

BIG SPRING HERALD

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

TUESDAY
September 21, 1999

WEATHER

Tonight:



PARTLY CLOUDY

TONIGHT 50°-55°
WEDNESDAY 77°-82°

Going-away fete slated for Dr. Owen on Wednesday

A going-away reception will be held from 4-6 p.m. Wednesday at Malone-Hogan Clinic for Dr. Ray Owen.

Dr. Owen is retiring after 27 years of delivering babies and pediatric care in Big Spring.

Refreshments will be served and the public is invited.

Owen will be moving to Temple from where he will do overseas medical missionary work, said clinic spokesman Bonnie Miller.

The Malone and Hogue Clinic is at 1501 W. 11th Place.

WHAT'S UP...

TODAY

- Big Spring Art Association, 7 p.m., library annex community room, 500 Main.
- Quarterback Club, 7 p.m., Big Spring High School Athletic Training Center.
- B.g Spring Chapter No. 67, Order of the Eastern Star, 7 p.m., Masonic Lodge, 219 Main.

WEDNESDAY

- Optimist Club, 7 a.m., Howard College Cactus Room.
 - Senior Circle Big Spring Mall Walkers meet 9:15 a.m. in front of movie theater box office.
 - Line dancing, 10:30 a.m., Senior Citizen 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.
- THURSDAY**
- Gideons International Big Spring Camp No. 4206, 7 a.m., Hermans.
 - Big Spring Senior Citizens Center art classes, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. for 55 and older.
 - Kiwanis Club, noon, Howard College Cactus Room.
 - Masonic Lodge No. 598, 7:30 p.m., 219 Main.
- FRIDAY**
- Signal Mountain Quilting Guild, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., St. Mary's Episcopal Church. Bring a lunch.
 - AMBUCS, noon, Brandin'

INSIDE TODAY...

Abby	9
Classified	8-9
Comics	10
Texas	3
Horoscope	9
Nation	5
Obituaries	2
Opinion	4
Sports	6-7
World	5

Vol. 96, No. 280

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Sheriff's department enlists public's help in search for suspect

By MARSHA STURDIVANT
Staff Writer

An elderly woman was assaulted Sunday in a ditch in front of her home on South Moss Lake Road, and Howard County sheriff's deputies continue to search for the man responsible.



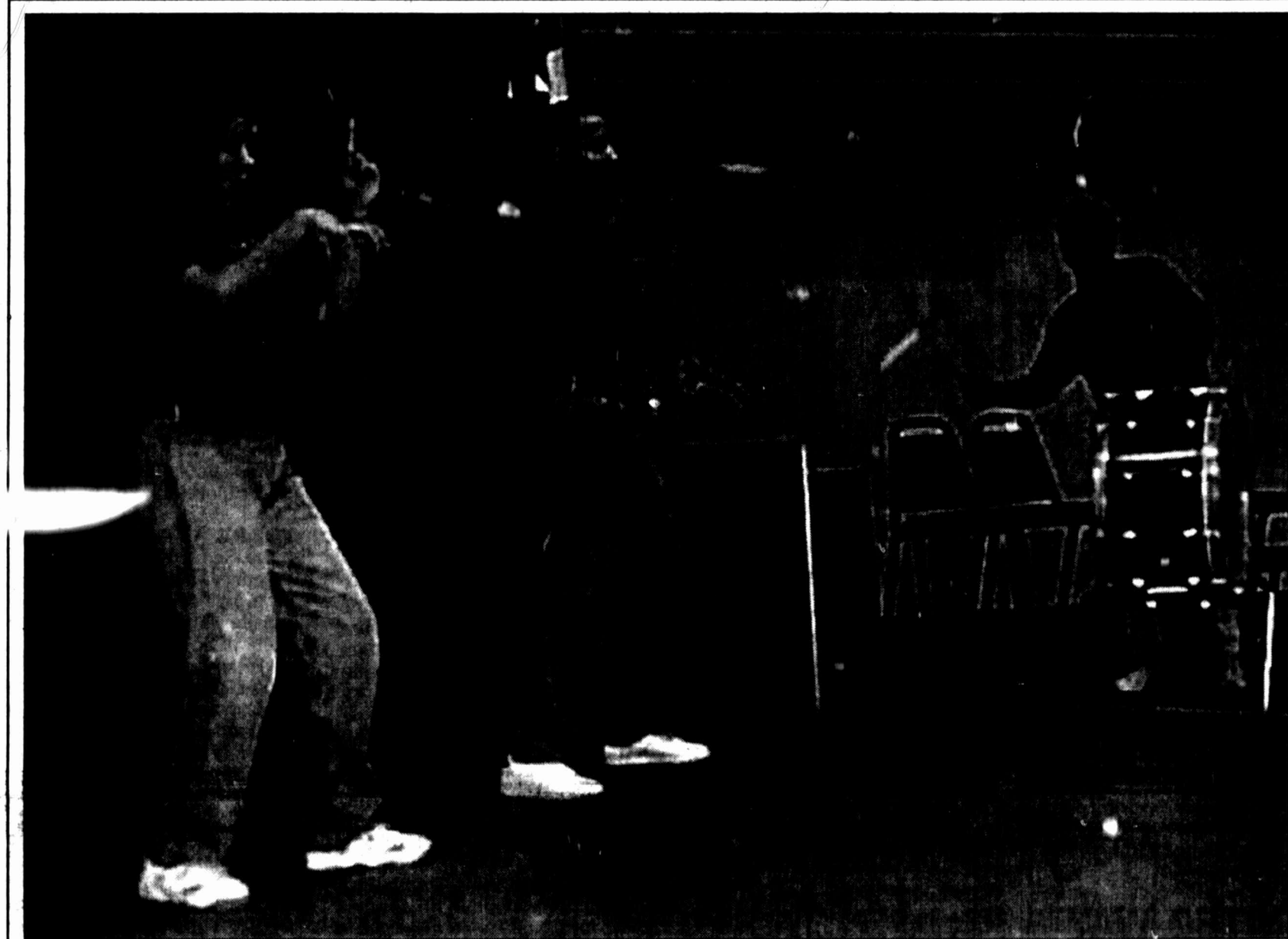
JENNINGS

"We're asking everyone in that area to continue watching for suspicious characters, to keep a close patrol on your home and we're asking neighbors to watch neighbors," said Howard County Sheriff's Deputy Ron Allen. The plea comes on the heels of an assault that began as an attempted burglary of a habitation. A 65-to-70-year old widow was awakened by a man attempting to enter her home through a window about 2 a.m. Sunday. "She awoke and heard noises and discovered a man half in

and half out of her window. He grumbled at her 'I'm gonna kill you,'" said Howard County Sheriff Bill Jennings. The woman ran, and the assailant chased her into the street in front of her home. When he caught her, he dragged her back to the bar ditch. He then sat on her and assaulted her, until a neighbor who had heard the commotion appeared with a flashlight and scared the suspect away. The woman was treated for bruises and abrasions at Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

Allen said less than an hour later the same individual attempted to break and enter into another home on Midway Road, about six blocks from the first home. "A neighbor saw him and called the woman of the house. When he got there the woman he met surprised him by being an armed citizen. He fled the scene, and we are continuing to search for this man," Jennings said. The suspect is described as a 20-to-30-year-old male, possible Hispanic or white. He is about 5'5" to 5'8", with a stocky build.

He has a short, crew-cut type hair cut. Eyewitnesses say the man may have been wearing sweat pants and tennis shoes. Deputies are cautioning Midway residents to remain alert for strangers, and to call Crimestoppers, 264-TIPS, at the first hint of trouble. "We really want to urge residents to keep their doors and windows locked, and if they see anyone suspicious, call us," Allen said. Anyone with information about this crime should call the HCSO at 264-8477.



SWCID students Anabel Montelongo, left, Eric Martinez and Curtis Blankenburg on drums, perform "The Rattler," a song in sign language dedicated to SWCID and in observance of Deaf Awareness Week. Deaf Awareness Week continues throughout the week, concluding with special dinner Friday.

HERALD photo/Marsha Sturdivant

Moore Development OKs budget sans pay hikes

By MARSHA STURDIVANT
Staff Writer

Directors for Moore Development for Big Spring Monday approved an \$863,769.25 expense budget for 1999-2000, a decrease of \$26,460.75 for the 1998-99 budget. Estimated income for Moore Development, which receives most of its income from sales tax revenue, is \$992,529, a decrease from the 1998-99 income estimate of \$1,017,727.29. Bonnie Smith, special projects manager, said sales tax revenues have declined about 5 percent over the past year, because fewer purchases are being made. Directors agreed to continue



SHARP

funding the Permian Building demolition project, and also agreed to continue pursuing an industrial brochure for Big Spring, through budget amendments. "We will keep the business climate enhancement allocation by amending the budget so that the \$50,000 we had for demolition will now be in the 1999-2000 budget. That will combine with the \$50,000 we have there as available funds for another project to help the community, so that we have \$100,000 in the fund for the new fiscal year," said Charles Beil, director. An industrial brochure, which is currently being printed, was a \$15,000 expense in the 1998-99 budget. However, \$3,000 of that amount has been spent thus far, so another amendment moved the \$12,000 into the new budget. Salaries of two Moore Development employees will remain the same, as no raises are proposed in the approved budget. Kent Sharp, executive direc-

tor for Moore Development, received an annual raise effective in March of 10 percent, or \$4,700, bringing his total salary to \$51,700. Annual salaries of Pam Welch, assistant director, \$33,207, and Smith, \$26,780, will remain the same. Directors also approved a \$30,000 budget for the development of a CD-ROM as a tool for promotion. The actual cost of the project has yet to be determined, as a request for proposal has not yet been submitted. "This is a marketing tool, on a computer disc, that we will mail out to market Big Spring. It will contain information on Big Spring, and what Big Spring is all about. The cost will depend on what we place on it, such as how many pictures, things like that. We will have to wait and see what we can afford," Beil said. The 1999-2000 budget also includes \$100,000 for existing industry enhancements, \$25,000 for workforce training and \$45,000 for boll weevil eradication.

Also, \$250,000 remains in the budget for land acquisition. "This is an incentive in our budget, so that we have this money available in case we are working with a company that wants to locate here but needs land," said Sharp. Other items in the budget include \$14,958 for employee benefits, \$148,911 for personal services, such as payroll expenses, workers compensation insurance and salaries, and \$6,000 for professional development. Office supplies and equipment total \$13,000, contractual services total \$15,550, and meetings and workshops are budgeted at \$10,300. For promotion, \$56,500 is budgeted, which includes the industrial brochure, local advertising, the CD-ROM and trade shows. Economic development budget totals \$332,008, which includes the boll weevil eradication project, business climate enhancement and workforce training.

Glasscock County ISD prepares for job search

By MARSHA STURDIVANT
Staff Writer

Trustees with Glasscock County Independent School District agreed to ask Bryan LeBeff, Region 18 Service Center director, to attend a future board meeting to discuss an executive search for superintendent. "They have made no commitments at this time, but they do wish to talk with him about finding a new superintendent," said Superintendent Charles Zachry. Zachry retires the end of this school year, and the district might consider hiring an inde-

pendent firm to handle the executive search to locate his replacement. "We've heard that lots of districts have used Region 18 and Mr. LeBeff to find another superintendent," he said. Trustees also swore in replacement board member Jimmy Bednar, who is taking the place of Susan Langford. Langford and her family moved to Abilene. "Jimmy Bednar is a past board member, and he ran in the last election and was the second highest vote getter. That's the reason the board selected him for this position," Zachry said. Bednar will serve the unex-

pired term of Langford until the May 2000 elections, he said. At that time he may elect to run for the position. Trustees also upheld an administrative decision that placed three secondary students in the Alternative Education Program. Zachry declined to comment on the appeal filed with the board concerning the disciplinary action. "We follow the Texas Association of School Boards and the Texas Education Agency guidelines in these matters. I would not care to speculate," Zachry said. Enrollment for the district is about 380, a slight decrease

from the 1998-99 school year at this time, but an improvement from the new school year beginning enrollment. "I believe we will be back up to about 380 by mid-year," he said. Trustees in all Region 18 districts attended a distance learning training session Monday night. Zachry said the program worked smoothly, and saved his trustees from driving to Midland. "It worked pretty well. This was an update on the recent Legislative session, and all the changes in the new legislation that effect school districts," Zachry said.

United Way

Campaign hits 21 percent after just 10 days

By MARSHA STURDIVANT
Staff Writer

Just 10 days into the 1999 United Way Campaign, chairman Clara Savage reports that 21 percent of the \$225,000 goal has been reached. "Our campaign is going great and we are very excited to report these outstanding results," Savage said. Thus far \$46,390 have been raised for United Way. The money will be used to fund 11 local agencies — American Red Cross, Boys Club of Big Spring, Buffalo Trail Council Boy Scouts of America, Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, Northside Community center, Rape Crisis/Victim Services, Salvation Army, Westside Community Center, Westside Day Care Center, West Texas Girl Scout Council and the YMCA. "We really want to encourage people to remember that all our dollars stays here. We need to help those agencies that need our help to help our community," she said. The United Way 1999 Campaign began Sept. 7 with a luncheon for 350 people with entertainment by the Bellamy Brothers. At that time 12 percent of the total goal, or \$30,500 had been pledged. Nearly \$16,000 was raised by Sept. 17, just 10 days after the campaign kick off, she said. "And we know we've had even more good things happen since Friday," Savage said. Thus far, at the weekly report Sept. 17, the Commercial Division, chaired by O.L. Cooper and Allan Johnson, had received \$1,200. The Community Division, chaired by Gloria McDonald and Doris Huibregtse, had \$2,988 worth of pledges. The Pacesetters Division has \$18,700 in pledges, chaired by Sue and Stan Partee. The Professional Division, with Maureen and Rudy Haddad and Betty Kelly as chairmen, has \$6,360 in pledges. Certified public accountants donated \$2,235 of that amount, while local dentists donated \$625, attorneys \$3,275 and veterinary doctors \$135. Big Spring Independent School District has pledged \$14,142 thus far, as part of the Loaned Executive Division under the guidance of Murray Murphy, deputy superintendent for the district. "He has done an outstanding job. We have had presentations to Bauer Elementary, Big Spring Junior High and the high school," Savage said.



Savage

See UNITED WAY, Page 2

SEPTEMBER 21 1999

Funerals held for last three victims of Fort Worth church shooting

FORT WORTH (AP) — Joey Ennis' cousin described him as an outrageously funny teen-ager who enjoyed family night at church and would drop whatever he was doing to play board games and watch movies with friends.

Ennis was one of three 14-year-olds remembered Monday in funerals for the last of seven victims of a crazed gunman at a Fort Worth Baptist church last week.

Police investigators said a doctor had prescribed the anti-depressant drug Prozac for the gunman, Larry Gene Ashbrook, but they were uncertain whether he had taken it prior to last week's rampage and wanted to know the prescription's history.

"The level of paranoia within his life had advanced to an

extreme stage," Fort Worth police Lt. Mark Krey told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. "We're investigating the possibility that with the death of his father, Mr. Ashbrook stopped taking medication."

The Prozac bottle was found by police in Ashbrook's home, where FBI agents also discovered nine vials of prescription drugs for his father, Jack Ashbrook, who died after a battle with cancer. Prozac is used to treat clinical depression.

The funeral for Kristi Beckel was at a nearly full Bethesda Community Church in suburban Haltom City, and the service for Cassandra Griffin was at Wedgwood Baptist Church, scene of Wednesday's carnage.

Ennis was an only child who dreamed of playing in the National Basketball

Association. Friends said he was a curious, searching teenager who only recently joined the Baptist church.

His cousin, Chris Belsher, told about 1,000 mourners at the First Baptist Church in suburban White Settlement.

"Even though, if I had never brought him to church, this wouldn't have happened, I'm so glad I did, so he would have a better chance to get closer to God and get to know Him better."

At Miss Beckel's funeral, a Baptist minister told about 1,500 people that the seven who died were victims of a "deranged gunman who was in the power of the prince of darkness."

"The world has watched this community, this family of faith, in amazement this week.... The prince of darkness began in

Wedgwood, at my church," said the Rev. Al Meredith, pastor of Wedgwood Baptist Church.

"Seven precious lives were snuffed out, then the gunman turned the gun on himself. We need to pray for his family, too," Meredith said.

Bethesda Community Church is next door to Bethesda Christian School, where Miss Beckel was a ninth-grader. Classes were cancelled Monday so classmates could attend the funeral.

Meredith remembered Miss Beckel as a girl who loved volleyball, singing and "I Love Lucy" reruns.

"We're crying not for Kristi. She is with the Lord," he said. "She can spike every ball that comes over the net now. She can sing bass if she wants to, and first soprano. Her joy is

unspeakable."

Her parents, Bob and Debbie Beckel, donated all their daughter's organs. A spokeswoman for LifeGift Organ Donation Center in Fort Worth said the organs and tissue could help up to 60 recipients.

A few hundred mourners attended Miss Beckel's late-afternoon burial at Hillcrest Memorial Park Cemetery in Ardmore, Okla., where both her grandmothers live.

At her burial, Ms. Beckel's volleyball uniform was draped over her casket. Members of her junior varsity team filed past, each placing a rose on top.

Relatives and friends described the teen as tender-hearted and disciplined, with a contagious laugh and a strong faith in God.

Monday's other funeral, for

Cassandra Griffin, was at Wedgwood Baptist Church, where Ashbrook, 47, killed seven and wounded seven others before shooting himself.

Services for Ashbrook's four other victims were on Saturday. Folding chairs replaced blood-soaked pews removed for repair, and bare concrete floors lay exposed where bloodstained carpet had been removed.

After the funeral, family friend Carolyn Jackson remembered Miss Griffin as a special girl.

"She was quiet, but she was powerful in her own right," Ms. Jackson said.

Near the church, someone had parked a pickup truck and covered its windows with white-painted slogans: "Rule heaven, Cassie" and "Cassie always in our hearts."

Plaintiffs: TAAS exit test claimed to be unfair to minorities, contributes to more dropouts

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — An academic skills test all Texas students must pass before getting a high school diploma is hurting black and Hispanic students, a witness testified in federal court.

Minorities are failing the exit-level Texas Assessment of Academic Skills at higher rates than whites, contributing to increased minority dropout rates, a lawsuit alleges.

"This is, indeed, the ultimate high-stakes test," Al Kauffman, regional counsel for the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, said in the trial's opening statements Monday.

MALDEF is representing the plaintiffs group, which includes the Hispanic education organizations GI Forum and Image de Tejas and seven Hispanic and black students who completed their school work but failed the TAAS exit test and were denied diplomas.

The Texas Education Agency and high-level state education officials are the defendants.

U.S. District Judge Ed Prado will decide the case.

"The adverse impact on black and Hispanic students in Texas of the TAAS graduation test is extensive in nature, pervasive in nature..." Walter Haney, an education professor

at Boston College, testified as the first witness in the trial.

Haney said he has done extensive analysis of the TAAS exam since its inception in 1990.

A test score alone should not be used to determine student promotion, Haney said, adding that improper use of a standardized test can reinforce societal inequalities.

Attorneys for the state disputed the discrimination claims and defended the exit-level TAAS test as a valid exam that is carefully screened for any bias.

"There is no other way for the state of Texas to ensure that students learn the material that the state of Texas considers important than by an objective test," said assistant attorney general Deborah Verbil.

MALDEF is bringing the lawsuit under federal regulations barring discrimination by states receiving federal education money. The plaintiffs also cite their right to due process.

The Hispanic rights group argues that, ultimately, 20 percent of Latinos and blacks fail the exit test counting all of their attempts, compared with a failure rate of 10 percent for white students.

The Texas Education Agency has year-by-year figures on the passing rate of 10th-grade students by ethnicity but no statistics reflecting success or failure looking at overall attempts during high school, a spokeswoman said.

Last spring, 75 percent of all sophomores taking the TAAS test passed. The pass rate was 60 percent for blacks, 64 percent for Hispanics and 86 percent for whites.

While there has been a gap between minorities and whites in their passing rates on the exit test, that gap is narrowing, Verbil said. She also argued there is no evidence to prove the TAAS led to an increase in minority dropouts.

The exit test is at the core of the state's school accountability system. Although other versions of the TAAS are given to public school students in earlier grades, the lawsuit targets the test students must pass to receive their diplomas.

Students first take the exit-level reading, writing and math exam as sophomores in high school. If a student fails any portion of the test, he or she may take it again up to eight times and unlimited additional times outside of school sessions, officials say.

Nineteen states require stu-

dents to pass a test in order to graduate from high school.

In Texas, the exit test has had such an impact on school curriculum that it "has turned the schools into TAAS preparation classes instead of classes," Kauffman said, adding there is no evidence the material on the test is related to knowledge needed after high school.

Minorities tend to be in low-income school districts and do not have an equal opportunity to acquire academic skills needed to pass the exam, according to Kauffman.

MALDEF contends many minority students get discouraged and drop out because they fail the TAAS or because they are detained in ninth grade by schools trying to keep their test scores high.

The Hispanic rights group contends the dropout rate among minority students is more than 50 percent.

The state denies it is that high. The TEA contends the annual dropout rate for blacks and Hispanics is about 2 percent for each group. It estimates the long-term dropout rate for those ethnic groups — a projection of the percentage who will drop out before the end of high school — is closer to 10 percent.



Abigail Fierro, front, and Brenna Hill, left, rang bells at Bauer Elementary School last Friday to mark the 212th anniversary of the signing of the United States Constitution. The girls were part of a group of "citizens of the week" who rang bells at an all-school assembly about Constitution Week, which began Friday.

Laredo corruption case affidavits opened, more than 50 questionable cases included

LAREDO (AP) — Affidavits unsealed in a South Texas corruption case list more than 50 cases, including three slayings, which federal investigators believe were fixed after defendants offered bribes ranging from money to rifles and jewelry.

Details of the investigation that has led to criminal charges against 17 people, including two Webb County prosecutors, were in an 82-page packet made public in Victoria.

The court documents, unsealed Monday, showed FBI agents began the investigation into Webb County public corruption believing that murder charges against three defendants had been dropped in exchange for bribes.

The accusations have not yet been proven.

"This and the indictments are nothing more than allegations," Assistant U.S. Attorney Don DeGabrielle, the lead pros-

ecutor in the case, said today. "Everyone listed is presumed innocent until when and if it is proven otherwise."

Former Webb County Prosecutor Ramon Villafranca, who was convicted on bribery charges in January and faces three more similar counts, is among public officials and their family members who have been indicted earlier on charges of taking bribes to lessen or drop charges in the county.

DeGabrielle would not say whether or not he expected the other cases to lead to indictments. District Attorney Joe Rubio is not named in the documents and said Monday night he had not seen them. However, he discounted the allegations about murder cases.

"What they're saying is that someone else is alleging those things," said Rubio. "A lot of the stuff that they have in those affidavits is hearsay and

street talk. Sometimes when they check the information out, it doesn't pan out. I think that the fact that they're mentioned in the affidavit and yet nobody has been indicted on the charges is significant."

An informant told FBI agents that in 1996, a man paid a \$50,000 bribe to receive probation for a murder charge, according to the documents.

Also, the agents believe another man paid \$35,000 to have a murder charge dismissed. And the father of a third suspect told an FBI source that in exchange for \$50,000, his son also received probation for his crime.

Information included in the filings was gathered by FBI agents and seven people who cooperated with them, including two former employees in the district attorney's office and another person, who is a convicted felon.

Dying drug addict set for execution today

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — As far as Richard Wayne Smith is concerned, he's one of the few terminally ill Texans legally eligible for assisted suicide. All he had to do was kill a popular schoolteacher.

The 43-year-old career criminal has dropped all appeals to his conviction for the Dec. 2, 1992, Baytown slaying of Karen Birky and chosen to let the state of Texas execute him instead of waiting to die of liver failure.

The execution is scheduled for sometime after 6 p.m. today. Smith would be the 25th convicted killer to be put to death by the state this year and the fourth this month.

"In essence, by waiving his appeal he will be getting a state-assisted suicide a law-abiding citizen would not have available to him," said Smith's attorney, Guy Womack. Smith declined an interview request from The Associated Press.

Complications from hepatitis C, probably contracted by sharing heroin needles in a lifetime of drug and alcohol abuse, have bound Smith to a wheelchair since May. Smith decided last December to speed up his execution.

Former prosecutor Jim Mount said drugs were Smith's downfall in more ways than

one.

"Rickie was a guy who couldn't stop doing dope, and when he did dope he became a very mean man," said Mount, now in private practice.

According to prosecutors, Smith is seen on a surveillance camera robbing the Baytown convenience store where Ms. Birky, 38, moonlighted so she could buy supplies for her special education students at Lamar Elementary in Houston.

Ms. Birky complied with Smith's demand for money before he apparently walked her into the parking lot. Witnesses testified seeing Smith fire one shot into Ms. Birky's neck before fleeing in a stolen Jeep Cherokee.

She bled to death aboard an emergency helicopter.

Police later that night found the Jeep in the apartment complex of Smith's ex-wife. Smith woke up after sleeping in a nearby car and was arrested in possession of the .32-caliber pistol suspected of killing Ms. Birky and three \$5 bills traced to the store.

Smith, a Louisiana parolee whose criminal record and drug history date to childhood, says he remembers nothing from that night.

Womack believes Smith had a chance at winning an appeal

because of unconvincing witness testimony, but said Smith was intent on dying today.

Womack believed there was no chance his client would renege.

If Smith at any time were to choose not to die, officials would halt the execution and he would return to death row.


"We have from time to time people we call volunteers," said Shirley Cornelius, the assistant Harris County District Attorney who handles death penalty appeals. "Often they feel it will make the (victim's) family feel better because they put the family through hell and they understand that now."

"This doesn't appear to be that. This is escaping a horrible death. He told me at a hearing that the doctors explained how hepatitis C plays out and that he was in enough pain as it was and didn't want to go out that way."

Smith's criminal record dates to a juvenile marijuana-dealing charge. He also was convicted of aggravated burglary, armed robbery, auto theft and forgery before his 1994 capital murder conviction.

Authorities also said they thwarted what appeared to be an escape plan Smith and his then-girlfriend organized while he was waiting for the murder trial.

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SEPTEMBER 21 1999

Magnitude 7.6 earthquake strikes Taiwan, at least 1,500 killed

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — High-rise apartment buildings were knocked off foundations and roads buckled into waves of asphalt when a powerful earthquake struck Taiwan, killing more than 1,500 people and destroying hundreds of homes.

With a preliminary magnitude of 7.6, the quake was the strongest to hit Taiwan in a decade and was about the same strength as the devastating tremor that killed more than 15,000 people in Turkey last month.

The quake's epicenter was centered 90 miles south of Taipei, the U.S. Geological Survey's National Earthquake Information Center said. It struck about 1:45 a.m. today (12:45 p.m. CDT Monday), while most of Taiwan's 22 million people were sleeping.

Dazed Taiwanese stumbled into dark, chaotic streets, shaken awake by the quake.

By late evening, the Interior Ministry's disaster management center reported 1,546 people had been killed and more than 3,800 were injured. Some 2,300 people were believed trapped, while 225 were reported miss-

ing, the center said.

Most of the deaths occurred near the epicenter outside the central city of Taichung, where more than 700 people died in Taichung County, and nearby Nantou county, where some 500 died. The area has seen a burst of development in recent years, often with shoddy construction.

Most of the structures that collapsed were new high-rises.

Also today, Chinese President Jiang Zemin extended condolences and offered aid to the quake victims, even though the disaster occurred at a time of tense relations between China and Taiwan. China considers Taiwan a breakaway province.

The quake "hurt the hearts of people on the mainland as the Chinese people do on both sides of the Taiwan Strait are as closely linked as flesh and blood," China's state-run Xinhua News agency said in a paraphrase of Jiang's remarks. China's Red Cross said it would provide \$100,000 in disaster aid and \$60,000 in relief supplies.

The foundations of some of the apartment blocks in the cities crumpled into

piles of concrete boulders, sending the structures crashing into neighboring buildings. Soldiers raced out of buildings with bloodied victims moaning in pain on stretchers.

Nantou County Executive Peng Paihsien appealed for donations of bulldozers, cars, quilts and food, saying 100,000 people were left homeless in the county. He said morgues were full of bodies, and the county needed body bags and freezers in the summer heat.

One woman told local television her parents were trapped in a Taichung apartment building. "I don't know what happened to my dad and mom," the sobbing survivor said. "We live in different rooms. I haven't seen them."

In the small city of Puli in Nantou, roads buckled under the stress of the quake, forming large asphalt waves. An apartment building that lost its foundation was left leaning 45 degrees.

In Taipei, the quake wrecked the 78-room Sungshan Hotel, collapsing the bottom stories and setting the badly damaged structure leaning on a neighboring commercial building. About 100 people were rescued and 80 were

trapped inside the concrete structure, which also housed a bank and several apartments, officials said.

One 81-year-old survivor said he "crawled like a mouse" through the rubble of his ninth-floor apartment to his balcony, where he was saved.

"You can't imagine how terrible it was," said survivor Chen Chih-yun, who only suffered bruises.

Fire crews turned hoses on the wreckage as smoke poured from fires raging in several destroyed rooms. A woman pulled from the building urged rescuers to keep looking for survivors.

"Hurry, go rescue people. They're in there. They're inside," said the unidentified woman, who was dressed in street clothes and did not appear to be seriously injured. "I lived on the ninth floor, but now it's the fourth floor."

Meanwhile, 50 people were injured when a 12-story apartment building collapsed in the Taipei suburb of Hsinchuang. An estimated 100 others were still trapped in the building, which collapsed onto a neighboring five-story structure.

Taipei, with a 2.7 million population,

was spared much of the damage. The government called off work and school across the island, leaving the capital's normally congested streets empty.

President Lee Teng-hui flew by helicopter to Taichung to direct rescue work, while Vice President Lien Chan went to Nantou.

Today's quake was Taiwan's worst since a 7.4 magnitude temblor hit the island in 1935, killing 3,276 people. Taiwan is hit by dozens of quakes each year, but most are centered in the Pacific Ocean east of the island and rarely cause damage.

The governor of Idaho, Dirk Kempthorne, who is visiting Taipei on an Asian trade mission, said he was sleeping in a top-floor room in the 25-story Grant Hyatt Regency when the earthquake hit. "We've been through quite an experience," Kempthorne said by telephone from the street outside the hotel. "I think many of us thought we might be done for."

Kempthorne said the quake began as a gentle swaying, "and then it increased in intensity until you were virtually thrown from the bed."

More rain falls on North Carolina in Floyd's wake

TARBORO, N.C. (AP) — More rain fell on North Carolina today, a dismal and unwelcome sight to Isabelle Baker and other owners of more than 30,000 homes damaged from the floods following Hurricane Floyd.

Baker did find comfort in the words of President Clinton, who said during a visit to Tarboro on Monday that the government would stand by those displaced by the deluge through federal aid.

"It was a blessing for him to come here," said Baker, whose home is submerged in nearby Princeville. "I really believe he will get all he can to help us."

Between a half-inch and 11/2 inches of rain had fallen before dawn today. The steady morning rainfall wasn't the deluge some had feared in flooded regions that were soaked by 20 inches of rain last week as Floyd raised rivers to record levels, submerging roads, homes and businesses. And Tropical Storm Harvey, expected to bring more moisture, turned south across Florida, away from North Carolina.

More than 60 people were

killed from the Bahamas into New England when Floyd charged up the East Coast, and flooding continues to plague parts of New Jersey and New York. The aftermath appears worst in North Carolina, where at least 35 people have died.

The governor's office said at least 1,600 homes are damaged beyond repair. An estimated 1,500 people were still stranded, but most were not in life-threatening situations. Some 10,000 are already in shelters.

Preliminary damage figures estimate the price tag for damage at \$1.3 billion, but it may exceed the \$6 billion total for Hurricane Fran in 1996, the state's costliest natural disaster in which 24 people died.

"It has become painfully clear that Hurricane Floyd, combined with Hurricane Dennis, is shaping up to be the worst disaster North Carolina has ever seen, and I hope we'll ever see again," state public safety secretary Richard Moore said.

Thousands of people remain unable to return home because of floodwaters that have virtually shut down the coastal plain east of Raleigh, an area span-

ning 18,000 square miles and containing 2.1 million people.

Clinton toured Tarboro, one of the hardest hit towns in an area drenched by more than 2 feet of rain from two hurricanes in two weeks.

"I urge you to keep your spirits up and know we're going to be with you every step of the way," Clinton told several hundred people. He announced emergency food stamps and unemployment payments for families in need, the hiring of temporary workers for the cleanup and low-interest loans for farmers.

"When things like this happen to some of us," the president said, "we know they could happen to all of us. ... We know we have a responsibility as members of the American family to help you get back on your feet again."

Gov. Jim Hunt made a nationwide appeal for donations to a relief fund for the state, saying "we have been hit by a terrible blow."

State officials are also grappling with the health menace caused by rotting farm animals and sewage washed into the

floodwaters. The state is seeking incinerators to deal with an estimated 100,000 hogs, 2.4 million chickens and 500,000 turkeys killed in the flooding.

Interstate 95 reopened Monday in North Carolina for the first time since Thursday, but about 300 other roads remained closed.

In northeastern South Carolina, scores of people have fled low-lying areas around Conway in anticipation of the worst flooding in more than 70 years along the Waccamaw River. The highest water is expected next week.

"It's surely enough to make you age a couple of years," Mary Roberts said Monday as she waited for some friends with a boat to take her back into the flooded Savannah Bluffs area just east of Conway.

"I have lived down here for 40 years and I have never seen the water this high," she said.

On Monday, workers piled up sandbags to protect sewage pump stations, yellow graders shored up a main highway and Gov. Jim Hodges asked the president to declare South Carolina a major disaster area.

Second white supremacist guilty in dragging death

BRYAN, Texas (AP) — After a second white supremacist was convicted of dragging a black man to his death, relatives of the victim applauded the verdict and looked toward the penalty phase.

Family members of James Byrd Jr. hugged law enforcement officers outside the courtroom following the guilty verdict against Lawrence R. Brewer. He faces a sentence of life in prison or death.

"Whatever they come up with we will accept that, of course," said Byrd's sister, Mary Verrett. "I want to see the ultimate penalty."

Brewer, 32, showed no emotion Monday as a jury of 11 whites and one Hispanic found him guilty of capital murder in the torture slaying of Byrd in Jasper last summer.

The jury returned immediately to begin hearing testimony on Brewer's punishment. The hearing was to resume today.

Brewer's former prison buddy, John W. King, 24, has been on death row since his February conviction in Byrd's slaying. A third man, Shawn A. Berry, also 24, is awaiting trial next month.

Prosecutors said they believe the three men killed Byrd to promote their fledgling white supremacist organization — the Confederate Knights of America — and initiate Berry.

Brewer, sometimes sobbing, testified last week that he was with King and Berry when Byrd, 49, was chained by the ankles to the bumper of Berry's pickup and dragged for three miles on June 7, 1998.

Brewer said he climbed inside the truck cab, smoked a cigarette and didn't realize Berry had chained Byrd to the back of the truck until they began driving. Brewer said he was convinced Byrd had died earlier when Berry slashed his throat.

But DNA evidence showed Byrd's blood on the shoes of all three men. The jury requested both Berry's and Brewer's shoes during four hours of deliberation on Monday.

Jurors concluded Brewer helped kidnap Byrd as well as murder him. The panel could have convicted Brewer of the lesser charges of non-capital murder, aggravated assault or assault.

"I don't like the death penalty but that's what he deserves," said Jasper County District Attorney Guy James Gray. "The just punishment for this case and these facts and circumstances is death."

Harvey changes course, heads for southwest Florida

CLEARWATER, Fla. (AP) — Tropical Storm Harvey changed course and bore down on southern Florida today with 50 mph wind and heavy rain, forcing schools to close and prompting an emergency declaration from the governor.

Kosovo Liberation Army to disband under NATO pact

Five to 10 inches of rain were expected from the storm, which was forecast to come ashore near Naples, 150 miles south of Clearwater, by tonight.

The National Weather Service reported two possible tornadoes in western Miami-Dade County.

Harvey weakened slightly and veered to the southeast early today, bringing out tropical storm warnings for southern Florida, including the Keys island chain.

After crossing Florida, the storm was expected to turn onto a more easterly course and finally head northeastward into the Atlantic. A tropical storm warning also was posted for the Bahamas.

Earlier predictions had the storm making landfall near Tampa, on Florida's western coast, then moving along the coast with a threat of more heavy rain for flood-stricken

North Carolina.

Now, said Todd Kimberlain, a meteorologist at the National Hurricane Center, "in the end it may not have much impact at all" on the Carolinas.

At 5 a.m., the storm was centered about 70 miles southwest of Fort Myers and moving to the east-southeast at 10 mph. Tropical storm-force wind of at least 39 mph extended out some 115 miles.

"The center is not really well defined. It's just kind of a raggedy system," said Stephen Baig, oceanographer at the National Hurricane Center in Miami. "Essentially, the southern peninsula of Florida is going to get lots of rain and gusts."

Gov. Jeb Bush on Monday declared a state of emergency for 56 of 67 counties in anticipation of the storm. Harvey could produce storm surge flooding of

up to 6 feet above normal in some places.

Schools closed for the day in the Florida Keys, in Collier County and in the Lee County-Fort Myers area, mostly out of concern for local street flooding.

Most voluntary evacuations called for in the Tampa area were lifted today.

"It's been pretty quiet up here," said John Brill, spokesman for the Hillsborough County Emergency Management Center. "It turned toward the south and we haven't had a whole lot of action up here."

Out in the Atlantic, a hurricane warning was in effect for Bermuda as Gert moved to within 150 miles of the island this morning with top wind of 110 mph. It was moving toward the north at about 10 mph.

Kosovo Liberation Army to disband under NATO pact

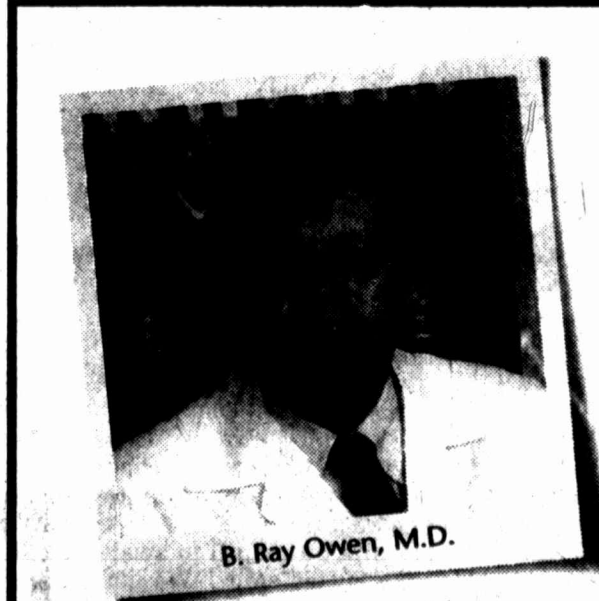
PRISTINA, Yugoslavia (AP) — The Kosovo Liberation Army, which has long sought to become the military of an independent Kosovo, has agreed with NATO-led peacekeepers to disband and be transformed into a civilian corps.

Serbs bitterly criticized U.N. and NATO support for the new force today and suggested its creation could hasten formation of a Kosovo Serb paramilitary force. The Serb condemnation came just hours after KLA leaders signed an agreement with NATO formally marking an end to their guerrilla army and clearing the path for creation of the Kosovo Protection Force.

Under the agreement reached late Monday, the KLA will be turned into the 5,000-member force, armed with only a handful of light weapons.

Although international representatives describe the new organization as civilian in nature, Serbs say it actually perpetuates the KLA.

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TUESDAY

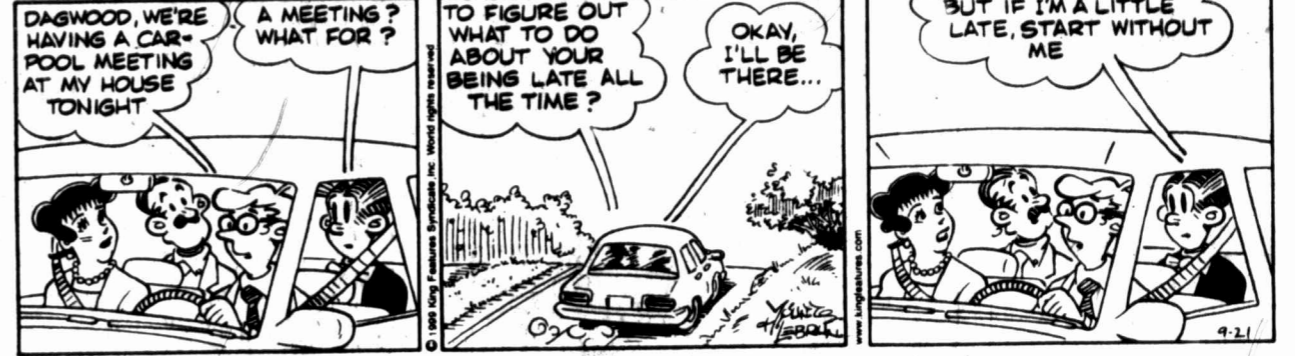
SEP. 21

Table with 33 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 12 rows of program listings.

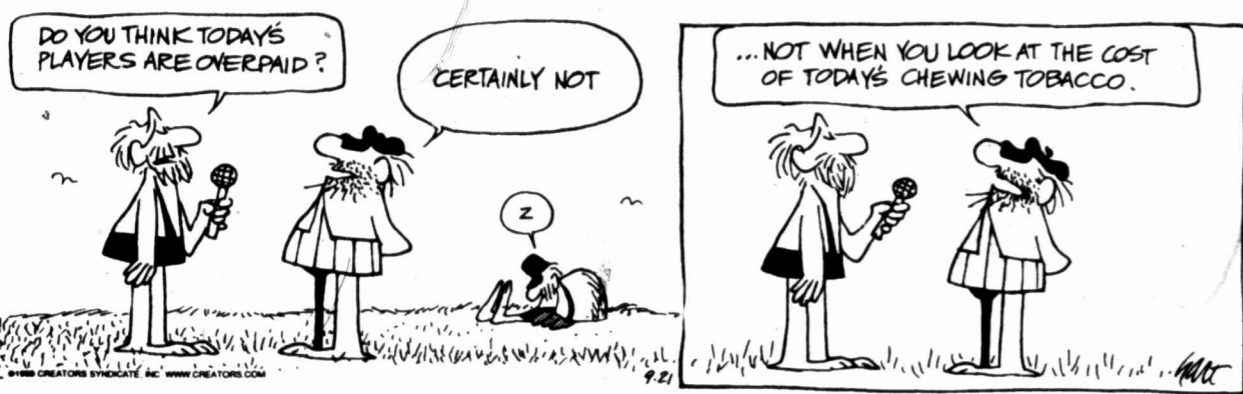
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THIS DATE IN HISTORY

The ASSOCIATED PRESS Today is Tuesday, Sept. 21, the 264th day of 1999. There are 101 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Sept. 21, 1949, the People's Republic of China was proclaimed by its Communist leaders.

In 1897, the New York Sun ran its famous editorial that declared, 'Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus.'

In 1931, Britain went off the gold standard.

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

In 1988, a hurricane struck parts of New York and New England, causing widespread damage and killing more than 600.

In 1948, Milton Berle made his debut as full-time host of 'The Texaco Star Theater' on NBC-TV.

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

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

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

Although Watt later apologized, he later resigned.

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

Ten years ago: Hurricane Hugo, packing winds of up to 135 mph, crashed into Charleston, S.C. In Alton, Texas, 21 students died when their school bus collided with a truck and careered into a water-filled pit.

Five years ago: Prosecutors from Los Angeles and Santa Barbara counties announced that Michael Jackson would not face child molestation charges; however, the case would remain open until 1999.

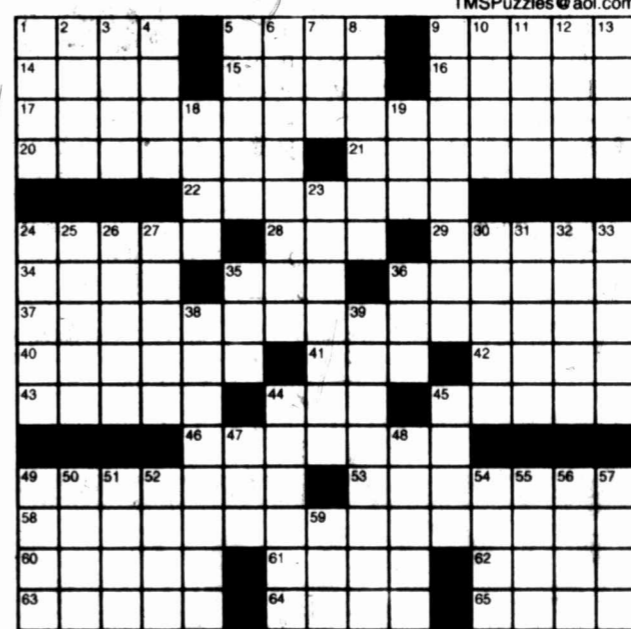
One year ago: President Clinton's videotaped grand jury testimony was publicly broadcast; in it, Clinton tussled with prosecutors over 'the truth of my relationship' with Monica Lewinsky. Olympic gold medal track star Florence Griffith Joyner was found dead at her home in Mission Viejo, Calif.; she was 38. Hurricane Georges roared through Puerto Rico and the northeast Caribbean.

Today's Birthdays: Cartoon animator Chuck Jones is 87. Actor Rand Brooks is 81. Actor Larry Hagman is 68. Poet-songwriter Leonard Cohen is 65. Actor-comedian Henry Gibson is 64. Author-comedian Fannie Flagg is 55. Author Stephen King is 52. Musician Don Felder (The Eagles) is 52. Actor-comedian Bill Murray is 49. Rock musician Philly Animal (ex-Motorhead) is 45. Movie producer-writer Ethan Coen is 41. Actor-comedian Dave Coulier is 40. Actor David James Elliott is 39.

THE Daily Crossword

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

- ACROSS 1 Recedes 5 '... Don't Preach' 9 Not yet firm 14 Bulrush 15 Wallach and Whitney 16 Victor at Gettysburg 17 Took care of all details 20 Combine with water 21 Rosalynn and Jimmy 22 Make a jagged edge 24 Tree with edible nuts 28 Anthropology subject 29 H. Hamlin TV series 34 'M*A*S*H' star 35 Pale 36 Pacific weather phenomenon 37 Hit song of 1944 40 Pass gossip 41 Saturn's wife 42 Goddess of discord 43 Brazilian beverage 44 Crude shelter 45 Sanctified 46 Late afternoon 49 Author of 'The Canterbury Tales' 53 Breakfast pick 58 Salinger novel, with 'The' 60 Nearby 61 'Dies' 62 Beer choices 63 House of 64 Normandy town 65 Aerie, e.g.



By Gerald R. Ferguson Portland, OR 9/21/99

Monday's Puzzle Solved



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- DOWN 1 Use acid for art 2 Channel marker 3 Divided 4 Avenue: abbr. 5 Prognosticator 6 Town official 7 Coal mine 8 Trash bin 9 Paraso's kin 10 Fastidious 11 Unsolicited ms. enclosure 12 German river 13 Hardy lass 18 Reckless 19 Break fast? 23 Pealed 24 Desert Storm target 25 Cary of 'The Princess Bride' 26 Redacts 27 Capital of Crete 30 Photographer Adams 31 Petrol unit in the U.K. 32 Diarist Nin 33 Supremely bad 35 Wheaton of 'Stand by Me' 36 Skinny twins? 38 Program problems 39 Left to choice 44 Singer 45 Emmylou 46 Henley or Daniel 47 Large shoe size 48 San __, CA 49 Third of ML 50 Saint's glow 51 Doer: suff. 52 Tritons' sch. 54 Signify 55 Stanley Gardner 56 Nautical okays 57 For fear that 59 NYC subway line

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