

Council snubs meeting as residents question bus rate hikes
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Baltimore ties series 1-1
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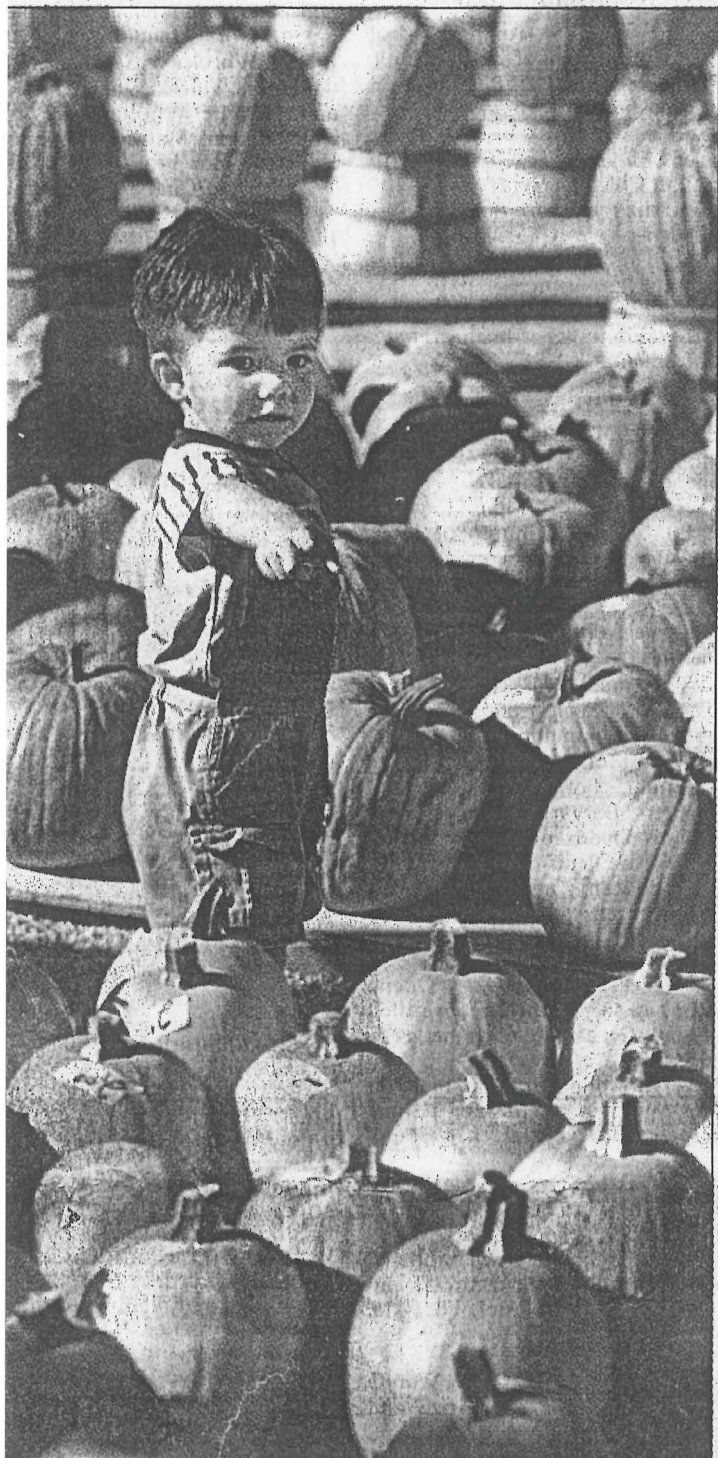
FRIDAY

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36 PAGE

that one?



S-T Photo by Mike Howell

umpkins has arrived at area groceries and fruit markets. helps his parents pick out the right pumpkin Thursday at San Cox Fruit Market.

Angelo, Brady officials set for mediation

By JOEL SHULER
Staff Writer

In less than three weeks, attorneys and representatives of two cities and a water district will try to sort out their water feud with the help of a mediating judge.

Representatives from the city of San Angelo, the city of Brady and the Hickory Underground Water District are scheduled to meet Oct. 29 and 30 in Austin to resolve what has become a lengthy and costly water-rights dispute.

The parties recently agreed to a mediation session to be presided over by Judge James R. Meyers.

San Angelo City Manager Tom Adams said he hopes the mediation will allow the parties to reach a suitable compromise that will protect the city's Hickory Aquifer water rights while protecting Brady's water supply.

"Mediation is an alternative to a judge making the decision in court," Adams said. The judge "will work between the different parties to see if there is middle ground where we can come to an agreement, a settlement.

"It will be a lot better situation to come to an agreement as opposed to a court imposing a settlement on us."

Adams last week traveled to Austin to meet with Meyers. The purpose of the visit was to present San Angelo's arguments so Meyers will be familiar with the issues when the mediation begins. Adams said representatives of Brady and the water district would have similar meetings with Meyers before the actual mediation session.

The water dispute stems from San Angelo's intent to drill 19 water wells that will tap water from the Hickory Aquifer. The city owns water rights to 37,633 acres of land over the aquifer in

'Mediation is an alternative to a judge making the decision in court.'

— San Angelo City Manager Tom Adams

Concho, McCulloch and Mena counties.

San Angelo officials have said the wells would be connected to pipeline which would in turn be connected to the O.H. Iv Reservoir pipeline. The water wells then would serve as an emergency source of water to be used when all of San Angelo's outside water sources are depleted.

San Angelo officials earlier this year applied for a permit to pump 15,000 acre-feet of water each year from the aquifer. In March, however, water district officials decided San Angelo can pump only 2,750 acre-feet annually from the aquifer.

Brady officials staunchly oppose San Angelo's pumping of water from the aquifer without strict restrictions to limit the amount of water that can be pumped.

The aquifer is Brady's primary source of water and also supplies water to Mason.

Fowler brings DNC's message to city

By SCOTT STANFORD

president since Jimmy Carter in 1976.

The chairman singled out Clinton