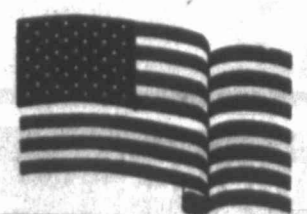


# Happy birthday, America!



## BIG SPRING

# HERALD

INDEPENDENCE DAY  
July 4, 1997

Reflecting A Proud Community

50 cents

## TDA set to begin boll weevil referendum meetings

By CARLTON JOHNSON  
Staff Writer

The Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) will begin a series of educational meetings on the Aug. 1 boll weevil eradication referendum beginning Monday.

The purpose of the meetings are to answer questions regarding the upcoming boll weevil eradication referendum in the 19-county Southern High Plains-Caprock Boll Weevil Eradication Zone. The meetings begin Monday

at 9:30 a.m. at Tahoka's Life Enrichment Center; 3:30 p.m. at the Graham Community Center in Post; and at 5:30 p.m. in the Borden County Courthouse in Gail.

On Tuesday the meetings will begin at 9:30 a.m. in Lamesa's Dawson County Annex Building and at 3 p.m. at the Andrews County Courthouse in Andrews.

On July 11, the meeting will begin at 10 a.m. in Howard County at the Knott Co-op Gin and at 1:30 p.m. in Big Spring at the St. Paul Lutheran Church Activity Room.

On July 14, producers are invited to attend meeting beginning at 7:30 a.m. at the Ackerly Gin; 11:30 a.m. at the Stanton Community Center; and 2:30 p.m. at the Midland County Farmer's Co-op in Midland.

The final meeting in the series will begin at 9:30 a.m. July 15 at the Gaines County Park Building in Seminole.

According to TDA spokesman Gene Acuna, cotton farmers and landowners with cotton production are urged to attend the meetings to learn more about the referendum process, what to

expect if a program is approved and what to expect regarding the assessment collection process.

Additional time will be allotted during each meeting in order to answer all questions.

The election scheduled for Aug. 1 is to determine whether a boll weevil eradication program should be initiated in the Southern High Plains-Caprock Zone.

In addition to initiating an eradication program for the

See WEEVIL, Page 2

## Clinton names new VA chief

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hershel Gober, an Arkansas ally and old friend of President Clinton, is the nominee to succeed Jesse Brown as secretary of veterans affairs.

Gober, who has been Brown's deputy, served as state director of veterans affairs in Arkansas while Clinton was governor. The president announced his intentions Thursday.

"I would like to say what I hope is obvious now, and I've never said it formally, that is I intend to nominate Deputy Secretary Hershel Gober to be the next secretary of veterans affairs," he said.

"We have been friends for many years. He did a superb job as state director. He was a good partner and support to Jesse Brown, who fulfilled his promise to me to be a secretary for — as well as secretary of — veterans affairs," Clinton said.

Gober's 20-year military career includes service in both the Marine Corps and the Army. He served two tours of duty in Vietnam and received the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star.

## Community celebrating America's birthday with variety of activities

Big Spring is celebrating our country's birthday in style today, with a park festival, war scene reenactments and a historical pageant.

"4th Fest" at Comanche Trail Park continues until 6 p.m. Planned activities include sports tournaments, swimming, fishing, games and other entertainment. This family event promises special kids' activities, booths of arts and crafts, antiques, food and music.

"The purpose of the event is to create something for the whole family," said organizer Tara Kersh. "It's our way of providing an old-fashioned celebration for the Fourth of July."

Big Spring State Park visitors this afternoon will see Civil War soldier's camp reenactments from about 2-4 p.m. Costumed members of the Sons of Confederate Veterans are set to create living history with authentic artillery — including a five-inch mortar cannon.

Take your bell to the "Let Freedom Ring" pageant today at 8 p.m. Organizer Mamie Lee Dodds says there will be a time for the audience to ring bells in unison.

The show features local residents in costume, performing such historical events as the Pilgrim landing and the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

It includes music, drama and food — birthday cake will be served before the show. Among the performers are church groups, high school band musicians and local civic club members.

A special feature of the performance will be the reading of the Declaration of Independence in a scene depicting its signing. Planned to add authenticity are the firing of a mortar cannon, muskets, and the playing of fife and drum.

Attendees will receive special programs, and will join in singing the fourth verse of our national anthem.

Coahoma's Lions Club-sponsored activities will be held Saturday, with a parade scheduled for 11 a.m. in downtown Coahoma.

A bake sale will follow the parade.

—DEBBIE L. JENSEN



Archie Kountz, general manager of TCA Cable TV of Big Spring, places an American flag in a holder along Gregg Street earlier today. Big Spring Cable assists Big Spring Rotarians in displaying the flags on patriotic holidays. Persons wishing to donate to the flag program may do so by contacting any Rotarian.

HERALD photo/Jonatha Garrett

## Star-Spangled Banner

### Saving America's original flag could cost up to \$15 million

WASHINGTON (AP) — It could cost \$15 million to save the original Star-Spangled Banner, the huge flag raised over Fort Mchenry in the dawn's early light of Sept. 14, 1814.

It now hangs in the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History — 40 feet long and threatening to crumble.

To preserve it from time and pollution, \$15 million will be sought. Just how to do all that is still under discussion. One problem is keeping the flag on display during the long, high-tech conservation. One idea is to let the public watch at least part of the work.

"I think it's our duty to make it available to people for as long as we can," said associate museum director Ron Becker, in charge of the operation.

The flag dates from the War of 1812, when a decisive British victory might have reversed the Declaration of Independence a generation before.

Francis Scott Key, a Washington lawyer, was trying to get the release of a fellow Washingtonian the British had taken the month before when they attacked and burned the capital. He arrived at an awkward time. The British were trying to take Baltimore, too.

They kept him all of a stormy night aboard a small sloop in the Patapsco River while they bombarded the fort, which guarded the sea approach to the

city. The rockets' red glare and the bombs bursting in air — a new invention at the time — gave Key glimpses of a smaller storm flag above the fort. In the morning Maj. George Armistead, the American commander, raised the big one — the size of a four-story building — that he had made the year before.

Americans still held the fort. The flag, which inspired Key to write the national anthem, was kept in Armistead's family until 1907. Souvenir hunters snipped away large pieces of it and persons unknown, for unknown reasons, stitched a red V to one of the white stripes.

"We're researching who did that, and why," Becker said.

The 15 stripes and blue field are wool. The 15 stars — two feet across, point to point — are cotton. Sewn with linen thread, the flag had cost \$405.90 by the time Baltimore widow Mary Young Pickersgill and her 13-year-old daughter Caroline finished it a month before the attack.

The museum used to hang a plain cloth hung over it, and raised it every hour so visitors could see it as the national anthem played. But the cloth seemed to give little protection from visitors' breath and fibers in the atmosphere, so the flag is now on permanent show.

It got a light cleaning in 1982, but nothing like the preserva-

See BANNER, Page 2A

## TU files to refund money

HERALD Staff Report

TU Electric filed a request Thursday with the Public Utility Commission (PUC) to refund \$67 million to customers, including interest through August, because of lower than projected fuel costs from October 1995 through May 1997.

According to Big Spring TU Electric District Manager John Toone, the refund would effect some 2.4 million residential, industrial and commercial customers, and subject to PUC approval the refund will appear as a credit on August utility bills.

A TU residential customer with an August bill for 1,000 kilowatt-hours would receive a credit of \$5.50. The actual

amount of the refund will depend on the quantity of electricity used.

According to Toone, the refund was proposed because TU Electric was able to use less expensive nuclear fuel and purchased power to offset a volatile natural gas market during this period.

Electric utilities under PUC jurisdiction recover their fuel costs from customers through a fixed per-kilowatt-hour charge approved by the commission.

When actual fuel costs vary materially up or down from the approved projection, the utility files a request to refund or surcharge the difference.

Since 1986, TU has implemented 12 fuel refunds totaling \$839 million and two fuel surcharges totaling \$240 million.

## Independence Day activities dominate schedule

HERALD Staff Report

Looking for something to do this weekend? Here's your ticket to weekend activities in and around Big Spring.

This feature is published each Friday and will include a variety of activities. It is limited to activities of a general nature, community fund-raisers, community functions, free performances, etc.

To submit your activity, send it to "Weekend Ticket," Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721.

### WEEKEND TICKET

If you wish, you may fax your listing to 264-7205 or bring it by the Herald offices at 710 Scurry. No information will be taken over the phone.

• July 4-5 activities:  
10 a.m. — Highland South Parade;  
10 a.m. — 4th Fest activities get under way at Comanche Trail Park.  
A variety of activities continue through 8 p.m.

2 p.m. — Civil War reenactment, Big Spring State Park Pavilion. Park admission charges apply.

8 p.m. — "Let Freedom Ring" historical pageant, Comanche Trail Amphitheater.

11 a.m. Saturday — Coahoma Freedom Parade, downtown.

• Trench Art, Heritage Museum, closed today for the Fourth — open Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., 510 Scurry.

This exhibit, which runs through the month, includes artwork made from battlefield memorabilia.

For additional information, contact the museum at 267-8255.

• Model Railroad Museum, Saturday until 5 p.m., corner of 2nd and Main n downtown Big Spring.

• Pottor House, Saturday, 1-5 p.m., 200 Gregg.

• Live entertainment, tonight-Sunday, Flo's Yellow Rose, 1-20 Service Road, Sand Springs.

Times are 8 tonight, 9 Saturday and 6 on Sunday.

### WEATHER



Tonight, partly cloudy. A slight chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the mid 60s. Saturday, partly cloudy. Highs in the lower to mid 90s. Saturday night, a slight chance of showers or thunderstorms. Lows in the 60s. Extended forecast, Sunday through Tuesday, partly cloudy.

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To reach all departments, please call 263-7331



# Pet project town of Mexico's ruling party may vote PRD on Sunday

VALLE DE CHALCO, Mexico (AP) — Mexico's ruling party built this town.

In what was widely perceived as a party patronage program, the government laid the roads, built the sewers, brought in water and power. Out of gratitude, people have long pledged allegiance to the Institutional Revolutionary Party — known as the PRI — which has governed Mexico for 68 years.

But as Sunday's elections approach, many people in Valle de Chalco quietly say they'll vote for the leftist opposition, and even PRI supporters concede they may lose this town 20 miles southeast of Mexico City.

And if the PRI can lose here, it can lose anywhere.

The government helped build Chalco from the ground up in

the early 1980s, a showcase of the \$3 billion-plus Solidarity Program. Although it went on to help thousands of poor communities across Mexico, Solidarity often was accused of being a means of perpetuating the party's grip on power.

But with recent electoral reforms, economic crisis and a clamoring for greater democracy, that grip is now in danger.

In nearby Mexico City, the PRI candidate for mayor trails that of the leftist Democratic Revolution Party — or PRD — by 25 points in polls. The ruling party could lose its congressional majority for the first time in history. And polls show several states leaning toward opposition governors in Sunday's elections.

The PRI is doing what it can

to reverse that trend. Residents say the local government handed out bags of rice, beans, cooking oil, sugar and soap in the name of the party. It gave a discount on water to anyone with a voter registration card. It even vaccinated all the dogs in town against rabies.

"I should be a PRIista because they give us lot of things," Maria Esther Rojas, 40, who owns a tiny construction supply shop with her husband. She works on the PRI campaign, but when asked Wednesday whom she planned to vote for, she said with a sly smile: "A lot of people say they are PRIistas, but vote for (the opposition)."

The government built up the valley, but much remains to be done. And with a national

recession, Valle de Chalco has fallen on hard times.

Deep puddles of water stretch 50 feet across broad gravel and dirt roads. Crime has soared; policemen patrol with their pistols in their hands. The water is too dirty to drink.

"Now we have to buy drinking water" because the tap water is so bad, said Reyna Chavez Araiza, who cares for an elderly couple for a living. "You can't even fill yourself up on water any more."

"We don't want anything to do with the PRI now," she said.

Part of the ruling party's problem here has to do with former President Carlos Salinas de Gortari, who adopted Valle de Chalco as his pet project of his Solidarity program during his 1988-1994 term.

This is one of the few places in Mexico where people still smile fondly when they mention Salinas, who has been vilified because of family scandals and an economic crisis.

Allegiance to Salinas often has translated into support for the PRI. But even that is now in danger here.

Soon after Salinas left office, his brother Raul was arrested on charges of participating in the assassination of a ruling party leader.

"When they rob, I can accept that," Chavez said. "But when they start killing people, that just isn't right."

Even more than the scandals, people have been hurt by the financial crisis, which began only days after Salinas left office in December 1994.

A steep peso devaluation caused more than 1 million people to lose work and Mexico was plunged into its worst recession since the Depression. Recovery has yet to work its way down to most Mexicans.

Jose Monroy Vazquez, whose gaunt, deeply wrinkled face looks older than 56 under his cowboy hat, collects cardboard with a cart pulled by a scrawny, brown donkey. He gets 50 centavos — 3 cents — for every pound sold.

"We're malnourished," he said, looking at his 3-year-old grandson, Luis Angel, riding atop the cardboard. "Some days we eat cactus, some days beans. But beans are expensive."

"A lot of people here are with the PRD," he added. "We need a change."

# Convicted banker on Gary Mauro's taxpayer-bankrolled land staff may never pay full restitution of \$4.6 million

AUSTIN (AP) — Ruben Johnson, who was convicted of bank fraud and now works for Texas Land Commissioner Garry Mauro, may never finish paying his court-ordered debt to society, a newspaper reports.

Currently on probation, Johnson, 67, is negotiating to reduce a \$4.6 million restitution order that accompanied his 1989 conviction, his lawyer told the Austin American-Statesman.

"We are currently close to settlement with the government," lawyer Denise Tomlinson said. "We are not going to comment on the resolution. Mr. Johnson has been making monthly payments on his restitutions as required by his probation officer."

The former Austin banker was released from prison in July 1994 after serving 59 months of an eight-year sentence. He began his \$61,343-a-year job in Mauro's office in May.

As director of special projects, he will help start a \$52 million program to build assisted-living centers for veterans. Lawmakers approved the program this year.

Restitution payments go to the

Ruben Johnson's United Bank loaned \$228,000 to Mauro's 1982 campaign for land commissioner. He will be paid \$61,343 a year in his new job, but has paid back less than \$1,600 in restitution despite living in home valued at \$600,000.

Johnson's United Bank, went belly up during the Texas bust of the late 1980s.

In 1995, more than a year after Johnson left prison, federal lawyers sought court permission to foreclose on his 8,767-square-foot home because he had paid less than \$1,600 in restitution. The home is now valued at \$600,000.

Daryl Fields, a spokesman for the U.S. attorney's office in San Antonio, said the restitution has not been paid in full. He said he could not comment on negotiations.

Mauro has defended the hiring, saying Johnson won't handle state money.

As first reported by The Dallas Morning News, Johnson helped bankroll the Texas Democratic ticket in 1982, making more than \$100,000 in contributions and millions of dollars in loans to statewide candidates, including Mauro.

According to Texas Ethics Commission records, he contributed \$5,000 and his Austin

bank loaned \$228,000 to Mauro's 1982 campaign for land commissioner.

A spokeswoman for Gov. George W. Bush, Karen Hughes, said the hiring "certainly raises eyebrows when the first thing the Land Office says about its new employee is they checked with his parole officer."

United Bank's demise began in 1985. Plagued by bad loans and high overhead, its assets plunged from \$300 million to \$208 million.

"I think the whole country learned something from that era," Johnson said. "The '80s were a superheated time, and mistakes were made."

The bank's high overhead included Johnson's taste for the finer things: He outfitted his headquarters with oak parquet floors, imported rugs, travertine marble, Chippendale furniture, and statues, paintings and sculptures.

Johnson was indicted on 13 counts of defrauding his bank

by taking kickbacks from contractors who worked on the bank building. At the trial, Assistant U.S. Attorney Jim Blankinship called it greed.

"When it came down to a choice between the bank's best interests and Ruben Johnson's best interest, Ruben Johnson's best interests won out every time," he told jurors.

State Sen. Jerry Patterson, R-Pasadena, sponsor of the veterans home measure, said he had no problem with the hiring.

"I'm not against hiring ex-cons who have paid their debt and if that (conviction) is a known fact. I don't see how he can possibly do anything wrong in a program such as this where the access to those dollars is so heavily audited," he said.

# Pentagon: Rangers 'premature' to judge border shooting

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Pentagon says it is too early to try to judge the intentions of Marines involved in a fatal shooting along the Texas-Mexico border.

Pentagon spokesman Kenneth Bacon said Thursday that the Marines had reason to believe they were following military rules allowing them to use deadly force.

"Our standard rules of engagement allow the use of deadly force in self-defense," he said.

Bacon was asked about the May 20 incident in which 18-year-old Esequiel Hernandez Jr. of Redford, Texas, allegedly shot at a military surveillance team. The four-man Marine unit was watching a suspected drug route at the request of the Border Patrol. Military officials have said the teen-ager had shot twice at the Marines and had raised his .22-caliber rifle for a third shot when the Marines opened fire, killing him.

Bacon said the Marines have said they believed they were about to be fired upon again.

"The Marines' account is fairly explicit, that they had

been fired upon," the spokesman said. "The rules of engagement are very explicit, that they are allowed to respond in self-defense, with deadly force if necessary. The Marines had reason to believe that they were acting in accordance with the rules of engagement," Bacon said.

Asked whether the Marines properly followed the rules of engagement, or whether the rules themselves were improper, Bacon replied that it was "premature" to attempt to judge the Marines' intentions.

"And all of these facts are being investigated, but the Marines have told the investigators quite clearly what transpired, the degree of threat they felt they were under, and why they acted the way they did," the spokesman said.

Bacon noted that the Marines were in radio contact with their superiors at the time.

"They were reporting all the way along what was going on," the spokesman said. "There is extensive training given on the rules of engagement before soldiers are assigned to the border. They're very aware of what the rules are."

**For home delivery, call 263-7331**

tax dollars — when financial institutions, including

# Airline serving Angelo, Abilene is grounded

AUSTIN (AP) — A cash shortage and insurance cancellations have grounded Conquest Airlines.

The Austin-based commuter airline, which serves nine Texas cities, shut down as of noon Thursday after its hull and liability insurance was canceled, said Tim Clarey, executive vice president.

The policy was canceled because of the cash shortage, Clarey said.

The airline aims to resume operations July 14, he said.

Clarey said the company was suffering from insufficient funds due to a slowdown in summer business travel.

Conquest flies a loop between Austin, San Angelo and Abilene, and provides connecting service from its Austin hub to Tyler, Beaumont-Port Arthur, San Antonio, Corpus Christi, Laredo and McAllen.

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Dr. Fry will be in on Wednesdays  
Staff Available Monday-Friday

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Police activities for night 7:30

Police activities for night 7:30

EDITORIAL

Quote of the Day

"Liberty is always dangerous—  
but it is the safest thing we have."  
—Harry Emerson Fosdick

Opinions expressed on this page are those of the Editorial Board of the Big Spring Herald unless otherwise indicated.

Charles C. Williams  
Publisher  
John A. Moseley  
Sports Editor  
John H. Walker  
Managing Editor  
Debbie Jensen  
Features Editor

OUR VIEWS

We salute:

Each Friday, the *Herald* salutes individuals and groups from our community and area who have been recognized for special achievements or accomplishments.

We recognize these special people for working to help make our region a better place to live, work and play.

This week we salute:

- **SCENIC MOUNTAIN MEDICAL CENTER**, for its ongoing support of the Settles Hotel Window Project. The hospital has now given 20 windows to the project and has adopted the Settles Hotel as its project of the year.

- **ABWA OF BIG SPRING**, for selecting Shannon DeVore for its annual scholarship. DeVore, a mother of four, plans to go to college and is hopeful of becoming a teacher.

- **KEITH KLEMENT**, assistant county extension agent in Howard County, on being named county extension agent in Archer County.

- **HEB GROCERY**, for its support of the community ... most recently the Boy Scouts Pump-Off last Saturday.

- **PRISSY STANLEY and JOANNE SAYLES**, for their service as camp director and program director at the Cub Scout Day Camp at Lake Colorado City.

They were assisted by a group of junior leaders, including **JAYLAN EVERETT, KRISTEN THIXTON, DANE RICHARDSON, RICHARD KEY, J.D. SMITH, RYAN MIRACLE, GARY GNSUCKE, SCOTTY DOWNING, JEFF STANLEY, RYAN SAYLES, QUINN LONG, COLIN STANLEY and CODY SNEED.**

*Is there an individual or organization in our community that you feel should be saluted? If so, please send us their name and why you think they should be recognized. We must have your name and telephone number and you must provide it in writing.*

YOUR VIEWS

TO THE EDITOR:

When those responsible for damaging the memorial are apprehended, it is my hope that as a part of their sentence they will be made to stand in front of the helicopter carrying a sign announcing to the world what they have done. These "shame tactics" are being used in other parts of the country for various offenses such as shoplifting.

If the reward works in catching these vandals perhaps citizens could fund a permanent reward system for the arrest and conviction of anyone who commits any act of vandalism. There are some county roads where almost all the mail boxes have been taken out in a single night. I would think that these residents and others would happily contribute a couple of dollars a month to such a fund, but what good would it do if there isn't suitable punishment? I think the shame punishment might be the best deterrent.

RITA PALMER  
Big Spring

TO THE EDITOR:

Our law enforcement has been encouraging vandalism by being soft on vandals — their excuse has been that they are hampered by the under-age laws, but! — they could still pursue, find and counsel the culprits (and their parents) and be very effective in curtailing these actions (esp. if continually counseling the known culprits and parents).

Also, by identifying the culprits, the basis would exist for civil court actions against the parents — which would be a powerful deterrent if the parents were economically held responsible for their children's actions. The culprits must be legally identified to make this possible.

It has seemed that individual police officers have been afraid to pursue vandals — apparently on orders from their superiors. If they had orders to pursue and counsel to the fullest

extent allow by law the vandal problems would not exist now, and it would slow the future rate by educating (correcting) the people now.

Since most vandalism is perpetrated by teen agers and they seem to have a creed that boosts their esteem when they 'get away with it' then not to pursue is only an encouragement to do more damage.

Vandalism to rental property has cost many landlords a lot of money — in many cases the vandals were known but no action would be taken by the police because of their fear of the state laws regarding teens. They could at least identify the culprits and encourage the victims to pursue in civil court.

The law curfew is laughed at by the night roaming vandals — they hide from the patrol cars and continue to roam with impunity. An undercover operation, or citizens reports, coupled with determined pursuit by the police will be necessary to slow the vandalism.

As to the damage to the helicopter, many landlords have suffered more damage from vandals, more often, than any other segment of business or society. Slight damage to a house or rental unit can easily cost \$2,000. The very people whose taxes pay the salaries and all expense of the law enforcement departments are the ones who are punished the most by the inaction of the law enforcement.

LESLIE LLOYD  
Big Spring

The Herald encourages letters to the editor.

Please:

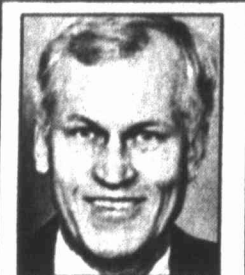
- Limit your letters to no more than 300 words, or about two handwritten pages.
- Sign your letter.
- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.

- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721.



Was the Declaration of Independence radical?

"When in the course of human events..." it began, and then the resolution continued. "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among those are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."



Charles Stenholm  
U.S. Representative

As we celebrate the 221st anniversary of the endorsement of that document by the 13 United States of America, it's almost impossible to recognize how radical those words really were. So radical that the signers of the Declaration of Independence felt compelled to

put their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor on the line to conclude the document. In ways we can barely imagine, those forefathers understood that freedom does not come free of charge.

Today it is both a wonderful and a dangerous thing that we take our liberties for granted. Wonderful because it is a result of the remarkable peace and prosperity our Nation has enjoyed for so long. Dangerous because a cavalier attitude towards freedom bodes ill for its protection in the future.

My grandparents came to this country from Sweden. They knew that the United States offered something denied them in the Old World. It offered room to dream and the opportunity to realize whatever you dreamed. They knew that America meant hard work and struggle. But they also knew that it was a place where hope was possible, where aspirations were rewarded. It was, to be sure, a place with faults,

but also, a place to be free.

On July 4th, over half a million people gather in Washington, D.C. between the U.S. Capitol and the Lincoln Memorial to hear patriotic music, picnic with their families, and watch a grand display of fireworks. With the majestic monuments as back-drops, it is a truly impressive sight.

But every bit as impressive are the thousands of parades and picnics that take place all over the Country, indeed throughout the 17th District of Texas. It is there that neighbors gather and youth ride horses down making the colorful tapestry of American life. Our communities are filled with the police officer, the teacher, the business owner, the farmer, the factory worker, the housewife — all who have an opportunity to live as patriots, honoring the values and freedoms which undergird our Nation.

Even though we're not in a time of war or economic

depression or other serious external danger, all Americans have a responsibility to protect the freedoms we enjoy. WE must be vigilant not just against threats from outside, but from within. We must fight our own cynicism, our own selfishness. The great privileges we enjoy cannot be maintained passively and without effort. We must honor — in our hearts in our minds, and in our actions — what our Country means and stands for.

As the signers of the Declaration of Independence concluded, we too, should place "a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence" and pledge a commitment to carrying forward these freedoms and values which make America the land we love.

Charles Stenholm represents the 17th District of Texas. His address is Room 1211 Longworth Office Building, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515.

Maryland killing mirrors America's anguish

The world scarcely noticed when Flint Gregory Hunt, murderer of a Baltimore police officer, died at 12:27 a.m. Wednesday of an injection of sodium pentothal, pavulon and potassium chloride.



Carl Rowan  
Syndicated Columnist

Yet his execution said a lot about crime and punishment in America.

Hunt was the first person executed by the state of Maryland against his will since 1961. He had stayed alive by using the appeals process for 12 years, even though he admitted that he shot Vincent Adolfo in the heart. This case illustrates anew how reluctant the people and judges are to make the state a killer, no mat-

ter how heinous the crime.

California has 476 people on death row, but has executed only four in the last two decades.

Those facts suggest that many years may go by before Timothy McVeigh, killer of 168 people in the Oklahoma City bombing, is put to death.

Another sign of the anguish of the American people over the death penalty was the fact that about 140 foes and 80 advocates staged demonstrations outside the penitentiary where Hunt was executed.

Yet the anguish seems far less in some states than others. In June, before the year was half over, Texas broke the all-time record of 20 executions by a state in one year, a mark set in 1935 by ... yes, Texas.

Since 1976, when the U.S. Supreme Court allowed reinstatement of the death penalty, Texas has carried out more than 125 executions, a third of the U.S. total. Florida and Virginia tied for a distant second place at 39.

The American Civil Liberties Union has accused Texas of "assembly-line justice" in which that state sends a message that "life is cheap." Others say that Texans are clinging to a heritage of "frontier justice" that featured revenge killings at the hands of posses, relatives, or mobs.

The question arises as to whether the citizens of Texas, or Florida and Virginia, feel safer than those where the death penalty is rarely (or never) carried out. Some say that the failure of capital punishment as a deterrent is evident in the fact that the more people Texas executes, the more it has to execute.

But none of the criticisms has fazed Texans, who two years ago changed their laws to limit the appeals process and thereby cut in half the average time convicts spend on death row.

Polls indicate that where there is any chance that the perpetrator of a capital crime will eventually be let out of

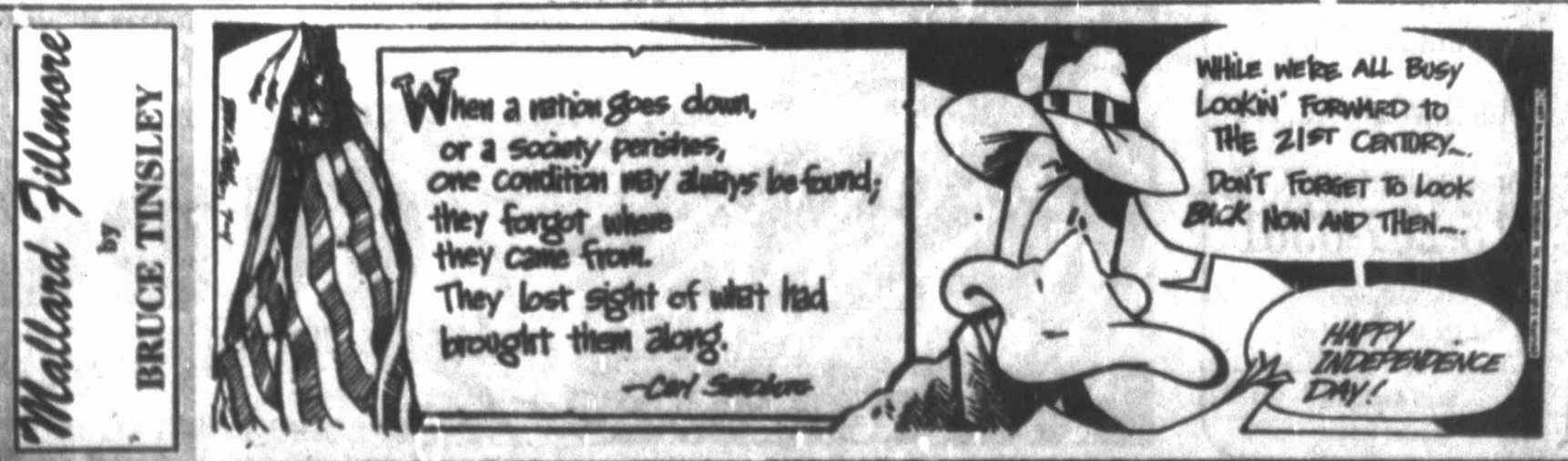
prison, some 77 percent of Americans favor the death penalty. But where the law provides for a life sentence without parole, support for the death penalty drops to 41 percent, according to the Death Penalty Information Center, a group that is opposed to capital punishment.

Several states have added, or are moving to add, the option of life without parole.

But the scenes outside the Maryland penitentiary made it clear that in every American community, forever, the death penalty will remain a bitterly divisive issue. Young girls lit candles to shine on signs saying "Shame on Maryland" and "Don't kill for mewith those favoring Hunt's execution waved fluorescent sticks and chanted "Hey, hey, hey, goodbye."

At sunrise Wednesday, the only thing anyone could be sure of was that a pathetic figure who had killed had now himself been slain — legally.

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FRIDAY

JULY 4

Table with 24 columns (KMD, KPEJ, KERA, FAM, KOSA, WFAA, KWES, WTBS, UNI, DISN, NASH, TMC, SHOW, HBO, KMLM, A&E, DISC, TNT, FSN, ESPN, AMC, BET) and 12 rows of program listings.

HAGAR

Comic strip 'HAGAR' featuring a character named Helga. Panel 1: 'LISTEN to your MOTHER Helga tells it like it is'. Panel 2: 'IF YOU DON'T WANT YOUR MOTHER-IN-LAW DROPPING IN UNEXPECTEDLY, THIS IS WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO...'. Panel 3: 'CLEAN YOUR HOUSE THOROUGHLY! A MOTHER-IN-LAW WILL NEVER DROP IN WHEN YOUR HOUSE IS CLEAN!'.

BLONDIE

Comic strip 'BLONDIE' featuring Blondie and Dag. Panel 1: Blondie says 'THERE! EVERYTHING I'M READY FOR A NAP...'. Panel 2: Blondie says 'WELL GOOD, FOR ONCE ELMO ISN'T GOING TO GET IN THE WAY OF ME HAVING A NICE NAP'. Panel 3: Blondie says 'I'M READY FOR A NAP... SEE YOU LATER, MR. BUMSTEAD'.

B.C.

Comic strip 'B.C.' featuring a character reading a book. Panel 1: 'WHEN IN THE COURSE OF HUMAN EVENTS... THE WORDS RANS LIKE A BELL'. Panel 2: 'THEY PIERCED THE HEART OF TYRANNY AND QUASHED ITS DUNNING KNELL'. Panel 3: 'WE SET OUR SIGHTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS LED BY THE LOVING HAND'. Panel 4: 'THAT ETCHED OUR MORAL LAWS IN STONE, THEN CALLED US TO THIS LAND'.

FAMILY CIRCUS

Comic strip 'FAMILY CIRCUS' featuring a boy playing a drum. Panel 1: Boy says 'I'll get your ears warmed up for the fireworks tonight.' Panel 2: Boy says 'I'll get your ears warmed up for the fireworks tonight.'

DENNIS THE MENACE

Comic strip 'DENNIS THE MENACE' featuring Dennis and his friends. Panel 1: Dennis says 'NO TEA FOR US, THANKS. WE'RE GOING TO A ROOT BEER BUST!'.

GEECH

Comic strip 'GEECH' featuring a character talking. Panel 1: 'IT'S SAD HOW MANY PEOPLE HAVE FORGOTTEN THE TRUE MEANING OF THE 4TH OF JULY.' Panel 2: 'IT MEANS ONE NATION, UNDER GOD...'. Panel 3: 'INDIVISIBLE, WITH LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL!'. Panel 4: 'BUT IT STILL MEANS IT'S A 3-DAY WEEKEND TOO, DOESN'T IT?'.

WIZARD OF ID

Comic strip 'WIZARD OF ID' featuring a character looking in a mirror. Panel 1: 'MIRROR, MIRROR ON THE WALL, WHO'S THE BRAVEST OF THEM ALL?'. Panel 2: 'YOU ARE, SIR RODNEY'. Panel 3: 'WHO SAYS MIRRORS NEVER LIE?'.

HI AND LOIS

Comic strip 'HI AND LOIS' featuring a character talking. Panel 1: 'HOW COME YOU LIKE TO HAVE DINNER OUTSIDE IN THE SUMMER?'. Panel 2: 'I GET EXTRA HELP CLEANING UP'.

GASOLINE ALLEY

Advertisement for Gasoline Alley featuring an eagle and the text 'Happy July 4th Gasoline Alley'.

SNUFFY SMITH

Comic strip 'SNUFFY SMITH' featuring a character talking. Panel 1: 'HOW WOULD TATER LIKE A NICE HOT BATH?'. Panel 2: 'GOOBLE GOOBLE GLUB GLUB'. Panel 3: 'BLESS YORE HEART!!'. Panel 4: 'THAT'S TH' CUTEST "YES" I EVER HEERED!!'.

BEETLE BAILY

Comic strip 'BEETLE BAILY' featuring a character talking. Panel 1: 'EVERY TIME I GET IN THIS JEEP I HEAR A STRANGE NOISE COMING FROM UNDERNEATH'. Panel 2: 'IT'S PROBABLY THE SUSPENSION SYSTEM BEGGING FOR MERCY'.

THIS DATE IN HISTORY

The ASSOCIATED PRESS Today is Friday, July 4, the

185th day of 1997. There are 180 days left in the year. This is Independence Day. Today's Highlight in History: On July 4, 1776, the Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence. On this date:

In 1802, the U.S. Military Academy officially opened at West Point, N.Y. In 1826, 50 years to the day after the Declaration of Independence was adopted, former presidents John Adams and Thomas Jefferson both died. In 1831, the fifth president of the United States, James Monroe, died in New York City. In 1845, American writer Henry David Thoreau began his two-year experiment in simple living at Walden Pond, near Concord, Mass. In 1872, the 30th president of the United States, Calvin Coolidge, was born in Plymouth, Vt. In 1917, during a ceremony in Paris honoring the French hero of the American Revolution, U.S. Lt. Col. Charles E. Stanton declared, "Lafayette, we are here!" In 1939, baseball's "Iron Horse," Lou Gehrig, said farewell to his fans at New York City's Yankee Stadium. In 1946, the Philippines became independent of U.S. sovereignty.

THE Daily Crossword

- ACROSS 1 Easter bloom 5 1551, says Caesar 9 Give warning 14 Haulboy 15 Press 16 Warm brown tone 17 Sound of TNT 18 Just hang around 19 Be an artist 20 Some of 3BA 23 Slippery fellow 24 Equine adornment 25 Sign of the ram 29 Family member 30 Mend socks 34 Sunday morning oratory 36 Word of reproof 37 Observe 38 Chef's need? 42 Competed for office 43 Greek letter 44 Invaded territory 45 Follow orders 47 Write 48 Resembling lager 49 Summer refreshers 51 Linden of TV 53 More of 3BA 61 Flea to Gretna Green 62 Olfactory organ 63 Ancient Greek theaters 64 Inquired 65 Well-informed 66 Time for fasting 67 Marsh plants 68 Be inclined 69 Flail 8 Notorious 9 Quivering tree 10 Rented 11 Samoan seaport 12 All's milieu 13 Deck officer 21 Noted story teller 22 Religious singer 25 Houston athlete 26 Restored building, briefly 27 Goodnight girl 28 Printer's measures 29 Beer holder 31 Digression 32 Allude 33 Indigent 35 Crustacean claw 39 Hackneyed story 40 Branchchild of 21D 41 Fib 46 Chattered on and on 50 Actions 51 Choice tea 52 Change the text 53 Bosc or Bartlett 54 Other than this 55 Large bonnet 56 It springs eternal 57 Pretty girl 58 Mental impression 59 Camera's eye 60 Narrow wood strip

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-60.

by Frank R. Jackson 07/04/97

Thursday's Puzzle solved:

Solved crossword puzzle grid with words filled in.

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Advertisement for Cinema 1 featuring 'MEN IN BLACK (PG-13)', 'FACE/OFF (R)', and 'HERCULES (G)'.

Advertisement for Ritz featuring 'BATMAN & ROBIN (PG-13)' and 'CON AIR (R)'.

Advertisement for Big Spring Herald with contact information: 915-263-7331 (Fax) 915-264-7205.

Advertisement for Park & Putt Miniature Golf Park.