

BIG SPRING HERALD

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MONDAY
August 5, 1996

50 cents

Cash incentive program for Texas principals infuriates some teachers

AUSTIN (AP) — Principals at some of Texas' most-improved schools will be in line to receive a portion of \$5 million in state money set aside under a new cash incentive program that has angered some teachers.

The Principal Performance Incentives Program was tacked onto last year's education bill by state Rep. Kent Grusendorf, R-Arlington.

The statewide public school ratings released Friday for the 1995-96 school year will help determine which princi-

pals will be in the running for cash awards of up to \$5,000.

"It's a check written to the principal," said Texas Education Agency associate commissioner Criss Clout. "There are no strings attached."

The law sets \$5,000 and \$2,500 as maximum award amounts, depending upon the school's rating and the criteria being developed by a panel appointed by Gov. George W. Bush.

The guidelines are supposed to be complete by Sept. 1. Just how many

principals will be recognized won't be known until later this fall, after ratings for year-round schools are added to the rankings just released.

Even though the program was intended to provide an incentive, some principals said they aren't moved by financial inducements.

"Principals are outstanding professional people and do the best they possibly can whether or not they get a cash incentive," said Round Rock High School Principal H. Lynn Russell.

"I would not be encouraged to do a better job for \$5,000. The good principals I know aren't influenced by money."

Some teachers, meanwhile, are outraged that the incentives leave them out.

"We've already gotten calls," said John O'Sullivan of the Texas Federation of Teachers. "They're just furious. They say, 'My principal is a great guy and has done a great job, but so have I.'"

"In the view of many teachers, it's money that's showing up in the pockets of principals at a time when it's disappearing from the pockets of teachers ... This does not create team spirit."

Once winners are named, the big question to principals might be whether or not to keep the money.

"I think it's a wonderful gesture, but this particular strategy is going to create problems," said Sheila Anderson, principal of an Austin elementary school.

Please see INCENTIVE, Page 2

Dueling with engines

Dan Flagg does some last-minute minor adjusting on the engine of his boat Saturday at Moss Creek Lake during the Duel in the Desert drag boat races while a group of race fans take advantage of the opportunity to watch racers work on an engine. High winds Sunday resulted in eight of the 13 finals races being cancelled. For results, see Page 5.

HERALD photos/Tim Appel



Guard, inmates tell different stories in Abilene shooting

DALLAS (AP) — State corrections officials say Daniel Miguel Avellaneda was shot in the forehead while "running backward" during an escape attempt, but inmates at a West Texas prison unit are telling a different story.

The 21-year-old farm worker from Mexico was serving a three-year sentence at the maximum-security French Robertson Unit near Abilene when he was shot by a mounted corrections officer overseeing a field work squad.

The officer who shot Avellaneda, 35-year-old Neal Harms, says about 20 inmates were hauling dirt July 8 from one prison unit to another.

Harms said that as inmates were pushing a trailer across a ditch, Avellaneda made an obscene gesture, yelled an obscenity, jumped over an electric wire and started running.

The officer said he twice instructed Avellaneda to stop and fired a warning shot into the air before yelling for a third time for the inmate to halt.

"The inmate turned around running backward, flipping me off again. I then fired a second shot toward the inmate's center mass, and the inmate fell to the ground," Harms told officials.

Three inmates, however, are telling a different story. They say Avellaneda was not running from the corrections officer when he was shot. Two of them said Avellaneda's hands were in the air, as if surrendering.

The inmates wrote separate, signed letters to *The Dallas Morning News*. Avellaneda was not mentioned by name, but one referred to him as an "Hispanic inmate." The paper did not publish the inmates' names because one of them claimed to fear

retaliation. All the letters described a scene in which the corrections officer had ridden his horse into the inmate.

"When the inmate began to run from the huge animal, the employee (Harms) began to pretend that the inmate was trying to run," said one inmate.

Another described it this way: "I witnessed this inmate stop running, put his hands up, turned facing Officer Harm. He was standing still with his hands raised in the air. Officer Harm shot this inmate in the head."

Avellaneda was taken by van to the prison infirmary, then by ambulance to Hendricks Memorial Hospital in Abilene. He remained in a coma and was pronounced dead on July 9.

The shooting was investigated by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice Internal Affairs Division and the Texas Rangers. The Rangers' report was turned over to District Attorney Jack G. Willingham of Jones County, where the shooting happened.

Wayne Scott, executive director of the TDCJ in Austin, said he has asked for an additional investigation. He has asked for "a Serious Incident Review Team of senior wardens and senior prison officials to look into the use of force that resulted in the death of this inmate."

"The Internal Affairs Department will participate in the review, which will routinely include a review of earlier Internal Affairs' findings," Scott said.

Prison officials said regulations allow corrections officers to use deadly force to prevent escape.

Vandals destroying caves in Texas Hill Country

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

Graffiti isn't the only vandalism marring caves in the Texas Hill Country these days.

It seems that thieves are breaking and stealing the icicle-like mineral formations known as stalagmites and stalactites, Austin naturalists say.

The latest episode of cave vandalism was last month in the city-owned Karst Preserve. In Goat Cave and Maple Run Cave, someone broke off more than 40 formations, stealing about a dozen and leaving the others behind.

"It's a real shame," naturalist Mark Sanders told the Houston

Chronicle for Sunday editions. "If it broke the way they liked it, they took it. Obviously they were after certain types of formations."

"We're finding there's a new breed that wants to go in and destroy them," he said. "We won't tolerate this anymore. That's why we didn't mess around. We immediately filed a criminal complaint."

The vandals' apparent quest for souvenirs violates the Texas Cavern Protection Act of 1979, which prohibits damaging cave formations.

Decades ago, stolen stalactites and stalagmites were sold in rock shops, but now their pos-

session is forbidden by law. Violations are Class A misdemeanors, subject to a jail sentence and a fine.

Repairing and replacing some of the broken formations left behind is expected to cost about \$4,000 for labor alone. But it will take thousands of years for the porous terrain to naturally rebuild the dozen formations that were stolen.

And without the 100-percent humidity of the caverns, the stolen formations will crumble within a few years, experts said.

"It's hard to get people to see the value of these things," said Justin Shaw, vice president of the Texas Cave Management

Association. He speculated that some of the missing formations are serving as doorstops and home decor.

Shaw will join Austin city workers in using nontoxic glue and epoxy to restore the jigsaw puzzle of broken formations, some of which are 3 feet long.

Most caves in the Edwards Aquifer region are on private land, but Austin manages six large caves that officials said are frequently damaged by vandals despite locked gates.

Litterbugs, graffiti artists, gang members and amateur explorers sometimes circumvent fences to enter their dank, mysterious darkness.

Many finding ways to get around state insurance laws for motorists

AUSTIN (AP) — State law requires motorists to carry liability auto insurance year-round, but many people are finding an illegal way around that.

About 21 percent of drivers involved in accidents last year were uninsured or their insurance status was unknown, according to an analysis of state data by the Austin American-Statesman.

One way to get around the law is as easy as opening a phone book, where ads list one-month

insurance policies.

A few consumers buy the policies because they need insurance for only a month, but officials say want only to obtain proof-of-insurance cards that can be used to renew a driver's license, vehicle registration or inspection sticker.

Other common ways of cheating the insurance law include buying six- or 12-month policy and canceling it after one month. Other cheaters buy counterfeit proof-of-insurance cards.

PIONEER WINNERS



HERALD photo/Tim Appel
Randell Sherrod (left), of Glasscock County, and Jack Buchanan, of Coahoma, were presented with Pioneer Awards Saturday at the 73rd Howard/Glasscock Old Settlers Reunion. Sherrod's Glasscock County Pioneer Award was sponsored by area historian Polly Mays, while Buchanan's Howard County Pioneer Award was sponsored by the Wal-Mart Foundation.

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TODAY'S WEATHER

101 ▲ Highs 72
Lows ▼

Lows tonight, mid-70s. Chance of late thundershowers. Highs Tuesday through Friday mid-to-upper 90s with lows in mid-70s.



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Israeli prime minister Netanyahu in Jordan to revive Mideast peace hopes

AMMAN, Jordan (AP) — Hoping to revive peace talks with Syria, Israel's prime minister traveled to Jordan today to meet with the man who has positioned himself as a prime peace-broker in the dispute. Benjamin Netanyahu's trip comes only two days after Jordan's King Hussein met the Syrian president in Damascus. Jordan's friendly relations with

Israel give Hussein a chance to mediate between Israel and its main Arab foe. "The thrust of the conversation will be how to resume talks with Syria," David Bar-Illan, a top Netanyahu aide, told The Associated Press in Jerusalem on Sunday. Netanyahu flew in to Hussein's hilly royal palace in downtown Amman in a heli-

copter. Prime Minister Abdul-Karim Kabariti and senior state officials welcomed him. Netanyahu met with Crown Prince Hassan, Hussein's younger brother, before he went into talks with the king. Syrian President Hafez Assad has adopted a wait-and-see attitude toward the hard-line Israeli government headed by Netanyahu's Likud bloc, which

won May elections. After five hours of talks with Assad, Hussein told reporters Saturday that the Syrian leader "did not give me any message to pass on to the Israeli prime minister." But the monarch, who signed a treaty with Israel in 1994, acknowledged that he and Assad discussed the "Lebanon First" option, which was floated by Israel last month. The idea is for Syria and Israel to break a six-month deadlock in their negotiations by reaching an agreement on Lebanon, where both countries have troops.

Lebanon takes its political cues from Syria, which has as many as 40,000 troops there. Israeli troops and their proxy Lebanese militia occupy an enclave in south Lebanon. Bar-Illan said the "Lebanon First" option would be discussed in Amman, but the main thing is to get the peace dialogue going again. "We feel that Syria has not closed the door on the possibility of resuming talks, despite Israel's insistence on starting with a clean table. There's no outright rejection of our proposals," he said.

Other issues to be discussed today include reviving Jordanian-Israeli cooperation agreements reached with Netanyahu's predecessor, Labor Party leader Shimon Peres. Jordan hopes to improve trade relations with Israel, in part to convince Jordan's predominantly Palestinian society that peace dividends are materializing. Another issue is the release of about 20 Jordanian prisoners held in Israel for infiltrating or carrying out attacks against the Jewish state.

Parched Jordan also hopes to gain 1.8 billion cubic feet of water from Israel. That would be in addition to some 7 billion cubic feet Israel already is pumping. On the Palestinian front, Jordan is expected to ask for a swift resumption of negotiations with the Palestinians over the West Bank, which the kingdom ruled for 17 years before Israel captured it during the 1967 war.

Exam on TWA cockpit will be 'major chore'

EAST MORICHES, N.Y. (AP) — The explosion of TWA Flight 800 turned the cockpit into a densely mangled mass of wires, metal and gadgets that investigators say will be difficult to dismantle and mine for clues. "It's going to be a major chore ... to figure out what it all means and to take it apart," National Transportation Safety Board Vice Chairman Robert Francis said Sunday. "This is going to take some time."

major weekend strides in a disaster probe that had been frustrated for days by bad weather. Francis said the cockpit section, estimated to weigh a ton, was pierced by a large, unidentifiable beam from another part of the aircraft when it exploded July 17, 10 miles off the coast of Long Island, killing all 230 aboard.

ing the FBI investigation into the explosion, said seeing "that mass of jumble of wires certainly brought home to me how difficult it's going to be — to try to put that all back together again. "Basically, it's just a solid pile of debris all mixed together," he said.

He said investigators would now begin the arduous task of untangling the wreckage to see what evidence it might contain on the cause of the explosion. Because of the condition of the wreckage, Francis said he was "not expecting dramatic results from today to tomorrow." The dismantling of the cockpit wreckage began Sunday, a source speaking on condition of anonymity told The AP. "Wreckage will be inspected for explosive residue, which would suggest a bomb, the source said. A missile theory and mechanical failure also have not been ruled out. James Kallstrom, who is head-

It was unclear how many of the cockpit's 900 gauges and dials and gadgets were in the recovered section. An instrument panel — perhaps frozen in time — could yield clues about engine speed or how the plane was reacting. A second source close to the investigation told The AP that investigators have not entirely ruled out the possibility that a bomb was hidden in a foam box shipped aboard Flight 800 that was supposed to contain corneas for transplant. "If we bring up the cockpit, and there is Styrofoam all over everything, we will have to go back and take a very close look to see if there was a switch," the source told The AP.

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Divers were working early today to try to retrieve part of the outer shell of the cockpit. The recovery of bodies — 194 by Sunday, leaving 36 missing — and the retrieval of bargeloads of wreckage were

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Border ranchers say land is battlefield

BROWNSVILLE (AP) — The handwritten sign nailed to a hackberry tree serves as a sardonic welcome to the Monsees Ranch: "Marijuana Blvd. Since 1940."

a U.S. Senate committee last week that ranchers intimidated by rising violence were selling land to American representatives for Mexican drug traffickers.

Jim Collier, the agent in charge of the Drug Enforcement Administration's San Antonio division, disagrees. "It is prevalent and has increased in the last eight months, probably because of the increase in the availability of drugs generally," he said.

Julia Monsees posted it shortly after she and her husband bought the 30-acre property along the Rio Grande in 1940, when a neighbor pointed out that what Mrs. Monsees thought was an orange tree sapling actually was marijuana.

Agencies charged with battling drug traffickers disagree on just how widespread the problem is on border ranches. Leonard Lindheim, agent in charge of the Customs Service in San Antonio, said he believes ranchers are mistaking an increase in illegal immigration for heightened drug traffic.

Smugglers cross through private land because border ranches are located far from immigration checkpoints. Also, the ranches usually also have established trails that lead to hard-surface roads, where vehicles can pick up drug shipments.

The Monsees homestead was becoming a highway for illegal immigrants and drug traffickers heading north from Mexico, and the marijuana had apparently sprouted from seeds that had fallen to the ground as the smugglers passed through.

"The type of complaints we're hearing are their fences are being cut, their cattle are being shot and butchered for food, their buildings are being broken into," he said. "This is not drug trafficking; these are illegal immigrants. If I had one word to categorize the problem, it would be trespassing."

For decades, the Monseeses, who once grew cotton and now run a plant nursery on their ranch, have watched illegal immigrants scamper through their palm trees and heard automatic gunfire from shootouts between drug smugglers and Mexican authorities.

In the years since, Mrs. Monsees has been threatened with a knife and robbed. She has found drugs stashed around the property and seen female immigrants who had been raped. She's even found her own dog, skinned and hanging from a tree limb.

Lindheim said drug traffickers have used border ranches to transport their goods since the '70s, but he does not believe activity has increased.

Mrs. Monsees' son, Rusty, patrols the property nearly every day. A former policeman, he lives with his family next door to the main house.

In the war on drugs, the Monsees Ranch has become a battlefield.

"It's been mighty, mighty rough out here," said Mrs. Monsees, 84, who sleeps with a shotgun by her bed. "At first I wanted to get rid of the place. Then I started fighting it."

Other ranches along the Texas-Mexico border had told similar tales of drug lords terrorizing them.

One Texas rancher, cloaked in a black hood and raincoat, told

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TEXAS BRIEFS

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hill country officials battling cave vandals

HOUSTON — Graffiti isn't the only vandalism marring caves in the Texas Hill Country these days.

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"We're finding there's a new breed that wants to go in and destroy them," he said. "We won't tolerate this anymore. That's why we didn't mess around. We immediately filed a criminal complaint."

Anticipating expansion, Jones fights DART

IRVING — Jerry Jones is locked in another battle over tradition and big bucks. His opponent this time, however, is the area's mass transit agency and not the NFL.

The Dallas Cowboys owner is spearheading a campaign to persuade this city of 170,000 residents to drop its transit system.

Voters in Irving and three other northern suburbs of Dallas will decide Aug. 10 whether to withdraw from the 700-square-mile Dallas Area

Rapid Transit system.

A poll published Sunday in The Dallas Morning News indicated Jones may end up losing his fight. The telephone survey found that 57 percent of Irving voters support DART, while 32 percent want the city to pull out. The poll was conducted July 26-31 with a 4.5 percent margin of error.

DART is supported from the proceeds of a 1-cent sales tax in each member city. If Irving breaks free, its DART sales tax would be unnecessary by 1999.

Group staged accidents to balk insurance firms

DALLAS — Authorities say they've cracked a multimillion-dollar fraud ring in which insurance companies were bilked through staged car crashes.

Six people have pleaded guilty in Dallas to the scam, which officials say was masterminded by a ring of Russians from California. Insurance company losses are estimated in the tens of millions of dollars.

One of the key players, Michael Rapaport, pleaded guilty last month in a Dallas courtroom to participating in the conspiracy that began about three years ago. Five others recently pleaded guilty to related charges.

Authorities say it worked like this: low-income immigrants who don't speak English were recruited as drivers and up to three others were recruited as passengers.

The driver, in a dilapidated car, would then cause an accident, perhaps by stopping on a freeway in front of an expensive car. The driver and all three passengers would make a claim on the other driver's insurance.

Notice of Vote on Tax Rate

The Sands CISD conducted a public hearing on a proposal to increase your property taxes by 4% percent on August 5, 1996 at 7:00 PM

The Sands CISD is scheduled to vote on the tax rate at a public meeting to be held on August 8, 1996 at 7:00 PM at Sands CISD board room

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MONDAY

AUG. 5

Table with 33 columns representing different TV channels (KMD, KPEJ, KERA, etc.) and rows listing programs and their start times.

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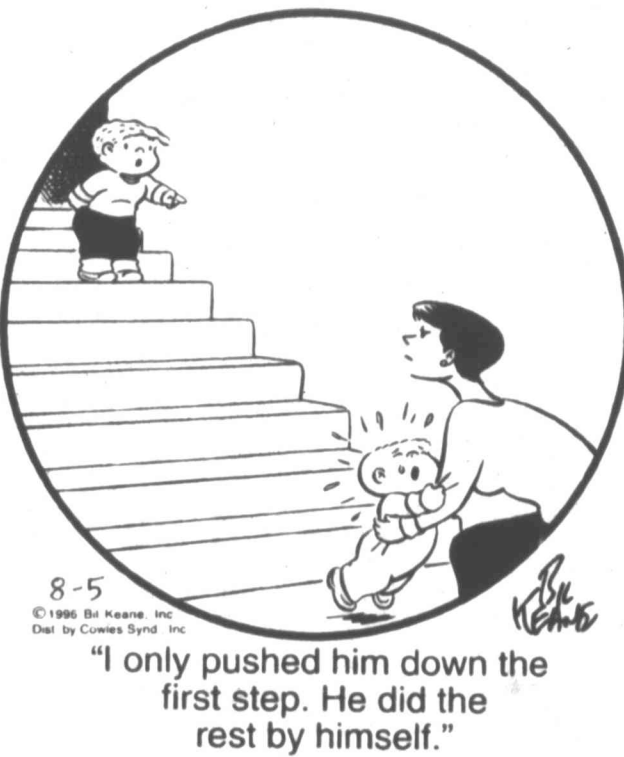
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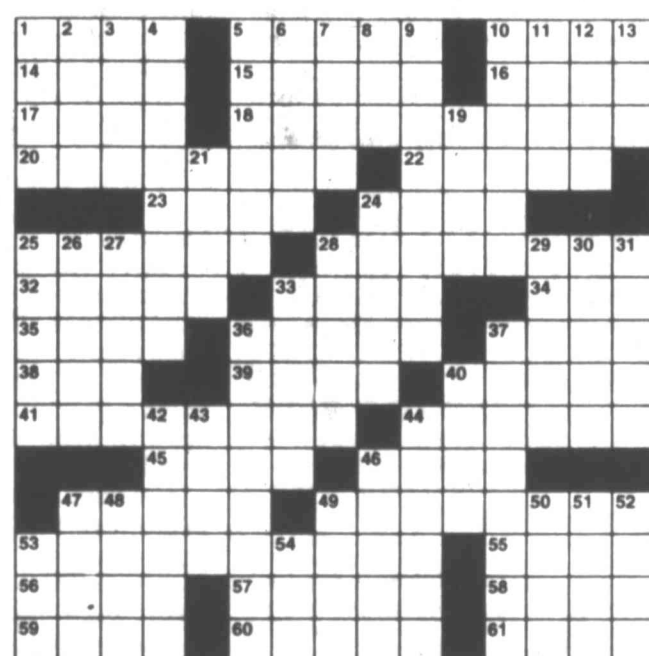


THIS DATE IN HISTORY

The ASSOCIATED PRESS Today is Monday, August 5, the 218th day of 1996. There are 148 days left in the year.

THE Daily Crossword by Philip J. Anderson

- ACROSS 1 Type of party 5 Kid's marble 10 Stable occupant 14 Killer whale 15 Involving the moon 16 Addict 17 Ringlet 18 Two-masted sailing ship 20 Discipline, in a way 22 French river 23 Ages and ages 24 San 25 Capistrano 26 Settlement 28 River transporter 32 Dress shape 33 To shelter 34 Fury 35 Pencil 36 Ginger cookies 37 Pack gear 38 First lady 39 Allen and Conway 40 Foolish folks 41 Assign to obscurity 44 More treasured 45 Bright star 46 Pealed 47 New Zealand aborigine 49 Curved timbers 53 Certain ship 55 Pelvic bones 56 I cannot tell 57 Errand runner 58 "Dimittis" 59 Fox 60 Lucerne resident 61 Oddball



- DOWN 1 Hit 2 Loyal 3 Ranch measure 4 Three-masted sailing ships 5 NY city 6 Spiritual teachers 7 Blue dye 8 Playground game 9 Deletions 10 Open rebellion 11 A - able 12 M. Coty 13 Before 19 Approach 21 Sharpen 24 Army vehicles 25 Wickerwork worker 26 - drab 27 Slander 28 Sweetheart 29 Ceremonial headdress 30 Came up 31 Not as old 33 - Bryant, singer 36 Scallops 37 Made for ocean voyages 40 Fallow 42 Summoned 43 "Pretty Woman" co-star 44 Librarian's stamps 46 Ancient letters 47 Macho 48 Gobi-like 49 Favorite name for a poodle? 50 Hint 51 Cattle, old style 52 Fire 53 Ingot 54 Drag

Saturday's Puzzle solved:



the first time. In 1864, during the Civil War, Union Adm. David G. Farragut is said to have given his famous order, "Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead!" as he led his fleet against Mobile Bay, Alabama.

In 1884, the cornerstone for the Statue of Liberty was laid on Bedloe's Island in New York Harbor.

In 1914, the first electric traffic lights were installed, in Cleveland, Ohio.

In 1924, the comic strip "Little Orphan Annie," by Harold Gray, made its debut.

In 1953, Operation "Big Switch" was under way as Korean conflict taken during the peninsula were exchanged at Panmunjom.

In 1954, 24 boxers became the first inductees into the Boxing Hall of Fame, including Henry Armstrong, Gentleman Jim Corbett, Jack Dempsey, Jack Johnson, Joe Louis and John L. Sullivan.

In 1963, the United States, Britain and the Soviet Union signed a treaty in Moscow banning nuclear tests in the atmosphere, in space and underwater.

In 1969, the U.S. space probe Mariner 7 flew by Mars, sending back photographs and scientific data.

In 1981, the federal government began firing air traffic controllers who had gone out on strike.

In 1984, actor Richard Burton died at a hospital in Geneva, Switzerland, at the age of 58.

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