

BIG SPRING HERALD

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

MONDAY
November 15, 1999

WEATHER

Tonight:



CLEAR

TONIGHT 42°-48°
TUESDAY 75°-80°

Jury being selected for child assault case in 118th court

Jury selection for the trial of Alfredo Covarrubias, 30, begins today in 118th District Court, with William Dupree, assistant district attorney, prosecuting the case.

Covarrubias is charged with two counts of aggravated sexual assault of a child and three counts of indecency with a child, a five-part indictment.

The Howard County Sheriff's Department compiled the evidence and investigated the charges which involve a 7-year-old victim.

The trial is expected to begin later today or Tuesday with 118th District Judge Robert H. Moore III presiding.

WHAT'S UP...

TODAY

□ Disabled American Veterans Chapter No. 47, 6:30 p.m., VAMC room 212.

□ Big Spring Evening Lions Club, 6:30 p.m., 1807 E. Third.

TUESDAY

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

□ Big Spring Rotary Club, noon, Howard College Cactus Room

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

□ Big Spring Art Association, 7 p.m., Al's Barbecue.

□ Big 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 mall walkers meet 9:15 a.m. in front of movie theater box office.

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

□ Line dancing, 1 p.m., Senior Citizens Center, Industrial Park.

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

See **WHAT'S UP**, Page 2

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Vol. 97, No. 15

To reach us, please call 263-7331. Office hours are 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you miss your paper, please call 263-7335 before 7 p.m. on weekdays and 11 a.m. on Sunday.

Local couple on fixed income wins trip

By **DEBBIE L. JENSEN**
Features Editor

Arlie and Donna Knight don't get to spend a lot of time visiting their families. They lived on a fixed income, heavily dependent on Social Security, and most of their relatives are in other states.

That's why the couple was thrilled to find out they had won the "Seniors Flying Home for the Holidays" contest sponsored by Southwest Airlines and the Permian Basin Area

Agency on Aging. The Knights wrote a letter explaining why they want the chance to take a trip for the holidays, and won free airline tickets for the effort.

"Our family is all over," said Donna, who has one brother she had not seen in 50 years. "I wanted to see my mother. It has been so long since I have seen her." So the Knights asked for tickets to fly to Iowa, where Donna's mother, aunts and brother live, and Arlie has two half-sisters.

"I don't have any other family

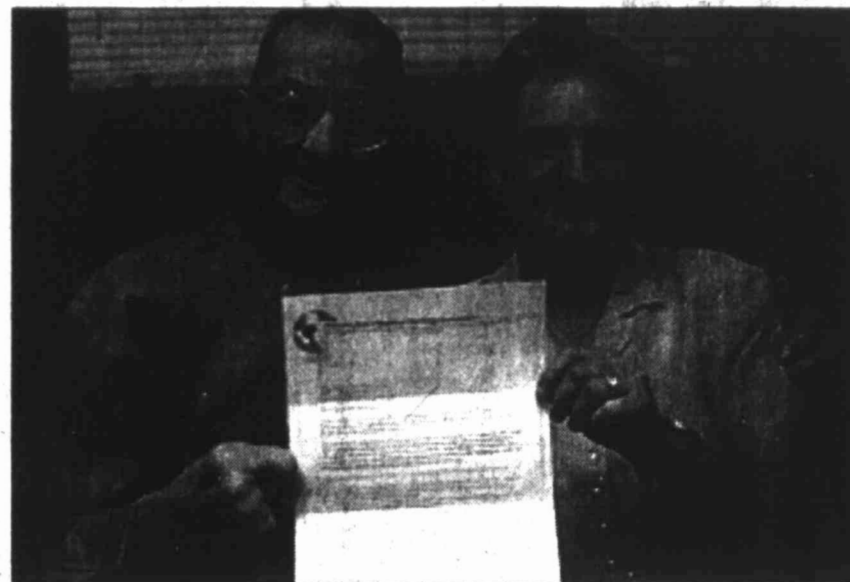
left," explained Arlie, who works part-time as a crossing guard for Washington Elementary.

While there, they can also visit their grandson and his two children, their great-grandchildren, who live nearby.

Without the free plane tickets, the Knights agreed they wouldn't be able to make such a long trip.

"I drove it one time," said Arlie. "That's 1,600 miles. It will

See **TRIP**, Page 2



Red Cross always there after disaster strikes

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the final story of a series on the member agencies of the United Way of Big Spring and Howard County.

By **JOHN A. MOSELEY**
Sports Editor

More than a year after individual chapters merged to form the American Red Cross of Southwest Texas, the agency's officials and volunteers workers are hard at work trying to form disaster response teams, as well as health and safety instructors in its 26-county service area.

"What we feel is most important right now is being able to

have people on the ground ... people who are local residents ... who are able to respond to what ever need a community has," explained Donna Rousaville, who assumed the duties as executive director of the agency nine months ago.

"We're charged with responding to any disaster anywhere in our service area and we're going to do that whether we have a local team or not," Rousaville added, "but these 26 counties have an area of just under 60,000 square miles. That makes us the largest geographical American Red Cross chapter in the United States.

"Ideally, you have people on hand in the event of a disaster, rather than having to wait on us to get there Midland or Odessa," she explained. "We'll be there, but having people immediately available would be a tremendous help in meeting victims' needs."

To that end, the agency conducted a schedule of five classes in Howard County, providing disaster response education to more than 45 volunteers in August.

As a United Way agency, the American Red Cross of Southwest Texas is one of 11 organizations that receives funding from the Big Spring-Howard County United Way, which is currently nearing the close of its annual campaign.

Those United Way funds, however, are not used for educating volunteers or providing health and safety program instruction.



Big Spring residents view the huge hailstones that fell in the Friday, May 10, 1996 hailstorm that did more than \$30 million damage in Big Spring. The American Red Cross responded to help those whose homes were most severely damaged.

Instead, that money goes directly to the chapter's disaster relief fund.

"The United Way is tremendously important to us," Rousaville explained. "The money we get from the five United Way drives in our service area represents 30 percent of our total budget.

"But we want people to realize that donated dollars stay at home," she added, noting that the Red Cross has requested \$9,000 from this year's local campaign. "The money we get from the United Way in Howard County stays in our fund for Howard County disaster relief. We're not going to use money people in Big Spring

have donated to help out in a disaster somewhere else."

While the Southwest Texas chapter has not been forced to respond to a major disaster in Howard County recently, perhaps its most visible presence came during the 1996 hail storm.

Within hours, Red Cross staff workers and volunteers were in Big Spring with plastic sheeting, nails and other building materials. They set up a base of operations and began case management for local residents who lost property in the storm.

For some, temporary residences had to be found. Other were housed with family members and were provided assis-

tance for food costs.

When all was said and done, the Red Cross had spent more than \$200,000 in Big Spring — more than the entire amount the local United Way drive had generated the previous year.

Similar situations have presented themselves in five communities in West Texas during the past year, including floods in Seminole and Sanderson, a hail storm in Presidio and the Midland tornado.

"That was just in the period of March and April this year," Rousaville noted. "We were stretched pretty thin during that time. We spent \$150,000

See **RED CROSS**, Page 1

Howard College

Accreditation team expected this week

By **MARSHA STURDIVANT**
Staff Writer

Howard College administrators have been in a flurry of activity preparing for 16 visitors from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for an accreditation visit.

"We do this every four years, and they will be coming in to look at our vocational and technical programs, to make sure that our programs are meeting standards," said



CONWAY

Linda Conway, acting vice president of curriculum and instruction.

These 16 individuals will perform routine monitoring of Howard College programs, such as cosmetology, dental hygiene, nursing and criminal justice, she said.

Other programs that will be monitored include business and computers, as well as the Southwest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf's interpreter training and graphic arts, she said.

"Our institution is so complex with so many different programs. We are involved in so many areas. They will be here one day, at SWCID one day and then travel to the San Angelo campus to monitor their programs," Conway said.

The team is expected to arrive Wednesday, and conclude their visit Friday in San Angelo.

In Big Spring, a special workroom has been established for the team, complete with all the data, reports and information needed to perform the monitoring, she said.

"We have been inundated with notebook paper and reports, and we're pulling everything together to give to them when they visit to show what we do," she said.

Numerous department chairmen and administrative assis-

See **HOWARD**, Page 1

Comanche Trail Park lights fest on schedule

By **DEBBIE L. JENSEN**
Features Editor

The Comanche Trail Festival of Lights is on track for its opening night in three weeks, organizers said.

Festival of Lights begins Saturday, Dec. 4, with a festive display of lighted designs throughout areas of Comanche Trail Park. It will be open for driving tours each day from 6:30-10:30 p.m. through Dec. 31.

"We are on our way," said Pat

Simmons, coordinator of the project. A small army of dedicated volunteers, Wilderness Camp inmates and Big Spring High School students have been working to make and light the drive-through displays.

"The work on displays is in motion at a high level," said Gloria McDonald, publicity chairman for the project. That work includes some new figures wrapped in lights, and new archways constructed over some of the park bridges.

Simmons said she had wanted to do something on the bridges, and was pleased when another volunteer discovered that panels of galvanized wire, in four-inch squares, worked



SIMMONS

See **FESTIVAL**, Page 2



Emergency personnel give aid to the driver of an automobile involved in this Saturday afternoon crash on Gregg Street.

The 1:30 accident caused northbound traffic to be diverted to Scurry Street.

Because the gas tank of the pickup was ruptured, the Texas Department of Transportation had to be called to the scene. Employees of Sonic Drive-In cleared the debris from the street while the accident was being cleared.

HERALD photo/John H. Walker

NOV 15 1999

Final dragging death defendant may take stand as defense begins

JASPER (AP) — Defense attorneys for the third and final defendant charged in the dragging death of a black man hope their arguments in front of a jury can keep their client off death row.

Prosecutors rested their case against Shawn Allen Berry on Friday after three days of testimony from 27 witnesses. The defense was scheduled to begin presenting its case today.

Berry is the last of three white men charged with the June 7, 1998, slaying of James Byrd Jr.

Two avowed white supremacists, John William King, 25, and Lawrence Russell Brewer, 32, were convicted earlier this year in separate trials and sentenced to death for the crime.

Berry, 24, could join them on death row if the Jasper County jury hearing his case decides he was more than the frightened bystander he claims to have been.

Berry's attorney, Joseph C. Hawthorn, promised to introduce physical evidence and expert testimony which would

refute the state's claims. Berry was expected to take the stand in his own defense.

Before dismissing jurors for the weekend Friday, State District Judge Joe Bob Golden told them Hawthorn would try to complete his case in one day, meaning Berry could be in the witness box today.

Byrd, 49, was beaten, hooked to the bumper of Berry's pickup with a 24-foot logging chain and dragged to his death over three miles of bumpy country roads.

An FBI blood expert was

among the last to testify Friday, saying he matched blood found on Berry's boots, jeans and shirt to Byrd. Berry has claimed the blood got on him when Byrd was shoved into him during the beating.

Other investigators testified earlier that King's and Brewer's footprints appeared along the logging road where the drag-

ging started, indicating Berry was behind the wheel of the truck during the dragging.

"It's his truck, he's there and I believe there's substantial evidence he was driving the truck," Jasper County District Attorney Guy James Gray said. "He's got blood on him, and I believe we've established under the law of parties that he was an

active participant in the crime."

In a tearful interview with CBS anchor Dan Rather aired in September, Berry said he tried to stop King and Brewer from beating Byrd, but stood by and wet his pants in fear when King threatened to do the same to him.

EgyptAir Flight 990 cockpit data flight recorder data inconclusive

NEWPORT, R.I. (AP) — The pilot and co-pilot of EgyptAir Flight 990 were fixing something moments before alarms sounded in the cockpit, a source close to the investigation of the doomed jet told AP.

During the first 28 minutes of tape from the cockpit voice recorder, the pilot and co-pilot engage in what appears to be routine exchanges, at times talking "like pals," the source said Sunday.

A preliminary review of the tape provides no apparent evidence of an intruder in the cockpit or of any fighting among the crew, the source said. The New York-to-Cairo jetliner crashed off Massachusetts' Nantucket Island on Oct. 31, killing all 217 people aboard.

Federal officials say it's unclear if a mechanical problem or criminal act caused EgyptAir Flight 990 to crash.

In a statement Sunday, National Transportation Safety Board chairman James Hall said no conclusions could be drawn from the initial review of the tape. The recorder was found to be in good condition and it provided about 31 1/2 minutes of data, he said.

The NTSB plans to further analyze the tape for answers about what caused the Boeing 767 jetliner to plunge into the Atlantic. The source said the pilots never seem to indicate on the tape what problem they're dealing with.

"Something happens. Alarms go off. Both work to try to fix it," the source said a review of

the tape revealed. "There is some kind of problem that they're dealing with. It gets progressively worse. And the tape stops."

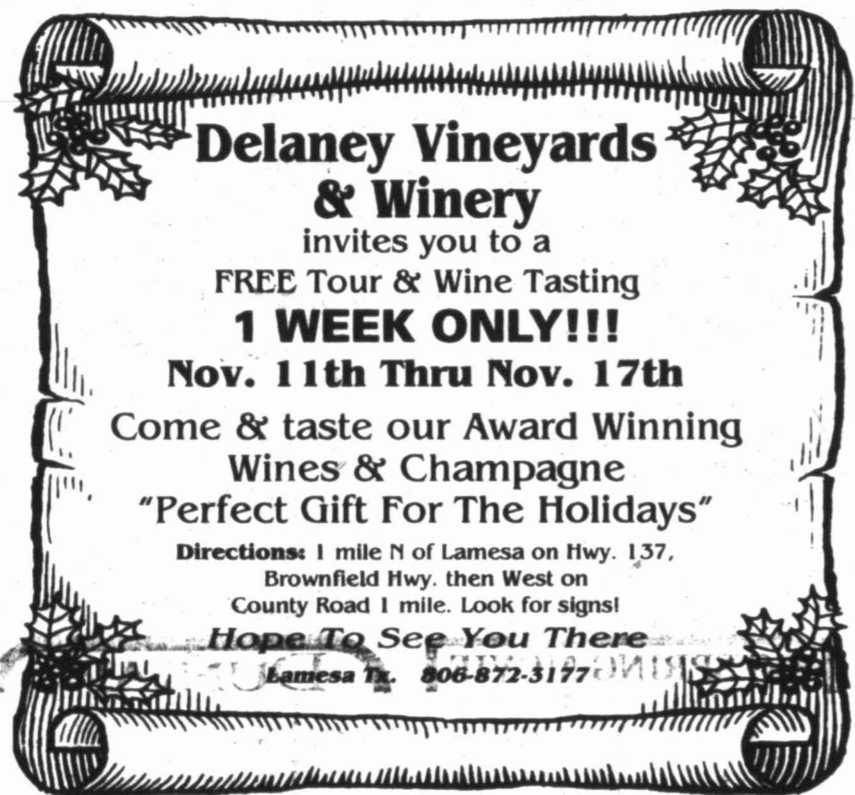
Hall said a Cockpit Voice Recorder Group, directed by the NTSB and including representatives from Egypt, the Federal Aviation Administration, Boeing Aircraft and Pratt & Whitney Engines, would meet today to begin a thorough review of the recorder.

It already has been reviewed by American and Egyptian officials, including representatives from the FBI.

After a two-week search, the

recorder was found Saturday night by a remote-operated robot. It was delivered to National Transportation Safety Board headquarters in Washington, D.C., on Sunday.

Preliminary data from the plane's flight data recorder showed that the Boeing 767's autopilot was switched off and the plane was put into a dive so steep and fast that passengers would briefly have felt weightless. Additionally, the recorder showed both engines were shut off before the aircraft climbed briefly out of its dive and then turned and dropped into the ocean.



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Woman's cool confidence trumps man's crassness

DEAR ABBY: I recently attended an Indian Head Start Directors conference in Washington, D.C., where I met an amazing woman. This lady and I were riding a city bus, taking in the sights, as neither of us was able to walk for long periods of time because of health problems.



ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

During the conversation, I asked her how old she was. When she said she was 46, I couldn't believe it because she looked so young.

who would remind someone that she (or he) is fat, thin, short or tall are either woefully ignorant or brutally insensitive, and possibly both. And after reading your letter, I'm sure there will be more people applauding Brenda's stance than her fellow passengers on the bus.

DEAR ABBY: You reminded in a recent column that we used to be more tolerant of each other. A reader, Irma Barragan, pointed out that we really were not all that tolerant - and the "good old days" were not all that good for everyone.

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MONDAY

NOV. 15

Time	KMD (2)	KPEJ (3)	KERA (5)	FAM (6)	KOSA (7)	WFAA (8)	KWES (9)	WTBS (11)	UNI (13)	DISN (14)	NASH (15)	TMC (16)	SHOW (20)	HBO (22)	KMLM (24)	A&E (25)	DISC (26)	TNT (28)	USA (30)	SCIFI (31)	LIFE (40)	TLC (41)
6:30 PM	News (CC) Fortune	Home Imp. Judge Judy	Creatures Antiques	Who's Boss? Random Acts	News Ent. Tonight	News (CC) Fortune	News West Texas	Fresh Prince Fresh Prince	Sonadoras	American Teacher	Waltons (CC)	(CC) Movie: Fatal Affair (CC)	Movie: Just Write	Dear America	News John Hagee	Law & Order (CC)	Wild Discovery	ER (CC)	JAG (CC)	Outer Limits (CC)	Intimate Portrait (CC)	How'd They Do That?
7:30 PM	Be a Millionaire	Time of Your Life (CC)	Antiques Roadshow	King Ladies Men	Raymond Becker (CC)	NFL Football: New York	Law & Order	(10) Movie: Men at Work	Cristina: Edicion Especial	Movie: Stand and Deliver	Curb Records: The Celebration (CC)	(15) Movie: Disrupting Behavior (45) Hoop	(15) Movie: The Devil's Advocate (CC)	News Life in Word	Richard Roberts	Point (CC)	Building Hoover Dam	WCW Monday Nitro (CC)	Walker, Texas Ranger (CC)	Outer Limits (CC)	Beyond Chance (CC)	Paramedics
8:30 PM	NFL Football: New York	Mad Abt. You Nanny (CC)	News (CC) DVS	Famous Families (CC)	Family Law (CC)	Jets at New England	Dateline (CC)	(10) Movie: Men at Work	P. Impacto Noticiero Univ. (CC)	Movie: Stand and Deliver	Dallas (CC)	(15) Movie: Disrupting Behavior (45) Hoop	Advocate (CC)	News Life in Word	Richard Roberts	Point (CC)	Building Hoover Dam	WCW Monday Nitro (CC)	Walker, Texas Ranger (CC)	Outer Limits (CC)	Beyond Chance (CC)	Paramedics
9:30 PM	Jets at New England	Mad Abt. You Nanny (CC)	News (CC) DVS	Famous Families (CC)	Family Law (CC)	Jets at New England	Dateline (CC)	(10) Movie: Men at Work	P. Impacto Noticiero Univ. (CC)	Movie: Stand and Deliver	Dallas (CC)	(15) Movie: Disrupting Behavior (45) Hoop	Advocate (CC)	News Life in Word	Richard Roberts	Point (CC)	Building Hoover Dam	WCW Monday Nitro (CC)	Walker, Texas Ranger (CC)	Outer Limits (CC)	Beyond Chance (CC)	Paramedics
10:30 PM	Patriots (CC)	Jerry Springer (CC)	News-Lehrer (CC)	700 Club (CC)	News (CC) Patriots (CC)	News (CC) Patriots (CC)	News (CC) Patriots (CC)	News (CC) Patriots (CC)	News (CC) Patriots (CC)	News (CC) Patriots (CC)	News (CC) Patriots (CC)	News (CC) Patriots (CC)	News (CC) Patriots (CC)	News (CC) Patriots (CC)	News (CC) Patriots (CC)	News (CC) Patriots (CC)	News (CC) Patriots (CC)	News (CC) Patriots (CC)	News (CC) Patriots (CC)	News (CC) Patriots (CC)	News (CC) Patriots (CC)	News (CC) Patriots (CC)
11:30 PM	News (CC) Nightline	Newsradio Unhappily	Novo (CC)	Wild-Animals Random Acts	Show (CC) Late Late	News (CC) Nightline	Show (CC) Late Late	Chimp (45) Movie: Gordo y Flaca El Bialazo	Viviana a la Medianoche	Zorro (CC) Mickey Mouse	Dukes of Hazzard (CC)	(15) Movie: Disrupting Behavior (45) Hoop	Advocate (CC)	News Life in Word	Richard Roberts	Point (CC)	Building Hoover Dam	WCW Monday Nitro (CC)	Walker, Texas Ranger (CC)	Outer Limits (CC)	Beyond Chance (CC)	Paramedics
12:30 AM	Politically Inc. Cheers	Cops (CC) Hollywood	Paid Program	700 Club (CC)	News (CC) Patriots (CC)	News (CC) Patriots (CC)	News (CC) Patriots (CC)	News (CC) Patriots (CC)	News (CC) Patriots (CC)	News (CC) Patriots (CC)	News (CC) Patriots (CC)	News (CC) Patriots (CC)	News (CC) Patriots (CC)	News (CC) Patriots (CC)	News (CC) Patriots (CC)	News (CC) Patriots (CC)	News (CC) Patriots (CC)	News (CC) Patriots (CC)	News (CC) Patriots (CC)	News (CC) Patriots (CC)	News (CC) Patriots (CC)	News (CC) Patriots (CC)

HAGAR



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FAMILY CIRCUS



DENNIS THE MENACE



GEECH



WIZARD OF ID



HI AND LOIS



GASOLINE ALLEY



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILY



THIS DATE IN HISTORY

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

Today is Monday, Nov. 15, the 319th day of 1999. There are 46 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: In 1806, explorer Zebulon Pike sighted the mountaintop now known as Pikes Peak.

In 1889, Brazil's monarchy was overthrown.

In 1926, the National Broadcasting Co. debuted with a radio network of 24 stations.

In 1939, President Roosevelt laid the cornerstone of the Jefferson Memorial in Washington, D.C.

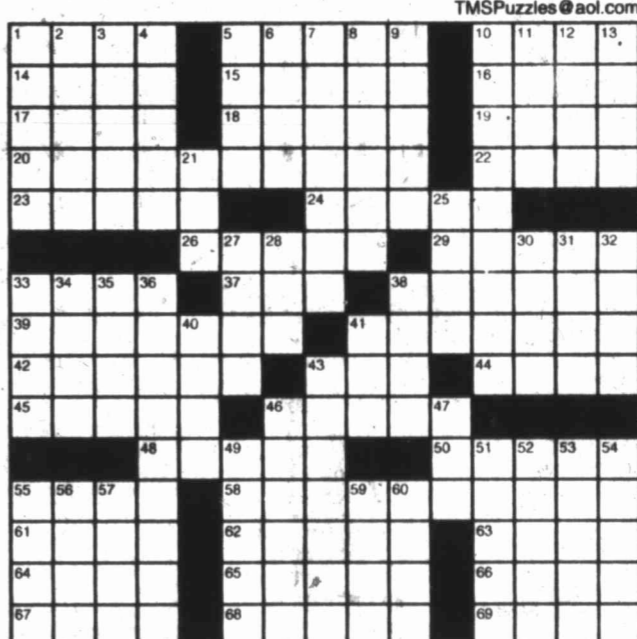
In 1940, the first 75,000 men were called to armed forces duty under peacetime conscription.

THE Daily Crossword

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

- ACROSS
- Numerous
 - Last of all
 - Con game
 - Inter (among other things)
 - lazuli
 - Stockings
 - Corp. honchos
 - Olive
 - Comparable (to)
 - Enigmatic toy
 - Defunct
 - Cheri of "SNL"
 - Numbers game
 - Grand dame
 - Hindu mystic
 - Norse god of thunder
 - Snare
 - Writers' block?
 - Prowess
 - Gulleets
 - Pinball parlor
 - S. Amer. nation
 - Picture of health?
 - Swap
 - David of "Just Shoot Me"
 - Throbs
 - Kinds
 - Wooded valley
 - Fortnight
 - Clean coal
 - Largest continent
 - Repair
 - Young goat
 - Former Russian sovereign
 - A single time
 - Affirmative
 - Having wings
 - Change: pref.
 - Not this?
 - Frankfort mister
 - Puget Sound whale
 - Barricade
 - Heavy sound
 - fix
 - Start of a refrain
 - Swell
 - Yes man

- DOWN
- Very large in scale
 - Alaskan language
 - Daughter of Tantalus
 - Mr. Ararat
 - Automobile pioneer
 - Artist Chagall
 - Shoulder ornament
 - Small ape
 - Selling feature
 - Spar alone?
 - Clean coal
 - Largest continent
 - Repair
 - Young goat
 - Former Russian sovereign
 - A single time
 - Affirmative
 - Having wings
 - Change: pref.
 - Not this?
 - Frankfort mister
 - Puget Sound whale
 - Barricade
 - Heavy sound
 - fix
 - Start of a refrain
 - Swell
 - Yes man
 - Atty. trailer
 - At a later time
 - Highly unconventional
 - French artist
 - Warble
 - Monica of tennis
 - Connecticut senator
 - Ashtabula's lake
 - Fewer
 - Cambodian moolah
 - Baronets, knights e.g.



By Stanley B. Whitten, Highwood, IL

Saturday's Puzzle Solved



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BIG SPRING Herald

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In 1966, the flight of Gemini 12 ended successfully as astronauts James A. Lovell and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin Jr. splashed down, safely in the Atlantic.

In 1969, 250,000 protesters staged a peaceful demonstration in Washington against the Vietnam War.

In 1979, the British government publicly identified Sir Anthony Blunt as the "fourth man" of a Soviet spy ring that included Guy Burgess, Donald Maclean and Kim Philby.

In 1982, funeral services were held in Moscow's Red Square for Soviet President Leonid I. Brezhnev.

In 1985, Britain and Ireland signed an accord giving Dublin an official consultative role in governing Northern Ireland.

Ten years ago: Solidarity leader Lech Walesa was cheered by American lawmakers as he told a joint meeting of Congress that U.S. aid to Poland "will not be wasted, and will never be forgotten."

Five years ago: The Federal Reserve increased key interest rates by 0.75 percent, the largest hike in 13 years. The 18-member Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation group concluded a two-day summit in Indonesia by adopting a sweeping resolution to remove trade and investment barriers in the region by 2020.

One year ago: Kwame Ture, the civil rights activist formerly known as Stokely Carmichael, died in Guinea at age 57.

Today's Birthdays: Judge Joseph Wapner is 80. Former White House Chief of Staff Howard H. Baker Jr. is 74. Actor Ed Asner is 70. Actor Whitman Mayo is 69. Singer Petula Clark is 67. Comedian Jack Burns is 66. Actress Joanna Barnes is 65. Actor Sam Waterston is 59. Pop singer Frida (ABBA) is 54. Singer Janet Lennon (The Lennon Sisters) is 53. Singer Alexander O'Neal is 46. Rock singer-producer Mitch Easter is 45. Actress Beverly D'Angelo is 45. "Tonight Show" bandleader Kevin Eubanks is 42. Rapper E-40 is 32. Rapper ODB (Wu Tang Clan) is 31. Country singer Jack Ingram is 29.

Thought for Today: "To oppose something is to maintain it." — Ursula K. LeGuin, American writer.