

BIG SPRING HERALD

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"Reflecting a Proud Community"

50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

MONDAY

September 11, 2000

WEATHER

Tonight:



CLEAR

TONIGHT 65°-70° TUESDAY 90°-95°

West Texas Centers plans Sept. 18 fete

West Texas Centers for MHMR will hold its "Work for Dignity" banquet for 5 p.m. Monday, Sept. 18, at the First United Methodist Church's Garrett Hall.

The banquet is being held to honor consumers in the West Texas Centers vocational department, as well as their employers.

To make reservations for the event, call 263-0007.

WHAT'S UP...

TODAY

□ Texas Tech Ex-Student Association, 6 p.m., Sparenberg Bldg., 309 Main. For more information, contact Pat Porter at 267-7828 or Roxie McDaniel at 267-5846.

□ Big Spring Evening Lions Club, 6:30 p.m., 1607 East Third, call Janis Dean 267-9068.

□ Big Spring Comandery No. 31, 6:30 p.m., dinner, 7:30 p.m. meeting, Masonic Temple, 221 1/2 Main.

□ Big Spring Assembly No. 211, Social Order of the Beauceant, 6:30 dinner, 7:30 meeting, Masonic Temple, 221 1/2 Main.

□ Howard County Library Book Club, 7 p.m., *The Pilot's Wife* by Anita Shreve is the selection.

□ Big Spring Amateur Radio Club

TUESDAY

□ Intermediate line dance classes, 9 a.m. Senior Citizens Center, call 267-1628.

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

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.

□ Big Spring Downtown Lions Club, noon, Howard College Cactus Room, call Terry Hansen 264-5175.

□ Line dancing, 1 p.m., Senior Citizens Center, Industrial Park, call 398-5522 or 267-1628.

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

INSIDE TODAY...

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

Vol. 97, No. 272

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.

Area schools confident their buses are free of defect

By CARL GRAHAM
Staff Writer

Officials at Big Spring and other area public schools are assuring students and their parents that none of their school buses were purchased from a company which has recently announced a defect in the brake systems of many of its buses.

Some 6,000 buses built by Thomas Built Buses Inc. and manufactured between March 1998 through August of this year may have a

defect involving the anti-lock braking system.

As many as 40,000 other buses may be affected nationwide, according to reports by The Associated Press.

When the Thomas Built buses are moving at less than 20 mph they can temporarily lose their braking ability for as much as three seconds.

Ron Logback, who oversees the Big Spring Independent School District's bus program, said the BSISD had three buses of the type manufactured by

Thomas Built, but none of them were affected.

"We do have three of those type buses, but none on them have the particular braking system like the ones they are referring to," Logback explained.

A check with Coahoma produced the same results. Judy Dobbs, the secretary for Coahoma Superintendent Bill Kingston, said that all their buses were recently inspected and passed all tests.

Stanton's Superintendent Jim White also said his district did not have any of the

buses.

"We haven't bought a new bus in several years," said White. "We will be buying a couple next year, however. I haven't heard there were a problem with any of the buses. It's good to find out those things."

At Colorado City, High School Superintendent Buddy Compton said that none of his bus fleet were affected.

"I say the article in the paper and even though we don't have any of the buses in question, I had the maintenance supervisor check

all the buses out," said Compton. "It's just an extra precaution we need to take to assure the safety of our kids."

According to Sands Independent School District Superintendent Don Bryan, the school does not have any of the buses involved.

"The last bus we purchased was in 1996," said Bryan. "We do have one on order but we are getting a Bluebird this time. I really like them and we have had real good luck with them."

See **BUSES**, Page 2

Volunteer says she's still teaching

Editor's Note: The following article is one in a series on volunteerism in the Crossroads Area.

By LYNDEL MOODY
Staff Writer

Even in retirement, Senior and Lawmen Together (S.A.L.T.) council member volunteer Barbara Brooks continues to find ways to educate the community about health and other issues.

"When I retired, I looked around deciding what I was going to do with myself" Brooks said. "I wanted to volunteer because what comes back to me are the feelings I get when I am given to something that will help the whole of the community."

The S.A.L.T. council consists of retired people, representatives of law enforcement and other agencies who are concerned with helping the elderly.

"One of the purposes of the S.A.L.T. council is to inform senior citizens of opportunities and of possible scams," she said. "It's hard enough to make a living and there are people who spend their time and what smarts they have to pry away money from us."

Brooks, who spent most of her 45 years as a regis-



Loma Jean Wynn (left) and Barbara Brooks, both members of the Senior and Lawmen Together (S.A.L.T.) council, visit after a recent meeting. Brooks, a retired registered nurse, is involved with many volunteer projects in the community.

tered nurse in nursing education, joined the S.A.L.T. council when she brought the File of Life project, she

said. The File for Life kit is an information packet that helps someone keep track of pertinent health infor-

mation in a miniature file folder that will adhere to the front of their refrigerator.

See **VOLUNTEER**, Page 2

Fire

VFD quinsches rekindled blaze after long fight

By CARL GRAHAM
Staff Writer

A grass fire destroyed about 320 acres Howard County of grassland and an abandoned house before volunteer firemen were able to bring it under control Sunday night.

According to Howard County Volunteer Fire Department Chief Tommy Sullivan, the blaze, located near Webb Lane and the Co-Op Gin on U.S. Highway 87 North, had actually started on Saturday.

"This fire was a rekindling of an earlier fire reported on Saturday at 10:30 p.m.," said Sullivan. "We had it checked at 6:45 a.m. Sunday morning and it seemed to be all right, but then a call came in at 10:30 a.m. saying it had started up again."

Sullivan said a crew of 25 firemen, six fire units and a large water tanker responded and stayed at the scene until the blaze was extinguished at 9 p.m.

"These guys all hung together throughout the fire until we were finally able to pull off late last night," said an exhausted Sullivan. "We used around 40,000 gallons on it before finally getting it controlled. I can't say enough about these guys, they are a very dedicated bunch of individuals."

"We lost one old house but it was not a livable house in the first place," he continued. "We were also fortunate that nobody was hurt or burned. They (volunteers) are tired, but very grateful because it could have been a lot worse than it was."

Sullivan stressed that Howard County is currently under a burn ban and that

See **FIRE**, Page 2

NBA star to address Colorado City students

By CARL GRAHAM
Staff Writer

COLORADO CITY — The NBA "Iron Man" is coming to Colorado City!

A.C. Green, better known as the "Iron Man" and a member of the 1999-2000 NBA champion Los Angeles Lakers will speak at an assembly of approximately

1,000 students in Colorado City on Wednesday.

The Mitchell County Board of Economic Development, using a grant provided by the Texas Department of Health, is sponsoring the A.C. Green Programs for Youth assembly at 1 p.m. All students in Mitchell County grades 6-12 will attend the program at the Colorado Middle School

Auditorium.

The 6-foot-9, 224-pound forward travels throughout the country during the off season with his Programs for Youth Foundation that promotes building character, building strong bodies and strong minds, teamwork, sacrifice and winning and losing with dignity.

"We provide programs that ignite dreams," said

Green who also promotes the message of abstinence until marriage. "In short, we are building leaders. Leaders who, in their individual capacity, no matter what their station in life, will be able to stand up for what is right."

Green currently owns the NBA "Iron Man" title after

See **ASSEMBLY**, Page 2

Sue Bagwell exhibition slated at Heritage Museum

By GINA GARZA
Staff Writer

A local artist's works will be on display beginning Sept. 19 and going through Oct. 20 at the Heritage Museum.

Sue Bagwell, a well-known local artist, paints for the enjoyment of herself, her family and her friends.

"You pretty much know right away when you see a piece of art whether or not you like it," said Bagwell. "But, if you become interested and start to communicate with the art, then that painting should have something to say and that's what I do."

Bagwell has traveled the world studying art the last several years including retreats to Bali and a recent stay in New Orleans where her life-sized study of a

local woman took Best of Show.

"I like to explore many forms of expression in art. Things viewed from a different angle, different color combinations, different mediums and surfaces," she said of her style of painting.

This type of painting with layers of meaning encourages the viewer to stand back and take a moment to search the painting for both the obvious and not so obvious elements.

"The painting should hold your interest both casually at a distance and more intimately close up," she said. "Every inch of a painting should entertain."

Her paintings will be displayed at the museum during regular hours and no admission fee will be charged during the length of the show. A special open-

ing reception will be held for the public from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Saturday with Bagwell in attendance.

Many of the paintings in the show will be on loan from local collectors who have purchased Bagwell's work. However, several new paintings not shown before will be available to view and may even be available for purchase.

"I believe that even the act of buying a painting is a unique experience," she explained. "Choose a painting based not on whether it will go with your sofa, but on whether you will enjoy looking at it for years and years to come. Choose a painting on whether it will have meaning to you when you are a bit older."

For more information on the show, call the Heritage Museum at 267-8255.



This is one of Sue Bagwell's paintings that will be on display during an exhibit at the Heritage Museum.

SEPTEMBER 11, 2000

Questions on new mom's age get old really quick

DEAR ABBY: I am 42 and recently gave birth to a beautiful baby boy. I had my last child at 37. One day I encountered a very rude woman. She raved about how cute my baby was and then proceeded to ask me if he was my grandson! In this day and age, many women have babies in their 40s and beyond. I would never ask a woman of any age that question. I know from experience that it can ruin her day.



ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

I realize I'm old enough to be the grandmother, but the point is that I am not. Since I'm five years older now, I'm sure I'll encounter the same situation. I wonder if I should wear a button that says, "No, I'm not the grandmother. I'm the mother."

Another impertinent question I have been asked is, "Are you going to have your tubes tied now?" Abby, it is no one's business!

Can you please tell me what to say when rude people ask me these questions? — "GREAT" BUT NOT "GRAND" MOTHER

DEAR MOTHER: When someone asks if you're the baby's grandmother, smile and reply, "Why do you ask?" If the person is rude enough to answer that you appear too old to be the mother, inform him or her that you ARE the child's mother and you feel that's "grand!"

When asked if you're going to have your tubes tied, reply, "If that were any of your business, you would already know the answer to that question."

DEAR ABBY: Thank you for your response to "Unglued in Massachusetts," who was offended when people use a preprinted mailing label on their correspondence. You asked her what was more important — the envelope or its contents.

I am a deaf, legally blind man with partially paralyzed fingers on my writing hand. I use the labels for mailing, and give them to people in places like repair shops and medical offices when I'm asked for my personal information.

Abby, my handwriting looks like a doctor's prescription written on a plane in heavy turbulence. However, even in my condition, I still get the impression people think it is rude of me to use the labels. — SCOTT E. JOHNSTON, APOPKA, FLA.

DEAR SCOTT: Your reasons for using preprinted labels are practical and sensible. Common sense has to rule. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: I am a retired U.S. postal employee and would like to inform "Unglued" that the U.S. Postal Service recommends and prefers preprinted mailing labels in place of handwritten names and addresses. Our automation equipment can read legible preprinted labels at an enormous rate of speed, thus getting the mail to the addressee much quicker. — BOB MIKROUT, GLEN ELLYN, ILL.

DEAR BOB: Thank you for writing. For anyone who doesn't know it, the Postal Service also prefers envelopes on which addresses have been typed in capital letters with no punctuation marks.

CONFIDENTIAL TO "HEARTBROKEN PARENTS": "Tolerance is the positive and cordial effort to understand another's beliefs, practices and habits without necessarily sharing or accepting them." — Joshua Liebman

DEAR ABBY: I have been working full-time since I was 18. I am now 35. I just left my job as a recruiter where I worked for three years, and have been doing some administrative temp jobs. My problem is nothing seems to excite or fulfill me anymore. I'm not afraid to work hard, but I'm not sure

of what kind of work I want to do now.

I have done many different things in the past. I have had my own computer service business, done administrative assisting, been a recruiter. Is something wrong with me? I feel lost right now because I can't pinpoint what I want to do next.

My husband is very supportive. We can survive on his salary, but I have to do something. We have no children yet. Any suggestions would be greatly appreciated. — CHRISTIE IN SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO

DEAR CHRISTIE: There is nothing wrong with you, so stop worrying. Career counseling and testing to discover untapped interests and aptitudes could be very helpful. Many colleges and universities offer such programs. Also, since you are not under pressure economically, consider doing some volunteer work to widen your interests, or taking some adult education classes.

Please let me hear from you in six months. I predict you'll be doing something you enjoy.

DEAR ABBY: Thank you for the letter you printed saluting military wives and husbands. I, too, am thankful for the dedicated men and women in our armed forces, and for the camaraderie of military families who support each other.

I am also pleased that the armed services have finally realized that the men and women in the services are better soldiers, sailors and Marines when their families are taken care of and watched over.

Nowadays, most military bases have family support organizations that help in these areas, and caring commanders see to it that they are manned and properly working.

A humorous incident occurred when my husband retired from the Air Force some 30 years ago. His commander also gave me a certificate of retirement. As he read the citation, "... devoted, dedicated, unselfish, unwavering ... UNFAITHFUL ... service ..." the entire division erupted with laughter. A red-faced colonel apologized, but it was a day I remember with great amusement. — BEEN THERE, DONE THAT, COLUMBUS, MISS.

DEAR BTDT: That's why the first rule of public speaking is to never let your mind wander — even for an instant.

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Tuesday, Sept. 12:

You often feel pressured or under the gun. Learn not to react but to think problems through and respond accordingly instead. Bosses alternate between being very difficult and enthusiastically supportive. Learn to juggle what is going on. Stay in tune with options. You need a "stick to it" attitude to succeed. If you are single, 2001 brings new friends and new emotional possibilities. You will develop a relationship that's much more to your liking. If you are attached, you could often feel frustrated. Work on better communication. Do more together outside the home as well. PISCES challenges 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) ** Maintain a level profile despite what is happening. A communication glitch could take a while to sort through. You cannot seem to get past an immediate snafu. An important source closes down. Don't give up. Keep seeking information, and you'll succeed. Do nothing halfway. Tonight: Chill out.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) **** You might not believe the obstacles you encounter. Understand what makes another shut you out. An associate could pull back when you least expect. Use care with all joint ventures. Stay steady while another goes off and tilts windmills. Your good will and many assets help you gain. Tonight: Swap today's war stories with your pals.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) *** You might be more off

Public Notice: RFB 01-457 Advertisement for Bids The Howard County Junior College District is now accepting bids for the following: 15 Passenger Van Specifications may be obtained from Dennis Churchwell, Purchaser, Howard College, 1001 Birdwell Lane, Big Spring, TX 79720, (915) 264-5167. Sealed bids will be accepted through 10:00 a.m. on September 26, 2000 in the Administrative Annex, room A2, Howard College, 1001 Birdwell Lane, Big Spring, TX 79720, at which time they will be opened and read aloud. The bids will then be tabulated and final determination of bid award will be made at a future board meeting. Technical and bidding questions should be directed to Dennis Churchwell, Purchaser, 1001 Birdwell Lane, Big Spring, TX 79720, (915) 264-5167. Howard County Junior College District reserves the right to reject any and all bids. 2930 September 11 & 12, 2000

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) **** Take an overview. Listen to feedback from someone who is an expert. You might feel frustrated by what is going on. You eventually get the answers you want, but you will need to jump your share of hurdles. A neighbor or sibling could act up from out of the blue. Stand back. Concentrate on work. Tonight: Work late.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) **** An opportunity arises to talk through a problem

HOROSCOPE

as you face the issue one more time. Another tightens up, especially around funds. As a result, you could feel stressed out. Question what you want for yourself. Go down the road on your own. Another makes a strong gesture late in the day. Tonight: Find a playful loved one.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) *** You put yourself in an awkward situation by reacting. Stay in touch with your long-term desires and don't try to buck the establishment. A partner or key associate turns negative when you least expect. Others fill in and make a difference. Take a deep breath. Go with the flow. Tonight: Accept an invitation out.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) *** Reach out for another. Have an important discussion that might make you uncomfortable. If you feel edgy or tired, schedule some break time. Look at your own motives in a certain situation. Concentrate on work, and you'll level out. Schedule an appointment soon with the dentist. Tonight: Relax.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) *** Finances play a major role in a decision. You could be confused by how

another approaches a situation. Take a step and proceed carefully with a volatile friend or loved one. Read between the lines, and you'll skip around obstacles. Use your creativity. Tonight: Order in.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) *** You feel as if you are in a pressure cooker. Another doesn't know exactly which way to go with a professional matter. You might not know, either. Family means well. Give yourself time to rethink a domestic problem. You come up with wonderful answers. Check out an investment carefully. Tonight: It's your call.

BORN TODAY Musician Barry White (1944), actor Peter Scolar (1954), actress Linda Gray (1940)

For America's best extended horoscope, recorded by Jacqueline Bigar, call (900) 740-7444, 99 cents per minute. Also featured are The Spoken Target and The Runes, which answer your yes-or-no questions. Callers must be 18 or older. A service of InterMedia Inc., Jenkintown, Pa. Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at <http://www.jacquelinebigar.com>. © 2000 by King Features Syndicate Inc.

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Weight Watchers POINTS® System: TRY IT, YOU'LL LOVE IT! Eat any food you crave and still lose weight on 1-2-3 Success. Weight Watchers easy POINTS®-based program. 1 We've given every food a POINTS® value. 2 Just stay within your Daily POINTS® Range, and 3 You'll lose weight!

JOIN NOW FOR ONLY \$15!

BIG SPRING First Christian Church 911 Goliad St. Mon. 5:30 pm

Weigh-in begins 30 minutes prior to meeting time.

Check at our centers for details about our maintenance records.

Registration and weigh-in begin 15 minutes earlier than the meeting time.

Discover Another World, Read! You never know what you might find.

Rip Griffin Country Club RESTAURANT

MEMO

Date: Every Tuesday
To: ALL Senior Citizens
From: Rip Griffin Country Fare Restaurant
Re: Busy Tuesday?

SAVE \$2.00 All-You-Can-Eat Buffet It's TWO for TUESDAYS!!! Every TUESDAY this month for Senior Citizens.

Home Style Cooking, just like your kitchen at home! Every dish is made from scratch with over 40 items to choose from on our homemade soups and salad bar.....

Oh, and don't forget those fresh hot buttered rolls, straight from the oven.

Call your friends, and we'll see you Tuesday!

1-20 and HWY 87, Exit 177 Big Spring, Texas • (915) 264-4444

FORD ROLLOVERS (800) 893-0240

If you or a loved one has been injured in an accident involving the rollover of a Ford Explorer, Expedition, Ranger or Bronco II, you are encouraged to call the Law Offices of Paul H. LaValle, P.C. which is pursuing cases against Ford for rollover injuries.

All cases are handled on a contingent fee basis. If no recovery is obtained, you will not be responsible for attorney's fees or any of the costs of the lawsuit.

The Law Offices of Paul H. LaValle, 2701 Palmer Highway, Texas City Not certified Texas Board of Legal Specialization.

11 SEP 11 2000

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.

John H. Walker
Publisher
John A. Moseley
Managing Editor
Debbie Jensen
Features Editor
Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Remember, to be careful with any fire

Billowing, smoke, white and black mixed, reminded us all Sunday afternoon just how tinderbox-dry our parched land is ... and how quickly a fire can start and spread.

Early Sunday afternoon, the smoke started rising skyward north of town as fire raced across a section of land located north of the state hospital and west of Feagins Implement.

Investigators were still surveying the scene at press time to determine the cause of the fire, but all we older members of the community need to do is recall our younger days when we would use a broken piece of glass to start a pile of leaves or grass smoldering.

Once again, members of the Howard County Volunteer Fire Department rose to the challenge ... battling the blaze for the better part of the afternoon before bringing it under control.

What would be easier would be for us to be a bit more careful. Instead of tossing that lit cigarette butt out the window, how about using your ashtray for the purpose for which it was intended?

The same can be said for matches that are "out" when we toss them away and other open flame.

Remember, please, that a burn ban still remains in place for Howard County. And as Smokey Bear always tells us, we are the only ones who can prevent fire.

Please. Be careful.

OTHER VIEWS

At the top of their game, George W. Bush and Al Gore represent the very best of their political parties. Bush belongs in the company of Republican governors who've aimed to govern practically, eschewing the ideological pursuits of their congressional friends. Gore claims the mantle of the New Democrats, those who've wanted to reacquaint the party with the concerns of the middle class, with the emerging suburban majority.

Both candidates verge toward the political middle, trolling for decisive votes, talking about education, health care, leadership, the issues that resonate in their many polls. That contest for the swing voter could be seen as an invitation to blur their

differences. More often, it has sparked a spirited debate.

They've touched on the defining issue of the presidential race. The country has global responsibilities, diplomatic and military, and it must prepare for an economy increasingly driven by a global marketplace.

The candidates won't be shy about their differences. The Bush TV ad challenges the vice president's credibility. The profound difference they have turns on the role of government in positioning Americans to succeed in the global economy. That window offers the most telling view of the presidential race.

AKRON (OHIO) BEACON JOURNAL

LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor. Please:

- 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.
- Letters of a political nature will not be published.
- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
- Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
- We do not acknowledge receipt of letters.
- Letters from our circulation area will be given preference.
- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721.

Wildfires: Put 'em out or let 'em burn?

The out-of-control wildfires that have been ravaging the American West pose questions more complex than the manner in which they are fought. Should they be fought? Should U.S. military personnel be employed in the fighting?



JACK ANDERSON

The Organic Act of 1916 founded the National Park Service (NPS). It was conservative in nature and strove to protect nature while allowing the public to enjoy America's breathtaking environment. The NPS did this by allowing natural occurrences to happen without interference, except in the case of fires. From 1916 to 1968, all fires (except for testing in Florida), natural or man-

made were snuffed out as soon as possible. The NPS personnel didn't realize the importance of fire for certain tree populations. Now the debate is over whether the put-em-out policy has caused the current debacle in the West by allowing underbrush to flourish. That underbrush is acting as kindling, fueling the fires. NPS spokesperson Charissa Beelee explained, "Further evidence showed that lack of fire was a major contributor to increasing fuel accumulations, especially in forest communities."

Everglades National Park, however, did realize the importance of occasional fires.

The NPS there led the way in producing and investigating controlled fires in the 1950s, and this led to a change in policy in 1968 to allow for wildland fires. But this entailed risks. With increased urbanization, nature and civilization could and would come into conflict.

The Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy and Program Review was created in 1995 in response to those risks to the extent that they are associated with the controlled fires to the civilian population as well as endangered or irreplaceable natural and cultural resources.

There are two types of controlled fires: wildland and prescribed. Wildland fires are natural occurrences that the NPS monitors and guides. Prescribed fires are set by park rangers with specific objectives such as reducing fuel accumulations, which can increase in areas that have been urbanized.

So it now appears that the pre-1968 method is predominating. We may have no choice. The underbrush creates the hazard. The hazard threatens populated areas. The fires cannot be allowed to burn. On the other hand, uncontrolled burning — nature's way — is too threatening. The result is a massive effort to

intercede with nature, and now the U.S. Army has been drafted for the effort.

Park rangers from all over the country have been pulled from their duties to help. Volunteers have been recruited. Options have been run out. And the debate has answered itself. The NPS probably cannot even allow natural burning far from urban areas because the underbrush causes the flames to spread so fast that miles can be engulfed in flames in rapid sequence.

The problem that this poses for the future is that putting out fires of the current magnitude imposes a huge demand on firefighting personnel and money. Using the military is an option — a good option — sending people who are trained to be ready to go into harm's way into harm's way. Of course, if a military emergency occurs at the same time as a disastrous fire, we will have to look elsewhere for firefighters.



The great debates begin with strange pitch?

This might well be the pivotal event of the presidential election, very strange to say. George W. Bush, like an old-time huffer, reared back and threw the strangest screwball ever at batter Al Gore. And on its way to the plate, some foreign substance seemed to be spinning off the pitch and forming a slight haze in the air. What kind of a Texas pitch was this?



JEFFREY HART

Everyone expected that, as projected by a bipartisan committee, there would be three 90-minute presidential debates and two 90-minute vice-presidential debates, more or less like in the past — or at least since 1988. And everyone expected that the formats would be about the same, with a moderator and a team of journalists asking the two candidates questions, and the candidates answering and giving rejoinders, one to the other.

This format did not actually make for a debate, of course, but more for a sort of triangular interview. The mother of all presidential debates, as everyone knows, were the ones between Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas. Each man gave a lengthy, well-organized speech setting forth his most important points, and there were lengthy and considered rejoinders from each of them. The Lincoln-Douglas debates are still studied by political philosophers because of their depth and

artistry, including by Professor Harry V. Jaffa in his book "Crisis of the House Divided." (University Press of Chicago).

The current debate format was pioneered by Richard Nixon and John F. Kennedy in 1960. It is widely agreed that Kennedy "won" his debate not because of depth and artistry, but because of his looks and confident manner. This and other such debates, too, are studied by political philosophers, but not quite in the same sense as Lincoln-Douglas. One reason Nixon lost was that he sweated and had a 5-o'clock shadow. One reason Ronald Reagan defeated Jimmy Carter in their debate was because Reagan said, "There you go again." One reason Lloyd Bentsen defeated Dan Quayle in 1988 was because Bentsen said, "You're no Jack Kennedy."

But now here comes Bush with that mist-spitting screwball. He demands not the familiar format but a new one. At the presidential level, he'll take one old-style, 90-minute triangular interview with journalists posing the questions, and two one-hour triangular interviews each with a TV interviewer — Tim Russert and Larry King.

Bush has tapes of Gore saying that he'll debate him any time, any where, so that's his offer.

Which Gore rejects. In fact, executives at ABC and CBS have said they would not broadcast "debates" held under the auspices of the networks that carry Russert and King (NBC and CNN), which would be modeled on already-existing shows "Meet the Press" and "Larry King Live." You can

see their point: Why should ABC and CBS showcase Russert and King, stars of NBC and CNN?

Gore points out that CNN reaches far fewer viewers than the three other networks, and that he wants to reach as many viewers as possible. But, quite possibly, more people would tune in to King on CNN than for the usual "Larry King Live" show if it were a campaign event.

So, as I write, that's where it stands. Maybe we will have no debates at all — if Bush says take it or leave it, and Gore leaves it. Or perhaps we can have the one old-style format that both Bush and Gore have agreed to.

But it's possible that Bush doesn't want any debates at all. Or, it is possible that Gore is so eager for debates that he will accept Bush's offer and make a campaign issue of all this, accusing Bush of cowardice: "You can run but you can't hide," as Joe Louis once said.

It seems clear to me that the Bush camp, fearing Bush might fall short on policy details before the kind of slashing and often unfair attack that succeeded against Bill Bradley in the Democratic primaries, has decided to give their candidate as little exposure to Gore as possible. After all, last week Bush became incoherent when trying to explain the arithmetic of his own tax-cut plan to reporters.

If this is the case, the Bush strategists must be betting that most voters will regard this dispute over formats as so much quibbling among politicians — in other words, fooling all of the people some of the time. If so, it seems to me a pretty risky

ADDRESSES

- **BILL CLINTON**
President
The White House
Washington, D.C.
- **PHIL GRAMM**
U.S. Senator
370 Russell Office Building
Washington, 20510
Phone: 202-224-2934.
- **KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON**
U.S. Senator
703 Hart Office Building
Washington, 20510
Phone: 202-224-5922
- **CHARLES STENHOLM**
U.S. Representative
17th District
1211 Longworth Office Bldg.
Washington, 20515.

IN

Coahoma shine in
Coahoma turned in a performance Saturday night in the cross-country Seminoles. Rachel Way with a 12:15.50 time, post 11:50. Linsey best finish junior with the finish 13:50. Shifflett with a 12:15.50 varsity boy. And in grade 8 Bartlett with time of 13:00. **Quarterly will meet**
The Quarterly meet at Big Spring Athletic Center. Anyone supporting ball program attend. **Father D. Delaney tourney**
The third Delaney Tournament by the Columbus Chicano has been the Coma Course. The tournament for an ABCD For me call 264-24

YMCA a new bel
Three leagues... national 10 power volleyball... nized the YMCA. Recreational begins O teams w games. T \$100. The de tration is organiza set for 7: Power Oct. 5. F teams ar zational league is Sept. 25. Flag for Oct. 7. include team fee organiza set for 8 For m call the)

- A**
The Top Associated poll, with these and 9:
1. Nebraska
 2. Florida 5
 3. Michigan
 4. Wisconsin
 5. Texas 2
 6. Florida
 7. Kansas
 8. Virginia
 9. Washington
 10. South Carolina
 11. Tennessee
 12. Miami
 13. Purdue
 14. UCLA
 15. Alabama
 16. Clemson
 17. Ohio State
 18. Oklahoma
 19. Illinois
 20. TCU
 21. Notre Dame
 22. Michigan
 23. Georgia
 24. Auburn
 25. South Carolina

ON
Radio FOOTBALL
8 p.m. Patriots KBST-AT
Telev BASEBALL
7 p.m. Glants FXS, Ch FOOTBALL
8 p.m. Patriots ABC, CI



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BOATS
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95 Cajun Fish & ski boat

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FINANCIAL
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1 month: \$43.26 • 2 Week Service Directory: \$25.75 • 6-mo Contract: \$38.63 per mo.

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COMPUTER Repair/Upgrade
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MONDAY

SEP. 11

Table with 24 columns representing different TV channels (KMD, KPEJ, KERA, FAM, KOSA, WFAA, KWES, WTRB, UNK, DISN, NASH, TMC, SHOW, HBO, KMLN, ABE, DISC, TNT, TLC) and rows listing various programs and their times.

DENNIS THE MENACE



"YOU KNOW IF YOU YELL LOUD ENOUGH, YOU CAN BACK-SEAT DRIVE ALL THE WAY FROM THE REAR OF THE BUS!"

FAMILY CIRCUS



"You must've washed my school clothes from last year too much. They all shrank."

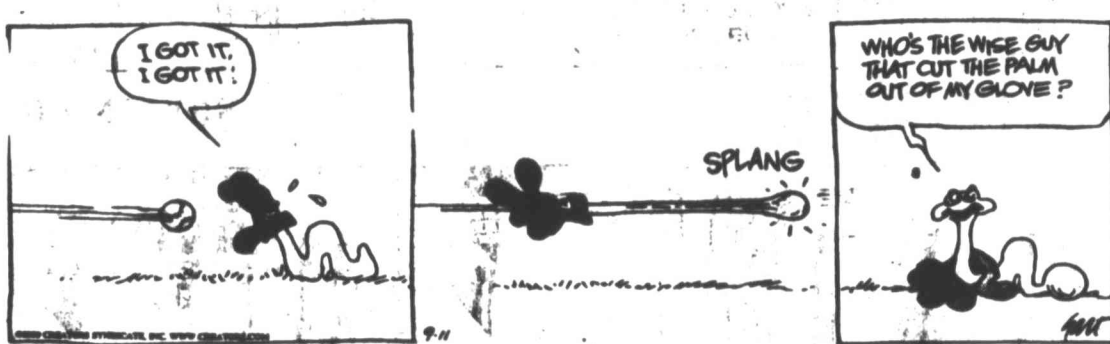
HAGAR



BLONDIE



B.C.



GEECH



WIZARD OF ID



HI AND LOIS



GASOLINE ALLEY



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILY



THIS DATE IN HISTORY

The ASSOCIATED PRESS Today is Monday, Sept. 11, the 255th day of 2000. There are 111 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On Sept. 11, 1789, Alexander Hamilton was appointed the first secretary of the treasury. On this date: In 1814, an American fleet scored a decisive victory over the British in the Battle of Lake Champlain in the War of 1812. In 1850, Jenny Lind, the "Swedish Nightingale," gave her first concert in the United States at Castle Garden in New York. In 1885, author D.H. Lawrence was born in Eastwood, England. In 1934, President Roosevelt dedicated Boulder Dam (now Hoover Dam) by pressing a key in Washington to signal the startup of the dam's first hydroelectric generator in Nevada. In 1941, Charles A. Lindbergh sparked charges of anti-Semitism with a speech in which he said "the British, the Jewish and the Roosevelt administration" were trying to draw the United States into World War II. In 1944, President Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill met in Canada at the second Quebec Conference. In 1954, the Miss America pageant made its network TV debut on ABC; Miss California, Lee Ann Meriwether, was crowned the winner. In 1971, former Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev died at age 77. In 1972, the troubled Munich Summer Olympics ended. In 1973, Chilean President Salvador Allende died in a violent military coup. Today's Birthdays: Country singer and former Louisiana governor Jimmie Davis is 101. Actress Betsy Drake is 77. Actor Earl Holliman is 72. Movie director Brian De Palma is 60. Rock musician Mickey Hart (The Grateful Dead) is 57. Singer-musician Leo Kottke is 55. Actor Reed Birney is 46. Musician Jon Moss (Culture Club) is 48. Rock musician Mick Talbot (The Style Council) is 42. Actress Kristy McNichol is 38.

THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Clues include: 1. The ___ on the Floss, 5. Valetta's nation, 10. Gift-tag word, 14. One's own: pref., 15. Babel or Stern, 16. Go down in defeat, 17. "Two Years Before the ___", 18. Wading bird, 19. Qualified, 20. Peg Bracken bestseller, with "The", 23. Trig. function, 24. Sister, 25. Harvest, 29. Threw, 34. Frequent meat in 20A, 39. Cutting edge, 40. Vicinity, 41. Spurn, 43. Russian saint, 44. Witar Dahl, 46. Frequent meat in 39A, 48. Medicum, 50. Twist sideways, 51. Diplomat, Hammarstjold, 53. Proportion, 58. Irma Rombauer bestseller, 65. Hoarfrost, 66. Lowest deck, 67. ___ fixe (obsession), 68. Like the Gobl., 69. Sierra ___, 70. Finish line, 71. Gilpin of "Frasler", 72. Colorado resort, 73. Contingencies: abbr., 7. Noncleric, 8. Osprey's claw, 9. Pantomime, 10. Loose weight?, 11. Cop starter?, 12. Christiania today, 13. Easily imposed upon, 21. Light tan, 22. Rounded handle, 26. Mess up, 27. Word after golden, 28. Squash, 30. Mess maker, 31. Bargain event, 32. Margin, 33. Unhearing, 34. Difficult, 35. End of a buck?, 36. Ground grain, 37. Formal dance, 38. Genuine, 42. Fighting Tigers of the NCAA, 45. Extinct bird, 47. Mr. T's last name, 49. Kickback cash, 52. Pierces with horns, 54. Japanese dog, 55. Of ocean motion, 56. Bungling, 57. Convex moldings, 58. Fairway hazard, 59. Increase staff, 60. Kuwait ruler, 61. "Star Wars" group, 62. Lead balloon, 63. Ace pitcher David, 64. Bid first.

Sunday's Puzzle Solved grid with words filled in: OPPOSES, SPEARER, CRACKLE, MARLENE, TESTATE, INGESTS, ACT, TOP, LOS, HIM, NEIL, NAMER, MOTE, EPEES, GARAGIOLA, STROLLER, MUTTER, YES, WAS, TARGET, FISHLESS, STEERSMEN, YENTA, ELLE, DEEDS, GRIN, TEA, WAR, LUM, OLD, SAPLING, ASARULE, ESSENCE, SHYSTER, STEIGER, SISTERS.