting the price from the market and we keep having to come back to Congress all the time to make ends meet."

The Senate Agriculture Committee chairman, Richard Lugar, R-Ind., wants to leave the law alone.

"Obviously, there are people who have always been uncomfortable with it ... but a substantial numbers of farmers are in favor of the Freedom to Farm program," said spokesman Andy Fisher.

After weeks of not knowing, amnesiac learns her identity

TULSA, Okla. (AP) — After nearly a month of searching for her past, it is the present Tina Martinez may find most difficult to let go.

On Thursday, the amnesiac authorities called "Angel" learned Thursday that she is a 37-year-old dog breeder with a husband and three teenage children in Albuquerque, N.M.

But she just might stay at the women's shelter that has harbored her since a sheriff's deputy brought her there.

"It's been wonderful. Secure," Mrs. Martinez said from the shelter Thursday. "It's all I know. Leaving here is probably one of the hardest things I'll ever have to do."

It was a month ago when a truck driver spotted the woman soaked and blood-stained along a highway and picked her up. The trucker dropped Mrs. Martinez off at a convenience store near Springer, about 80 miles south of Oklahoma City, and asked the store clerk to call for help.

Mrs. Martinez was left with the clothes on her back, a \$20 bill in her pocket and a wound from a blow to the head. She was taken to the women's shelter in Ada, 120 miles southwest of Tulsa.

Under hypnosis by a psychiatrist, Mrs. Martinez told of crashing into a concrete embankment during a nighttime thunderstorm, but she couldn't provide any details of that recollection.

Albuquerque police Detective Ernestine Roach said Mrs. Martinez was riding home with her husband, Jerry, when they stopped at a traffic light and she apparently became upset about something and got out of the car.

"What it was, we would like to know," Ms. Roach said.

Mrs. Martinez couldn't remember who she was, where she had been or how she got the scars and bruises on her face. She did speak as though she were educated and seemed to know a lot about dogs, officials said.

Congress approves pay raise for lawmakers

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congress voted final approval Thursday to legislation doubling the next president's salary to \$400,000 and letting lawmakers themselves receive pay boosts of \$4,600 or more.

Also getting pay raises in January would be Vice President Al Gore, Cabinet secretaries and about 1,300 other top-level executive branch officials.

By law, they get the same cost-of-living increases members of Congress do.

The raises — plus a 4.8 percent increase in federal civil servants' salaries — were part of a \$28 billion measure financing the Treasury Department and some smaller agencies for the coming fiscal year. The Senate approved it by 54-38, a day after the House gave its endorsement by 292-126.

President Clinton is expected to sign the measure.

Spending bills generally pass the Senate by wider margins. Senators from both sides attributed Thursday's "no" votes largely to anxiety over boosting their own salaries.

"I did not want to vote for a congressional pay raise," said Sen. Mike DeWine, R-Ohio, who faces re-election next year.

The 3.4 percent boost — rounded to the nearest \$100 — would raise most members' pay to \$141,300 beginning in January.

Leaders earn more, topped by House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., who will make \$181,400. Gore will also earn \$181,400, while Cabinet secretaries will make \$157,000.

By law, federal judges would also be entitled to the same 3.4 percent increase, but Congress must approve that separately.

Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell, R-Colo., the measure's chief author, said he was

"bothered" by the amount of opposition the congressional pay raise engendered.

"The ones who demagogue it most and voted against it are the ones who put it in their pockets," he told a reporter.

Campbell said he believes lawmakers deserve higher pay, and said their 3.4 percent increases were less than the 4.8 percent raises federal employees received. Even so, he said he donates his congressional pay raises to charity.

The salary boosts were not mentioned during the Senate's brief debate over the Treasury bill.

In fact, the bill does not even contain language increasing lawmakers' pay. A 1989 law grants annual congressional "cost-of-living" increases unless Congress votes to block them, and the Treasury measure is the traditional vehicle for doing that.

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life! policies
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QUICK TRIVIA

◆ During World War II, boxer Jack Dempsey was director of physical fitness for the Coast Guard.

◆ Plant breeder Luther Burbank developed 90 varieties of vegetables, and 11⁺ kinds of plums and prunes.

Got an Item?

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

Talking to teens is more than a job for new youth minister

By DEBBIE L. JENSEN
Features Editor

For many adults, teenagers are seen as difficult, often angry and impossible to reach.

But to Tim Hoskins, they are eager learners with open minds and willing hearts. The new youth pastor at First Church of the Nazarene, who also teaches part of the Bible Class at Big Spring High School, makes the most of his time with teens.

"I like anybody that is out to learn," he said. "I'm a teacher at heart. I want to empower, to be a facilitator, to help people create meaning in life."

And youth, he added, are looking for something to "give themselves to."

"Why shouldn't they give themselves completely to Jesus Christ and to God?" Hoskins said.

In his work, Hoskins said he focuses on helping young peo-

ple turning negatives into positives, sort out their feelings and deal with the difficulties of adolescence.

"I can help them work through this journey," Hoskins said.

And he is happy to be doing the work he loves in Big Spring, where he has lived since starting with the Nazarene Church in June.

"I love it here," Hoskins said. Out of the last four places he has worked, which included churches in California, Missouri and Colorado, Big Spring's school system has the friendliest, most open attitude towards ministers and the church in general.

"Here, they see ministers as caretakers for the community," he said. "In most places I have been, the school system saw ministers as meddlers, or just as resource people when they needed them."

He said the caretaking role

fits the ministry well.

"They are the most effective resource for the community in caretaking," he said. And the church, he added, must meet the needs of its community — for people of all ages.

"I think the church can be the most dynamic catalyst for positive change in the community. Ministering to needs, that is how to transform a community."

Toward that end, local youth ministers have been meeting regularly, planning projects such as Wednesday evening's "Saw You at the Pole," a follow-up rally to the morning prayer service led by youth.

At the Nazarene Church, Hoskins plans to increase programming at the Salt Shaker, a youth club that is designed to provide a fun, wholesome atmosphere. His youth group members also plan "worship.com(e)," an alternative service geared toward

members of Generations X and Y. It will include multimedia segments, man-on-the-street interviews and high energy music.

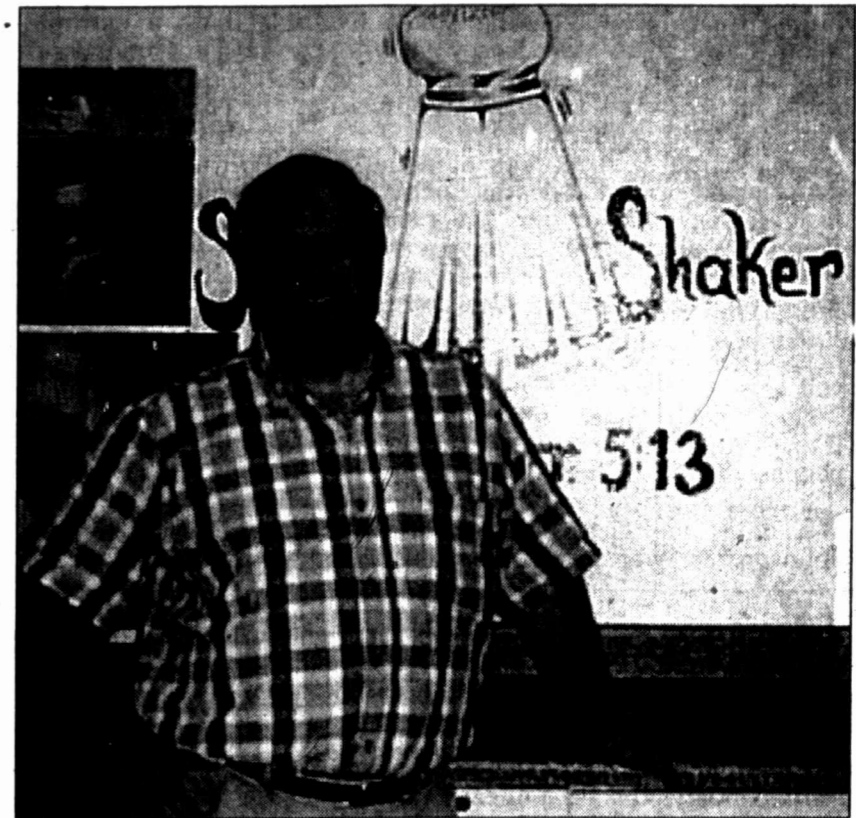
Working successfully with teens, he said, is about communication.

"Teens don't carry as much baggage as adults do," he said. "But they are brutally honest. They quickly realize if you are authentic or not."

And in the ancient text of the Bible, today's teenagers can find what they need to discover meaning in life, Hoskins said.

"The Bible, as it communicates its overall theme and principles, is just what these starving teenagers are looking for."

Tim Hoskins, youth pastor at First Church of the Nazarene, says teenagers are ready to hear about faith's importance in life.



No one knows the day or hour

Y2K The New Millennium. Third Millennium, Millennium Bug. The approach of Jan. 1, 2000, has been the occasion for new terminology to enter our language.

It also has many people talking. Will computers go haywire? Will goods and services come to a halt? Will there be mass hysteria? Will the beginning of a new century see Jesus come again?

All this reminds me of a passage of Scripture that the apostle Paul wrote to the young preacher Timothy. "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth. But avoid worldly and empty chatter, for it will lead to further ungodliness" (2 Timothy 2:15,16).

The apostle was actually warning Timothy about empty words concerning the resurrection. Rather than getting caught up in vain speculation that would undermine his faith, he was to focus his mind on the word of truth. We would do well to follow that instruction in regard to the so-called "new millennium."

Even though the Y2K computer bug may pose some difficulties beginning on the first day of January 2000, it and the beginning of the new century really have no connection to one another whatsoever. Contrary to most reports in the news media, the 21st Century (or "new millennium" as some prefer to say) actually does not

begin until Jan. 1, 2001. We are presently living in the 20th Century and the last year of the 20th Century is the year 2000, not 1999.

Then when the calendar does roll over to begin a new century, that day will be no different than any other New Year's Day, unless the Lord comes before then. You see, no one knows the day or the hour when the Lord will return to claim His own.

"For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night" (1 Thessalonians 5:2). When He comes, it will be when we least expect it. Therefore, we can be pretty certain it won't be on Jan. 1, 2000, or Jan. 1, 2001.

It is nothing but "worldly and empty chatter" to talk about the Lord coming on any particular day. It is unfruitful talk to speculate about whether Jesus will come at the dawn of the so-called "new millennium." It is worthless to speak about the "new millennium" and the Lord's Second Coming in the same sentence. All such talk will usually lead only to false teaching, false religion and false hope.

However, there is a fruitful

endeavor that should engage our minds when we think about the Lord's coming. Perhaps we would all do well to ask ourselves a potent question: "Am I ready for the Lord's coming if He were to come today?"

Imagine how our lives (and our world) would be affected if we got up each morning motivated by this attitude: "Today may or may not be the day of the Lord's return, but if today happens to be the day, then I am going to be found ready." Our faith would be more visible. Our love would be more active. Our lights would shine brighter.

The apostle John wrote, "And now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming" (1 John 2:28).

When He comes, whether it be today, tomorrow, next year, 10 years from now or 1000 years from now, there will be two responses. Some will welcome Him with eagerness and confidence because they will be found abiding in Him. Others, however, will shrink away in shame because they are not ready.

Let us avoid the empty chatter about when Jesus will come again. It is far more fruitful to make certain of your salvation (Mark 16:16) and abide in Him everyday.

Thereby, it won't matter when He comes.

Russ Mullins is the minister of the Coahoma Church of Christ.



RUSS MULLINS

CHURCH NEWS

Central Baptist Church

There are classes for every age group at Central Baptist Church — on Sunday morning at 9:45 a.m., we have one class that is for the deaf. We have a teacher/interpreter and she teaches a Bible lesson.

We have interpreters for our music and message in our worship service that begins at 11 a.m. Everyone is invited to come and join in with us. Our evening worship is at 6 p.m. and we have interpreters for our evening worship so the deaf can share real worship with us. Central Baptist Church is an exciting small country church with a big heart. Come join the friendly folks and let's worship together.

Central Baptist Church is in the Elbow Community.

First Assembly of God

This week First Assembly of God will hold their annual Missions Convention. The goal this year is to send \$9,000 to Tanzania to build six churches.

Rev. Kevin Bruton will be the featured speaker tonight at 7. Rev. Bruton's parents attended First Assembly in Big Spring when Kevin was just a boy. Kevin is now in full time ministry, and it will be a thrill to have him back for this special service. Rev. Leland Lewis will be speaking in the Sunday morning service at 10:40 a.m. Pastor Havener will be speaking in the evening service at 6. Missions are the heartbeat of God, and should be the heartbeat of every Christian. Pastor Havener and the congregation of the First Assembly of God invite you to join them during this time of special emphasis for the lost of this world.

The next meeting will be Oct. 13, with Cleo Shive as hostess.

1941 Study Club

The 1941 Study Club held their first meeting on Aug. 28. They met for the "President's Breakfast" in Midland at the home of Cheryl Green. Eleven members were present. Sue Tindol offered the opening prayer. After partaking of the breakfast, a short business meeting was held. Members recited the Pledge of Allegiance and the Club Collect. Helen Shive, secretary/treasurer read the minutes of the last meeting and then gave the treasurer's report. She presented the budget for the coming year which was approved. The members discussed upcoming events for the year. The meet-

ing adjourned and everyone enjoyed the time of fellowship with one another.

The next meeting will be Oct. 4, at 7:30 p.m. at the First Baptist Church.

Order of the Eastern Star

Big Spring Chapter No. 67, Order of the Eastern Star will have a covered dish supper at 6:30 p.m., followed by a state meeting honoring 50 year members at 7:30, on Tuesday, Sept. 21, in the Masonic Temple.

City FCE Club

The City Family and Community Education Club met in the home of Nadine Hodnett at Carriage Inn for the

See CLUB, Page 7A

CLUB NEWS

Busy Bees

On Sept. 7, the Busy Bees met for a covered dish luncheon at the fellowship hall of the Presbyterian Church in Coahoma.

Joyce Barrett and Donnell Luce were hostesses. A fall theme was carried out and Jean Roerick won the door prize.

The craft made this meeting was a Christmas door wreath made from panty hose and a coat hanger.

Eight members answered roll call with their favorite school year.

RELIGION NEWS

NEW YORK (AP) — The Birthright Israel program, funded by private donors, Jewish organizations and the government of Israel, is offering all college-age Jews free airfare to Israel and a 10-day "Israel Experience" program.

The trips are set for next January and February. College students aged 26 and younger may get information through campus Jewish groups or by phoning (888) 99ISRAEL. They also may contact a Web site: www.israelexperience.org.

Birthright Israel plans to extend the offer in 2001 to high school students, ages 15 and up, and to set up a \$300 million fund to perpetuate the program.

DENVER (AP) — The first Roman Catholic seminary United States affiliated with a papal university in Rome has opened in Denver with 59 students.

The St. John Vianney Seminary is on the campus occupied until 1995 by the St. Thomas Seminary. It will train priests from around the world.

The seminary is named in honor of a 19th century Frenchman who is the patron saint of parish priests.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

BSHS CHOIR BOOSTERS will have a car wash Saturday at Tacó Villa from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. The choir plans to wash 100 cars, and will be accepting pledges of 10 cents per car, or donations will be accepted. The car wash is free.

BIG SPRING JUNIOR HIGH will host a Scholastic book fair Sept. 27-Oct. 1. Students, parents and teachers can purchase old favorite books along with new titles, including Newberry and Caldecott award winners.

Proceeds will help buy books for the school library. Call 264-4135 for more information.

THE LAST WORD

No pleasure is comparable to that of standing upon the vantage-ground of truth.

Francis Bacon

What a good thing Adam had — when he said he had a good thing, he knew nobody had said it before.

Mark Twain

There are no national frontiers to learning.

Japanese proverb

The Ho... Ministers Fel... thank everyon... part of supp... Spring Bible... Without you i... sible for this c... Our Bible c... funding from... and is only y... your gene... Below are t... helped make... Class a realit... 40 percent of... with a little... to date. We c... this class con... there are st... eager to lea... of God.

Send you... County Mini... Bible Fund, 7... Spring. Than... and Howard... continued su... opportunity!

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Allene Bah
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Helen Clar...
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Donors support Bible Class, but more funding is needed

The Howard County Ministers Fellowship wants to thank everyone who has had a part of supporting the Big Spring Bible Class thus far. Without you it would be impossible for this class to exist. Our Bible Class receives no funding from the public school and is only made possible by your generous donations. Below are those who have helped make this year's Bible Class a reality. We are only at 40 percent of our goal of \$20,000 with a little over \$7,500 raised to date. We cannot afford to let this class come to an end when there are students who are eager to learn about the Word of God.

Send your gift to the Howard County Ministers Fellowship, Bible Fund, 705 W. FM 700, Big Spring. Thank you Big Spring and Howard County for your continued support of this great opportunity!

Bible Class Donors

Robert Abbott, Larry Adkins, Airport Baptist Church, Al's & Sons Bar-B-Q, Clyde Angel, John Appleton, Wanda Arencibia, Margaret Bailey, Allene Baird, K. Interiors Bancroft, Carl H. Bankston, Baptist Temple Church The Gleaners SS Class, Baptist Temple c/o A.L. Higgins Willing Workers Class, Wayne Bartlett, Elvin Bearden, Mrs. Ivy Bedell, Wayne Beene, Charles Beil, Harold Bentley, Clayton Bettle, Big Spring Chapter No. 67 Order of the Eastern Star, John Birdwell, Mrs. Opal Blackshear, Ernie Boyd, Delamer Brewer, Wayne Bristow, Billy Bryant, J. Weldon, Bryant, Landon Burchell, W.A. Bynum, Ross Callihan, Calvary Baptist Church, Calvary Baptist Church Dorcas Class, Elfa Cantrell, Thelma Carlile, Joel K. Carter Jr., Marion Cauley, Mary Lou Chenuault, Helen Clanton, Frank Clark, Sidney Clark, La Verne Clawson, Lloyd Claxton, Oliver Cofer Jr., M. Arian Coffee, Voncile Coker, Eddie Cole, Luther Coleman, College Baptist Church, College Baptist Church Friendship SS Class c/o Elizabeth Carpenter, College Baptist Church c/o Pauline Porch Hannah SS Class, Harold Davis, Arthur Dean, Robert M. Dean, Hazel Duggan, East Fourth Baptist Church Dorcus SS Class, East Fourth Baptist Church Adult IV Dept. Eunice SS Class, Mary Ellis, Ruth Eubanks, Glenn Fillingim, First Baptist Church, First Baptist Church c/o Odessa

Boothe Bykota SS Class, FBC Adult I (men) Companion Class, First Baptist Church c/o Martha Saunders Questers SS Class, FBC Sunshine SS Class c/o Dorothy Grizzard, First Christian Church Homemakers Class, First Church of God, First Methodist Class Questers SS Class, First United Methodist Church c/o Helen McDonald, First United Methodist Church Couples Class c/o Frances Zant Philathea SS Class, First United Methodist Church Mens Bible Class, First Church of the Nazarene Fellowship SS Class, Dwain Fox.

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HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR
HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Saturday, Sept. 18, 1999:

Your creativity emerges, but where you decide to charge it into depends on you. Your work could profit from your ideas, even though you may be a bit extravagant. Look to the long term. Seek information. Take classes and seminars; travel and read. Exposing yourself to new ideas adds to your potential. If you are single, romance certainly will be on your mind! Others are drawn to your style. Someone who is very good for you, and unique in his own right, enters your life, most likely in the spring. If attached, your relationship intensifies. Unusual caring and understanding develops between the two of you. CAPRICORN digs you!

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)
**** Your partner might want something totally different than what you can do. Explain your decision and priorities, and make peace. Understanding can be established. Realize that another could come up with a better plan to cover all bases. Tonight: A force to behold.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
**** Take off as soon as you can. You can always find something else to do or another project. Give yourself the gift of a break and a change of pace. No one needs this more than you do. Touch base with friends and catch up on news. Caring flows in a different setting. Tonight: Try something new.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
**** You might be put off by another's initial reaction. Sharing your feelings opens new pathways to another's heart. Opt for one-on-one quality time, rather than spreading yourself too thin by socializing and being the effervescent personality that you are. Tonight: Don't repeat a secret you hear.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
**** A family member could be a bit upset at your decision to take off. Caring flows between you and others. A recent commitment that has a social aspect comes into play. Bring others together. Aim for that special common goal. Tonight: Let it all flow!

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
**** Take some time off from your very busy social schedule. You could be overwhelmed by what goes on. Another may be upset that you don't want to join in. Get into a project; it proves to be most rewarding for you. Touch base with an older relative. Tonight: A nice, easy pace.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
**** If you use care finan-

cially, you will be a lot more content. Allow your playful, frisky personality to come out with loved ones and friends. Embark on an adventure or go exploring nearby. Get into the coming of a new season while sharing your jovial mood. Tonight: Don't let cares ruin your fun.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
**** Clear out confusion. Refuse to hold a grudge against a family member. A key discussion with a partner lightens the mood and is positive for both of you. You might not see eye to eye, but you come to a clear understanding. Mutual respect emerges. Tonight: The action is at home.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
**** Talk about a problem rather than keeping it to yourself. It could become considerably more intense if you don't share! Another cares a lot. You feel much better once you open up the lines of communication. A new friendship could be budding. Visit with friends. Tonight: At a favorite place with favorite people.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
**** Confusion changes your plans. Friends might opt to do something totally different. Do what you like. Whether you ask a friend along or not is up to you. You could spend a lot of money on pleasure, but it is worth it. You recharge as you enjoy yourself. Tonight: Your treat.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
**** An older family member may be deluded - at best. Think through a decision carefully. Express your loyalty and loving to a child or loved one. If single, be gregarious and share more of yourself. Laughter mixes with flirtation. Others are there for you. Tonight: Add some heat to your night.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
**** Plans change by choice or need. Take some time for yourself. Key projects at home need tending; in between, you can get an extra snooze or two! Don't feel like you have to share everything with others. Be discreet. A loved one stops by. Tonight: Let the good times roll!

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
**** A partner could be in a tizzy and direct his ire toward you. Make the best of it. Join with friends and visit. You seem to enjoy yourself wherever you are. Liberate yourself - don't worry about every little detail. You'll get a new spin on work and life if you distance yourself a little. Tonight: Be with who you want to be with.

CLUB

Continued from Page 6A

first meeting of the fall season. Seven members were present.

Dana Tarter distributed new cookbooks, "Chow Time in West Texas," a project of the District 6 division of the Texas FCE organization. These cookbooks were illustrated with a western theme by Don Richardson and are being sold by club members for \$7 each. These cookbooks will be a special feature at the state meeting in Odessa in the year 2000.

Members examined the cookbooks and Jowilli, president, discussed their use and sales. The door prize was awarded to Mildred Callihan.

Big Spring-Howard County Retired Teachers Association

Members of the Big Spring-Howard County Retired Teachers Association will meet in the Cactus Room at Howard College on Monday, Sept. 20. Lunch will be served at 11:30.

China Long, KBST news personality and former justice of the peace, will be the featured speaker. Nila Allen is the program chairman.

Harold Bentley, president of the local chapter, will conduct a short business meeting. All retired school personnel are invited to attend.

CHURCH

Continued from Page 6A

might be just the thing that would help you, and we at First Baptist Church would welcome you to come and join us.

Members of our Senior Adult Choir will be going to San Angelo on Tuesday, Sept. 21, to sing at Baptist Memorial's chapel service the musical "Serve With Gladness."

Sunday afternoon Bible study begins Sunday, Sept. 16.

Coahoma Church of Christ

Ted Kell from Brownwood will be with Coahoma Church of Christ for a gospel meeting beginning Sunday, Oct. 17. The series of sermons will run through Wednesday night, Oct. 20. The meeting will commence with the Bible class hour at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, Mr. Kell will then preach on Sunday at 10:20 a.m. and 6 p.m. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. each evening, Monday through Wednesday.

Brother Kell was an instructor at Sunset International Bible Institute in Lubbock for

13 years where he helped train more than 1,000 evangelists and missionaries. He had done evangelistic work throughout the United States, as well as Chile, England, Korea, Mexico, Philippines, Scotland and Thailand.

Everyone is invited to hear the word of God as it is proclaimed by this good man of God. The theme for this series of sermons is "Keep Your Eyes on Jesus."

Bro. R.C. Moore, evangelist from Wichita Falls, will be preaching. He has held tent revivals all over Texas and New Mexico. Come and be blessed and heart Bro. Moore as he has memorized so much of the word.

Spring Tabernacle

If you don't have a certain place to worship, we invite you to come and worship with us this special Sunday at Spring Tabernacle, 1209 Wright St. Come and hear some old-time gospel preaching at 10 a.m. Sunday morning and Sunday evening at 6:30.

Bro. R.C. Moore, evangelist from Wichita Falls, will be preaching. He has held tent revivals all over Texas and New Mexico. Come and be blessed and heart Bro. Moore as he has memorized so much of the word.


Club and Church News are printed each Friday. They must be submitted in writing, by noon on Wednesday.

Cordially Invite You to Attend our Services

TRINITY BAPTIST

810 11TH PLACE 267-6344

What we do with Christ now determines what He will do with us later.



Randy Cotton
Pastor

Sunday 11:00 a.m. Sunday School.....10:00 a.m.
Service broadcast Morning Worship.....11:00 a.m.
over KBYG 1400 AM Evangelistic Service.....6:00 p.m.
on your dial Wednesday Service.....7:00p.m.

Coming Sunday:
Is the fast pace of life causing a crunch time for your family?

You are not alone.

Get some expert tips for dealing with "The Rush Hour."

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Catalog Titles \$4

Sunday 12-6
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Many Other Items Available:
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READ THE BIG SPRING HERALD AND KEEP IN TOUCH WITH YOUR COMMUNITY.

10th Anniversary Celebration

Saturday, September 18th
ONE DAY ONLY!



The Precious Moments[®] Chapel is the fulfillment of Sam Butcher's dream...and now we invite you to help us celebrate its 10th anniversary!

You'll have the opportunity to purchase the exclusive Precious Moments[®] figurine, "You Color Our World With Loving, Caring, and Sharing," for only \$19 (\$26.50 CDN) commemorating the day the Chapel opened—June 19, 1989!

(After September 18th, the figurine will only be available at the Chapel for \$30.)

The Precious Moments[®] Tender Tails[®] turtle is FREE with the purchase of any full-sized Precious Moments porcelain bisque figurine, excluding the event piece.
*Or \$6.99 when purchased separately.

So mark your calendars for Saturday, September 18th and celebrate with us!

Precious Moments
by DECO

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and
FORMER PATIENTS OF DRS. SANDERS
and
MEDICAL ARTS CLINIC-HOSPITAL

DR. NELL W. SANDERS and Family
invite you to come celebrate with us on
Saturday - SEPTEMBER 18, 1999

2:00 P.M. -- 5:00 P.M.

Dr. Nell has turned 90
The building has turned 50
this year - 1999

THE OFFICE BUILDING
710 Gregg Street
Big Spring, Texas

(Parking in the rear-same as always)

★★ Refreshments Served ★★

(No gifts - just visiting)



Idaho Peaches

\$1.49
1 lb.



Grown in Northwest Idaho. This means cool nights and warm days, perfect growing conditions. Each peach is *hand picked* and *hand packed*. Picked at a more mature level, "*Tree Ripened.*" More mature peaches mean *better flavor, larger size.*

Save more this week



\$1.87
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Boneless Top Sirloin Steak
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Fresh Coho Salmon Fillets, \$4.99 Lb.



99¢
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Pepsi, Diet Pepsi, Dr Pepper Or Big Red
6 Pk., 12 Oz. Cans, Regular Or Diet
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All Flavors and Packages May Not Be Available At All Stores.



\$1.99
Ea.

M&M's
12.6-16 Oz. Bag, Plain, Peanut, Crispy Or Almond

Lasagna Meal Deal

Free

Pepperidge Farm Garlic Bread, 10 Oz. Pkg., Regular Or Parmesan
Pet Ritz Cream Pie, 14 Oz. Box
And Coca-Cola Classic, Diet Coke Or Sprite, 3 L Btl.

when you buy

Stouffer's Family Style Lasagna
40 Oz. Pkg.
With Meat & Sauce
\$5.35 Ea.



<p>FREE Coca-Cola Classic, Diet Coke Or Sprite, 3 L Btl. with purchase of Stouffer's Lasagna, 40 Oz. Pkg.</p> <p>Good Only At H-E-B R 12159</p> <p>5 49000 22101 0</p>	<p>FREE Pepperidge Farm Garlic Bread, 10 Oz. Pkg., Regular Or Parmesan with purchase of Stouffer's Lasagna, 40 Oz. Pkg.</p> <p>Good Only At H-E-B R 13354</p> <p>5 51000 98101 6</p>	<p>FREE Pet Ritz Cream Pie 14 Oz. Box with purchase of Stouffer's Lasagna, 40 Oz. Pkg.</p> <p>Good Only At H-E-B R 13317</p> <p>5 00000 11201 2</p>
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At Your Big Spring, Midland And Odessa H-E-B Stores.
Due To The Popularity Of Our Low Prices Every Day,
We Reserve The Right To Limit Quantities. Some Items May Not Be Available In All Stores

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FRIDAY

SEP. 17

Table with 23 columns (KMD, KPEJ, KERA, FAM, KOSA, WFAA, KWES, WTBS, UNI, DISN, NASH, TMC, SHOW, HBO, KMLM, A&E, DISC, TNT, FSN, ESPN, AMC, BET) and 7 rows (6:30, 7:30, 8:30, 9:30, 10:30, 11:30, 12:30) listing TV programs and channels.

HAGAR



BLONDIE



B.C.



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DENNIS THE MENACE



GEECH



"Dr. Peay, when is Jeffy gonna be launched?"

"WE'RE LIVIN' OFF THE COUNTRY, JUST LIKE THE PIONEERS!"

WIZARD OF ID



THIS DATE IN HISTORY

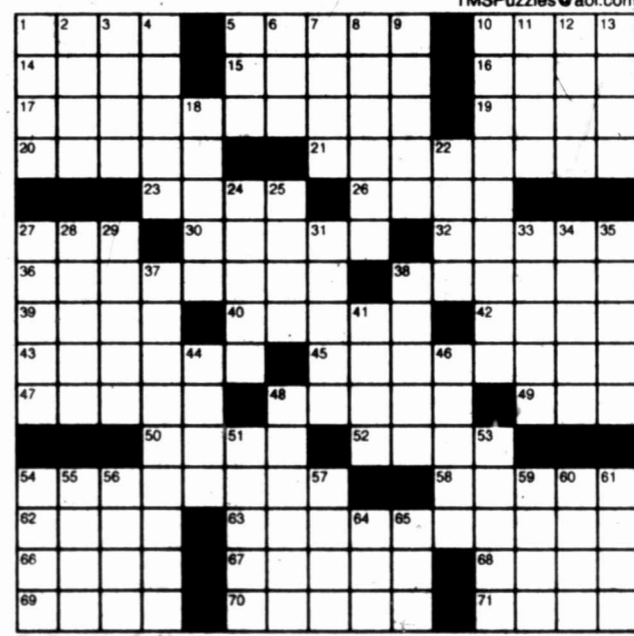
The ASSOCIATED PRESS Today is Friday, Sept. 17, the 260th day of 1999. There are 105 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Sept. 17, 1939, the Soviet Union invaded Poland, more than two weeks after Nazi Germany launched its assault. On this date: In 1787, the U.S. Constitution was completed and signed by a majority of delegates attending the constitutional convention in Philadelphia.

In 1862, Union forces hurled back a Confederate invasion of Maryland in the Civil War Battle of Antietam. In 1939, the Harry James Orchestra and Frank Sinatra recorded "All or Nothing at All" for Columbia Records. In 1947, James V. Forrestal was sworn in as the first defense secretary as a new National Military Establishment unified U.S. armed forces. In 1948, the United Nations mediator for Palestine, Count Folke Bernadotte, was assassinated in Jerusalem by Jewish extremists. In 1949, more than 130 people died when fire gutted the Canadian passenger steamer Noronic at a pier in Toronto. In 1964, the situation comedy "Bewitched" premiered on ABC-TV. In 1978, after meeting at Camp David, Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat signed a framework for a peace treaty. In 1980, former Nicaraguan president Anastasio Somoza was assassinated in Paraguay. In 1984, Progressive Conservative leader Brian Mulroney took office as Canada's 18th prime minister. Ten years ago: Hurricane Hugo slammed into several Caribbean islands, including St. Croix, which was the hardest hit. Five years ago: As some 20 warships sat off the coast of Haiti, former President Jimmy Carter, Sen. Sam Nunn (D-Ga.) and retired Gen. Colin Powell arrived in the Caribbean nation in an 11th-hour bid to avert a U.S.-led invasion. Heather Whitestone of Alabama was crowned Miss America, the first deaf contestant to win the title. One year ago: In Mexico, gunmen apparently sent by a drug lord yanked three families from their beds before dawn and opened fire, killing 19 men, women and children near a popular Baja California resort.

THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

- ACROSS 1 Actress Anderson 5 Came to 10 Certain 14 Gershwin and Levin 15 Board 16 Mariner's hail 17 Syrup sources 19 Kind of log 20 Ryan or Shaquille 21 Squealed 23 Small rodents 26 Jacob's first wife 27 987-65-4321 grp. 30 Set to rest 32 Verdun's river 36 Bounding main 38 Swerved 39 Logical beginning? 40 Loos or Baker 42 Lift one's voice 43 Enzyme that curdles milk 45 Skim chicken stock 47 Deserves 48 Locale 49 "And I Love 50 New Haven campus 52 Hanoi holidays 54 Mexican hat 58 In the lead 62 Woodwind instrument 63 Engine coolant 66 Outdoor gala 67 City on the Ganges 68 African plant 69 Affirmative votes 70 One-armed bandits, for short 71 Invitation letters



By Dorothy B. Martin Highland Park, MI 9/17/99

Thursday's Puzzle Solved grid with words filled in: ODES, MATE, BLASE, NOSE, AWED, RENTS, CLAM, SART, ONTAP, ETUT, TIMEGONEBY, NAST, ADO, CAROL, STEM, NAPE, AMELIA, REES, LIV, RACE, AGAINST, TIME, OTT, SNIP, TROCAR, BIOS, ALES, EGEST, EST, TAPE, TIMEPERIOD, TRAM, OSAKA, IDLE, HIRE, FILER, FEEL, EMMA, USERS, TONE, REST.

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Today's Birthdays: Actor David Huddleston is 69. Actress Anne Bancroft is 68. Actress Dorothy Loudon is 66. Sen. Charles E. Grassley (R-Iowa) is 66. Author Ken Kesey is 64. Actor Paul Benedict is 61. Supreme Court Justice David H. Souter is 60. Singer LaMonte McLemore (The Fifth Dimension) is 60. Cartoonist Jeff MacNelly is 62. Actor John Ritter is 51. Singer Fee Waybill is 49. Actress Cassandra Peterson ("Elvira, Mistress of the Dark") is 48. Comedian Rita Rudner is 43.