

BIG SPRING Herald

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16 Pages 2 Sections

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NEWS DIGEST



Roofing contractors working off a storm

Roofers have been kept busy in recent weeks after a hail storm on May 5 caused considerable damage to many area residents' roofs. Most of the work recently has been on the east side of Big Spring near 11th Place.



Fitness continuing

Despite the end of the 1992-93 school year for Howard College students, the Fitness Center remains open, as evidenced by this photo of Robert Branch working out on a quiet Tuesday afternoon.

Float fishing

Gary Gidcumb and his inner tube float on the calm surface of Moss Creek Lake Thursday as he tried his luck at fishing. Officials say the lake is extremely busy on the weekends during summer months.



'Buddy' Poppies

On Saturday, members of area Veterans of Foreign Wars chapters will be soliciting donations in return for a cluster of "Buddy" Poppies. See page 1B.

World

Venezuelan political crisis: Venezuela's strategic oil industry is likely to weather the latest political crisis, but economic reform could be stalled if President Carlos Andres Perez is forced from office. See page 6A.

Nation

Judge strikes down ban: A ban on assisted suicide that was rushed into law to stop Dr. Jack Kevorkian was struck down on procedural grounds Thursday. See page 5A.

Texas

House passes funding bill: Laboring to meet a June 1 court deadline, the Texas House gave preliminary approval by a 98-44 vote Thursday night to a school finance reform bill that's loaded with other education issues. See page 2A.

Sports

Keys for Bulldogs: The key to Coahoma's success in the upcoming state baseball playoffs can be summarized in two words: bats and back — the bats of Bulldog hitters, and the back of pitcher Brandon McGuire. See page 3B.

Weather

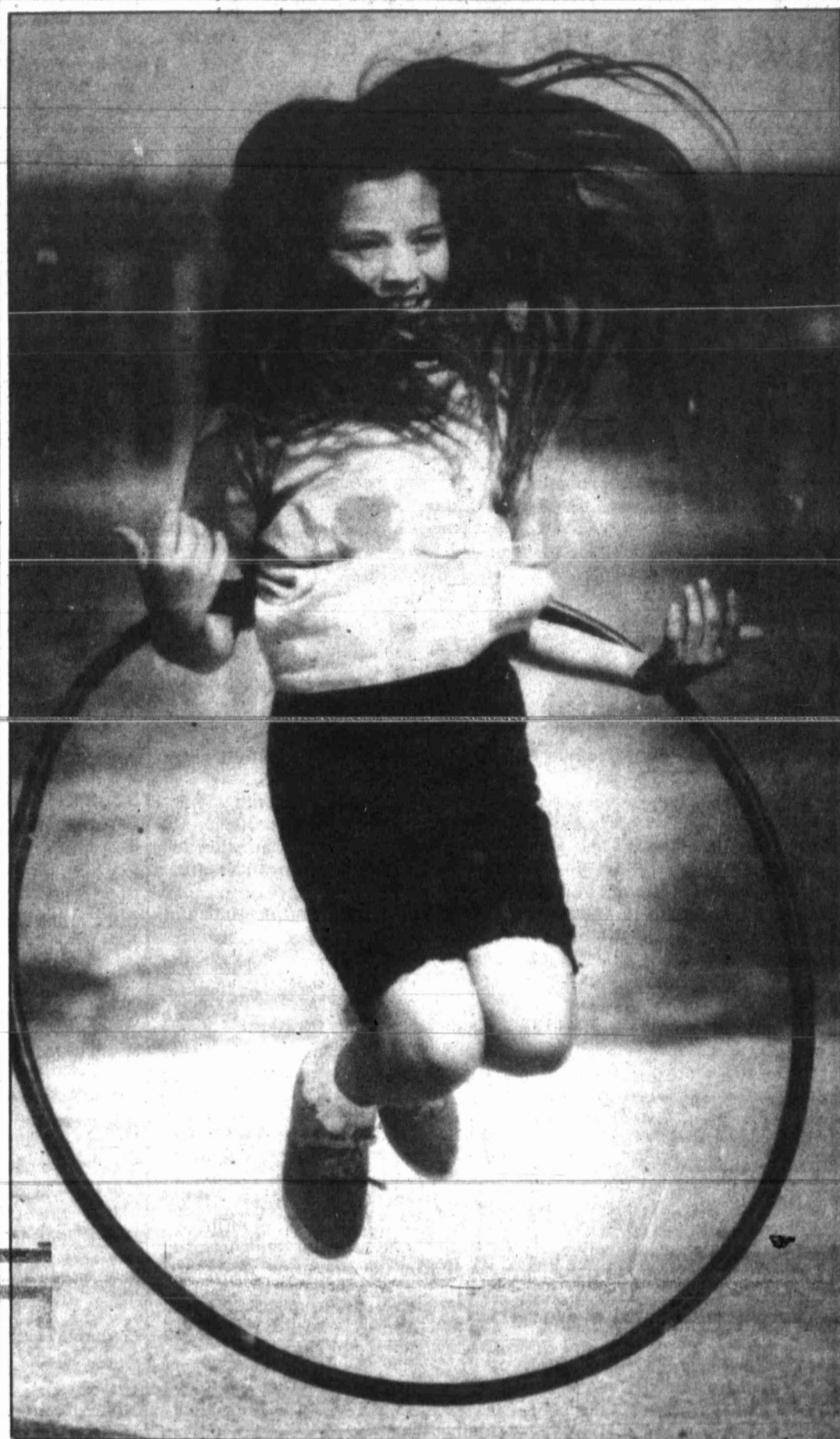
Chance of thunderstorms: Tonight, mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of thunderstorms. Low in the lower 60s. See extended forecast, page 8A.

TONIGHT	TOMORROW	TONIGHT
CLOUDY	PARTLY CLOUDY	SUNSET 8:43 PM
		SUNRISE 6:44 AM

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Jumping through a hoop

Finding a hula hoop just as effective as a jump rope, Elizabeth Hernandez hops on the asphalt surface at Moss Elementary School Thursday morning during her physical education class.

Herald photo by Tim Appel

Funding plans leave schools on shaky base

MARTHA E. FLORES
Regional Editor

As Texas legislators scramble to develop an equitable school finance plan before Texas Supreme Court-ordered June 1 deadline, area education officials are dismayed as they watch the financial ground shift under them.

Business and commercial property redistribution, student attendance credit purchases, contracts to educate students, and re-creation of local taxing districts are some of the latest plans advanced for funding Texas schools, with consolidation lurking in the background.

In the scramble, school officials receive updates by phone and fax machine.

"One day I received three faxes having three different consolidation plans for the district," said Stanton Independent School District Superintendent Johnny McGregor.

Although struck down by the Texas Supreme Court and voters in May, school district wealth redistribution rears its head in House Public Education Committee's multiple choice plan, a scheme that makes some area officials queasy because of the possible large wealth redistribution coming from their districts.

Of the area school districts — Big Spring, Coahoma, Forsan, Mitchell, Martin, Borden, Forsan, Westbrook and Glasscock ISDs — four districts are categorized as high-property-wealth districts. Each will redistribute between \$500,000 to \$800,000 per student.

Approved late Thursday by a 98-44 vote, the House committee's plan gives high-property-wealth school districts five financing options with the first three requiring voter approval. The options are:

- Districts would send tax revenues collected on property wealth more than \$280,000 per student to the state, purchasing student attendance credits to bring the districts' wealth down. Each credit, an average of

\$3,500, equals the cost of educating a student in another district.

- Contracts with specific low-wealth districts, paying to educate students in those districts. The option is similar to attendance credits with the exception of not having the state as an intermediary.

- Establishment of new taxing districts with a high-wealth district and one or more low-wealth districts.

- Voluntary consolidation of with one or more low-wealth districts.

- Transfer taxable property to the tax rolls of a low-wealth district.

Passed last week, the Senate plan equalizes education funding by shifting business property money from high-wealth to low-wealth districts. It targets 109 high-wealth districts, including Borden, Glasscock, Westbrook and Forsan. The plan levels property wealth at \$280,000 per student. Transferred business property would be on the tax rolls of a nearby, low-wealth district, giving them more property to tax and subsequently more money per student.

"The House plan is basically more of what was voted down recently. They came up with a plan almost identical to Proposition 1," said Borden ISD Superintendent Jimmy Thomas. "The Senate plan is definitely the most advantageous for everyone involved."

Thomas' district's property wealth is more than a \$1 million per student. With the House plan, the district could lose \$700,000 or more per student, he said.

"We are going to share our money. We know that, but in the mean-time, don't kill us," Thomas said.

Under the the House multiple-choice option, Forsan can lose as much Borden. Forsan's superintendent, J.F. Poyner, like Thomas, Westbrook Superintendent Sonny Hollis and Glasscock Superintendent Charles Zachry, testified before the Legislature.

Poyner was not available for comment. See FINANCE, page 8A

Main Street demise reports 'premature'

By PATRICK DRISCOLL
Staff Writer

Paul Hopper, director of financially-strapped Big Spring Main Street Inc., and his secretary were not laid off as reported by radio stations Wednesday.

"Apparently the radio was a little bit premature with their comment," said Main Street Vice President Tom Guess. "There have been some financial problems, but we're going to hang in there."

"There's more to be done and there's more we're going to do," he said. "We haven't lost the spirit."

The non-profit downtown development group Tuesday discussed its ability to pay the salaries of Hopper and his secretary but made no decision, Guess said. The group met Thursday and decided to keep them on the payroll and seek other revenue sources.

"We sat down and set some direction," he said. "We aren't behind on payroll, we just don't want to get behind on payroll."

One plan is to lease space to antique dealers using a building owned by Main Street at 113

E. Third, where Smallwood's Western Wear used to be. Guess did not want to reveal other plans.

But the group is still working to re-open its bingo operation that was closed in January after the Lion's Club cited late rent in releasing them from a lease on the bingo hall at 1607 E. Third. Main Street derived most of its \$70,000 annual income from bingo, President Richard Atkins said in January.

Two new bingo locations are being considered, but bingo won't be relied on as much in the future, if possible, Guess said. "We're going to try to make ourselves totally soluble where we don't have to depend on anyone," he said.

Guess said the group also hopes to drum up more community support.

"We just haven't really gotten enough support from the community," he said. "Anybody that wants to help us and work with us, it would certainly be appreciated if they give us a call."

Donations would help, he said. "It takes money to function, it doesn't matter what it is."

Recycling, mandates could double trash bills

By PATRICK DRISCOLL
Staff Writer

Recycling is becoming more of a necessity and next year will probably be required by law, but will likely increase solid waste disposal costs as much as 100 percent.

Besides footing costs, it's important citizens be educated, Big Spring City Manager Lanny Lambert told members of the Howard County Coalition for the Environment Thursday. This summer, residents will be asked to mulch grass in yards instead of putting it in trash.

"Everybody wants a good clean environment, but nobody wants to pay for it," Lambert said. "Recycling is the right thing to do and it needs to be done."

State law will probably require a 40

percent reduction in the amount of trash going in landfills across the state by the end of 1994, Lambert said. Voluntary reduction to that level is targeted for early next year.

At an estimated one ton of garbage per person each year, 9,200 tons would have to be recycled in Big Spring annually.

A "Don't Bag It" campaign to mulch grass, is slated for this summer. Grass takes up as much as 30 percent of landfill space during the summer, Lambert said. All wood, trees and brush — 10 percent of city trash — is already being composted by the city's privately-run prison.

"Why fill it up with grass clippings when (grass) in and of (itself) is valuable?" he asked.

The Coalition for the Environment,

which monthly collects recyclables at the Big Spring Herald parking lot, will distribute literature on "Don't Bag It" at the next collection, set for 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on June 5.

"We're also going to work on the premise that if you do have to bag it, take it out to the compost program out at the prison," said coalition chairwoman Gloria Hopkins. The 19-month-old group recycled seven tons of trash its first year.

The feasibility recycling of household chemicals, which aren't supposed to be dumped in the landfill, is also being studied.

Because recycling takes intensive work in the separation process, and because of federal mandates for landfill pollution monitoring, local garbage bills will probably climb in the near future, Lambert

said. Little money can be made by selling recyclables, because markets are glutted.

"Right now, my estimate is that your garbage rate will double," he said. "These are mandated environmental laws that we are obligated to."

Mandates required to be in place by October include underground water pollution and methane gas monitoring of the landfill, as well as plastic liners and collection of liquids seeping through the landfill.

Other city environmental projects mandated by federal law that will cost local residents include:

- Improvements to the sewage treatment plant to be completed by March 1994. Cost is \$7 million. "In most instances this water will be of better quality than the water you're drinking."



Long-time Mason

Mason Robert D. Telford, the district deputy grand master of the Grand Lodge of Texas, hands Joseph Henry Marting of Big Spring an award for being a Mason for 70 years. Next to Marting, 95, is his daughter, Helen Wiswell.

Herald photo by Connie Swinney

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The Associate

WASHINGTON Agents killed a Branch Davidian...

"We would hope that since this is the new Texas and we're all striving to be inclusive of all Texans that we would have a Hispanic woman appointed to a federal judgeship...

"Among the 21, 14 are black, Hispanic or women," Mann said. "Five are black. Five are Hispanic."

U.S. district judge is a lifetime appointment. The list of those nominees is: Eastern District judge: Hannah, who has been secretary of state for Gov. Ann Richards since 1991.

The names of C. LeBlau, To Robert J. Willis Willis will be on the officers' list...

"In so doing, we are helping you and your minds of all to come," said C...

Cleri

The Associate

AUSTIN - Religious leaders urge lawmakers to urge law that could allow handguns.

"The theory that more guns equate to less crime is the Texas Baptist mission."

"We are very

Krueger enjoying the race

The Associated Press

AUSTIN - U.S. Sen. Bob Krueger says he's enjoying the campaign to keep his appointed office...

The quirky TV ads, in which Krueger pokes fun at himself, his wardrobe, his hair and his fondness for Shakespeare...

"It's fun. A campaign ought to be fun," the Democrat said Thursday. "You've got to have fun every day in life, and I do. I love this job. I love it, and I'm going to stay in it."

Krueger faces Republican state Treasurer Kay Bailey Hutchison in a June 5 runoff. The winner will complete the final 1 1/2 years of the term initially won by now-Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen.

In one of the ads, Krueger dons a black leather jacket and wrapsound sunglasses to impersonate Arnold Schwarzenegger...

On Thursday, Krueger said that scene makes a graphic point for voters.

"They will know that I can speak Spanish, and that I know the difference between hasta la vista, baby, and nolo contendere," he said.

Earlier this year, Mrs. Hutchison was asked for an example of the Spanish she studied at the University of Texas and replied, "Nolo contendere," the Latin term for a "no contest" court plea.

Mrs. Hutchison's campaign is poking fun at the Krueger commercials.

In a news release that featured photos of Krueger in a business suit and in his Schwarzenegger costume, the Republican suggested that the senator debate himself.

"Bob Krueger vs. Bob 'Kruegenegger,'" the Hutchison statement said. "It would make great TV, a really good debate... The two men have proposed completely different solutions to America's health care problem."

Mrs. Hutchison said Krueger in past years had opposed price controls, but now he is proposing them for prescription drugs and health insurance premiums.



Associated Press photo

House Public Education Committee Chair Libby Linebarger, D-Manchaca, confers with Reps. Mario Gallego, D-Alpine, and David Swinford, R-Dumas, during Thursday morning's House session in Austin.

Debate began on more than 50 amendments to the school finance bill put forth by the committee.

House gives OK to funding plan

The Associated Press

AUSTIN - Laboring to meet a June 1 court deadline, the Texas House gave preliminary approval by a 98-44 vote Thursday night to a school finance reform bill that school districts have with other education issues.

One provision tacked on to the school funding bill, which was debated for 8 1/2 hours, could shorten student suspensions from extracurricular activities under the no-pass, no-play rule by giving more authority to campus principals.

Others would make it a misdemeanor for students to skip school too many times, forbid school districts to use fax money to pay professional lobbyists and give a special diploma to students who fail the mandatory exit-level test required for graduation but have completed other requirements.

But House Public Education Committee Chairwoman Libby Linebarger, D-Manchaca, said lawmakers haven't lost sight of the main issue: meeting a state court deadline to even out funding available to school

districts that have differing property wealth.

If they fail, they face a court order cutting off state aid to schools. School districts rely on state aid and local property taxes.

"I think both the House and the Senate are committed to one thing, and that's to meeting the June 1 deadline and keeping the schools open. That's our first commitment," Ms. Linebarger said.

The House bill would give the 109 richest school districts in the state — out of 1,048 — several options for sharing some of their property wealth with poorer ones.

The Senate earlier passed a different plan, in which the state would shift some business property from the tax rolls of the richest districts to poorer ones.

The House bill, if approved in another vote, will go to the Senate for consideration. Differences between the measures could be worked on in a House-Senate conference committee.

Under the House bill, the wealthiest school districts would be consolidated with one or more of their poorer neighbors — unless a district

instead chose among the following options:

- Merging its tax base with one or more poorer school districts;
Sending money to the state to pay for educating other students in poorer districts;
Contracting to educate students in other districts;
Consolidating voluntarily with one or more other school districts; or
Moving some taxable property to another district's tax rolls.

For the first three options, local voter approval would be required.

Rep. John Culberson, R-Houston, opposed the multiple-choice school funding plan. He said it goes against a May 1 vote by Texans against a school finance reform proposal that would have shifted some local property tax money from wealthier to poorer school districts.

"Our liberal state leadership continues to ignore what the people of Texas want," Culberson said.

Lawmakers considered about 50 proposed amendments to the school funding plan.

INS holds up entry of 5-year-old girl

The Associated Press

BROWNSVILLE - U.S. immigration inspectors questioned a 5-year-old girl for an hour and accused the mother trying to cross the border with a stolen child, the mother says.

Carmen Martinez, 21, was reunited Thursday with her daughter, Elaine,

after the confusion forced a week-long delay in her plans to bring the child into the United States.

"It hurt me a lot for them to tell me that she was not mine, because I suffered a lot to have her," Mrs. Martinez said.

Mrs. Martinez claims Elaine cried while Immigration and Naturalization officials questioned the girl dur-

ing a late-night border crossing on May 11.

The inspectors said they did not believe Elaine was the same child described in her Brownsville birth certificate, and told Mrs. Martinez to take Elaine back to Mexico, she said.

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THE SANDLOT PG
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In Stereo 4:40-7:15-9:25
DAVE PG-13
In Stereo 4:35-7:10-9:30

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Slain ATF agents remembered

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The four federal agents killed as they stormed the Branch Davidians' compound Feb. 28 were "the good guys just wanting to go after the bad guys," says Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen.

"We come to remember them for standing up to a violent criminal who was ready to harm anyone in his way," Bentsen said Thursday at a somber memorial service for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms agents.

Speaking to several hundred people gathered at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial, Bentsen questioned the randomness of the agents' deaths.

"I'll never ever know how deep the losses have hurt you," Bentsen told the agents' families. "I'll never share your emptiness. No one can. But I'll understand when you ask over and over again, 'Why? Why did it have to happen to them?' No matter how many times you ask, I'm sorry but there'll never be an answer.

"And that's part of the price of serving your country."

Four ATF agents and six cult members died in the gunbattle that erupted when the officers stormed the compound to search the 77-acre complex and to arrest sect leader David Koresh.

The names of slain agents Conway C. LeBleu, Todd W. McKeenan, Robert J. Williams and Steven D. Willis will be engraved next year at the officers' memorial alongside the 178 ATF agents and 13,078 other law enforcement officers who preceded them on the wall.

"In so doing, we will permanently etch their memories into the hearts and minds of all future generations to come," said Craig W. Floyd, chair-



Stephen Higgins, director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, hugs Cindy Williams during a memorial service in Washington Thursday for the special agents killed at the Branch Davidian compound near Waco on Feb. 28. Williams' husband, Robert, was one of the four agents killed attempting to serve federal search and arrest warrants at the compound.

man of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund.

"We remember them on these walls so others will never forget," Floyd said. "Their names were their deeds."

Assistant Treasury Secretary Ronald K. Noble, who is heading the Treasury Department's investigation of the raid, assured the slain agents' families that "we will learn from our tragedies. These outstanding young men and courageous agents will not have died in vain."

Bentsen and ATF Director Stephen Higgins watched as family members walked up to four wreaths of white and yellow chrysanthemums that

encircled plaques with the names and ages of the agents: Louisiana native LeBleu, 30, of the New Orleans ATF office; Tennessee native McKeenan, 28, also of the New Orleans office; Maryland native Williams, 26, of the Little Rock, Ark. office; and Texan Willis, 32, of the Houston office.

Perhaps only Cameron LeBleu, Conway's 18-month-old son, remained untouched by the solemnity of the ceremony. The toddler, whose blue sailor jacket was pinned with the black ATF ribbon that most of the participants wore, walked around the front of the dais as the dignitaries spoke, watching the

crowd as he sucked on his pacifier.

In a letter read by Bentsen, President Clinton told the families that he joined in their grief.

"The death of these fine agents is a tragedy, but there may be some comfort in the knowledge they upheld an honorable tradition of sacrifice and duty to our beloved nation and its people," Clinton wrote. "May God bless each of you during this difficult time."

There were no allusions on this day, alternately cloudy and sunny, to the criticism that ATF has weathered since the failed raid, the questions about the propriety of the operation and whether it was properly conducted.

Clerics, doctors opposing concealed gun bill

The Associated Press

AUSTIN — Trauma doctors and religious leaders are banding together to urge lawmakers to defeat a bill that could allow Texans to carry handguns.

"The theory that more people with more guns equals more safety just doesn't wash," said Phil Strickland of the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission.

"We are very deeply concerned

about how to make the society less violent, not more violent. We do not believe this legislation will make our society less violent," Strickland said Thursday while standing before a list of 3,692 Texans killed by gunfire in 1991.

The group said it sides with Gov. Ann Richards, who has vowed to veto the bill if the Legislature sends it to her desk.

The House and Senate have passed differing versions of the measure. If the House accepts Senate amend-

ments, the bill could go to the governor.

Under the bill, Texas voters would decide the gun question in a November referendum.

If approved in that election, Texans 21 or older who are registered voters, have no criminal background and are judged to be of sound mind could apply for a license to carry a handgun.

Richards reiterated her opposition Thursday, saying there is no way lawmakers can improve the bill.

"This is a bad piece of legislation. It started out bad, it's going to end up bad, I don't care what they do to it," she said.

One of its sponsors, Rep. Bill Carter, R-Haltom City, said this week that "the issue now is whether or not she (Richards) allows the people to vote on the right of self-protection. If she does veto it, she's just denying the people the right to vote."

But the religious and medical leaders said legalizing carrying of handguns isn't the way to make Texas a safer place.

Briefs

Dallas police end ban on hiring gay officers

DALLAS (AP) — Effective immediately, homosexuals will be considered on an equal basis with everyone else for positions in the Dallas police department, city officials say.

Dallas has been the nation's only large city to bar gay officers, but city officials said Thursday they won't fight recent court decisions that held the city's ban to be unconstitutional.

The announcement brings to an end the city's fight for the right to ask police candidates whether they have violated Section 21.06 of the Texas Penal Code — the law that criminalizes homosexual conduct.

Dallas' policy against hiring gay and lesbian officers was challenged in 1990. Mica England sued the city after being told that she could not be a police officer because as an admitted lesbian she was in violation of the state's sodomy law.

In 1992, the state's 3rd Court of Appeals declared the law unconstitutional and said Dallas could not refuse to hire Ms. England solely because she is a lesbian.

Bay City man held in mutilation slaying

BEAUMONT (AP) — A Bay City man is being held for the January mutilation death of another Texan whose limbless torso was found in the marshes of Cameron Parish, La., Jefferson County authorities say.

Investigators said Thursday that robbery, cocaine and several thousand dollars were the motive. They said the suspect and victim were both believed to be part of a major drug ring.

James Wesley Schexnider, 28, of Bay City, was arrested for capital murder late Wednesday after telling Jefferson County sheriff's detectives he shot 45-year-old Joe Donald King in the head, then cut his head, arms and legs from the body.

Schexnider is being held without bond in Orange County, where the slaying occurred.

Officials wouldn't say if others were involved, but hinted more arrests may be made. They said possible witnesses to the homicide are being sought.

Lawyer says Megadeath motivated boy to kill

HOUSTON (AP) — A 15-year-old boy who says he killed his mother after receiving a message from the devil in a heavy metal song will be

hospitalized, a judge has ruled.

The boy has confessed to the Monday night shooting death of his 47-year-old mother, Arlette Bone Merritt. Earlier that evening, the youth listened to the Megadeth song "Go To Hell," said his attorney, Tim Power.

"The doctor tells me that he is driven by forces he can't control or understand," Power said Wednesday. "If in fact he shot his mother, he was in the throes of a psychotic episode in which he was both seeing and hearing the devil."

At a detention hearing Thursday, Juvenile Judge Veronica Morgan-Price ordered the boy released from a juvenile facility to be hospitalized. She did not know where the boy would be hospitalized.

Authorities said they were preparing a murder charge and expected to request the boy be tried as an adult.

'Stink bomb' forces evacuation of building

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Operations in a Southwestern Bell Telephone Co. building were disrupted for an hour after more than 1,500 people had to be evacuated because of what first appeared to be a natural gas leak.

But the nauseating smell was then traced to a pickup truck parked across the street, where vandals had dumped a chemical into the cab.

The chemical, used to give odorless natural gas a smell that can be detected, was carried by the wind to the seven-story building and sucked into its ventilation system.

Firefighters said that 50 people who became nauseous were treated with oxygen and three were taken to hospital for treatment of apparently minor problems.

The evacuation came about 2 p.m. and disrupted directory assistance service for the entire 210 area code and halted operations in the business office for more than an hour, Southwestern Bell spokesman Oscar Saucedo said.

New marijuana crop making its way north

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A new crop of marijuana is headed north from Latin America, federal authorities say.

Authorities said Thursday that they reached that conclusion because of recent increases in the size, value and number of seizures in South Texas.

"It seems like we're in the middle of a harvest season, with more pot flowing through (the Laredo sector)," Alfonso Moreno, supervising intelligence agent with the U.S. Border Patrol at Laredo, said.

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Wayne County Judge Cynthia Stephens (right) looks out her Detroit office after overturning Michigan's ban on assisted suicide Thursday, agreeing with a lawsuit filed by the American Civil Liberties Union that claimed the measure was unconstitutional.

Judge strikes down assisted suicide ban

The Associated Press

DETROIT — A ban on assisted suicide that was rushed into law to stop Dr. Jack Kevorkian was struck down on procedural grounds by a judge who warned that even if the law were fixed, the measure still wouldn't stand up. The ruling Thursday by Wayne County Circuit Judge Cynthia Stephens could thwart efforts to prosecute Kevorkian, who was arrested Sunday after being present at a 16th suicide — the first death he attended since the law took effect. The Michigan American Civil Liberties Union had challenged the law on behalf of two terminally ill people and seven medical professionals. Stephens ruled that the law was unconstitutionally tacked on to a bill that dealt with a narrower aspect of the debate. That, she said, changed the meaning of the original bill and

put the ban in a bill with an unrelated title. While striking down the law on procedural grounds, the judge also found "a right to die" for the two terminally ill patients. "This court cannot envisage a more fundamental right than the right of self-determination," she wrote. "Without that right none of the others, such as speech, association, the right to bear arms or to due process can have meaning or effect." ACLU Executive Director Howard Simon said the ruling was "a complete rebuff to the governor and the state Legislature." "The court has sent a message: To tread on the privacy rights of the people of Michigan is not going to be permitted," he said. A spokesman for Gov. John Engler said the state had not decided on its next step. "We can see if there are grounds to seek an appeal or ... see if it's something that can be fixed easily

by the Legislature," John Truscott said. But Simon said there is no point in the Legislature trying to fix the law. Instead, he said, lawmakers' only option is to get to work on legislation that would make assisted suicide a regulated part of the practice of medicine. The Legislature rushed the ban into effect Feb. 25 after Kevorkian had helped three people die the week before. The law made assisting in a suicide a crime punishable by up to four years in prison and a \$2,000 fine. It was to remain in effect for up to 21 months while a commission studied the issue and the Legislature acted on its recommendations. Kevorkian attorney Geoffrey Fieger said his client was disappointed there wasn't going to be a court battle. "It deprives him of the opportunity to show the world what's going on," he said.

Administration takes aim on anti-abortion protests

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Clinton administration is siding with abortion rights supporters who want the Supreme Court to let them use a federal anti-racketeering law to sue groups that block access to abortion clinics. Justice Department lawyers told the high court Thursday that a lower court erred when it barred a lawsuit against Operation Rescue and other anti-abortion groups. The government lawyers urged the justices to hear an appeal filed last fall by the National Organization for Women and abortion clinic owners. The appeal said the anti-abortion groups comprise "a nationwide criminal conspiracy of extremists" bent on "unlawful and violent methods" to drive abortion clinics out of business. The alleged conspiracy violates the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act, the appeal said. The court asked the Clinton administration for its views in January, sparking the brief submitted Thursday. Operation Rescue spokesman the Rev. Patrick Mahoney said the filing was "a 180-degree turnabout" from the Bush administration's position on lawsuits over access to abortion clinics. "The Clinton administration is signaling us out for attack," he said.

But NOW President Patricia Ireland said: "It's certainly a refreshing change to have the court receive a brief from the Justice Department that's consistent with the law rather than the prior administration's politics."

Courts might have trouble determining whether someone had such an economic motive, the government lawyers said. The RICO law, enacted in 1970, originally was aimed at organized crime but increasingly is used in lawsuits involving just about any business dispute.

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Pd. Pol. Adv. By Russ McEwen, Treasurer

Briefs

'Jeopardy!' host denies show rigged for women

NEW YORK (AP) — "Jeopardy!" host Alex Trebek denied allegations that the quiz show had been rigged to help women contestants win. "Let me state categorically that in my nine years as host of the show, 'Jeopardy!' has never done anything that would rearrange or predetermine the outcome of a game," he said in a statement Thursday. Harry Eisenberg, a former associate producer for "Jeopardy!," says in his new book "Inside Jeopardy!" that producer George Vosburgh regularly made last-minute changes in questions and categories to improve the fortunes of returning female champi-

ons. Eisenberg said Trebek knew of such changes. Some of the changes, Eisenberg said, included substituting a question on basketball star Michael Jordan for one on ballet dancer Mikhail Baryshnikov and changing a category on weapons to one on clothing. Federal law prohibits action to predetermine the outcome of a game show. The law was enacted after the quiz show scandals of the 1950s. Trebek denied changes were made to favor specific contestants. But he said adjustments were made if a clue was too similar to one from a recent show, in bad taste or too difficult. "There is nothing sinister, illegal or unethical" about any of the changes, he said. **California voters get say on sales tax hike** LOS ANGELES (AP) — Gov. Pete

Wilson called a special election Nov. 2 to let each of California's 58 counties decide whether to raise their local sales taxes to recoup the \$2.6 billion his proposed budget would take away. The counties would have the option of asking voters to raise local taxes one cent, Wilson said Thursday. His budget proposal would take away \$2.6 billion in state aid to counties and give it to schools. "State government has been compelled reluctantly to withdraw support from local governments," Wilson said. "They can fill the gap with a replacement county sales tax, which they can impose with a simple majority vote." Democrats condemned the Republican governor's plan. "He was elected to lead, not pass the buck," said state Democratic Party Chairman Bill Press.

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Venezuelan oil to weather crisis?

The Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela — Venezuela's strategic oil industry is likely to weather the latest political crisis, but economic reform could be stalled if President Carlos Andres Perez is forced from office.

Venezuela's opposition-controlled Senate, to meet today, was virtually certain to ratify Thursday's Supreme Court decision and send Perez to trial. The court ruled there was sufficient grounds to try him on charges of embezzling the equivalent of \$17.2 million in 1989, and Perez faces from six months to three years in jail if convicted.

No sitting president has been tried in Venezuela since the country became a democracy 35 years ago.

In an emotional, sometimes defiant speech to the nation televised Thursday night, Perez maintained his innocence.

The 70-year-old president, his voice sometimes breaking, dedicated much of his 30-minute talk to outlining the gains Venezuela had made under his presidency and blaming his problems on political conspiracy.

He expressed fear political and economic progress made under his stewardship would be reversed.

There also was concern the crisis could turn violent. Thursday night, National Guard troops fired tear gas to disperse an unruly crowd of about 1,000 outside the National Congress Building. The mob was made up mainly of students and young workers shouting anti-Perez slogans.

Witnesses said two people suffered apparently minor injuries. The capital was calm shortly after dark.

Perez has repeatedly said that he will not resign. But if he is impeached, the law requires that the president of the Congress, Octavio Lepage, take over for up to 30 days while Congress picks an interim president to govern until Perez' case is resolved or until his term expires Feb. 2.

Financial markets were likely to react negatively at first, but should rebound quickly if Perez's replacement takes over smoothly.

Crucial foreign investment likely wouldn't dry up as long as Venezuela remains under democratic rule. Military leaders ruled Venezuela for most of this century until 1958.

"That has to be the big worry,"

Tim Duhan, director of the British-Venezuelan Chamber of Commerce, said. "Not the fact that the president is going, but the possibility that the army might use this as an excuse to move again."

Two military coup attempts last year, while bloody, didn't interfere with the operations of Venezuela's oil industry, the No. 2 foreign supplier of oil to the United States.

"We have gone through coups, dictatorships, social unrest and we have come out unscathed," said Raul Antoni, spokesman for the state oil company. "We're confident we can come out OK."

As long as production continues,

Perez's departure won't impact world oil prices, said Alirio A. Parra, president of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries and until Thursday, Venezuela's energy and mines minister. The president's entire Cabinet resigned after the Supreme Court ruling was announced.

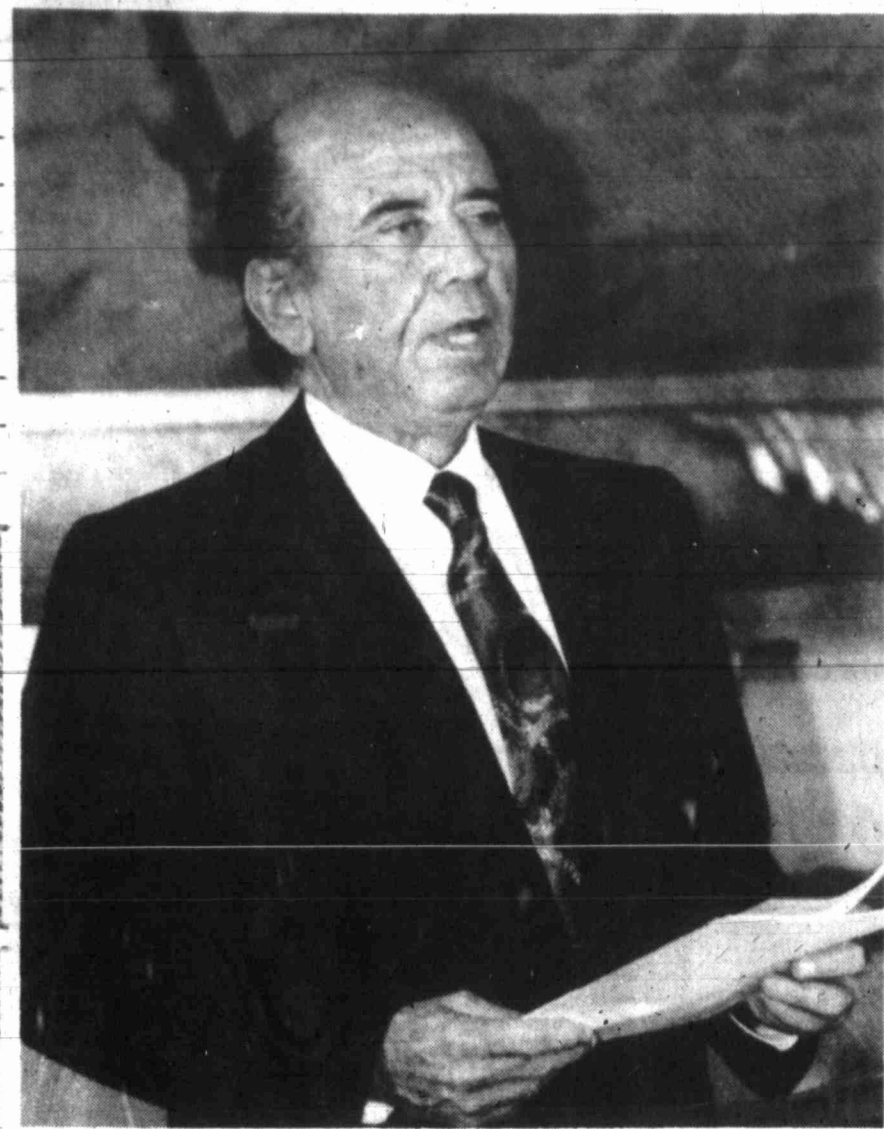
Venezuela's oil industry should continue to attract foreign investment, Parra said.

But Antoni said the political turmoil could distract Congress from considering two major projects that require its approval: a \$4 billion partnership to develop natural gas reserves and a \$1.7 billion venture to

exploit massive reserves of heavy crudes.

Perhaps the greatest damage inflicted by Perez's departure will be to the controversial program of free-market reforms he launched in 1989.

The program, which includes lifting of price controls and trade liberalization, has boosted the country's economy, which grew by a healthy 7.3 percent last year. But it's not popular with most Venezuelans, who have seen their standard of living decrease since 1989 because wage hikes haven't kept pace with inflation.



Associated Press photo.

Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez announces during a televised address from Caracas Thursday that he will hand over power to the president of the Venezuelan Congress following the authorization by the Supreme Court of an embezzlement trial against him. The court decision, if ratified as expected by the senate, would make Perez the first democratically elected Venezuelan leader to face charges while in office.

Briefs

Cannes stars team to help AIDS fight

CANNES, France (AP) — Elizabeth Taylor and Sylvester Stallone teamed up as the Cannes Film Festival devoted a day to raising money to fight AIDS.

Taylor hosted a \$2,500-a-plate charity dinner at the swanky Moulin de Mougins restaurant Thursday. A screening of the Stallone movie "Cliffhangers" was the centerpiece of another fund-raiser.

In an unusual move, organizers screened the non-competition "Cliffhangers" at the prime time of 7:30 p.m. and sold tickets for 300 francs (\$54) each.

Proceeds from Thursday's benefits will go toward AIDS programs in the Third World, Taylor told reporters.

Other fund-raising activities included sales of T-shirts and kites bearing photos and sometimes signatures of cinema stars, and rare photographs donated by performers and studios around the world.

Prospect of loan puts Russians on same page

MOSCOW (AP) — It took a strong incentive to get Russia's government and Central Bank to work together: the prospect of \$3 billion loan from the International Monetary Fund.

Government adviser Sergei Vasiliev said Thursday that in an effort to secure the money, officials will collaborate on a plan charting the country's future financial strategy. The plan should be ready Saturday, he said.

"This is the first time the government and the Central Bank are sitting down together to come up with a joint plan," said Professor Richard Laird of the London School of Economics.

Laird heads the Center for Eco-

nomics Performance, which works closely with Vasiliev's group. He said he hoped IMF money could be used to help combat inflation.

President Boris Yeltsin's reform team blames the Central Bank for blocking the road to a free market. The Central Bank says that the government's program will lead to mass unemployment and deep drops in production.

New malaria drug being recommended

LONDON (AP) — Mefloquine is more effective against malaria than two other drugs commonly recommended for travelers to Africa, according to a new study.

The study of 145,000 travelers visiting east Africa from 1985-91 was done in response to disagreement among tropical disease experts. The parasite that causes malaria is growing resistant to the most common treatment, chloroquine.

The findings appear in the May 22 issue of The Lancet, a medical journal.

Scattered reports of seizures or psychosis linked to mefloquine had ignited fears over safety of the drug. Experts believe mefloquine is safe for people who have no history of neuropsychiatric disorders.

The study was done by investigators at the University of Zurich, the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, African Medical Research Foundation in Nairobi, Kenya; and F. Hoffman-La Roche Ltd., makers of mefloquine.

Russians ask U.S. to recall diplomat

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia has asked the U.S. Embassy to recall a diplomat it says was involved in a drunk driving accident that killed an 11-year-old girl and injured her mother and sister.

The ITAR-Tass news agency said Thursday that the Foreign Ministry delivered a protest note to the United States.

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3-Piece Student Desk, Hutch, Chair Reference Price \$749	\$238	Wing Back Recliner 100% Top Grain Leather Reference Price \$1395	\$588
Glider-Rocker Recliner Reference Price \$749	\$358	Flat Top Dark Cherry Desk Reference Price \$749	\$258
2-Pc. Sectional With Recliner Ea. Side Reference Price \$2198	\$948	5-Pc. Sectional With 2 Recliners, Full Size Sleeper Reference Price \$3588	\$1488
4-Pc. Bedroom, Queen Cherry Rise/Bed, Night Stand, Dresser Mirror Ref. Price \$2898	\$1248	5-Pc. King Bed-Oak, 2 Dressers/Hutch, Mirror, 2 Nite Stands Reference Price \$2988	\$1288
Reclining Sofa Southwest Style Reference Price \$1099	\$498	4-Pc. Youth Bedroom Bunk Bed-Dresser-Mirror-Chest Reference Price \$1398	\$558
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Table with 24 columns representing different TV channels (KMID, KPEJ, KERA, etc.) and rows listing various programs and their broadcast times.

Jacqueline Bigar - Horoscope

FOR SATURDAY, MAY 22, 1993
ARIES (March 21-April 19): Your amiable side shines through. Be ready to act quickly and enjoy an in-depth conversation.

Dear Abby - Letters...

Shotgun wedding rings in her ears
DEAR ABBY: Something has been on my mind for several years. When I was 18, I was in love with "Jim," who was 19. We started having sex, so I went on a birth control pill because he was in no position to get married.



WHILE YOU'RE IN HERE, I'M GOING TO ANOTHER STORE AND TRY ON SOME TOYS!



HEY! A FEW MINUTES WORKING IN THE GARDEN PUT THE ROSES BACK IN YOUR CHEEKS!



Our other grandfather's in heaven, but I'm glad we have a grandfather who art on earth.



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Advertisement for Big Spring Auto Electric, Inc., listing services like batteries, starters, and generators.

Advertisement for Lester Automotive, a foreign and domestic quality service and repair shop.

Advertisement for A. J. Pirkle, Jr., a company group life plans and insurance services.

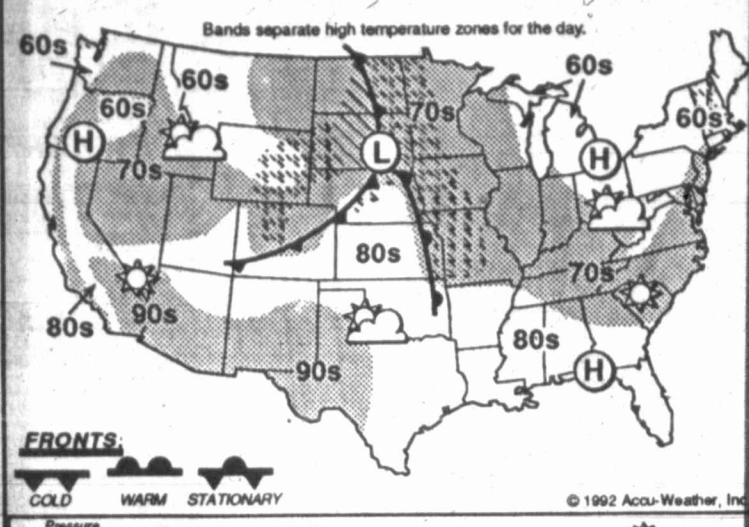
Advertisement for Mountain View Lodge, serving the elderly in their prime of life.

Advertisement for IRA's or CD's Maturing, offering a 6.2% guaranteed rate.

Advertisement for DD Turner, a joke master by submitting favorite jokes.

Herald National Weather

The Accu-Weather® forecast for noon, Saturday, May 22.



Permian Basin Weather

Saturday: Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. High around 90. Low around 60.

Sunday: Partly cloudy with a slight chance of thunderstorms. High in the 80s. Low in the mid 50s.

Monday: Partly cloudy with a slight chance of thunderstorms. High in the 80s. Low in the lower 60s.

Briefs

Shrine chili cookoff slated for Saturday

The Big Spring Shrine Club is conducting the "Whoop & Holler Chili & Barbecue Cookoff" Friday-Sunday at the McMahon/Wrinkle Air Park's "old golf course".

The first ever event is being conducted to benefit Shriner community service activities.

The cookoff will include Saturday activities like a live band, bikini contest, hairy legs contest, drawings, awards ceremony as well as brisket, ribs, beans and chili cooking.

Deaths

Faye Forrest

Faye S. Forrest, 92, Midland, died Wednesday, May 19, 1993, at a Midland care center.

Graveside services will be 11 a.m. Saturday, at Trinity Memorial Park Cemetery with the Rev. J.B. Stewart officiating. Burial will be under the direction of Ellis Funeral Home.

Mrs. Forrest was born Aug. 8, 1910, in Odessa. She was raised in Stanton and attended schools there. She attended McMurry College. She married Arlo Forrest in Stanton. They moved to Midland in 1947. She was a member of First Methodist Church, Midland.

Survivors include one son, Don S. Forrest, Midland; one daughter, Marjann Holmes, Santa Anna, Calif.; four grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and a number of nieces and nephews.

Family suggest memorials be made to the First Methodist Church Library Fund in lieu of flowers.

Ruby Edwards

Ruby Burrow Edwards, 84, Abilene, died Thursday, May 20, 1993, in an Abilene hospital.

Graveside services will be 2 p.m. Saturday, at Elmwood Memorial

Richards blasts insurance bill

AUSTIN — A House-passed bill to continue operation of the Texas Department of Insurance would make insurance more affordable and available to consumers, industry officials say.

But Gov. Ann Richards says the bill contains certain "trash" provisions that would gut pro-consumer reforms made during the 1991 legislative session.

Richards told the Senate Economic Development Committee Thursday that the Department of Insurance would be abolished if those provisions aren't removed from the legislation.

The bill, which was left pending before the committee, won House approval earlier this month after lawmakers added several pro-insurance industry amendments.

Weather Records

Thursday's high temp.....	90
Thursday's low temp.....	59
Average high.....	88
Average low.....	60
Record high.....	106 in 1939
Record low.....	48 in 1967
Rainfall Thursday.....	0.00
Month to date.....	1.79
Month's normal.....	2.91
Year to date.....	07.49
Normal for year.....	05.65

*Statistics not available.

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24th & Johnson 267-8288

Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home and Rosewood Chapel
906 GREGG BIG SPRING

Ruby L. Rutledge, 87, was found Wednesday. Graveside services will be 1:00 P.M. Saturday in Whitharal Cemetery, Whitharal, Tx.

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Administration taking populist tack

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Clinton and his Democratic allies are skewering an effort by a Senate faction to reshape his deficit-reduction plan as a move that would take from the poor and give to the rich.

Four senators from both parties proposed an alternative budget-cutting package Thursday that would kill Clinton's energy tax, ease his levies on the rich and make extra cuts in Social Security, Medicare and other benefit programs.

"What we're trying to do is make those that can afford it pay for some of these entitlement programs," Sen. David Boren, D-Okla., an architect of the alternative plan, said this morning on CBS. Also, "what we've done is do away with one part of the tax increase that falls on all the consumers of the country," he said, referring to Clinton's proposed energy tax.

But Clinton attacked the formula with the same populist theme he employed last year during his White House contest against President Bush.

"When you strip all the rhetoric away, there's \$40 billion worth of burdens on people just above the poverty line, and \$40 billion less on those of us like me who can afford to do a little more for our country," Clinton said.

Though it seemed to have almost no chance of passage, the senators' measure represented the latest complication hindering Clinton's fight to get a skittish Congress to accept his \$500 billion deficit-reduction plan.

The plan was unveiled by Boren



Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen gestures during a news conference in Washington Thursday to discuss budget proposals on energy taxes and entitlement programs.

Earlier, a group of senators led by Sen. David Boren, D-Okla., announced a bipartisan deficit reduction program.

and Sens. Bennett Johnston, D-La., and Sens. John Danforth, R-Mo., and William Cohen, R-Maine.

The senators said their measure would satisfy Americans' appetites for deeper spending cuts and fewer

tax increases than the president wants, and eliminate an energy levy that would hurt businesses and the middle class.

"The authors of this package have tried to be very careful to ensure that it protects the economic interest of

lower- and middle-income Americans," Boren said.

Whatever the arguments, the senators' package added to the unease of House and Senate members nervously preparing to vote on Clinton's deficit-reduction medicine.

Finance

continued from page 1A

ment Thursday, because he was in Austin, once again pleading the case for his district and others like it.

Forsan and Westbrook also have property wealth exceeding \$1 million per student, with Glasscock estimated at \$775,000 with one formula and \$473,000 with another.

"I having been doing what I can, talking on the phone with senators and representatives," Zachry said. "None of the plans are good for us. Some are probably better than others, but Glasscock will be a big loser on every one."

Unlike the high-property-wealth districts, middle-property wealth districts, such as Big Spring, Coahoma, Colorado and Stanton, will not lose or significantly gain money from any of the plans. Their concern is what will happen if the legislature does not find a solution in 11 days.

"I hope they come to some type of solution. I would hate to see the schools close," said Big Spring Superintendent Bill McQueary.

McQueary said the district has restricted its budget in order to meet its financial responsibilities if funding ceases.

"Spending has been curtailed," he said "We can meet our obligations through August."

The other districts have done the same.

With hands in the air and the ground shifting daily - sometimes hourly - area education officials look back at the last two and half years wondering will it really end with the June 1 deadline.

In October 1989, the Texas Supreme Court ruled the school finance system unconstitutional by a 9-0 vote, ordering the legislature to overhaul the system by May 1, 1990.



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- Ride in an airp dinosaur or pret astronaut, through Flight Exhibit a Museum. Call 267-4 tion.
- Friday night ga Forty-two, Bridge from 5-8 p.m., K 2805 Lynn Dr. Publ
- Spring City Se have a Country/Wes 8-11 p.m. Area seni
- Spring City 5 Fashion painting 11:30 a.m. Free. Ag
- Today through Spring Shrine Cl "Whoop & Holler" cookoff, Old gol Wrinkle/McMahon meet at 9 a.m. Sat information call Me 8448 or 263-4720. cold beer, entert early, stay late.

Saturday

- Spring City Ser have a Country/Wes 8-11 p.m. Area seni
- The Coahoma Howard County SH sponsoring a bicycle the parking lot Coahoma Elementa a.m. For informati Howel at 393-5666.
- YMCA State Championships w Dorothy Garrett Birdwell Lane. 9-11 4 & 5, ages 7 & 8, 3:30 p.m., Level 5, 9:30 p.m., Levels 6 (most advanced). F call Glyna Mouton 8395, or home, 267-
- Big Spring Bir meet at 8 a.m. at th Comanche Trail Par tion call 263-4607.
- Big Spring Model will display their R/ Big Spring Mall fr Members will be ava any questions about club.
- There will be a g a.m., 603 Tulane, l Park Church of God

Monday

- There will be go the Kentwood Cente 7 p.m. For inform 5709.

Tuesday

- Spring Tabernacl Wright St., has free b ever is available f from 10 a.m. to noon
- Big Spring Senior ics class from 9:30- 55 and older invited.
- Spring City Senior will have "Hot Potat also have Bingo fr p.m.
- High Adventure 519 will meet at 7 Medical Center, room 20.
- Coahoma Athleti will have a reorgan at 7 p.m. in the facu Coahoma Elementar needed.

Wednesday

- Spring City Se Center will have d from 12:45-1:45 p.m.
- The Rap Group p.m., at the VA M room 212. All vetera Lebanon, Grenad Persian Gulf invited.

Thursday

- Spring Tabernacl Wright St., has free b ever is available f from 10 a.m. to noon.
- Big Spring Senior offers art classes fr a.m. 55 and older inv from 12:45-1:45 p.m.
- There will be Co music and singing at Center at 7 p.m. 2 Public invited.
- Big Spring Allian tally ill will meet at Howard County M Center, 4th & Runnel tion call 267-7380.

Speak u

Coahoma hitters key to team's playoff chances

By STEVE REAGAN
Sports Writer

COAHOMA - The key to Coahoma's success in the upcoming state baseball playoffs can be summarized in two words: bats and back.

The bats belong to the Bulldogs' hitters, and they are in very good shape.

The back belongs to pitcher Brandon McGuire, and it's not so hot.

Both, however, will need to be in optimum condition Saturday, when the Bulldogs meet Presidio in a Class 2A bi-district playoff game at 4:30

p.m. in Monahans.

Bad back or no, staff ace McGuire (5-2, 1.78 ERA) will definitely start for the Bulldogs Saturday.

"We're going with him unless he can't get out of bed Saturday," Coahoma coach Doc Rowell said. "He's the one that brought us here."

"It's not so good," McGuire said of his back. "It's hurting on my left side and messing up my pitching because I can't bend my back."

Howard College trainer Everett Blackburn has been treating McGuire, however, and Rowell is optimistic that McGuire will be near

full strength for Presidio.

If McGuire is ineffective, Rowell will probably go with Steven New (3-1) or Jason Harmon (2-1) out of the bullpen, although the coach considers senior Bryan Sledge (2-1) the second-best pitcher in the district behind McGuire.

"And I haven't even pitched (Sledge) in district," Rowell said. "We're not as strong defensively with him pitching."

If the pitching flounders, the pressure will shift to Coahoma's offense. Fortunately for the Bulldogs, that has probably been the team's strength.

The team is batting at a healthy .408 average and is led by the trio of McGuire (.478, five home runs), Sledge (.428, five HRs) and Dave Park (.397, five HRs).

Add to the team average the fact that the Bulldogs set a team record in home runs this year, and one might surmise that Rowell is pleasantly surprised by Coahoma's offense.

"This is what I really expected in the beginning of the year," he said. "I guess it just takes a little while to get the eye. We're just now hitting the ball the last four weeks the way I

thought we would."

The difference (from last year) is that we're hitting the ball a lot better," Park said. "I was in a slump, at the first of the year, for a long time, and I'm finally coming out of it."

Rowell said another key for the Bulldogs is getting the table-setters - New and Jay Bingham at the top of the lineup and Harmon and Jason Arguello at the bottom - on base for McGuire, Sledge or Park to drive home.

In a playoff game for the district title Tuesday against Wall, Coahoma rallied from a 9-1 deficit to win, 15-

12. That victory should give the team a boost this weekend, team members say.

"It was a big boost, because it showed us we could come back," McGuire said. "We got three or four guys who got us some big hits and cleared the bases. It kind of made up for some slow innings before."

"One of our goals was to win district," Sledge said. "Now, it's to go as far as we can in the playoffs. It'd be nice to win one or two games ... After that, everything else would be gravy."

Briefs

Athletes honored at Forsan banquet

FORSAN - Jason Sims and Jenny Conaway were presented the most valuable boy and girl athlete awards at the Forsan Awards Banquet held at the high school auditorium Tuesday evening.

The banquet honored outstanding students in both athletics and academics. In addition to awards presentations, new student council officers and cheerleaders were introduced.

Those honored for athletic achievement included:

Football MVP - Sims; boys' basketball MVP - Clark Fields; girls' basketball MVP - Conaway; golf MVP - Michael Hatfield; girls' track MVP - Laurie Light; boys' track MVP - Fields; girls' tennis MVP - Ryndi Hamby; and boys' tennis MVP - Shane Sims.

O'Neal, Mourning head rooking team

NEW YORK (AP) - Rookie of the Year Shaquille O'Neal of Orlando and Alonzo Mourning of Charlotte were unanimous choices on the NBA All-Rookie team.

Joining them on the first team were Christian Laettner of Minnesota, Tom Gugliotta of Washington and LaPhonso Ellis of Denver.

The second team was Walt Williams of Sacramento, Robert Horry of Houston, Latrell Sprewell of Golden State, Clarence Weatherpoon of Philadelphia and Richard Dumas of Phoenix.

Deion a happy Brave once more

ATLANTA (AP) - Two-sport star Deion Sanders and Atlanta apparently have agreed on a multiyear contract to keep him with the Braves until the end of each season.

Braves general manager John Schuerholz said Sanders and the Braves reached an "understanding" on a contract.

Sanders is due to return Friday at New York. He was reinstated from the disqualified list and joined minor-league workouts Wednesday at Atlanta's spring training camp in West Palm Beach, Fla.

Sanders is not required to stay past July 31 because of his commitment with the Atlanta Falcons, for whom he plays cornerback.

Waite leads Kemper Open

POTOMAC, Md. (AP) - New Zealand native Grant Waite shot a bogey-free 66 to take a one-shot lead after the opening round of the Kemper Open.

Tim Simpson, Ed Fiori, Kelly Gibson, Jeff Maggert and David Toms had 4-under-par 67s on the TPC at Avenel course. Eight players, including Wayne Levi and Tommy Armour, were at 68.

Sixteen shot 69s, while Tom Kite and Howard Twitty were among a group of 19 at 70. Defending champion Bill Glasson shot 74. John Daly was disqualified for not signing his scorecard.

U.S. netters down Russians

DUSSELDORF, Germany (AP) - The United States defeated Russia 3-0 in the World Team Cup, getting singles victories from Pete Sampras and Michael Chang and a doubles win by Richey Reneberg and Patrick McEnroe.

Sergei Bruguera won singles and doubles to lead defending champion Spain past Switzerland 2-1 to face the U.S. for the blue group title.

Sampras beat Alexander Volkov 7-5, 6-1, and Chang topped Andrei Chesnokov 6-1, 6-4, while Reneberg and McEnroe beat Volkov and Andrei Olhovskiy 6-3, 6-4.

In the Swiss-Spanish singles, Jakob Hlasek outlasted Carlos Costa 1-6, 6-3, 6-4, and Bruguera defeated Marc Rosset 6-4, 6-1. Bruguera and Tomas Carbonell beat Rosset and Jakob Hlasek 6-2, 6-2.

Tailback a strength in Steers' spring drills



Big Spring running back Lonnie Jackson, with ball, looks for room to run around left end during football practice Thursday at Blankenship Field. The Steers will conclude spring drills next week.

By MIKE BUTTS
Sports Editor

Big Spring High School's spring football program ends next week with the last day of school. And defensive tackle remains an area of focus for the team while running back is a bright spot, head coach Dwight Butler said.

The Steers will lose every varsity defensive tackle from their 5-4-1 1992 team to graduation. Butler is looking at several players to fill the holes.

"We've been real encouraged," Butler said. "We've got five or six players at defensive tackle that have a chance to help us and contribute right now."

Big Spring must also replace defensive end Richard Hain and three offensive linemen.

"If we can get the right people in the right positions (in the lines) we're going to be very competitive," Butler said. "Anybody from the sophomore level on up that we feel can help us we're looking at."

The Steer coach has liked what he's seen at running back this spring. Returning to the varsity are leading rusher Lonnie Jackson, a tailback who becomes a senior in the fall, and now junior fullback David

Akin. Up from the freshman and junior varsity ranks are ninth-grade tailback Ray McGee and sophomore fullback Harvey Simpson.

"We're not going to be big (at running back) but we feel like we're at least two deep if they all return in the fall," Butler said.

Junior Wes Hughes returns as the starting quarterback. He shared the position with senior Clay Klatt last season until the fourth game.

"We've got a definite returning starter," the Steer coach said. "Wes is in there. We would really like to see (sophomore) Brian Burchett and (sophomore) Dustin Waters compete and even push for the position to make us better. Competition for a position is good but we definitely have a starter returning."

The team workout schedule changed this year to concentrate on football, Butler said. The spring program has involved football only - running plays and learning technique - without weight lifting or agility drills. The Big Spring coach said he has left the latter two routines up to the players to work on their own.

"We're just trying to look at some people in different positions and try to get a jump on what we're doing," Butler said.

Rockets force 7th game; Spurs fall

By The Associated Press

HOUSTON - Terry Teagle, who played only one minute, gave such good advice to Kenny Smith that it helped keep the Houston Rockets in the NBA playoffs.

A late-night shooting drill and counsel from Teagle helped Smith score 30 points Thursday night and lead the Rockets to a 103-90 victory over Seattle in The Summit.

The victory extended the Western Conference semifinal series to the seventh game, scheduled Saturday in Seattle.

The winner of Saturday's game will play the Phoenix Suns in the Western Conference finals. The Spurs eliminated the San Antonio Spurs on Thursday.

"I shoot at night all the time," Smith said. "I came in last night (Wednesday) and I realized that I'd just been taking six or seven shots. I was happy for a day off so I could go through my normal drills."

Smith felt the shooting touch return during his late-night shootaround and Teagle urged him to take more shots.

"Terry's been harping at me that I was passing up scoring opportunities," Smith said. "Having a guy like that hawking you makes a big difference."

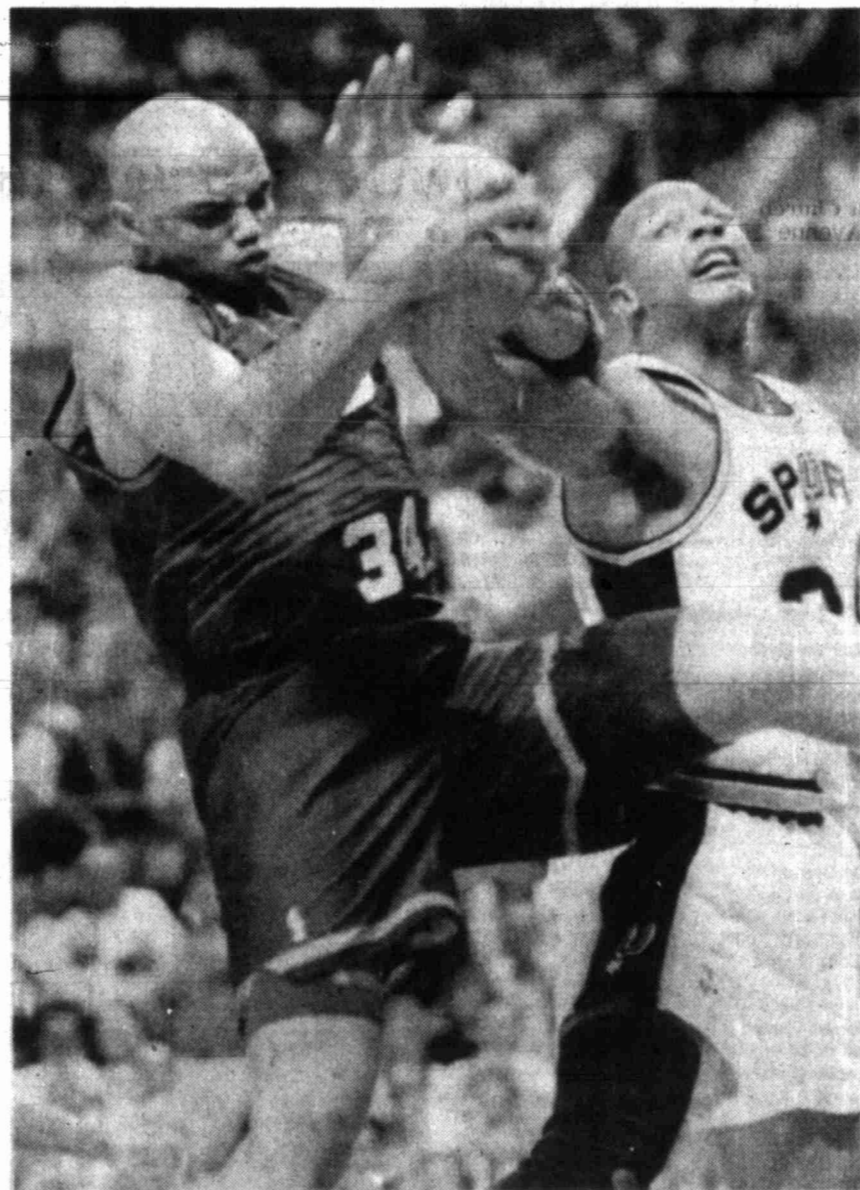
Smith didn't miss many scoring chances against the Sonics. He hit 13 of 16 shots, including four 3-point baskets, and didn't commit a turnover in igniting the Rockets.

Although the Sonics led through most of the first half and held a 47-43 edge at intermission, Smith scored 15 points in the first half to keep the Rockets close. He added 10 more in the breakaway third period.

SUNS 102, SPURS 100

SAN ANTONIO - The big reason the Phoenix Suns survived another rough playoff series was the man with the big shot - Charles Barkley.

The best regular-season NBA team, the Suns made it to the Western Conference finals when Barkley put his basketball magic to work again Thursday night. He lifted the Suns to a 102-100 victory over the San Antonio Spurs with a game-winning, top-of-the-key jumper over the



Phoenix Suns forward Charles Barkley (34) goes for the rebound against San Antonio Spurs forward Terry Cummings in the second half of the Sun 102-100 win Thursday night in San Antonio.

outstretched arm of David Robinson with 1.8 seconds to play.

"I always expect to hit the big shot," said Barkley, who scored 28 points and had 21 rebounds. "It felt good the second it left my hand. I knew it was in."

The Suns, taking the best-of-7 series 4-2, now face the winner of the Houston-Seattle series. Game 7 of that series will be Saturday at Seattle.

For San Antonio, it was a distressing finish to an up-and-down season of coaching changes, winning streaks

followed by streaks of mediocrity, then a trip to the conference semifinals for the first time since Robinson's rookie year four seasons ago.

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Dr. Crockett will stop seeing patients on ~~May~~ 27, 1993, however, his patients may continue to be followed at the Surgery Department at Malone and Hogan Clinic where their records will be kept.

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