

Big Spring Herald

Monday

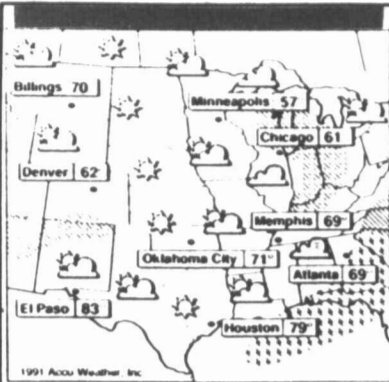
At the crossroads of West Texas

14 Pages 2 Sections

Vol. 62 No. 278

April 22, 1991

28¢ Home delivered daily per month 35¢ News stand



Weather

Mostly clear and sunny through Tuesday. Low tonight in the 50s; high tomorrow in the 80s.

Sunday's high temperature	91
Sunday's low temperature	50
Average high	81
Average low	52
Record high	101 in 1945
Record low	30 in 1927
Rainfall Sunday	0.00
Month to date	0.00
Normal for Month	1.58
Year to date	92.41
Normal for year	92.90

BSSH one-act play wins regional

Big Spring High School One-Act Play, "The Crucible," advanced to State from regional competition Friday after successfully winning out over Snyder, Dumas, Boswell, and Crowley. Justine Northwest also advanced to state, scheduled for May 3 in Austin at the University of Texas.

Tim Haynes, theater teacher and University Interscholastic League one-act play sponsor, said he and the cast and crew are dancing on air, and confident of their abilities to take the state competition. "The odds are very good," he said about BSSH winning the state contest.

Sunny Fraser won Best Actress and Jason LeGrande won Best Actor for the regional contest. Fraser is the president of D-FY-IT, and LeGrande is in his first year at BSSH.

Honorable Mention All Star Cast was awarded to Brandy Bedell, Marci Weaver and Joshua Free. This is Bedell's freshman year at the high school. Weaver has been named to the All Star cast for each level of competition, and Free has his own miming company that performs for various organizations.

KBST wins coverage awards

Local radio station KBST won several awards at the Texas Associated Press Broadcasters annual convention Saturday in Austin.

Former news director Chris Sommer was the winner in the category "Best News Anchor or Anchor Team" and in "Best Newscast Prepared by a News Staff of Three Fulltime News Persons or Less," according to an Associated Press report.

Sommer placed second in "Best General Assignment" for a football expose. Keith Leuty was awarded honorable mention in the same category.

Sommer placed second in "Best Spot News by a Reporter" for his coverage of a hostage situation and received honorable mention in the category "Best Spot News by a Station."

Jaycees plan barn dance

The Howard County Jaycees invite everyone to dance to the music of "Country Express" at their upcoming barn dance.

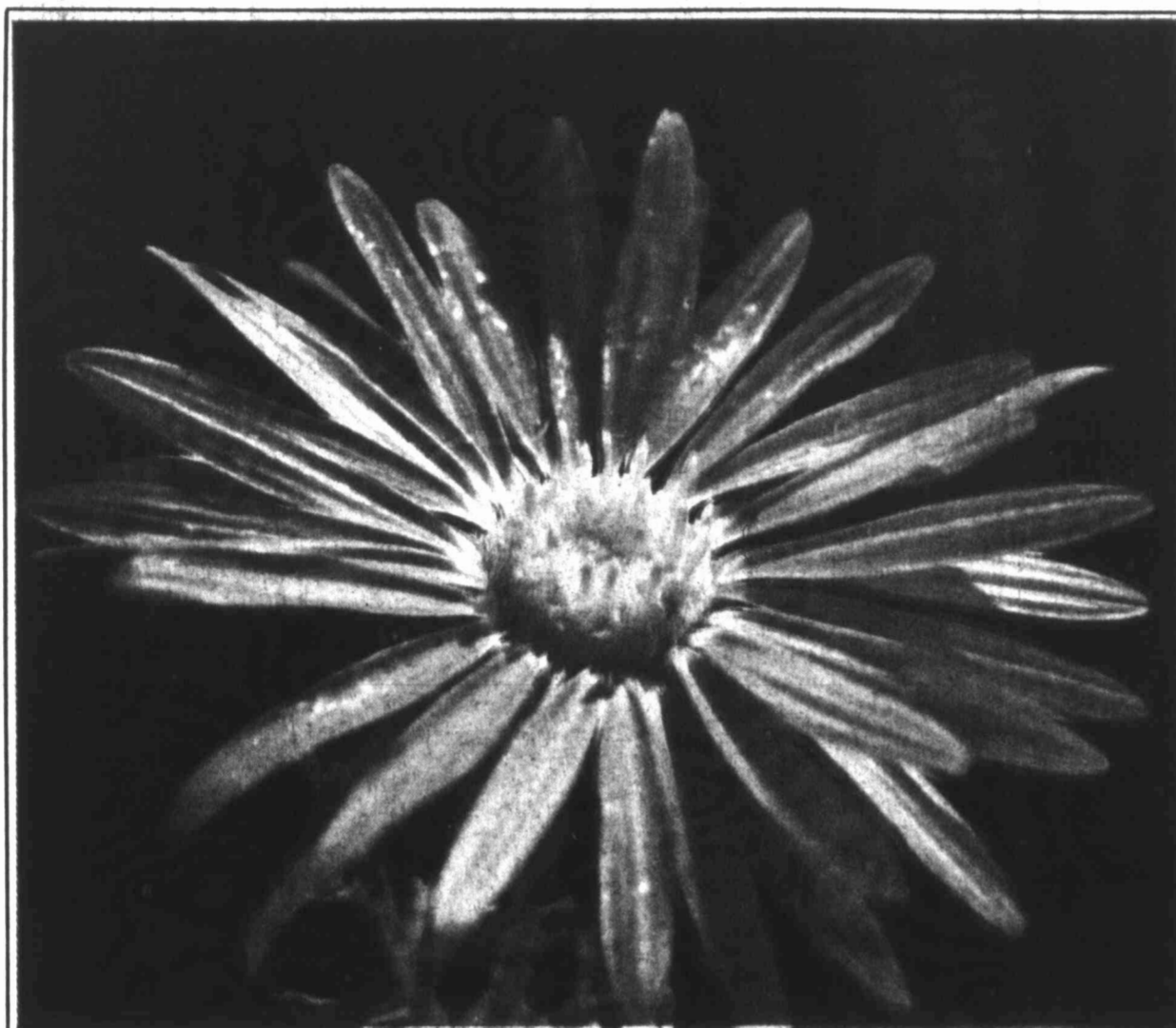
The dance is scheduled at the Dora Roberts Community Center Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

All guests must be 21 or older with I.D. "Set-ups" will be available for those who bring liquor.

Overnight guests can get a Jaycee discount at the Great Western Motel.

Proceeds from the event will be divided between DeFY-IT and the Area One Jaycee's state presidential campaign.

RSVP, 263-2474 or 263-7219.



West Texas color

Flower and photography enthusiasts can have a field day in West Texas this time of year. A wide variety of wildflowers, such as the one pictured here, can be seen blooming around the area.

Herald photo by Tim Appel

Trial of juvenile scheduled tomorrow

By PATRICK DRISCOLL
Staff Writer

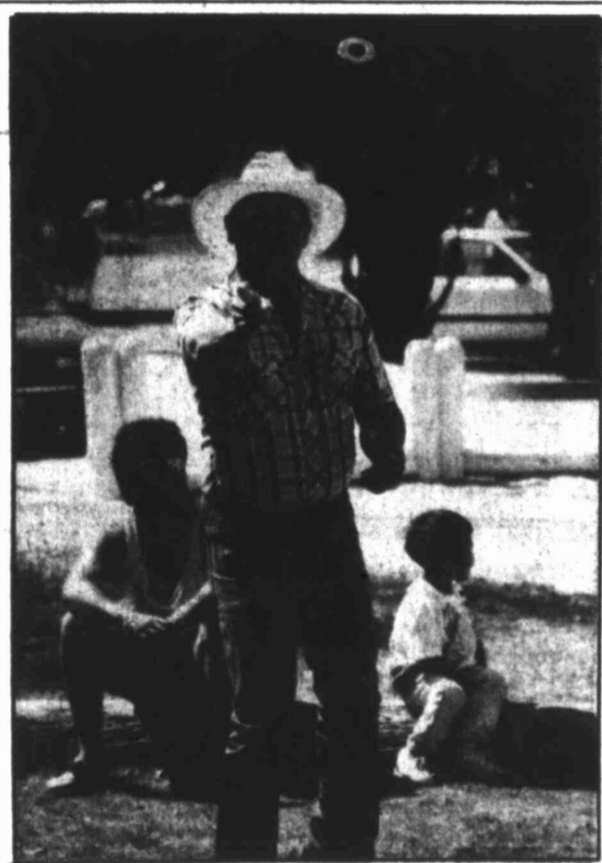
Jury selection was underway this morning in the murder trial of Kevin John White, 17, who is accused of killing Richard Lauderdale in June.

White is being tried in 118th Judicial District Court as a juvenile under determinate sentencing, which allows for a penalty of 30 years incarceration.

The trial is scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. Tuesday, Judge Bob Moore said. The District Court will be sitting as a juvenile court and the trial is open to the public.

However, a pre-trial hearing was still scheduled to take place this afternoon on the suppression of evidence. County Attorney Hardy Wilkerson, who is prosecuting the case, said that if a motion by the defense is granted by Moore, there

• TRIAL page 8-A

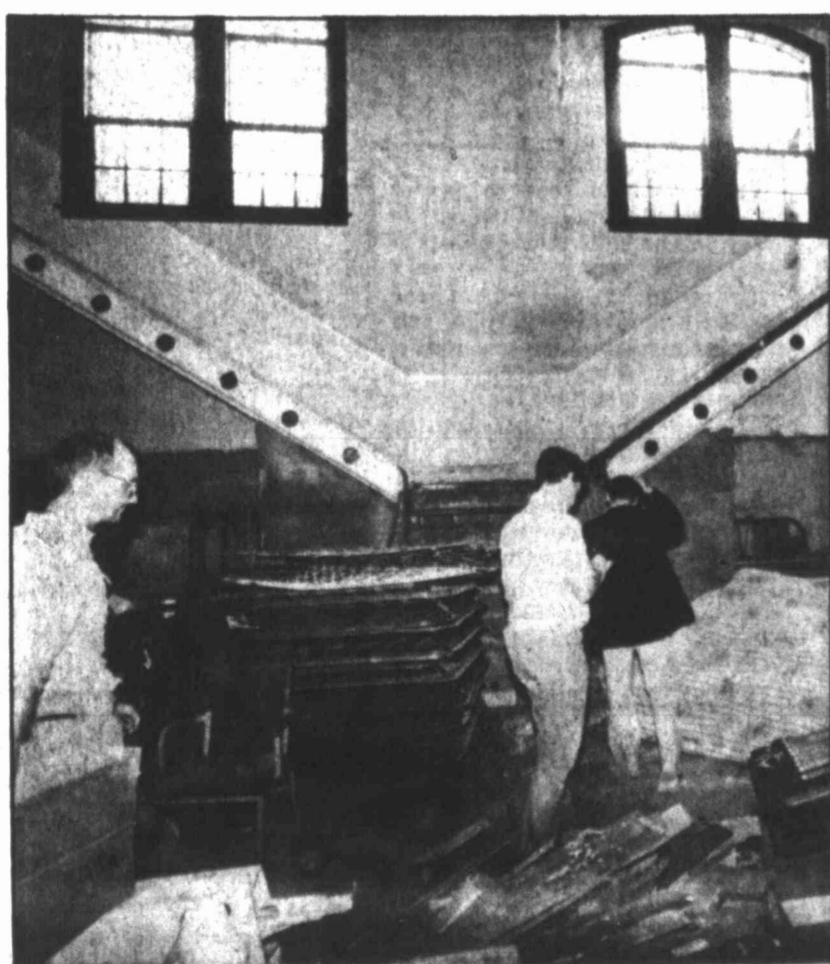


Herald photos by J. Fierro

Sunday at Comanche Trail Park

Many people took advantage of Sunday afternoon's sunny skies and warm temperatures to relax at Comanche Trail Park. Joe Ovalle, left,

pitches washers. At right Freddy Olivarez barbecues chicken "western style."



The Settles Hotel had already been stripped of marble, decorative moldings, and carved woodwork when owner Gil Cuadra disposed of the remaining furniture and furnishings in 1985. Compare this file photo with a photo on page 8-A of the lobby as it originally appeared.

Settles has history of financial difficulties

By DEBBIE LINCEMUM
Staff Writer

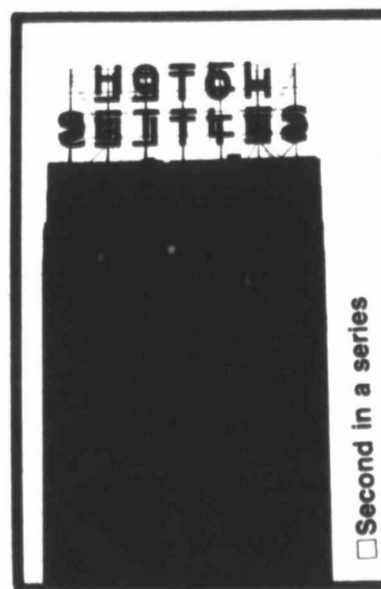
Since its last tenants were evicted in May of 1980, the Hotel Settles has looked less each year like the grand place of local people's memories.

The hotel sat for years, vacant and deteriorating, while the question of its future — at one time buoyed by the grandiose plans of a new owner — was repeatedly answered with the definitive reality of tax problems and a troubled local economy.

Within months after its doors opened in October 1930, the Settles was bankrupt. Certainly Mr. and Mrs. W.R. Settles were the first to imagine their hotel's grandeur, not suspecting — as reality dictated — they would drain their oil fortune in the building when prices dropped from \$4 to 10 cents per barrel.

From there, the Settles' ownership changed repeatedly, usually decided in court. There was no need for grand plans, however, as its reputation prospered.

Historical accounts say the hotel was known as the finest overnight lodging available between Fort Worth and El Paso. Millionaires, politicians and socialites graced



Second in a series

the rooms, dinner tables and dance floors within its 15 gilded floors.

A May 25, 1980, Herald article chronicled the grand hotel's tax nightmare 50 years after opening day. At that time, \$25,407 in taxes was due — a small amount compared to future figures. The hotel was the property of Dallas developers Harry D. Hawn and

• SETTLES page 8-A

Study says Texas taxes among most unfair in country

By MARIO CRISTALDI
Herald Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Texas has one of the most unfair state tax structures in the nation, a study released today says.

Poor and middle-class Texans pay a much greater share of their incomes in taxes than the state's wealthiest residents, according to the analysis by Citizens for Tax Justice.

The Washington-based research group, which favors progressive tax reforms, rated Texas the second worst among the "Terrible Ten" states highlighted in the study.

The state's poorest residents — those earning an average of \$10,600 a year for a family of four — pay 17.1 percent of their annual earnings in state and local taxes, and middle-income families pay 8.4 percent, the study says.

But the richest 1 percent of Texans hand over just 3.1 percent of their average family earnings of \$945,500, according to the study.

"Of course, we need taxes to pay for public services," said Robert McIntyre, director of Citizens for Tax Justice. "But by letting the

rich off easy, Texas has put too much of the tax burden on those who can least afford to pay."

Texas, which does not have a state income tax, was faulted for relying on sales and excise taxes that hit lower wage earners harder — rather than adopting a "pay-ability" income tax. The tax reform group urged the state to adopt progressive personal and corporate income taxes, avoid further state and excise tax increases and give property tax relief to those most in need.

The study says the inequity in Texas has gotten worse in recent years, with poor families paying 38 percent more taxes this year than they did in 1985. Similarly, middle-income Texas families earning an average of \$35,300 will pay 36 percent more, the study says. But the richest Texans will pay about the same percentage as they did in 1985.

"Texas is like a handful of state governments (that) turns the screws on average families, while profitable corporations and rich individuals aren't being asked to do their part," McIntyre said.

County approves personnel changes

By PATRICK DRISCOLL
Staff Writer

Howard County Commissioners Court this morning approved promotions and pay increases in the sheriff's department and the road and bridge department.

In the road and bridge department, commissioners agreed to raise the pay of Alva Thomas, who was recently promoted to supervisor of the "bull gang," from \$10.97 to \$12.24. The gang does miscellaneous jobs around the county.

Bids for the supervisor job from within the 30-employee road and bridge department were opened up last month following concerns raised by Robert Ramirez that two supervisory jobs were eliminated to prevent his promotion. Jobs are awarded on a seniority basis.

County Engineer Bill Mims said the supervisory jobs were no longer needed.

But a local union representative told commissioners it may have been because Ramirez was a minority and said that at the time it appeared nobody with more seniority than Ramirez was interested in the job.

Meanwhile, Ramirez replaced Thomas as a service truck operator. His pay remains the same at \$11.10 an hour. Replacing Ramirez as a loader operator is Charles Grady Beck whose pay increases from \$10.97 to \$11.10 an hour.

In the sheriff's department, Juan Palacios, a dispatcher, was promoted to deputy, filling a vacancy created by the election in November of Ben Lockhart to county judge. His pay was increased from \$1,302 a month to \$2,017.

Replacing Palacios is relief jailer Kenneth Wheeler, whose pay will be increased from \$6 an hour to \$1,302 a month.

Also, commissioners authorized paying Deputy Robert Stapp sergeant's pay from Jan. 15 to April 15.

In other business Monday, the Court:

- Agreed to send two county employees to an asbestos removal training seminar in San Antonio for a total of \$350 plus travel and hotel expenses.

- Approved a right-of-way permit to Cap Rock Electric in Stanton across County Road 34.

- Voted to allow a Desert Storm flag to be flown on the flagpole east

• COUNTY page 8-A

Sidelines

War casualties recalled at muster

COLLEGE STATION (AP) — Three men who died during the Persian Gulf War were among those remembered as Texas A&M Aggies around the world held their annual Muster in the continuation of a tradition that began in 1883.

Sunday's ceremony in College Station, where more than 8,000 people gathered, was among more than 200 similar ceremonies in 43 states and 26 countries to "live over again our college days, the victories and defeats won and lost upon drillground and classroom."

"Texas Aggies once again went in harm's way to defend freedom," Admiral Jerome L. Johnson, class of 1956, said of the three Gulf War casualties. "Once again, some of them did not return."

"These men were doing what they loved to do. They and their families deserve our utmost respect. They are true heroes in the tradition of our university."

Three victims of the war included Navy Lt. Danny Vance Hull, Texas A&M class of 1981; Thomas Clifford Bland Jr., class of 1986; and Air Force Maj. Richard M. Price, class of 1974.

Officials make cocaine bust

HOUSTON (AP) — Two Mexican nationals faced charges of possession of cocaine with intent to distribute after authorities seized 257 pounds of the drug worth an estimated \$15 million.

U.S. Customs agents and police also confiscated nearly \$250,000 in cash.

Most of the money and all but 11 pounds of the cocaine were found in a car at an apartment complex late Saturday night.

"The drug was so well-packaged, it was like it was mass-produced in a factory," Customs agent Steven Hooper said.

Using information gathered at the scene, authorities arrested another man, found 11 pounds of cocaine and \$50,000 in cash at a home in nearby Pasadena.

Police believe all of the cocaine originated in Colombia and came through Mexico for street sale in Houston.

Syphilis among newborns rising

AUSTIN (AP) — Although syphilis is sometimes fatal, it is "completely and easily curable." Nevertheless, increasing numbers of babies die from the disease each year, health officials say.

The 210 syphilis cases reported last year in Texas were more than twice as many as any other year in the past decade and up 123 percent from 1989, said Joe Pair, director of the Texas Department of Health's Sexually Transmitted Disease Control Division.

The reported number of babies born with syphilis in Texas more than doubled in 1990, health officials added.

Discipline often overturned on appeals

"That whole system is bad. It's very perverse. With 90 percent of the . . . (police officers) you don't have any problem at all. But it's that 10 percent who deserve no protection whatsoever, who get all the protection in the world."

Merril Nunn

DALLAS (AP) — A survey of 246 cases in five Texas cities where police officers were disciplined for abuse or misconduct showed that civil service boards usually overturn the punishment, a newspaper reported.

The Dallas Morning News reported in a copyright story Sunday that 61 percent of the officers who appealed their punishment were reinstated or received lesser penalties.

The survey, covering a four-year period ending in January 1990, found that five of six Amarillo police officers had disciplinary action from their chief overturned. Officers prevailed in 100 of 160 cases in Houston, 19 of 37 cases in Dallas, 22 of 35 in Houston and 4 of 8 in Austin.

Officers say civil service appeals protect them from loose or random punishment. But some city officials

and police chiefs say the appeal system threatens their ability to exercise discipline within their own ranks.

"That whole system is bad. It's very perverse," said Amarillo city attorney Merrill Nunn. "With 90 percent of the . . . (police officers) you don't have any problem at all. But it's that 10 percent who deserve no protection whatsoever, who get all the protection in the world."

But Ron DeLord, president of the Combined Law Enforcement Associations of Texas, said criticism comes mainly from

police chiefs who have mishandled disciplinary action.

"They're whiners and they're lazy," DeLord said. "They don't understand you've got to have case preparation, you've got to be consistent in your discipline."

The civil service system, created to shield police from political pressure, is used in about 70 predominantly urban Texas cities.

Civil service appeals are presented either to panels appointed by city officials or, more frequently, to a judge or arbitrator.

El Paso police Chief John Scagno

said arbitrators often are reluctant to take officers' jobs.

"When it comes to brutality, most cases come down to one (person's) word against another," Scagno said. "We may see a pattern (of abuse) and believe the complainant, (but) it won't hold up in arbitration."

Austin police Chief Jim Everett said arbitrators are more concerned with labor issues than public safety when hearing brutality cases.

"When you have some police officer who violates the public's trust

and goes out and does something like that for whatever reason . . . he should not be a police officer any longer," Everett said. "You cannot have people who are police officers going around at will violating people's civil rights and cracking their skulls."

Arbitrators and civil service officials defend the system, saying it protects officers from police chiefs who are responding to public outcry over well-publicized cases.

"You can't deny someone their employment capriciously," said David Truly, secretary to the Dallas Civil Service Board.

The civil service system was established in Texas in 1949, providing for boards composed of appointed citizens to review chiefs' decisions. But in 1983, the Legislature amended the act to allow police officers to ask for hearings by arbitrators.

Trial set to begin on new comp law

AUSTIN (AP) — Lawyers, doctors and national work-safety experts are scheduled to descend on Eagle Pass today for a trial in which Texas' new system of compensating workers who are injured on the job is being challenged.

The business-backed workers' compensation reform law was approved by the Legislature in 1989 and signed by then-Gov. Bill Clements after two bruising special legislative sessions.

Last year, the Texas AFL-CIO challenged the law, saying it will lower disability benefits for most injured workers, restrict an employees' access to court and discriminate against Hispanics by reducing benefits for injured farm workers.

A Maverick County judge agreed that major provisions of the bill probably were unconstitutional, and he granted a temporary court order in December to block implementation of the law.

But the state attorney general appealed the decision, which essentially allowed the law to slip into effect Jan. 1.

Today, the trial before State District Judge Rey Perez centers on whether to grant a permanent court order to block the law. Attorneys for the AFL-CIO and the state say the trial could last up to two weeks.

"What's at stake here is very significant to the working popula-

tion of our state," said Bill Whitehurst, an Austin attorney, who is co-counsel in the for the AFL-CIO.

"Our position is that in the name of efficiency and trying to reduce insurance premiums, the Legislature has done a great deal of disservice to the workers," he said.

Whitehurst said he will call witnesses with expertise in job-related injuries, including former U.S. Secretary of Labor Ray Marshall, and Dr. John Gunn of Dallas, former orthopedic surgeon for the Dallas Cowboys football team.

Brad Gahm, vice president for governmental affairs with the Texas Association of Business, however, said the claims made by labor and trial lawyers about the law are "scurrilous."

"The filing of the lawsuit was a bad faith statement by trial lawyers and a small group of labor union leaders who lost the public debate in the Legislature and now want a judge in the far-removed jurisdiction of Eagle Pass to give them a victory," he said.

Under the old system, businesses complained of skyrocketing workers' comp insurance premiums, which had increased nearly 150 percent over a four-year period. They blamed that on the cost of litigating disputes with employees over compensation benefits.



Learning the ropes
SAN ANTONIO — Jesus Enrique, 5, twirls a lasso as he practices his roping skills before the start of Charreada, a Mexican rodeo, Sunday.

Legendary ranch may be near the end

The estate, with holdings more diverse than some Fortune 500 companies, is conservatively valued at \$200 million. But the land alone may be worth more than \$300 million.

VERNON (AP) — It's the Texas myth come to life: land, cattle, horses, oil, family.

And now, a fight.

The legendary W.T. Waggoner Estate, an empire founded on a ranch two-thirds the size of Rhode Island, apparently is crumbling — undermined by a squabble between third- and fourth-generation Waggoners, presided over by sculptor-socialite Electra Waggoner Biggs, whose name was the inspiration of the Buick Electra and the Lockheed Electra jet.

Townpeople in Vernon, where the ranch and its offshoots are one of the biggest employers, are watching with worry and curiosity as the battle looms over the multimillion-dollar holdings.

"You remember when you were a kid and you wondered why are mommy and daddy fighting?" asks Vernon Mayor Emmett Maxon.

"You thought, 'Which side is going to choose me?' That is their apprehension," Maxon said of Waggoner's 160 cowboys, mechanics, petroleum engineers and bookkeepers.

Mrs. Biggs, the 78-year-old granddaughter of William Thomas Waggoner, has asked a court for help in selling off the 550,000-acre ranch, the nation's largest surrounded by one fence.

Dotted by oil wells and cows, mansions and aircraft hangars, stalls and stables, the ranch covers most of two North Texas counties and reaches into four others.

Its history is as vast.

President Theodore Roosevelt settled a homesteading dispute there; Poco Bueno, the Waggoner horse that defined a style of rounding up cattle, is buried there with a marker fit for prince.

The estate, with holdings more diverse than some Fortune 500

companies, is conservatively valued at \$200 million. But the land alone may be worth more than \$300 million.

Mrs. Biggs and A.B. "Bucky" Wharton III, 43, the son of one of her cousins, are the controlling shareholders in the estate.

Rumors about the estate's future began circulating in Vernon, about 12 miles north of the ranch's opulent headquarters, shortly after trustee Charles Prather left in February 1989.

Since then, Mrs. Biggs' son-in-law, Gene Willingham, and Wharton have managed the estate, which includes the ranch land; oil, gas and mineral rights; all the ranch buildings, livestock and equipment, such as helicopters and airplanes; and investments.

The two men are said to differ over how to protect the family fortune against low energy prices and land values, but neither they nor their attorneys would be interviewed.

Their showdown, with Willingham representing his mother-in-law, promises to be lengthy and complex with the potential sizzle of an episode of "Dallas."

But Mayor Maxon doesn't expect that. The Waggoner descendants "know how to act, appreciate what they have and know how to share with others," he said.

"They're just people, nice people."

But the potential breakup of the storied ranch is causing some worry in the town of 12,000, where its \$3 million annual payroll is the

third largest.

"From a sentimental point, most people would sure hate to see it break up," said City Manager Paul Hawkins.

"It's kind of like the Earth. It's been around forever," said Gene Tyra, owner of a music store and a drill captain in the horse club started by E. Paul Waggoner, Mrs. Biggs' father.

"There's a tremendous amount of curiosity about what's going to happen, what will come along," he said.

Earlier this month, Mrs. Biggs petitioned 46th District Judge Tom Neely to appoint a receiver "for the purpose of winding up the affairs of such Estate by liquidating its assets" and distributing proceeds to its shareholders.

It is unclear whether the assets are to be sold to other members of the family or outside parties.

The filing asks Neely to appoint "a person with qualifications to serve as a chief executive officer of a major company."

The filing said Wharton had earlier declared intent to terminate the estate. He is expected to respond by the end of April.

The only major legal battle over Waggoner money, more than 20 years ago, was about Wharton's inheritance. The fight went all the way to the Texas Supreme Court which upheld a lower court's ruling that he was due \$45 million.

The ranch's history stretches to pre-Civil War Texas when Dan Waggoner, W.T.'s father, bought land a few counties east of the pre-

Benefit brings polo to Albany

ALBANY (AP) — A West Texas-style polo game, played to fight cancer, should provide \$125,000 for research at a Houston hospital, fund-raisers say.

The fifth annual Polo on the Prairie at the Musselman Brothers Lazy 3 Ranch on Saturday should provide the needed funds for several programs at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. More than 1,000 Big Country residents were referred to the hospital last year.

"M.D. Anderson serves this area," said event co-chair Mary Ann McCloud. "All of our lives are touched by it. We're trying to destroy cancer. The more money we raise, the quicker that will happen."

Fashion-conscious women sporting riding outfits and designer western dresses quenched their thirst underneath a circus-style tent, where some of the 1,100 pounds of brisket and 500 pounds of sausage simmered nearby.

Novice and expert polo fans marveled at the players' precision riding and the fast-paced action of the sport, described by one spectator as being "a little like shooting pool from horseback."

"(Polo on the Prairie) captures the imagination," said Dolores Hajojovsky, a development communications specialist at M.D. Anderson. "Not many people in Texas have had an afternoon like this. Everything you want a fundraiser to accomplish, this goes above and beyond that."

Dr. Charles A. LeMaistre, president of the center, said one of the event's greatest strengths is that through it, cancer patients know that someone cares.

"The money goes to programs that are exciting and innovative," LeMaistre said. "The patients are there because they have a serious cancer and they're looking for the latest research available. This research drives the quality of patient care."

The game's unfamiliarity among many Texans caused at least one embarrassing moment when a befuddled David Benson, an M.D. Anderson patient and Abilene High School student, was to start the game by tossing the baseball-sized polo ball into a tangled mass of men and horses.

"I thought they'd be in a line," Benson explained. "They said, 'Throw it in the middle,' but I saw no middle. They had to point and say, 'Throw it here.' I was kind of embarrassed."

Charlotte Dooley, who compared the game to "golf on the run," said the sport's haughty image may turn some potential fans off.

"In Texas, people are more down-to-earth, and polo isn't a down-home game."

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Nation

Bills called exercises in symbolism

WASHINGTON (AP) — A proposed seven-day waiting period for handgun purchases and President Bush's crime package satisfy political yearnings but don't attack the heart of America's crime problem, criminologists say.

Neither measure "is going to make a significant dent on crime," said criminologist Alfred Blumstein, dean of the school of public affairs at Carnegie-Mellon University in Pittsburgh. "Both of them are impressive exercises in symbolism."

"Criminals are just not lining up at gun stores to fill out papers and have their backgrounds checked," Jim Baker, the Na-

tional Rifle Association's legislative chief, said last week.

Attorney General Dick Thornburgh notes that only 17 percent of guns used by felons to commit crimes are bought in stores. The rest are obtained illegally on the street.

The Brady Bill would allow, but not require, local police to conduct record checks to determine if would-be gun buyers are convicted felons and therefore are ineligible to purchase a handgun.

Bush, who has opposed the bill in the past, has signaled a willingness to sign the measure if Congress passes his crime package, which is fiercely opposed by civil libertarians.

Extended school day, year favored

WASHINGTON (AP) — Education Secretary Lamar Alexander says he favors extending the school day and school year, but would make the added time optional and charge parents for the additional instruction.

Such a program already is in place in Murfreesboro, Tenn., where seven public elementary schools offer extra classes in the afternoons and the summer, Alexander said on Sunday.

"About half the parents pay for their children to go," the former Tennessee governor said on ABC-TV's "This Week with David Brinkley." "They voluntarily choose that."

Alexander defended the emphasis on parental choice in President Bush's new education strategy.

American students attend classes only 180 days a year, fewer than most other industrialized countries.

Alexander offered his let-the-parents-pay idea as a solution to the problem of how to pay for a longer school year.

"I would like to see school districts open their schools in the afternoon, open them in the summer and invite parents to send their children there," he said. "Let people get accustomed to it."

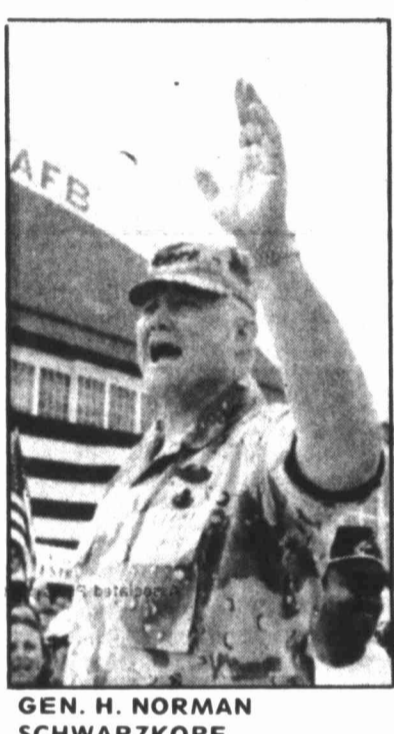
General to direct troops from U.S.

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf is home from the Gulf War, but that doesn't mean his job is finished.

As head of the U.S. Central Command based at MacDill Air Force Base, Schwarzkopf will continue to direct the 250,000 troops remaining in the Persian Gulf.

"They're going to be there for a while," Schwarzkopf told a cheering crowd of about 500 people who greeted his return Sunday to MacDill. "We're getting them home as fast as we can. But I ask all of you please just to keep giving the great support you've given all of us until the last American is home."

Schwarzkopf, who spent eight months away from his family as commander of the allied troops in the Persian Gulf, took his wife, Brenda, and their three children in a big bear hug as soon as he stepped back onto American soil.



GEN. H. NORMAN SCHWARZKOPF



JEDDAH, Saudi Arabia — U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and King Fahd of Saudi Arabia shake hands at the beginning of a meeting at the Royal Palace in Jeddah Sunday. Baker is on a Middle East peace tour.

Baker plans detour to inspect Kuwaiti reform

JEDDAH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — Secretary of State James A. Baker III is taking a detour from his troubled Mideast mission to inspect Kuwait's slow-paced political reform and lingering wartime havoc.

But before leaving Saudi Arabia today, he met again with Prince Saud, the Saudi foreign minister, who confirmed on Sunday that the Arab kingdom would not engage in peace negotiations with Israel.

Even so, King Fahd said on Sunday, "All of us wish for peace in the region."

Fahd met with Baker for three hours today, winding up at 1:15 a.m. EDT.

"Our ardent hope is that peace is achieved in this region," the king said. "This is the important thing."

Having sent American troops to war to liberate Kuwait from Iraqi annexation, President Bush is sending Baker to show an active U.S. interest in the oil-rich emirate after the conflict.

Baker planned to inspect burning oil fields and also confer with the Emir Jabir al-Ahmed Sabah and Crown Prince Saad Abdullah al Sabah after a report last week by Amnesty International that human rights abuses, including torture and executions, had swept Kuwait since it was liberated in February.

Last week, the ruling family reshuffled the cabinet but kept significant control over its actions.

Baker's staff, in announcing the

visit, stressed the economic side of the visit rather than the human rights aspect to avoid embarrassing the rulers.

Afterward, Baker was flying to Damascus to discuss prospects for Mideast negotiations with Syrian President Hafez Assad and Foreign Minister Farouk Sharaa.

That will complete his tour of five Arab countries and set the stage for Baker to return to Jerusalem on Tuesday night for critical talks Wednesday with Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Foreign Minister David Levy.

By then, Baker hopes to find out whether Israel will revise its stand on holding talks with Arab nations and the Palestinians.

On Sunday, Baker said at a news conference in Cairo that he was not putting pressure on Israel, but he made it clear that negotiations should have "an international characteristic."

He then flew to Saudi Arabia to discuss a sharply limited role for that oil-rich kingdom in resolving the Arab-Israeli dispute.

Saud, the foreign minister, said "participation in the meeting traditionally has been the countries that are involved directly in the negotiations."

Saud said these nations were Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and Israel. "I think this format is a workable format and it's a practical format," he said.

World

Taiwan ends cold war with China

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — The National Assembly voted today to end an era of Cold War confrontation with China and approved a change in the constitution that could loosen the Nationalist Party's grip on power in Taiwan.

Officials expect the changes to move Taiwan toward constitutional democracy and to improve relations between the Nationalist and Communist governments, possibly leading eventually to talks on China's reunification.

The Nationalists have ruled Taiwan since 1949, when they fled mainland China after losing a civil war to Communist forces. Both governments regard Taiwan as a Chinese province.

The National Assembly voted 438-7 to abrogate wartime provisions enacted in 1948 on the "suppression of the Communist rebellion." This had allowed the Nationalists to suspend certain constitutional rights and justify emergency measures.

President Lee Teng-hui is expected to formally announce an end to the anti-Communist emergency next week.

"Official talks (between Taiwan and China) on direct trade and other issues look more possible now that the key obstacle is removed," said Chuang Shohan of the private National Policy Research Center.

Kohl's home state ousts his Party

BERLIN (AP) — In a stinging rebuff to Chancellor Helmut Kohl who broke a campaign promise and raised taxes, voters have ousted the German leader's Christian Democratic Union from the government of his home state.

Sunday's election in the southwestern state of Rhineland-Palatinate was the first in Germany since Kohl's center-right coalition swept to an easy national election victory in December, when unification euphoria prevailed.

The conservative Christian Democrats had controlled the state's government for 44 years. Now, it will be run by a Social Democrat-dominated coalition.

Heiner Geissler, a leading member of the Christian Democrats, said the party was suffering from a "credibility crisis" that requires a "new beginning."

Bjoern Engholm, the Social Democrats' chairman-designate, said state party leaders should strive for stability in deciding whether to form a coalition government with the environmentalist Greens or centrist Free Democrats.

Leaders of the various parties were meeting today to review the outcome of the Rhineland-Palatinate voting.

Baghdad expected to cooperate

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — The Austrian who heads the U.N. peacekeeping force being deployed at the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border says he's confident Baghdad will cooperate in ensuring the well-being of refugees in the border buffer zone.

Maj. Gen. Gunther Greindl did not, however, say when the 1,440-member force will relieve the U.S. troops currently helping protect and feed the 40,000 Iraqi refugees in the border buffer zone.

Many refugees fear reprisal from Saddam Hussein's army once U.S. forces have withdrawn from southern Iraq.

The refugees fled fighting between government forces and rebels that erupted after the Feb. 28 cease-fire in the Persian Gulf War.

"The Iraqi government wants to be helpful. They want to see a solution, to have their refugees returned home," Greindl said.



AID DROP

Kennedy's home besieged with callers

PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Consider the plight of Edward Kennedy.

His wife's name is Joan, his mother is Rose and he's getting calls from all over the country. But there's a hitch: This Kennedy is black, has never been a senator and "just wants these nuts to leave me alone."

Kennedy, 38, has been a staff photographer at the Palm Beach Post for 2 1/2 years, and lives nowhere near the imposing Kennedy estate.

It was on the property of the famous Kennedys that a 29-year-old woman said she was raped three weeks ago by William Kennedy Smith, a nephew of Sen. Edward Kennedy. No charges have been filed and Smith, 30, denies the woman's allegation.

Kennedy the photographer, whose wife screens his calls, said their home is modest. "We just have a two-bedroom apartment in West Palm (Beach) and it overlooks a little lagoon, not the Atlantic Ocean."

But that hasn't stopped people far away as North Dakota from offering advice or criticism for "Senator Kennedy," the Massachusetts Democrat.

"They're not easily dissuaded when told they're calling the wrong man."



WRONG KENNEDY

conference was planned today in the case surrounding the alleged March 30 rape.

They have also said it could be another three weeks before they get test results on Smith's hair and blood samples.

The photojournalist Kennedy said he also received a mailgram addressed to Smith. The mailgram was sent in care of Sen. Edward Kennedy.

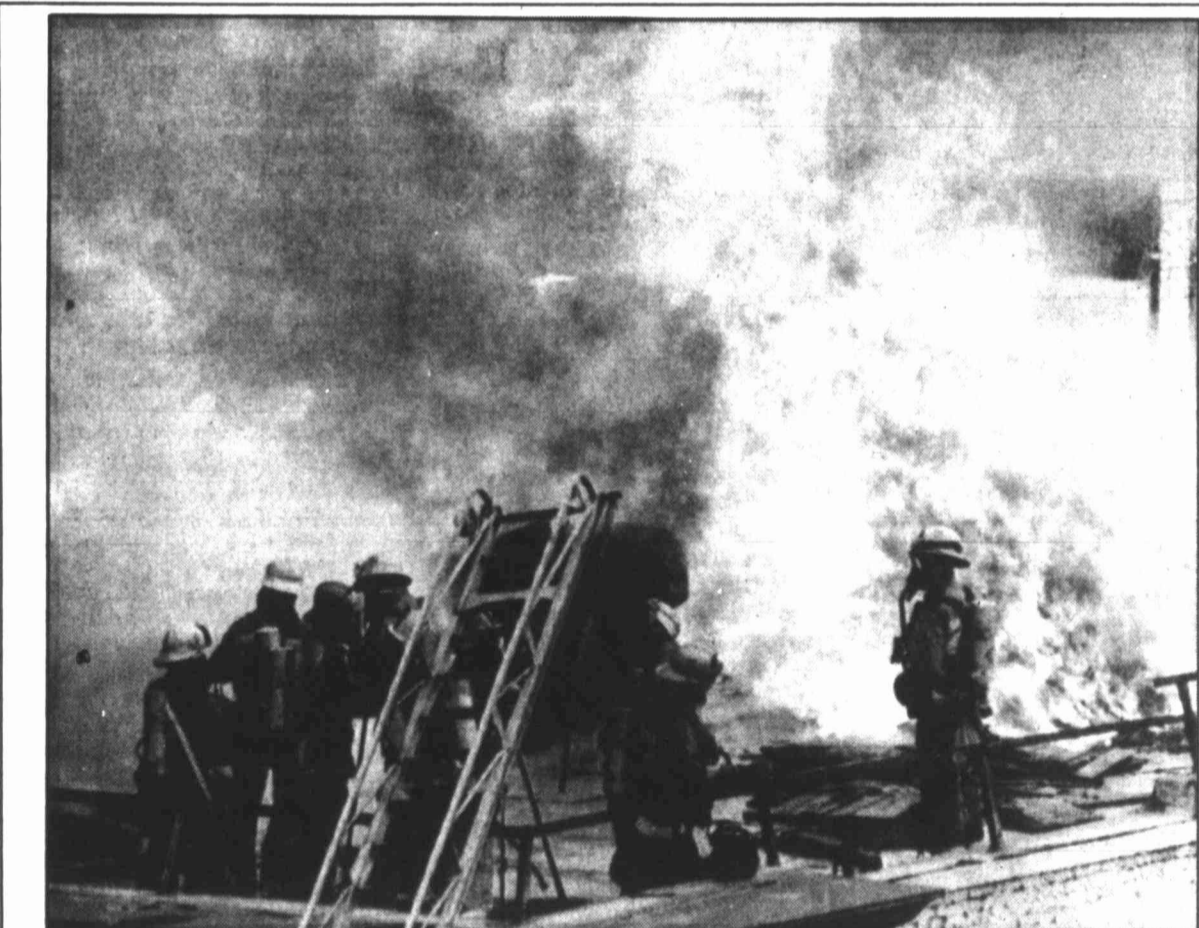
"He was a true lunatic, he said he was taking orders from George Bush," Kennedy said.

But most intriguing was the phone call Edward Kennedy the photographer received from a "real sweet, young-sounding woman" from North Dakota.

"She asked if Ted was there," said Kennedy. "When I just said no, she said, 'Oh, he must have gone back to Washington. Just tell him Donna called.'"

Kennedy said he has not been covering the case for his newspaper and hopes it's over soon.

One thing's for sure, Kennedy said. His wife is expecting their first child in July, and "We're not going to name it Patrick or Caroline or any of those names — especially not John or Edward."



Associated Press photo

Retreat from the flames

LOS ANGELES — Los Angeles firefighters prepare to leave the roof of a burning building late Saturday afternoon in the downtown section of Los Angeles as flames explode behind them.

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Lifestyle

Donors have gift of life

DEAR ABBY: I am 17 years old and have had my driver's license for more than one year.

While growing up I considered donating my organs, but my mind wasn't made up until I saw a letter in your column. The line I remember best was the statement about "giving my eyes" so a blind person could see.

I would really appreciate it if you would run that piece again. It changed my outlook on donating organs, and maybe it will change someone else's. — **JOLYN OWEN, NEWARK, OHIO**

DEAR JOLYN: The letter you recall came from the father of a boy named Michael, and now is an appropriate time to rerun it because this is National Organ-Tissue Donor Awareness Week:

DEAR ABBY: Last May, our 22-year-old son, Michael, was involved in a motorcycle accident. He was pronounced brain-dead three days later. Because of an article in your column, he carried an organ donor card in his wallet. The Lord took our precious son 10 days later, but we were comforted knowing that Michael gave two blind people the gift of sight, and a young father who had been on a kidney machine for three years is now living a normal life.

Abby, please let your readers know how to will their organs after death. — **MICHAEL'S FATHER**

DEAR FATHER: My heart goes out to you and your family on the loss of your beloved son. May I again offer this beautiful essay written by Robert N. Test:

TO REMEMBER ME: At a certain moment a doctor will determine that my brain has ceased to function and that, for all intents and purposes, my life has stopped.

When that happens, do not attempt to instill artificial life into

Dear Abby



my body by the use of a machine. And don't call this my "deathbed." Call it my "bed of life," and let my body be taken from it to help others lead fuller lives.

Give my sight to a man who has never seen a sunrise, a baby's face or love in the eyes of a woman.

Give my heart to a person whose own heart has caused nothing but endless days of pain.

Give my blood to the teen-ager who has been pulled from the wreckage of his car, so that he might live to see his grandchildren play.

Give my kidneys to one who depends on a machine to exist from week to week.

Take my bones, every muscle, every fiber and nerve in my body and find a way to make a crippled child walk.

Explore every corner of my brain. Take my cells, if necessary, and let them grow so that someday a speechless boy will shout at the crack of a bat and a deaf girl will hear the sound of rain against her windows.

Burn what is left of me and scatter the ashes to the winds to help the flowers grow.

If you must bury something, let it be my faults, my weaknesses and all my prejudice against my fellow man.

Give my soul to God. If by chance you wish to remember me, do it with a kind deed or word to someone who needs you. If you do all I have asked, I will live forever.

Conservation District announces contest winners

"Protect Our Water and Use it Wisely" was the theme of the poster contest recently conducted for Howard County school children in the fourth, fifth and sixth grades. Grand prize winners from participating schools will be honored by the Howard Soil and Water Conservation District, sponsors of the contest, at their Annual Awards Dinner on Tuesday at La Posada.

Each year the Howard SWCD furnishes participating schools with educational cartoon booklets and teacher's guides on various topics relating to conservation education. The booklets help children understand the importance of natural resources to life and how people affect the use of those resources. Teacher's guides are adaptable to a variety of subject areas and, in addition to science studies, can be used effectively in health, math, social studies and language arts classes.

This year's poster contest winners in each school with entrants are:

Coahoma — grand prize — Charlie Harman, Mrs. Blackwell 15th grade class. Fifth grade — Mrs. Blackwell, 1st — Keith Rich, 2nd — Renea Rister, 3rd — Jerry Meeks, Honorable Mention — Tillie O'Daniel, Barkley Robinson, Cassie Bumgarner, Phillip Guzman, Kirk Fowler, Krista Stanislaus, William Tucker, and Chad Winn. Mrs. Riley, 1st — Justin Olivas, 2nd — Allison West, 3rd — Denise Ward. Honorable Mention — Regi Roberts, Ester Edmondson, Amelia Armendarez, Kyle Wyatt, and Johnathan Barr. Mrs. Tindol, 1st — Tara Sterling, 2nd — Shana Earnest, 3rd — Rebecca Choate, Honorable Mention — Steven Prater, Justin Gamble, Rilely Hipp and Alan Dunlap. Sixth grade — Mrs. Wilson, 1st — Jeff Nichols.

Bauer — grand prize — Josh Long, Mrs. Simmons 4th grade class. Fourth grade — Mrs. Simmons, 1st — D.J. Graves, 2nd — Lauren Hillman, 3rd — tie between Kylee Melissa Welch and Brian Johnson. Mrs. Long, 1st — Erin Schwertner, 2nd — Juanita Valdez, 3rd — tie between Ruben Munoz and Pokey Graves, Honorable Mention — Vincent Alvarado, Jesse Darnall, Matthew Simmons and Ruben Hernandez. Fifth grade — Mrs. Britton, 1st — Bryan Porras, 2nd — Ryan Schwertner, 3rd — Emily Mouton, Honorable Mention — Shawn Young, Stephanie Waggoner, Edward Ornelas, and Brian Nguyen. Mrs. Berringer, 1st — Wesley Mouton, 2nd — Yvette Gonzales, 3rd — Ramnath Subbaraman, Honorable Mention — Normas Rios, Lauren Middleton, Justin Myers, Blake Weaver, Eric Hansen, Marco Torres, Kelly Hinojos, Michelle Owens-O'Neal. Mrs. Freeze, 1st — Maggie Haddad, 2nd — Brandon Polyniak, 3rd — Yvonne Gonzales, Honorable Mention — Jason Brock, Clayton Pate, Dominique Viera, Michelle Steward, Tiffany Tindol, Mathew Fraser, Alicia Wood. Mrs. Pike — 1st — Jashua Hadley, 2nd — Dane Richardson, 3rd — Marchello Williams, Honorable Mention — Keely Renea Patterson, Beatrice Trevino and Cecily D. Paredez.

Kentwood — grand prize — Adrian Darnall, Mrs. Bell's 4th grade class. Fourth grade — Mrs. Bell, 1st tie between Jennifer Wallace and Tonya Tabor, 2nd — tie Nikki Tatom and Dominica Thacker, 3rd — Erica Rodriguez, Honorable Mention — Kim Dominguez, Brandon Turner, Kim Pineda, Lackey Grey and Amy Rogers. Mrs. Holbrook, 1st — Tammie Fuller, Jeffrey Castle, 3rd — Angela Green, Honorable Mention —

Brooke Jones, Kayla Truitt, Nicole Truhe, Allison Woodall, and Aaron Boadle. Fifth grade — Mrs. Boyd — 1st — Jason Lasater, 2nd tie between Elizabeth Driver and Meghan Fernandez, 3rd — Gill Grawunder, Honorable Mention — Brandon Blagrove, Lisa Boyd, Sunni Smith, Jeremy Blount, and Monica Villareal. Mrs. Hendrickson, 1st — Melanie Fleniken, 2nd — Justin Cotton, Angela Sturm, Honorable Mention — Stephanie McConnell, Greg Wallenzien, Kayne Stroup, Kimberly Long, Heather Herren, Justin Morris and Chelan Cook.

Marcy — grand prize — Marisa Smith, Mrs. Helms' 5th grade class. Fourth grade — Mrs. Cain, 1st — Alise Goillandeau, 2nd — Tonya Collins, 3rd — Dustin Herrod, Casey Cowley, Anthony Evans, Brian Ortiz, Jessica Hernandez, and Kim Avant. Mrs. Swinney, 1st — Josh Andrews, 2nd tie between Jaelyn Owusu and Sherry Burdette, 3rd — Stephanie Ann Lewis, Honorable Mention — Sieglende Robinson, Sebastian Goillandeau, Dusty Palmer, Lori Broussard and Heather Michell Burt. Mrs. Brooks 1st — Anthony Mendoza, 2nd — tie between Travis Gray and Nichole Hurrington, 3rd — tie Bryan Wilkins and Katrina Bustamante, Honorable Mention — Autumn Smith, Eddie Galvin, Jerry Overton, Alan Scott and Rachel Ray. Mrs. Armstrong, 1st — Erica Johnston, 2nd Tiffany Birrell, 3rd — tie Stephanie Jameldan and Cindy Landin, Honorable Mention — Jennifer Sanchez, Amanda Larson, Mitzi Yancy, Rudy Gamboa and Brooke Daylong. Mrs. Kajawski, 1st — Yuching Li, 2nd — Kenny Salenz, 3rd — tie Laura Contreras and Nikki Mendoza, Honorable Mention — Christina Roemer, Cherilyn Hunt, Harrigan Williams and Matt

Martinez. Fifth grade — Mrs. Helms, 1st — Tim Parker, 2nd Armand Harrell. Mrs. Smith, 1st — Amanda Goble, 2nd — Justin Brim, Mrs. Harris, 1st — Belinda Garcia, 2nd — Allison Thomas, 3rd Nichole Knous. Mrs. Eckert, 1st — Veronica Martinez, 2nd — Manfred Robinson, 3rd — Antwoyne Edwards, Honorable Mention — Dusty Osburn.

Moss — grand prize — Karen Martinez, Mrs. Miller's 4th grade class. Fourth grade — Mrs. Miller, 1st — Kevin Ramsey, 2nd — Timothy Crawford, 3rd — Pricilla Hernandez, Honorable Mention — Paula Rivera, April Metcalf and Drew McKinney. Mrs. McKinney, 1st Marty Hendricks, 2nd — Lisa Rocha, 3rd — Samantha Granado, Honorable Mention — Krystal Adams, Lachie Musgrove, Chris Conatser, Riley Brackeen, Stephanie Wright and Cindy Ruderger.

Fifth grade — Mrs. Alexander, 1st — ShaKeesha Lott, 2nd — Erika Cate, 3rd Frankie Loya, Honorable Mention — Abraham Carranza, Sachie Brito, Dawna Kirkpatrick. Mrs. Addy, 1st — Monica Zubiate, 2nd — Farrah Schooler, 3rd — Andrea Vera, Honorable Mention — Dominick Fiero, Clark Williams, Matt Crawford, Craig Talbott, and Frank Ornelas.

Washington — grand prize — Michelle Fleckinstein. Mrs. Hawkins' 5th grade class. Fourth grade — Mrs. Hensley, 1st — David Buckner, Ms. Froman, 1st — Meridith Ware, 2nd — Recia Shults, 3rd — Britton Hull, Honorable Mention — Karen Paredez. Fifth grade — Mrs. Hawkins, 1st — Nikki Armstrong, 2nd — Maribel Armstrong. Mrs. Parks, 1st — Michael Lee and James Ussey. Mrs. Ware — 1st — Aaron Bogard, 2nd — Brandy Isbell. Congratulations to all!

Club notes

Elbow Homemakers

The Elbow Extension Homemakers Club met in regular session, April 18, in the home of Madred Bradley.

Eleven members and one guest, Jowili Etchison, attended the luncheon, followed by a business meeting and program.

All the food at the luncheon was made with beans or apples. Madred read the devotional: Matthew 6:19-21.

The thought was "Closets are places where some people hang things after they run out of doorknobs."

Roll call was answered with "How I solved a storage problem."

There will be a leader training meeting April 24, Recycling: Trash Management for Families and Communities. Sybil Duffer and Ruth Morton will attend.

The club members will tour the "White Pool House" in Odessa, May 16. Muriel Prokschl gave the program on "Beans." She said beans are probably the most overlooked cholesterol — fighter. They are inexpensive, high in protein, cholesterol-free and brimming with soluble fiber. All types of beans are good for your heart but to lower cholesterol, concentrate on legumes such as pinto beans, kidney beans and blackeyed peas. The next meeting will be May 2, in the home of Lou Vincent.

NARVRE notes

The National Association of Retired ans Veteran Railway Employees or NARVRE met at Kentwood Older Adult Center, April 18, for the evening meal. Mrs.

Claudia McCreary, president, called the business meeting to order.

One minute of silence was held in memory of Mrs. Margaret Louise Horton, who passed away April 8.

The unit was notified that the permanent headquarters are now located in Independence, Missouri, 3675 Noland Road, Suite 145. The next meeting will be at the KOAC, May 16, 1991 at 6 p.m.

Sheppard rides again

Mary Kay cosmetics independent sales director, Dene Sheppard of Big Spring has once again been honored as one of the company's top achievers. In recognition of leadership abilities and sales achievements, the company awarded Sheppard the free use of a pink Pontiac Grand Prix sedan.

Sales directors assist the efforts of other Mary Kay consultants by providing training, guidance, leadership and motivation. There are about 5,000 Mary Kay cars on the roads today. Make that 5,001.

Tall Talkers meet

Tall Talkers Toastmasters Club held its weekly meeting, April 16. Toastmaster of the day was Bill Frey. Table topics were led by Donna Jackson.

Each member was given the opportunity to speak on the topic of the day, which was a dissertation on facing death. Best table topic speaker was Earl Bushey. Mr. Bushey was also voted best speaker. Carl Johansen was voted best evaluator.

The goal of Tall Talkers is to educate people to become better leaders and communicators. If you are interested in becoming a Tall Talker Toastmaster, please contact Bailey Anderson, 267-3008.

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Gorbachev caught in the middle

MOSCOW (AP) — Prime Minister Valentin Pavlov today forecast massive unemployment if the republics and the central government don't adopt an anti-crisis program that will ease the transition to a market economy.

President Mikhail S. Gorbachev said today that he expected criticism of the proposed program at a pivotal Communist Party meeting on Wednesday. He spoke to reporters after laying a wreath on the Lenin Mausoleum to mark the 121st anniversary of the Soviet founder's birth.

The program's most controversial point is the sale of some state-owned businesses to private groups or individuals. Pavlov told the Supreme Soviet legislature that two-thirds of small businesses in the service and consumer goods sectors would be privatized by the end of 1992.

Gorbachev faces increasing criticism from both conservatives and democratic reformers of his handling of the country's daunting political and economic troubles.

Hard-line lawmakers began pushing Sunday for a special session of the Soviet Congress of People's Deputies, a larger legislative body that meets occasionally, to impose a state of emergency. But reformers pledged to counter any such declaration with a general strike.

Hard-liners seek the reimposition of strict Kremlin control and the banning of political parties. Reformers want greater autonomy for the country's republics, economic decentralization and private ownership of property.

Pavlov told the Supreme Soviet, or standing legislature, that the gross national product will drop by 20 percent and 18 million people will be unemployed if a current wave of strikes and violations of government contracts continues.

If the country decides to switch quickly from a centrally planned to a free-market economy, the national product will fall by more than 30 percent and 30 million people will lose their jobs, he predicted.

The only way to stabilize the economy is to take a third course, which would include the rapid sale of government businesses to private groups and individuals, changes in taxes and encouragement of foreign investment.

This can be done only with the cooperation of the 15 republics, he said.

"The situation in the country can only be characterized as a general crisis," Pavlov said. Gorbachev sat nearby but did not speak.

Later at the Lenin Mausoleum, Gorbachev told reporters he expected "serious proposals" and criticism of his latest economic reforms at Wednesday's meeting of the Communist Party Central Committee.

"Comrades have made comments like, 'Isn't it too much of a turn toward liberalization of the economy, toward capitalization? And what will the consequences be?'"

With the economy collapsing and the republics breaking away from the central government, Gorbachev is expected to face demands at the Communist Party Central Committee meeting for his removal as party chief.

Gorbachev did not directly address that prospect in his talk with reporters, but his Communist Party deputy, Vladimir Ivashko, said he does not exclude the possibility party members will demand Gorbachev's ouster.

Gorbachev has refused to resign as party general secretary or national president. He took power as party chief in 1985 and was elected president by the Soviet Congress last year. He has never faced a popular vote.

In its resolution approved on Sunday, the hard-line parliamentary group Soyuz launched a petition drive seeking the special session of the 2,250 member Soviet Congress.

The resolution demanded that the Congress impose a nationwide state of emergency, including banning political parties and reversing economic reforms such as price increases and new commercial freedoms.

While not openly demanding Gorbachev's ouster, the resolution also calls on Gorbachev to justify his use of the sweeping executive powers granted to him by parliament last year.



Gorby banks a hit

SEOUL — A father buys a toy bank of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev for his little son at a department store in Seoul on Saturday. Many

Koreans are buying the banks to commemorate Gorbachev's summit talks in South Korea.

Associated Press photo

Buckyballs found to be superconductors

ATLANTA (AP) — A year after they were first produced in quantity, newly discovered soccer ball-shaped carbon clusters known as Buckminsterfullerenes — or "buckyballs" around the lab — have been found to be superconductors.

Superconductors are substances that can carry electricity without resistance. Such qualities could open the door to development of faster computers, bullet trains and more efficient storage and transmission of power.

The possible uses of buckyballs aren't yet clear.

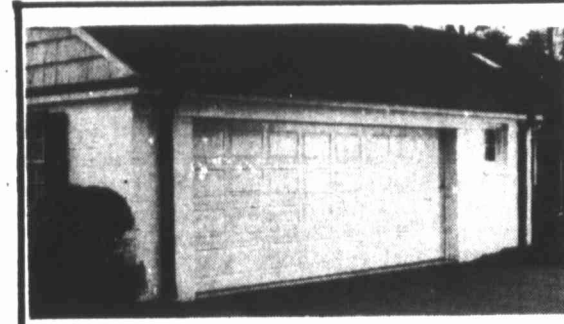
"It's now in the realm of science, rather than technology," said Dr. Robert C. Haddon of AT&T Bell

Labs said at an American Chemical Society meeting here. "We don't anticipate any large rush to commercialize this at the moment."

But in the world of chemistry, something like this causes quite a stir.

"This has got our scientists running around like a bunch of 8-year-olds with charge cards at Toys R Us," said AT&T Bell Labs spokesman Russ Glover.

Scientists first postulated the existence of Buckminsterfullerenes in 1985; the material was first produced in quantity last year. The name comes from the cluster's shape, resembling Buckminster Fuller's famous geodesic dome.



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Ear acti spa (AP) — thusiasm g day's Earth people pick trees and raise cash world in w There w San Franc in Seattle, New Orle, Massachus Thousands trees and parks thro More ev day around observance "Cleanin going to las Brown, wh cleanup th San Franc "But pec there's lo beaches," time they' likely to t There al in Seattle, were relea city's Car were plan park. In Los Chevy Ch Mayron an a walk-a-t

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CAPE CA — Despite NASA cou toward T space shutt assortme instrument Shuttle w day there w of favorab EDT, liftof than Sunda concerns v wind and p The odds prove to 30- The foreca day or Thu Officials more than liquid oxyg into Discov test directo managers l with shuttl weather pr "As you predicta "Generally ahead and a chance of Mission Coats said divine in weather. "If you please say anxious to one time," ing at Ker Saturday astronauts. The crev ing airfraf and attend seven mer space befor NASA tes said the co on time de Sunday in cargo bay

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Earth Day activities span world

(AP) — Environmental enthusiasm got a head start on today's Earth Day celebration with people picking up trash, planting trees and even cutting hair to raise cash and concern for the world in which they live.

There was a beach cleanup in San Francisco, a salmon release in Seattle, educational events in New Orleans and concerts in Massachusetts and New Jersey. Thousands of volunteers planted trees and shrubs and cleaned parks throughout Chicago.

More events were planned today around the world for the 21st observance of Earth Day.

"Cleaning up the beach is only going to last one day," said Maria Brown, who organized a Sunday cleanup that drew 200 people to San Francisco's Ocean Beach.

"But people here are learning there's lots of trash on our beaches," Brown said. "So next time they're here, they're not so likely to tolerate it."

There also was a beach cleanup in Seattle. Thousands of salmon were released into a creek in the city's Carkeek Park and trees were planted at another city park.

In Los Angeles, comedian Chevy Chase, actress Melanie Mayron and other celebrities held a walk-a-thon at 20th Century Fox



CHICAGO — Volunteers and City of Chicago employees plant a tree in a Chicago park Saturday as part of pre-Earth Day activities. This year, emphasis is being placed on cleanup and tree planting as some 8,000 volunteers clean up 265 parks throughout the city.

to raise money for environmental groups. Stylists at five Southern California beauty parlors snipped locks and massaged scalps to raise money for environmental causes.

In Holmdel, N.J., about 8,000 soggy Earth Day celebrants stood in the rain for a concert starring Southside Johnny, the Turtles,

Joe Walsh and Grammy-winning songwriter Julie Gold.

Before the music, a group on the stage led concert-goers through the Earth Day pledge. They said they would "pledge to learn how the Earth's natural systems work" and "work together toward restoring the health of the planet."

On Saturday, veggie burgers served on real plates — instead of throwaways — and drinks served in reusable cups were the cuisine of choice at an Earth Day concert in Foxboro, Mass.

About 35,000 people gathered under partly sunny skies for the benefit concert featuring Willie Nelson.

Official defends cost as a Medicare factor

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal health official denies the Medicare program is retreating from its obligations to the elderly with a proposal that cost be a factor in deciding whether to pay for new high-tech treatments.

Gail R. Wilensky, head of the Health Care Financing Administration, commented Sunday after critics said they were worried the new rule might place added burdens on Medicare patients or deprive them of the benefit of medical advances.

"What we are doing is adding cost as an element into the consideration," Wilensky said in a telephone interview. "We are just trying to bring this into the calculation."

"The notion that things which provide clear advances or benefits might not be covered if they happen to be expensive is not something that would occur," she said.

Wilensky said she has sent the rule to Health and Human Services Secretary Louis Sullivan for approval, but "it is not... the policy of the department because it has not been acted upon."

Gordon B. Schatz, a lawyer who specializes in health care issues, said "The big concern is that cost effectiveness may not be used as a means to assure cost consciousness, but to preclude access to important technologies."

"I find it a little paradoxical that a program designed to protect

senior citizens against cost now may be stepping back from its public obligations to protect them just because something may be too expensive," Schatz said.

Wilensky said the government is "not proposing that cost in any way be the determinant."

"If there would be a significant added benefit, then cost is not going to be an issue," she said.

In cases where benefits of a new treatment are "marginal or basically the same" as an existing treatment, she said, the government would use cost as one factor in deciding whether to pay. In some cases, she said, "we may have that as an allowed coverage but not be willing to pay more than the alternative that is already available."

Horace B. Deets of the American Association of Retired Persons said, "I understand the deficit and the economy, but what concerns me is that we are not taking into account the burden it is putting on people in need of health care."

Deets said he had not studied the specific rule, but that too many proposals to deal with health costs merely "shift the cost perhaps from the government to individuals."

Previous rules have called for considering safety and effectiveness in determining whether Medicare would pay for services and procedures such as liver transplants, kidney dialysis and magnetic resonance imaging.

NASA proceeds despite gloomy weather outlook

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Despite predicted bad weather, NASA counted down the seconds toward Tuesday's launch of the space shuttle Discovery and its assortment of "Star Wars" instruments.

Shuttle weather officers said today there was a 40 percent chance of favorable weather at 7:05 a.m. EDT, liftoff time, slightly better than Sunday's forecast. The main concerns were low clouds, high wind and possible rain.

The odds were expected to improve to 50-50 later in the morning. The forecast is better for Wednesday or Thursday.

Officials planned to start loading more than a half-million gallons of liquid oxygen and liquid hydrogen into Discovery late tonight. NASA test director Al Sofge said mission managers have tended to proceed with shuttle fueling despite poor weather predicted for launch time.

"As you know, weather is unpredictable," Sofge said. "Generally, the bias has been to go ahead and tank if we think we have a chance of launching."

Mission commander Michael Coats said he would be grateful for divine intervention with the weather.

"If you all know any prayers, please say them because we'll be anxious to climb in and do it just one time," Coats said after arriving at Kennedy Space Center on Saturday with the six other astronauts.

The crew flew the shuttle training aircraft and trainer jets today and attended briefings. Five of the seven men have never flown in space before.

NASA test director Eric Redding said the countdown was proceeding on time despite a few hours' delay Sunday in closing Discovery's cargo bay doors. Workers en-

"If you all know any prayers, please say them because we'll be anxious to climb in and do it just one time."

Mission Commander Michael Coats.

countered a minor blockage while loading liquid helium into one of the scientific instruments inside the bay, he said.

"We had done a lot of advance planning and built some contingency time in, and that paid off for us," Redding said. "Right now, we're just proceeding as planned and watching the weather."

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration has until Thursday to get Discovery off the ground.

If the shuttle doesn't lift off by then, the launch will have to be delayed five days so more liquid helium can be loaded into the instrument sponsored by the office for the Strategic Defense Initiative, commonly called "Star Wars."

That instrument will measure infrared radiation from the northern lights, cirrus clouds and the horizon. It is one of five scientific experiments on the flight.

SDI officials said such measurements are needed to develop sensors that can track and destroy enemy missiles.

Also on board Discovery is a "Star Wars" spacecraft to be placed in orbit for 14 days to study the shuttle's exhaust plumes and releases of chemicals and gases for similar purposes. The crew will retrieve it for further experiments and a return to Earth.

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Sidelines Sports Slate

BASEBALL Monday, April 22 - Coahoma vs. Snyder JV (doubleheader)...

Maryland top NFL pick

NEW YORK (AP) - Rocket just because Raghib Ismail decided to accept a suitcase full of Toronto Argonaut dollars to play in the Canadian Football League...



NEWPORT BEACH, Calif. - Russell Maryland smiles as he dons a Dallas Cowboys hat after the Cowboys made Maryland their No. 1 pick in the NFL draft Sunday.

Hero's welcome for Foreman

HOUSTON (AP) - George Foreman received a champion's homecoming Saturday, eleven hours after failing to wrestle the heavyweight boxing championship away from Evander Holyfield.

Rodeo teams fare well at WTC rodeo

The Howard College rodeo teams had good performances at the Western Texas College Rodeo over the weekend. The women's team finished second with 135 points...

Warriors win gives Spurs division title

By The Associated Press The San Antonio Spurs have perhaps the best center in the NBA in David Robinson, and have amassed nearly 200 more blocked shots and 369 more rebounds than the Golden State Warriors this season.



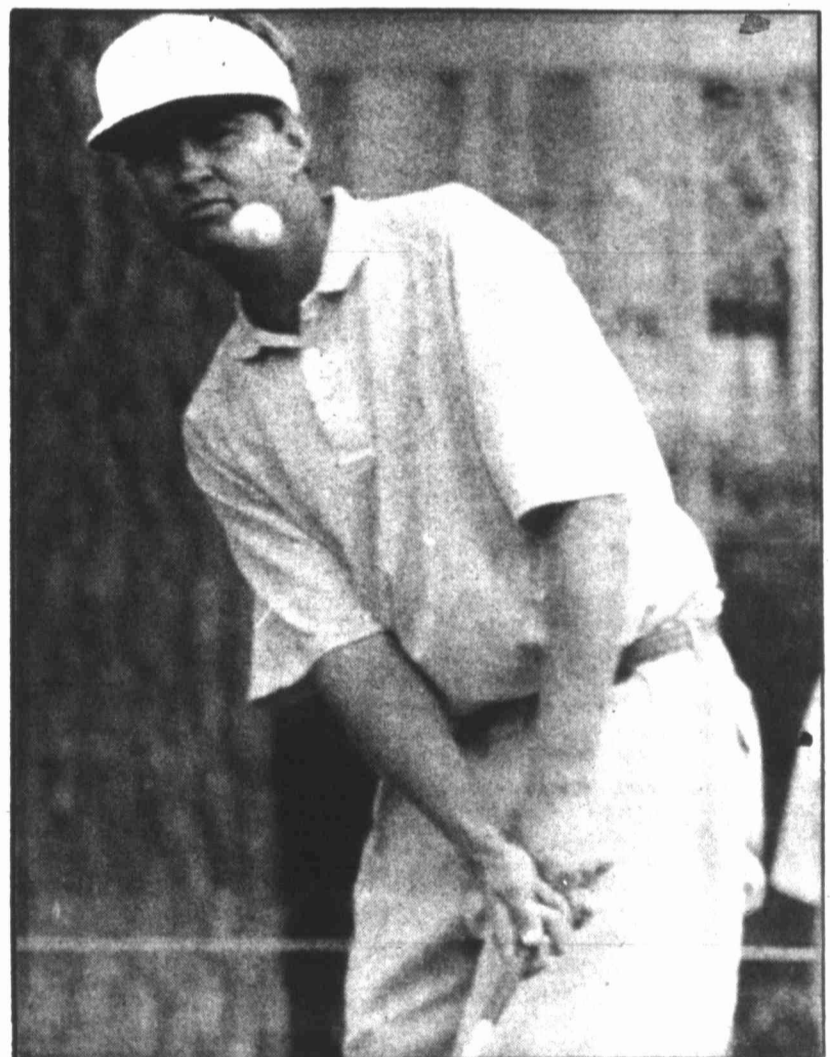
BOSTON - Boston Celtics forward Larry Bird (33) battles with Atlanta Hawks Duane Ferrell (middle) and Moses Malone for control of the ball in Sunday NBA action.



Tough landing Pecos Eagles shortstop Tony Lavanio (right) takes a hard tumble as Big Spring Steers' Gerald Cobos breaks up a double play in Saturday baseball action at Steer Field.

Love regroups for Heritage crown

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, S.C. (AP) - Davis Love III was cruising along with a four-stroke lead at the Heritage Classic when he bounced his ball first into a tree, then a house and, finally, a pond.



HILTON HEAD, S.C. - Davis Love III of Sea Island, Ga. watches his chip shot fly to the 12th green on his way to winning the MCI Heritage Classic Sunday.

Steers JV drops Coahoma

COAHOMA - Mike Smith scored from second base with two outs in the fourth with what proved to be the winning run as the Big Spring junior varsity downed Coahoma, 3-2, here Friday.

Welch me chapel

Stanton Herald

Monday

Serving Crossroads Country — West

14 Pages 2 Sections

Vol. 2 No. 249

April 22, 1991

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Weather

Mostly clear and sunny through Tuesday. Low tonight in the 50s; high tomorrow in the 80s.

Sunday's high temperature	91
Sunday's low temperature	50
Average high	81
Average low	52
Record high	101 in 1945
Record low	30 in 1927
Rainfall Sunday	0.00
Month to date	0.00
Normal for Month	1.58
Year to date	02.61
Normal for year	02.90

GHS sponsoring co-ed volleyball

The Grady High School Student Council is sponsoring a co-ed volleyball tournament at 4 p.m. Thursday.

Entry fee is \$60 per team. Format is an eight-team tournament with a consolation bracket. The first four teams will receive T-shirts.

Contact Johnny Tubb at 459-2445 or Laurie Romine at 459-2349 for details.

FCA, faculty to hold game

The Fellowship of Christian Athletes and the Stanton ISD faculty will hold an evening of entertainment for the public at 8 p.m. May 2 in the high school gym.

The FCA urges the public to come and support them to raise money for their summer trip.

Tickets are \$2 for adults and \$1 for students.

PSI chapter hosting luncheon

MIDLAND — The Permian Chapter of Professional Secretaries International will hold a "Secretary Day" for area secretaries and their executives from 11:45 a.m.-1:15 p.m. Wednesday at the Petroleum Club, 501 West Wall.

Cost is \$12.50 per person. Registration deadline is 5 p.m. Tuesday. RSVP to Jean Jones or contact Mrs. Jones at 682-9771 for further information.

KOC sponsoring pancake jubilee

The St. Joseph Catholic Church Knights of Columbus No. 8744 will sponsor an All-Day Pancake Jubilee Saturday at the Martin County Community Center, according to spokesman Clemente Villa.

The all-you-can-eat jubilee will last from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m.

Tickets, available at the door, are \$5 for adults and \$3 for children. The public is invited.

Jaycees plan barn dance

The Howard County Jaycees invite everyone to dance to the music of "Country Express" at their upcoming barn dance.

The dance is scheduled at the Dora Roberts Community Center Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

All guests must be 21 or older with I.D. "Set-ups" will be available for those who bring liquor.

Overnight guests can get a Jaycee discount at the Great Western Motel.

Proceeds from the event will be divided between DeFY-IT and the Area One Jaycee's state presidential campaign.

RSVP, 263-2474 or 263-7219.

Saudis back Baker

KUWAIT CITY (AP) — Secretary of State James A. Baker III today gained the support of Saudi Arabia for a Mideast peace conference and then took a detour from diplomacy to inspect Kuwait's burning oil fields, a stubborn legacy of the Persian Gulf War.

Before leaving Jiddah, Saudi Arabia, Baker had a 35-minute telephone conversation with Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander A. Bessmertnykh. Baker would like Moscow to cosponsor the peace talks, provided the Soviets resume full diplomatic relations with Israel after a 24-year lapse.

The foreign minister is expected to make a trip to Israel soon. Baker's detailed briefing and the fact that he is keeping his schedule open raised a possibility that he could fly to Moscow to make preparations to host the conference if he is able to resolve differences between Israel and the Arabs on the framework and agenda for peace talks.

An administration official, insisting on anonymity, said he could not discuss Baker's schedule past Wednesday, when he will be in Israel again.

The Saudis confirmed during Baker's meetings in Jiddah with King Fahd and Prince Saud, the

• BAKER page 8-A



Strike up the band
The Stanton High School Buffalo Band, shown in this 1990 file photo, will hold its annual pre-contest concert at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in the high school auditorium. Band Director Kirke McKenzie said the concert is free to the public.

Texas taxes burden middle class

WASHINGTON (AP) — Texas soaks the poor, spares the rich, and forces middle-income families into paying the lion's share of taxes for state services, says a study released today.

An analysis by Citizens for Tax Justice said the poorest working families in Texas spend 17.1 percent of their incomes on state taxes while the richest spend just 3.1 percent. Middle-income Texans pay

8.4 percent of their earnings on sales, excise and property taxes.

Only Washington state has a higher tax rate on the poor, 17.4 percent, and only four other states have lower taxes on the wealthy than Texas, the report said.

Citizens for Tax Justice said the problem in Texas, deemed one of its "Terrible Ten," is over-reliance on regressive sales and excise taxes and the lack of a progressive,

pay-by-ability income tax.

"It's soak the poor, soak the middle class, and a great big wide umbrella for the rich," said Bruce Fisher, research director for the labor-backed lobbying group.

"If Texas is ever going to have enough money to fix its schools or build more prisons ... or handle basic services, it's going to have to look beyond the people with the least money. Because you can't

squeeze money out of a stone when there's a whole orchard that hasn't been picked," he said.

Fisher said an income tax is also more reliable as a source of state income because once there's a recession and spending falls, revenues also tumble. That results in cuts to state services just as unemployment lines lengthen and the need for help increases.

• TAXES page 8-A



High water
HAMPTON, Va. — Roy Vaughn, left, listens to Debbie Mauro, whose car stalled in high water Saturday. Vaughn later pushed the car to higher ground where it restarted.

Carbon monoxide thought cause of campers' deaths

BOURNE, Mass. (AP) — Six campers, four of them children, died of apparent carbon monoxide poisoning in their tent at Cape Cod campground, authorities said today.

Five of the victims were dead when their bodies were found Sunday night in the tent in the Bourne Scenic Park, police said. The sixth, a man, later died at a Wareham hospital.

All apparently died of carbon monoxide poisoning, said State Police Sgt. Antonio Tavares. Autopsies were scheduled for today.

The victims were believed to be from the New Bedford area, police said today. They made up the entire camping party, said Bourne police dispatcher Edith Nelson.

Don Carpenter, first assistant district attorney for Barnstable County, said the campers were members of three families and both adults were men. They were camping together in one tent, he said.

All apparently died of carbon monoxide poisoning, said State Police Sgt. Antonio Tavares. Autopsies were scheduled for today.

A portable heater was found inside the tent, said Carpenter. It was rainy and windy early Sunday

and daytime temperatures were in the 40s.

A State Police officer told the Cape Cod Times that the campers were using a heater and had sealed the tent to keep out the elements.

The campers arrived at the 65-acre campground Friday night and were scheduled to check out Sunday afternoon, Bourne Police spokesman Al Joseph said.

Bourne Scenic Park employees found the campers after someone from New Bedford called the campground about a group overdue from a weekend trip, police said.

Park employees then called police and firefighters.

Spice import value nothing to sneeze at

WASHINGTON (AP) — Traditional forms of pepper are still the hottest items in the U.S. spice trade, but an annual review by the Agriculture Department shows a category called oleoresins is growing rapidly.

Overall, the import value of "condiments, seasonings and flavoring material" last year dropped 5 percent from 1989 to \$355 million, largely because of lower prices for black and white pepper; nutmegs and capsicum, or red peppers.

The total quantity imported in 1990 grew to 238,949 metric tons from 226,671 tons the year before.

Black pepper led in value at \$58.6 million but, at 32,979 tons, was topped in quantity by sesame seed and mustard seed at 42,878 and 55,625 tons, respectively.

Rex E.T. Dull of USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service is the official gatherer, sniffer and purveyor of the agency's spice information.

A specialist in horticultural and tropical products, Dull saw world

pepper prices climb sharply in the mid-1980s, doubling within a year. The New York spot price of Indonesian black pepper, for example, averaged less than 97 cents per pound in August 1984 but \$1.87 just 11 months later.

Smaller crops and sanitation problems were factors in the pepper price hike, which peaked at an annual average of \$2.37 per pound in 1987. Last year the average New York spot price was 99.1 cents, and in March had dropped further to 85.4 cents.

"Production and exports have shown a sharp recovery, especially in Malaysia," Dull said in his report. "Exports from Indonesia also have increased in recent years."

Dull said the United States continues to be the largest pepper importer, accounting for more than 25

Farm scene

• SPICE page 8-A



Carbon monoxide poisoning
BOURNE, Mass. — Ron Haley, manager of the Bourne Scenic Park campground, stands at the site where several campers died inside a tent from apparent carbon monoxide poisoning. Four of the dead were children.

