

THE BATTALION DEBRIEFING

Monday • February 17, 1997

► Nation

Expectant mothers get parking perks at stores

ROSWELL, Ga. (AP) — Perched over a pair of parking spaces, the smiling stork on the shiny new sign offers a surprise for drivers who think they have just scored a prime spot near the supermarket door: "New and expectant moms only."

Take another lap around the parking lot — spots for mothers are multiplying from Georgia to Texas and Arkansas to Illinois.

"You're carrying all this weight around, you're not feeling as good as you usually do," Caroline King of Atlanta said, who is eight months' pregnant with her second child. "I think they are great."

"We think that for those who are handicapped and pregnant it's the right thing to do," Brent Scott, a spokesman for the Cincinnati-based — and mom-friendly — Kroger stores said.

This feathered figure is the guardian of the latest in parking privilege, but not everyone is necessarily feeling generous about it.

"What about people with warts on their feet?" E. Scott Gellar said, 55, a psychologist who studies motorists and their behavior. "What about the elderly? Walking for some of us older folks isn't easy either."

Why not hemorrhoid sufferers? Or people suffering bad-hair days?

Wait just a second — if anyone needs parking privileges it's the parents of toddlers, Joanie Randle of Athens, Ga. said, the mother of four children aged 4 to 9.

A Publix Super Market manager in Atlanta got the idea from a Cuban grocery. Kroger stores copied it from a supermarket in Colorado. And Venture discount stores, based in O'Fallon, Mo., have them throughout the Midwest.

Senior citizens defend their homes and lives

MOSES LAKE, Wash. (AP) — Four intruders forced their way into the home of 75-year-old Dorothy Cunningham and 61-year-old Marty Killinger late one night, struggling with the women and demanding their car keys.

They did not realize they were dealing with the "pistol-packing grandmas."

"I was raised in the Tetons, and whenever I wasn't herding sheep or cattle or working in the fields, I'd take a .22 rifle and target shoot," Cunningham said. "I'm not afraid of guns, and I know how to use them."

A 20-year-old and three teen-agers were arrested on suspicion of burglary and attempted robbery.

Cunningham and Killinger got some official attention of their own.

"Henceforth, Dorothy Cunningham and Marty Killinger will be known as the Pistol-Packing Grandmas," Grant County Sheriff Bill Wiester said Friday during a little ceremony at the county courthouse. "This is a clear message to criminals that senior citizens won't tolerate this type of behavior from these young punks."

Cunningham said someone knocked on their door Tuesday night, asking to use the telephone.

When Killinger unlocked the door, a man pushed his way in and began demanding the keys to her car.

"I picked up the phone and realized the lines were cut, then I knew this was serious," Killinger said.

While Killinger argued and struggled with one of the intruders in the living room, Cunningham got her Luger from her bedroom and ordered the young men to head for the hills.

"I said some strong words to them that I don't usually use," she said. "I told them to get out or I'd shoot and kill them."



Dancing the Night Away

Rob Dodson and Betsy Bussell dance in the MSC at a Valentine's Day dance sponsored by the Aggie Fish Club.

► This day in history

Today is Monday, Feb. 17, the 48th day of 1997. There are 317 days left in the year. This is Presidents Day.

In 1801, the House of Representatives broke an electoral tie between Thomas Jefferson and Aaron Burr, electing Jefferson president. Burr became vice president.

In 1817, a street in Baltimore became the first to be lighted with gas from America's first gas company.

In 1865, Columbia, S.C., burned as the Confederates evacuated and Union forces moved in. (It's not known which side set the blaze.)

In 1897, the forerunner of the National PTA, the National Congress of Mothers, was founded in Washington.

In 1904, Giacomo Puccini's opera "Madama Butterfly" received a poor reception at its premiere at La Scala in Milan, Italy.

In 1933, Newsweek was first published.

In 1947, the Voice of America began broadcasting to the Soviet Union.

In 1964, the Supreme Court issued its "one man, one vote" decision, ruling congressional districts within each state had to be roughly equal in population.

In 1972, 25 years ago, President Nixon departed on his historic trip to China.

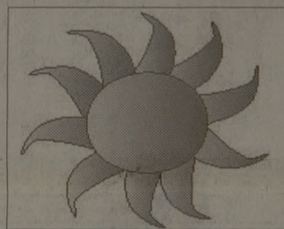
In 1988, Lt. Col. William Higgins, an American officer serving with a United Nations truce monitoring group, was kidnapped in southern Lebanon (he was later slain by his captors).

► Today's birthdays

Actress Kathleen Foreman is 78. Margaret Truman Daniel is 73. Actor Hal Holbrook is 72. Singer Bobby Lewis is 64. Actor Alan Bates is 63. Football Hall-of-Famer Jim Brown is 61. Actress Mary Ann Mobley is 58. Singer Gene Pitney is 56. Actress Brenda Fricker is 52. Actor Richard Karn ("Home Improvement") is 41.

► Weather

Today



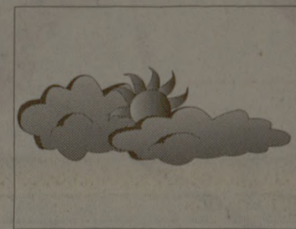
Mostly sunny with 10-15 mph winds.

Tonight



Partly cloudy with 10 mph winds.

Tomorrow



Mostly cloudy with 10-15 mph winds.

Highs & Lows

Today's Expected High 71°F

Tonight's Expected High 47°F

Tomorrow's Expected High 70°F

Tomorrow's Expected Low 55°F

Information courtesy of TWC

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Student Chapter of the AVMA and the Texas A&M Pre-Vet Society are sponsoring a

MOCK GRE

Saturday, February 22nd
Vet School Room 201 VMS
10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Tickets available in the Vet School Dean's Office

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Dates: May 26-June 15, June 16-July 6, July 7-July 27, July 28-August 9

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MSC Visual Arts and MSC Literary Arts present

Layers of African-American History
The Works of Leamon Green and Phillis Wheatley

Tuesday, February 18
5 to 7 pm
Visual Arts Gallery
Memorial Student Center room 289
5 pm. Discussion with painter Leamon Green
6 pm. Reading of poetry by Phillis Wheatley
Refreshments provided

The Leamon Green exhibit is open until February 27

THE BATTALION

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