

BIG SPRING HERALD

Reflecting A Proud Community

FRIDAY
July 11, 1997

50 cents

CISD board completes candidate interviews

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

COAHOMA — School trustees here have finished interviews with candidates for the superintendent position, but no timetable for a decision has been announced.

The Coahoma school board met in special session Thursday, and completed the initial round of interviews with the six finalists for the job.

L.D. "Sonny" Monroe, superintendent of Coahoma schools for the past five years, announced his resignation from the school system Monday. In May, trustees declined to renew his contract.

Monroe will become business manager of the Kermit school district effective July 18.

Since their May action, trustees have been working closing with Brian Labeff, executive director of the Region 18 Educational Service Center in Midland, to find a

new superintendent. With his help, trustees recently announced six finalists for the job.

The finalists are: Ronny Collins, superintendent at Wellington; Michael Hartman, former superintendent at Bronte; Tommy Sanders, superintendent at Mart; James Warlick, former superintendent at Greenwood; Gary Gazaway, superintendent at Hull-Daisetta; and Joe Boyd, superintendent at Buena Vista. Trustees hope to have a new

superintendent named by Aug. 1.

Trustees looked through more than 40 applications before deciding on the final six, board president Gail Wells said.

A school district spokeswoman said no more interviews are scheduled, and that the board will meet next Thursday to further consider the matter.

At that time, the board may narrow the field further, the spokeswoman added.

Stop signs change on MLK

HERALD Staff Report

Big Spring residents are being advised that two 2-way stop signs have replaced four 4-way stop signs at the intersection of Pennsylvania and Martin Luther King Boulevard, with the 2-way stop signs on Pennsylvania, making MLK a through way street.

Community Services Director Todd Darden said this was a decision made by the Traffic Commission.

"We had the Traffic Commission look at the issue and the commission felt that since they city removed the hill at the northeast corner of MLK and Pennsylvania, the impairment as far as visibility is concerned has been eliminated," Darden said.

Darden added city hall has received a few call from residents wondering about the change.

"What is did was basically get rid of an area where there were back-to-back stop signs," Darden said. "But, because of the hills that remain at Douglas Street, those signs are still up."

BSISD

District trustees decide to sue comptroller over valuations

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

Litigation is in Big Spring ISD's immediate future.

Big Spring school trustees

voted unanimously during their Thursday meeting to pursue legal action against the state comptroller's office to rectify what the school board believes to be faulty property valuations.

Austin attorney Jeannie Navarro, who has represented the district in past similar matters, will file suit against the comptroller's office in Travis County in the near future.

Board vice president Larry McLellan said the board believes that the comptroller's office has overvalued certain property in Big Spring. This is of particular concern to BSISD because higher property valuations mean less state aid to school districts.

The comptroller's office has selected 46 properties in Big Spring that it considers "typical," and uses the valuations from those properties to determine the amount of state aid BSISD will receive.

During its calculations, the comptroller's office determined that three of the properties used in the sample were undervalued, and that finding had the effect of lowering state aid to BSISD by \$178,000.

That's what drew the school board's ire.

"We feel those three properties are atypical, and need to be



McLELLAN

thrown out (of the equation)," McLellan said.

The board, through Navarro, will contest each of the three valuations in court. Trustees hope to lower the comptroller's figures to within 5 percent of the district's valuations. In that case, full state funding would be restored.

Timing is especially crucial in this situation, as trustees are scheduled to begin next week formulating the district's budget for the next year.

Navarro was not available for comment after the meeting.

In other business, trustees:

- Approved the resignations of the following employees: Rene Chambers, high school theater arts teacher; Scott Ragle, Goliad Middle School math teacher; Richard Phillips, Runnels Junior High art teacher; Keith Meeks, Runnels history teacher/coach; and Tiffany Meek, high school physical education teacher/coach.

- Approved the employment of the following personnel: Lisa Zap, Runnels art teacher; Amelia Meadors, Washington Elementary P.E. instructor; Chad Fouts, Goliad P.E. teacher/coach; Suzzan Nutting, high school home economics teacher; Elia Velasco, College Heights Elementary bilingual instructor; and Deborah Churchwell, Runnels P.E. teacher/coach.

- Renewed contracts with providers of student insurance, the canine contraband detection program and food service chemical supplies.

- Awarded multiple contracts in the food service department.
- Agreed to use federal aid totaling \$47,089 to participate in regional math/science and Drug Free Schools co-ops.

LINING THINGS UP



Ronny Smith uses a sextant to help workers line up foundation frames on the new junior high school being built on the site of the former Boydston Elementary School.

Farmers, ranchers can utilize new program

By CARLTON JOHNSON
Staff Writer

Beginning Monday, area farmers and ranchers may sign up for the new Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Signup continues through Aug. 1.

The new program is a result of the 1996 Farm Bill and offers a limited number of producers who have serious soil, water and other natural resource problems with technical, financial and educational assistance.

"EQIP is not like the former Great Plains Conservation Program (GPCP)," Eddy Spurgin, district conservationist for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Big Spring, said. "This program is extremely

limited and is for persons engaged in livestock or agricultural production who would provide the greatest environmental benefit at the least cost to the program."

Applications will be prioritized after Aug. 1 based on specific criteria, according to Spurgin.

"After the Farm Service Agency (FSA) determines eligibility, NRCS conservationists and the producer will make an inventory of the natural resources, identify natural resource problems and concerns, determine treatment needs and agree upon the land management and structural practices the producer will install," Spurgin said.

"The extent of the conservation practice, fields and acres to be treated, cost-share rate and incentive payment levels the producer will accept as well as the total program payments, are included in a ranking formula," Spurgin added.

Twelve Geographic Priority Areas (GPA), encompassing 167

counties, including Howard County, are the primary target for more than \$8.7 million in EQIP funds allocated to Texas. Each GPA has similar natural resource problems and concerns which EQIP can address.

The GPAs targeted include Blackland, Central Texas, Northeast Texas, Gulf Coast, Edwards, Rio Grande, Upper Rio Grande, Pecos River, Middle Concho, Southern High Plains A, Southern High Plains B and Southern High Plains C.

"Water conservation, excessive wind and water erosion, limited water supply and brush invasion are a few of the specific resource concerns identified in the GPAs," Spurgin said. "Howard County is in the Southern High Plains C Priority Area, which also includes the counties of Martin, Andrews, Dawson, Gaines, Yoakum, Terry and Cochran."

Producers in counties outside the GPA are also eligible for the remaining \$4.7 million in EQIP funds provided it will solve identified statewide nat-

ural resource concerns, such as excessive erosion, and ground and surface water quality.

According to Spurgin, each application will compete with other applications in their GPA, while those outside of the GPAs will compete against each other.

"Contracts will be awarded based on their ranking, regardless of location," Spurgin warns. "That means some counties may not have any contracts, even though they are located inside a GPA."

Applications for a single conservation practice on an individual field addressing a single natural resource concern may not be competitive in a GPA or with the statewide natural resource concerns.

Acceptance into EQIP will require a five-year to 10-year contract, even if only one year of cost share is needed.

Contracts are for a maximum amount of \$50,000 with a maximum 75 percent cost-share.

See PROGRAM, Page 2A



SPURGIN

WEATHER

Today:



Sat:



Sun:



Mon:



Tonight, mostly cloudy with a chance of thunderstorms. Lows mid 60s to lower 70s. Saturday, partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 90s. Extended forecast Sunday through Tuesday, partly cloudy with late evening thunderstorms. Lows 65-70. Highs in the 90s.

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To reach all departments, please call 263-7331

64th Martin Old Settlers Reunion this weekend

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.

- Spring City Senior Center dance, tonight, 7:30-10:30 p.m., Spring City Senior Center. Music will be provided by CW & Co. All senior citizens in the area are invited.
- Heritage Museum, today from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and

Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., 510 Scurry. For additional information, contact the museum at 267-8255.

- Trench Art, Heritage Museum, today from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and 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 in downtown Big Spring.

- Potton House, Saturday, 1-5 p.m., 200 Gregg.

Get a glimpse into Big Spring's past with a trip through the Potton House.

- 64th Martin County Old Settlers Reunion, all day Saturday, downtown Stanton. Activities include a parade, barbecue supper, live music, class reunions and a dance.

See TICKET, Page 2

See PAVING, Page 2A

OBITUARIES

Betty Jo Carruthers

Betty Jo Carruthers, 74, Wichita Falls, died July 10, 1997. Graveside service was 3 p.m. today at Crestview Memorial Park with Dr. Finis Beauchamp, pastor of Lamar Baptist Church, officiating.

She was born July 26, 1922 in Coalgate, Okla. and married William Harold Carruthers Jan. 25, 1940 in Lawrenceburg, Tenn.

She had worked as a bookkeeper until retirement in 1987. She was a member of the Church of Christ, a founding member of the Mothers of Twins Club and a former member of Business and Professional Women's Organization.

Mrs. Carruthers was preceded in death by her husband, William Harold Carruthers in 1966. She is survived by two sons, William B. Carruthers of Wichita Falls, and Phillip B. Carruthers of Big Spring; one sister, Lea Campbell of Ardmore, Okla.; and six grandchildren.

Dorothy "Dottie" Oakes

Dorothy "Dottie" Oakes, 75, Fort Worth, formerly of Big Spring, died Saturday, June 21, 1997, in Arlington.

She was born Nov. 19, 1921, in Fort Worth. She and her husband, Gerald Oakes, lived in Big Spring from the mid 1950s through the mid 1960s.

Survivors include: her husband, Gerald Oakes of Fort Worth, daughter, D'Wesley Kay Oakes of Dallas; brother, Jerry Young of Crosby; and sisters, Katherine Goodman of Azle and Joan Young of Alvin.

Darrell Webster

Darrell H. Webster, 73, of Big Spring, died Sunday, July 6, 1997 in a local nursing home. Memorial services will be at 1 p.m. Saturday, July 12, 1997 at First Christian Church with the Rev. Gary Groves, pastor, officiating.

He was born on May 25, 1924 in Buckner, Ill. and married Dorothy Peters on June 9, 1946, in Morganfield, Ky.

He owned Payless Mart in Benton, Ill. for a number of years before moving to Mesa, Ariz., where he worked as a construction contractor and real estate agent. He moved to Big Spring in 1983.

NALLEY-PICKLE & WELCH Funeral Home

Trinity Memorial Park and Crematory 906 Gregg St. (915) 267-6331

Darrell H. Webster, 73, died Sunday. Memorial services will be at 1:00 PM Saturday at the First Christian Church.

Steva Tamsitt Brown, 92, died Thursday. Graveside services will be 10:00 AM Saturday at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Katherine Nalls, 41, died Friday. Services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home.

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Big Spring Herald ISSN 0746-6811 USPS 0055-940 Published afternoons Monday through Friday, and Sunday mornings. By the month HOME DELIVERY Evenings and Sunday, \$6.95 monthly; \$69.42 yearly (includes 10% discount for yearly).

MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$12.50 monthly Howard & Martin Counties, \$15.25 elsewhere. The Herald is a member of the Associated Press, Audit Bureau of Circulation, American Newspaper Association and West Texas Press.

POSTMASTER: Send changes of address to: Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1491, Big Spring, Texas, 79720.

PAVING

Continued from Page 1

11th, Young and Rebecca streets.

Through Aug. 29, that portion of the project will include removing the existing asphalt, removing the existing base, subgrade preparation, adding a flexible base and concrete valley gutter and finally the hot mix asphalt concrete process.

From Aug. 29 through Sept. 25, the project will focus on Johnson and Main streets using the same processes with the addition of stripping.

The project is scheduled to move to San Jacinto on July 28 for work on a lift station and concrete slope protection.

The remainder of the project is scheduled to be worked on from Sept. 29 through Nov. 10.

The specific areas included in the paving project include the Rebecca & 25th intersection; Settles and Sixth to Ridegrod; Douglas Street in front of McDonald's; the intersection of 18th and Scurry; Johnson and Third to Fourth; and the Second and San Jacinto intersection.

The second phase of the project includes streets that have been in need of repair for quite a while: the Kentucky and Purdue intersection; Goliad and N.E. 10th to N.E. 12th; N.E. 11th and Nolan to Goliad; Fourth and Lancaster intersection; Hearn and Hwy 87 to Vicki; Main and First to Sixth; Lincoln and 11th to a half block south (east branch of Lincoln); West 19th and Lancaster to Gregg; West 20th and Lancaster to Gregg; Eighth and Owens to State; Johnson and Second to Third; West Ninth and Gregg to Scurry; Young and 16th to 18th; and the N. Second and Benton intersection.

According to city officials, there is approximately \$900,000 in bond funds left and the total project cost, after the recent change or was approved, is approximately \$129,000 less than what the city has on hand.

PROGRAM

Continued from Page 1

According to Spurgin, and though entire farms or operating units are not required to be included in a contract, the proposed area must include that portion with the identified resource concerns which meet the goals and objectives of the GPA or statewide natural resource concerns.

Also, according to Spurgin's office, Producers may increase their chances of acceptance by submitting a lower than maximum cost-share rate, enrolling entire operating units in the contract and by agreeing to fully meet treatment needs of all identified natural resource concerns of the farm or ranch.

Producers with questions about EQIP may contact the local NRCS office at 267-1871.

TICKET

Continued from Page 1

Third annual High Plains Junior Rodeo, tonight and Saturday, Mitchell County Rodeo Arena, Colorado City.

Tonight's action begins at 7 p.m. and continues until midnight while Saturday's schedule includes a parade at 5 p.m. and the rodeo performance at 6.

BIG SPRING AROUND THE TOWN

BRIEFS

AN INDOOR GARAGE SALE is planned at Canterbury, 1700 Lancaster, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday. There will be household items, furniture, ceramics, women's clothing, shoes, men's clothing, and miscellaneous items for sale.

COAHOMA HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1977 will have its 20th reunion Saturday beginning with a 7 a.m. golf game at the city course. A picnic follows at the pavilion beginning at 11 a.m.

Evening events include a gathering for adults at "This Old House." Call Rhonda at 264-0312 or 394-4401 for information.

A VACCINATION CLINIC AND tick dip will be sponsored by Dr. Joe Neff Saturday, July 12 at the drive-through of Norwest Bank from 1-5 p.m. Cost is \$5 for a rabies shot and \$5 for a dip.

STANTON CARE CENTER WILL conduct an open house from 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Saturday as part of Martin County Old Settlers Reunion. They will be selling chili dogs and Frito pies to raise money for a new popcorn machine at the center.

SATURDAY'S RECYCLE DAY IN Coahoma!

Coahoma, clean and Proud will be accepting recyclable items in the empty lot west of Little Sooper grocery store from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, July 12. Please note the new list of acceptable items: newspaper, cardboard, feed sacks, aluminum, and steel.

They no longer accept all types of paper or magazines, but will be collecting Campbell soup labels for the schools and used eyeglasses for the Lions Club. For more information call Irene at 394-4429.

NEWCOMERS TO BIG SPRING are invited to join a welcoming coffee at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, July 17 at Dora Roberts Center in Comanche Trail Park.

SPRINGBOARD

TODAY -Spring City Senior Citizens country/western dance, 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. Music by CW & Co. Area seniors invited. -Good Shepherd Fellowship Church, 610 Abrams, 7 p.m. Bible study. -Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. open meeting and 8 to 9 p.m. Big Book Study. -Signal Mountain Quilting Guild, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., St. Mary's Episcopal Church. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281. Bring a lunch.

Texas Lottery

PICK 3: 2,3,5 CASH 5:10,19,30,33,39

SATURDAY

Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, open meetings at noon, 8 p.m. and 10 p.m.

Howard County Scottish Rite Club, 7:30 a.m., Masonic Lodge, 21st and Lancaster. Breakfast served (\$4). All Scottish Rite Masons welcome.

Alzheimer's support group, 10 a.m., Carriage Inn Retirement Center, 501 W. 17th.

Dr. Joe Neff will have a vaccination clinic and tick dip at Norwest Bank from 1 to 5 p.m. Rabies and dip \$5 each.

Indoor garage sale, 1700 Lancaster, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be household items, furniture, ceramics, women's clothing, shoes, men's clothing, and miscellaneous items for sale.

SUNDAY

Good Shepherd Fellowship Church, 610 Abrams, has services at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, 11 a.m. closed meeting and 7 p.m. open meeting.

MARKETS

Oct. cotton 73.55 cents a pound, down 25 points; Aug. crude oil 19.37, up 15 points; Cash hogs down 50 cents at 58.50; slaughter steers steady at 62 cents; July lean hog futures 83.27, up 42 points; Aug. live cattle futures 64.95, down 2 points.

courtesy: Delta Corporation. Noon quotes provided by Edward D. Jones & Co.

Table with market data including Index 7913.90, Volume 155,767,310, ATT 35%, Amoco 89%, Atlantic Richfield 68%, Atmos Energy 23%, Chevron 75%, Chrysler 34%, Cifra 1.81-1.84, Coca-Cola 69%, De Beers 36%, DuPont 63%, Excel Comm. 23%, Exxon 64%, Fina 65%, Ford Motors 41%, Halliburton 84%, IBM 96%, Laser Indus LTD 15%, Medical Alliance 4%, Mobil 71%, Norwest 60%, NUV 9%, Phillips Petroleum 43%, Palex Inc. 12%, Pepsi Cola 38%, Rural/Metro 28%, Sears 55%, Southwestern Bell 61%, Sun 31%, Texaco 110%, Texas Instruments 95%, Texas Utils. Co 35%, Unocal Corp 36%, Wal-Mart 35%, Amcap 15.22-16.15, Euro Pacific 29.61-31.42, I.C.A. 29.10-30.88, New Economy 19.72-20.92, New Perspective 21.40-22.71, Van Kampen 14.52-15.24, Prime Rate 8.50%, Gold 319.18-320.20, Silver 4.32-4.35

POLICE

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following incidents between 8 a.m. Thursday and 8 a.m. Friday:

PHILIP GARCIA, 20, 2528 Hunter, was arrested on local warrants.

BILLY WAYNE STARR, 19, 802 E. 14th, was arrested on Department of Public Safety warrants.

SACKIE BRITO JR., 17, Coahoma, was arrested on a charge of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

MICHAEL BRIAN COBB, 18, Rt. 3 Box 347, was arrested on local warrants.

DAPHNE FRANCO, 32, 1408 Mesquite, was arrested on local warrants.

LARRY DON HASS, 32, HC 77 Box T27A2, was arrested on a charge of driving while license invalid.

BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported on the 200 block of Carey.

DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE was reported on the 1100 block of E. 15th.

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported on the 500 block of Bell, the 1600 block of Gregg and at Comanche Trail Park.

THEFT was reported on the 800 block and 1700 block of Marcy.

FORGERY was reported on the 1800 block of Gregg.

SHERIFF

The Howard County Sheriff's Office reported the following incidents between 8 a.m. Thursday and 8 a.m. Friday:

DONALD RAY PRESCOTT, 47, 253 Hilltop, was arrested on a charge of theft of service.

DIANA LYNN NOBLE, 29, Rt. 1 Box 365, was arrested on a revocation of probation warrant with his application for a new license.

ROBERT EDWARD BAKER SR., 48, 407 Donley, was arrested on a motion to revoke his probation.

LORI DIANE RENFRO, 29, no address given, was arrested on a Brown County warrant.

AMMIE LEE HOWELL, 19, no address given, was arrested on a charge of driving while license suspended.

ASSAULT was reported in Coahoma.

DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE was reported on the 4500 block of Wasson Road.

RECORDS

Thursday's high 91 Thursday's low 75 Average high 96 Average low 70 Record high 104 in 1942 Record low 63 in 1920 Precip. Thursday 0.00 Month to date 0.31 Month's normal 0.65 Year to date 13.73 Normal for the year 9.43 **Statistics not available

Notice to the Ladies of Howard County:

Malone and Hogan Clinic regretfully announces the departure of Dr. Deborah Hajovsky from our staff effective August 6, 1997. Dr. Hajovsky will be relocating out of town with her family.

Our pledge to our patients is this: Quality Women's Healthcare Will Continue at Malone and Hogan Clinic.

Dr. Robert Anthony, Board Certified in Obstetrics and Gynecology, is available on a full-time basis while efforts are on-going to bring two new Ob/Gyn physicians to Big Spring.

For scheduling changes and for new appointments, please call our Ob/Gyn Department.

267-6361 ext. 230 and 309

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Prosecutor seeks joint trial for cadets accused in slaying of teen

FORT WORTH (AP) — Prosecutors want a joint capital murder trial for a pair of sweethearts and former military academy cadets accused of killing a teen-age girl.

Lead prosecutor Mike Parrish filed a motion Thursday asking District Judge Joe Drago to join the cases of David Graham and Diane Zamora because doing so would "insure a fair trial for all the parties."

Authorities earlier said they would try Graham and Miss Zamora separately in the December 1995 shooting and beating death of 16-year-old Adrienne Jones. Police said the murder stemmed from a one-time affair between Miss Jones

and Graham that angered Miss Zamora. Graham, a former Air Force Academy cadet, and Miss Zamora, a former Naval Academy freshman, face life in prison if convicted in the slaying.

Both are 19. By joining the two cases, Parrish said, statements by the accused against each other can be admitted in the trial. According to his request, jurors would be instructed that a statement by one of the defendants cannot be used against the other.

"I want to try them sitting there lovey-dovey, holding hands in the courtroom," Parrish said. "If there's ever a case that should be tried together, this is it."

Miss Zamora's attorney, John Linebarger, said jurors can't reasonably be asked to disregard one defendant's statement when considering the fate of the other.

Graham's attorney, Dan Cogdell, argue successfully against it. "My gut reaction to joint trials is 'No,' but I'm going to have to think about this," Linebarger said.

Cogdell, a Houston-based attorney, was in court Thursday and could not be reached for comment. Parrish also told Drago that evidence and witnesses against the two are nearly identical, so a joint trial makes sense. Separate trials would give Graham an advantage because he is scheduled to be tried after Zamora, whose trial is set for late September.

Zamora and her one-time fiancé, Graham, have been in Tarrant County Jail since shortly after their arrests in September. The couple's gestures of love for each other have been followed closely by observers since their arrests.

Recent reports indicate their romance appears to have waned because they stopped corresponding more than two months ago.

TEXAS BRIEFS

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HOUSTON — A doctor who was just acquitted of charges he molested a woman patient has filed malicious prosecution lawsuits against seven women who testified against him.

Dr. Steven Payne filed the lawsuits Thursday accusing the women of making false and malicious allegations that abused the criminal and civil legal processes.

He seeks \$100,000 in actual damages in each case to cover his defense costs and \$2 million in punitive damages.

Attorney Arthur Howard also filed three malicious prosecution suits and counterclaims against three women who filed lawsuits against the doctor.

A jury found Payne innocent on June 23 on charges that he sexually molested a patient during a pelvic examination in September 1996. Three other cases are pending against him.

HOUSTON — The city of Houston wants to sell you tap water. In a bottle. Really.

The Houston Chronicle reported Thursday that city officials actually think there's a market for water residents already get straight from their tap.

"We don't foresee sending Perrier back to France with its tail between its legs," said Dan Jones, deputy director of city's Public Works and Engineering Department. "But we are absolutely certain that our taste, color, clarity and quality is 100 percent competitive with what's on the shelves today."

A prototype of a sports-size water bottle with a blue label and city seal has been developed for the product dubbed "Superior Water."

City officials believe that with a limited initial outlay of cash for bottling and distribution, city water could be on supermarket shelves and actually turning a profit by this time next year.

HOUSTON — Several Houston Fire Department employees have been arrested for releasing confidential information to law firms about accident victims transported to hospital in ambulances.

Houston Police spokesman Jack Cato said Thursday that bribery charges were pending against five female data entry clerks who worked in the Houston Fire Department communications office.

James Okolo, described as a runner for a law firm, was arrested on a bribery charge and later released on \$40,000 bail.

Another law firm employee has been named in an arrest warrant and is expected to surrender to authorities, authorities said.

Prosecutor Chuck Noll wouldn't go into detail about the sting by HPD's Public Integrity Review Group.

PHOENIX — Death row inmates in Texas make dolls and pants. Missouri killers work in a metal shop and Tennessee's type away on computers.

But none is allowed outside to work in the light of day.

"That is their world," Tennessee Department of Correction spokeswoman Pam Gehman said.

In Arizona, however, it's a different world — one where death row inmates are required to toil in an outdoor vegetable garden yards away from a chain-link fence that runs along a public road.

Some critics are questioning Arizona's make-them-work policy after a botched escaped attempt Wednesday that left a condemned inmate and his wife dead not far from the garden.

AUSTIN — The effort to rebuild the Central Texas town of Jarrell has received an ecumenical shot in the arm.

Roman Catholic Bishop John

McCarthy committed \$200,000 on Thursday to help Mennonite and Amish carpenters rebuild 50 tornado-damaged homes in the Central Texas town of Jarrell.

The donation by Central Texas Catholics boosted the town's recovery fund above \$1.6 million and came as McCarthy stood beside Mennonite and Amish carpenters who working to rebuild the home of Gabriel and Maria Hernandez's home.

"God bless the Mennonites," McCarthy said as he presented the first \$25,000 of the commitment money.

The workers paused in their rebuilding efforts long enough for a brief ceremony and prayers. McCarthy said the money will help people rebuild their lives as well as their homes.

LUBBOCK — Two officials from the Lubbock Hispanic Chamber of Commerce have been indicted on theft and record tampering charges because of a simmering political rift, supporters of the two say.

Three chamber board members Thursday formally approved a "vote of confidence" for executive director Robert Dominguez, 36, and chairwoman Paula Montoya, 39. They are charged with misappropriating between \$1,500 and \$2,000 of city grant money, Lubbock County prosecutor Clay Abbott said.

"It is the position of the LHCC board that these developments are the result of city politics, as will be revealed by the evidence," said board member Efrén Villanueva, reading a prepared statement. "Politicos have manipulated our system of jurisprudence."

When pressed by reporters, Villanueva declined to give specific examples of corruption.

District Attorney Bill Sowder refuted Villanueva's claims, saying that a grand jury selected from the general jury pool spent an extraordinary amount of time in reviewing the evidence before handing up indictments.

AUSTIN — The latest phone scam in Texas is testing whether employees are willing to bail out their bosses.

Originally aimed at banks and credit unions, the scam now is being used by people claiming to be law enforcement officials who try to dupe employees at various businesses into wiring money to bail their bosses out of legal trouble, Department of Public Safety officials warned Thursday.

Here's how investigators say

the scheme works:

A collect caller claims to be a law enforcement officer calling on behalf of a high-ranking company official. Investigators believe the callers use various sources to get the names of company officials and make hundreds of calls to find businesses where the top bosses are out of town.

The caller says the company official has become involved in some potentially embarrassing legal trouble while traveling, usually a car accident involving damages and fines.

BROWNSVILLE — A man has pleaded guilty to attempting to bribe a juror in a major drug-trafficking trial, the second jury-tampering conviction in two months in the Rio Grande Valley.

Despite the successive cases, both of which involved drug trials, prosecutors said they believe jury-influencing crimes remain rare.

"I don't have any evidence it's a growing problem," said Assistant U.S. Attorney Eric Reed, who is prosecuting the latest case. "But as the stakes become higher in the drug trade — with bigger money and bigger judicial penalties — the government has to be ever more vigilant about these sorts of attacks."

On Thursday, Bobby Herrera, 27, of Brownsville pleaded guilty to one count of jury tampering and agreed to testify against a co-defendant who is scheduled for trial Monday in Houston.

Herrera admitted to offering up to \$10,000 to juror James Almaraz for a not-guilty vote in the April drug trial of Javier Lopez Cantu.

DALLAS — Texas had a record number of mandatory early inmate releases last year. The Dallas Morning News reported today.



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EDITORIAL

Quote of the Day

"Listen or thy tongue will keep thee deaf."
-American Indian proverb

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

Charles C. Williams Publisher	John H. Walker Managing Editor
John A. Mosley Sports 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:

• MARTIN COUNTY'S OLD SETTLERS, gathering Saturday in Stanton for the 64th time.

• MARK ODLE, named president of Norwest Big Spring.

• BIG SPRING SYMPHONY, preparing to enter its 18th season.

• MAMIE LEE DODDS, for her work in developing and presenting the "Let Freedom Ring" historical pageant on July 4 in the Amphitheater.

• HIGHLAND SOUTH RESIDENTS, for their continued efforts to hold the annual Highland Fourth of July Parade to kick off local Independence Day festivities.

• COAHOMA LIONS CLUB MEMBERS, for their efforts to hold the annual Coahoma "Freedom Day" parade on the July 4 weekend.

• BIG SPRING AREA EMPLOYEES of the Texas Department of Transportation, recently recognized for their safe driving.

Recognized were ROBERT KILPATRICK and DAVID ELMORE, JAMES PAYNE, DOYCE LEE, RONALD BOLEY, JIMMY MARQUEZ, DAN RICHARDSON, JIMMY SHAEFFER, RODNEY TUCKER, JOHN ALLRED, ELLIOT PERRYMAN, JIMMIE DANIELS, DAVID PETREE, LARRY DAGESTAD, JIMMY CLANTON, CLAUDIE HORN, VILSOIS GARCIA, HERIBERTO SARINA, JAMES GILBERT, JR., JOSE FERNANDEZ, GERALD DUNLAP and DON TURNER.

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:

I was reading several papers the other day and came across this written by Martin Neimoller. That name may not be familiar to you but he has written something we need to take into account. And I quote, "When Hitler attacked the Jews... I was not a Jew, therefore, I was not concerned. And when Hitler attacked the Catholics, I was not a Catholic, and therefore, I was not concerned. And when Hitler attacked the unions and the industrialists, I was not a member of the unions and I was not concerned. Then Hitler attacked me and the Protestant Church, there there was nobody left to be concerned." I think of bill HR 1685/5.72 called "The Freedom from Religious Persecution Act" which has been presented to Congress by Senator Arlen Specter and Representative Frank Wolf. Let our Congress man and Senators know you want it put into affect as soon as possible.

One source says "160,000 Christians have been murdered for their faith."
Miss LOUIE PAULGER
Big Spring

TO THE EDITOR:

Why is it, that when a person trying to better themselves, is always fighting to stay ahead? Why is someone else always trying to run another's life, just because they are different? I own and drive an 18 wheel-er. I am self employed, own my own home, and need a place to park only my truck and not the trailer when I come home days off, which is only four to seven days out of every 30 to 60 days. I have gone to the city council and traffic commission, and secured a permit to park my truck in my backyard, yet some of the people in Big

Spring will not leave this alone. According to the current laws, I have the right to park my truck in front of my residence, long enough to load and unload my belongings, however, as soon as I park my truck in front of my residence, a police officer arrives, informing me that a complaint has been called in. I then move my truck, only to discover that in various other parts of the city, many of them residential, other trucks and trailers are parked as well. When I inquire if an officer has been by to issue a citation, or if any complaints have been called in, the answer is usually "no one has been by, nor have any complaints been received." I feel that I am being run out of town by the "I am better than you group," and I am getting tired of it! Live your own life, and let me live mine!

JOHN EDWARDS
Big Spring

The Herald welcomes 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.
• We reserve the right to edit letters for style and clarity.
• We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
• Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered for publication.
• We do not acknowledge receipt of letters.
• Letters from our circulation area will be given preference.
• Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721.



THE KNEE-JERK CONGRESSMAN

Wallowing in a pigsty of political corruption

It is embarrassingly clear that our system of financing federal elections has become a pigsty of dirty money -- a system under which citizens who won't take tainted donations have almost no chance of winning a seat in Congress or the Presidency.

It is already equally clear that the chances are feeble to nonexistent that the system will be cleaned up as a result of the hoopla-ed Senate hearings chaired by Sen. Fred Thompson, R-Tenn. The propaganda spewed forth by both Republicans and Democrats on Tuesday and Wednesday made it clear that what we will get is an incredibly costly exercise in blame-placing, resulting in deeper political polarization and a lot of ethnic hostility. While pledging a fair and nonpartisan hearing, Thompson opened with extremely sensational but

undocumented charges of efforts by the government of China "to buy access and influence" within the Clinton administration with surreptitious donations during the 1996 presidential campaign.

"Never before in the 221-year-old history of our nation have allegations this serious about the role of foreign influence on an American election been raised," said Sen. Robert C. Smith, R-N.H. "We're talking about John Huang," said Sen. Robert C. Bennett, R-Utah, referring to the Democratic official who has been accused of being part of China's plot, and of even engaging in "espionage" and "treason" on China's behalf.

But the Democrats -- including Sen. John Glenn of Ohio, the ranking Democrat on the Governmental Affairs Committee -- were talking about Simon Fireman, the vice-chairman of Bob Dole's GOP campaign, who was fined \$1.6 million for campaign-law abuses.

And Democrats want to substitute for talk about Huang talk about Michael Kojima, who in 1992 gave the George Bush campaign a whopping half-million dollars, winning his wife a kiss from Bush and himself rare access in the Bush

White House. Kojima became the nation's most notorious deadbeat dad when a former wife revealed that he owed more than \$100,000 in child-support payments.

Kojima's \$500,000 donation had been ponied up by Japanese businessmen who sought to win influence in the Bush administration.

Sen. Daniel K. Akaka, D-Hawaii, expressed fear that the hearings will become an orgy of Asian-bashing, "casting doubt on the integrity of Asian Pacific Americans."

Sen. Richard J. Durbin, D-Ill., pointed out a crucial reason why these hearings will not fix what is broken about American campaign financing: "Every press account of foreign efforts to involve itself in our political process points to that involvement primarily at the congressional level, and yet this committee will not touch that issue," he said.

Sen. Robert G. Torricelli, the New Jersey Democrat, cited this and other reasons why he fears the hearings will become "nothing more than another excuse by many to delay consideration of fundamental reform of the system."

At the heart of "fundamental reform" is the outlawing of "soft money," the often shad-

owy contributions that are not specifically limited or banned under current law. Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., pointed out that in 1996 the Republican Party raised more than \$140 million and the Democratic Party more than \$120 million in soft money. This includes a gift of \$1.3 million to the Republicans from just one company, and a gift of \$450,000 to the Democrats from a single couple.

Levin said, "It's the money chase which is driving the illegal and improper conduct" in both parties, and that the need to chase money is "a serious disease which has become chronic."

Democrats are waging a drive to disarm the Republicans by repeatedly trying to get the GOP to agree to outlaw soft money, something the Republican National Committee has refused to do.

These hearings represent highly-publicized attempts by some politicians to purge the disease by pushing doses of humiliating publicity down the throats of enemy politicians. They are likely to make American voters even sicker than they imagined they can be.

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I was standing where I had sworn never again to stand, waiting on a child who had vowed never to ride another air-plane, soon to arrive with a mother who agreed with the both of us.

But back at Christmas there had been that nasty patch of interstate construction near Bowling Green where it took two hours to crawl two miles. What should have been an eight-hour trip took 12. My niece, Chelsey, and I had started to wean on then.

Neither of us said anything, but I could feel my resolve to drive her each time between Atlanta and Louisville, Ky., melting away. She visits often. Soon enough, we joined every-

one else in quietly returning to ValuJet, telling ourselves, like everyone else, that the discount airline right now is probably the safest, most regulated in the skies. (I heard no fewer than three people repeat that bit of conventional wisdom while waiting at the arrival gate.)

A short trip is a hard bargain for a child to pass up, even when she has heard all the TV reports about swamps, alligators and human remains. Chelsey took the ValuJet crash quite personally. She had flown alone on the airline half a dozen times with adult assurances that such travel was swift and safe, the only way to go.

And call me cheap. I paid more for her last doll than I did for Two-for-One Tuesday tickets for Chelsey, her mother and little brother. (That could mean I'm paying too much for toys and too little for transportation, but my theory is the flight takes only an hour and she will have the doll forever.)

Chelsey flew through the door from the plane, a foot taller,

beaming. None of that studied nonchalance she used to affect when strolling out with an attendant.

That night, safe at the house, she shared with me her journal entry. It was all about flying again.

"I stepped onto the plane, almost saying out loud, 'This is just to get there faster.' I had forgotten how planes were. They go straight up, most of the time without going down. I didn't think the sun would stay out long enough to get past the clouds. Before this, ValuJet had a terrifying crash. The word 'crash' would not leave my brain. I did not do much but lean my head back.

"My little brother ate peanuts. Then he complained about how noisy it was. Then he said his stomach hurt. But he was not scared like me. Maybe he won't go through what I had to."

Please know I don't compare my family's mini-melodrama with what the victims' survivors are enduring. I cannot begin to imagine their anger

and loss. I wouldn't blame any of them if they never flew again.

But it is interesting, in a sad kind of way, to watch a 9-year-old discover that life is full of horrible exceptions -- and adults are full of it.

Children are taught to believe in us. We hold them in the swimming pool and tell them they can float. We put them on a plane and tell them it will land. We work hard at keeping their worlds happily-ever-after places.

Soon enough, dents are made, in our credibility. As with a new car, that first scratch is the hardest to bear.

Chelsey had never doubted my word on anything before. I don't know if I've hurt or helped by putting her right back on that pony.

I do know this. Growing up means learning your own truths, believing what you see, discovering that on a given day statistics mean nothing.

© 1997 by Rheta Johnson



LA me and

LOS Jefferson the 18th members neighbor on corner fights, e owners' d Nowadi dors sel cool of Neighbor "It's pe Rosario C City change notice on March th be bann groups o where in borhood. On Fri to form associati ly popul the nati lence. Los An three sin against c neighbor In Jeffe area of still bear pation b gerous si Scrawlec sign ar "XV3," " Just be the ban heat on drive th Efrain Jefferso the tacti "I und drugs, o killing, i in jail fo "But I'm Now the miserabl He als Americ Union, Parachi "cheap high-pro The A May, aug ally, we have be years.

LA attempt to ban gang meetings gets support and legal challenge

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Jefferson Park once belonged to the 18th Street Gang. Gang members in the Los Angeles neighborhood would hang out on corners, deal drugs, get into fights, even strip cars in the owners' driveways.

Nowadays, though, street vendors sell frozen treats. Children cool off with garden hoses. Neighbors chat over fences.

"It's peaceful," says resident Rosario Gonzalez.

City officials credit the change to the city's serving notice on 18 gang members last March that they were about to be banned from gathering in groups of more than two anywhere in public in the neighborhood.

On Friday, a judge is expected to formally impose the free-association ban, an increasingly popular way for cities across the nation to fight gang violence.

Los Angeles already has won three similar court injunctions against other gangs in different neighborhoods.

In Jefferson Park, the 17-block area of working-class homes still bears the scars of its occupation by one of the most dangerous street gangs in the West. Scrawled on nearly every road sign are graffiti reminders: "XV3," "18," "EIGHTEEN."

Just being named as targets of the ban apparently put enough heat on the gang members to drive them off street corners.

Efrain Moreno, one of the 18 Jefferson defendants, objects to the tactic.

"I understand if I was selling drugs, or out there robbing and killing, you know. Yeah, put me in jail for a long time," he says. "But I'm not doing none of that. Now they're making my life miserable."

He also has support from the American Civil Liberties Union, whose lawyer Allan Parachini calls the injunctions "cheap and easy, politically high-profile tactics."

The ACLU issued a study in May suggesting that crime actually went up in and around areas where gang injunctions have been enforced in recent years. Authorities disagreed,

saying the numbers may have gone up simply because there were more police in the area and residents were emboldened to report crimes.

Jefferson Park residents are convinced they have seen a turnaround.

Keith Gibson says his dad has painted over a neighbor's garage nearly 15 times in the past few years to cover up gang graffiti. Since word of the possible injunction spread, it hasn't been touched.

Motorists no longer hang a quick U-turn when they see a crowd. And there's been less sidewalk drug dealing and more nights without gunfire, Gibson says. "I feel much better for the kids' sake, too," he says.

Some residents acknowledge that having tranquility may mean bending the U.S. Constitution a little.

"I know it's discrimination, but they've earned it, through what they've done," says Dora Mendoza.

The city went to court on March 21 to ask for the injunction, and dozens of police officers fanned out to serve gang members with the lawsuit. The court action also forced them to show up in court more than once to respond.

Assistant City Attorney Jule Bishop says of the strategy: "We are not prohibiting meetings. We're asking the court to regulate it. If the Women's Club started having meetings in City Hall and refused to leave when asked to, we'd go to court and ask them to leave."

Fifteen-year-old Adrian Davila simply laughs at the idea of an injunction against gang members.

"They're not going to listen," he says.

So how can 18th Street Gang be stopped?

"They can't," he says.

Richard Ramirez, whose upper body is covered with "18" tattoos, including one on his chin, says there's nothing to stop.

"They see us only on the outside," he says, pointing to his baggy clothes and short haircut. "They don't see us on the inside. We're all heart."

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Do you have a good story idea for the *life!* section? Call 263-7331, Ext. 235.

Pattern of faith

Group meets weekly for 15 years to create handiwork for others

By DEBBIE L. JENSEN
Features Editor

Their pastor calls them "sewing saints."

For more than 15 years, five members of the Ackerly First Baptist Church have been meeting every Tuesday to sew, crochet, knit and quilt.

This is how they serve. "Anybody who says they want something, we just do it," said Murlene Williams, a member of the group.

Other members of the devoted group are Mary Webb, Verle Miller, Augustus Cook, and Pauline Schuelke.

It started as a group of church women who were also handcrafters. They would meet weekly to work on their own projects, share a devotional and then visit sick and homebound members of the church. As the years went by, requests for their handmade items grew, and the ladies began to see how their projects could benefit others.

Now the handiwork of the Sewing Saints goes to the Big Spring State Hospital, nursing homes all over the area, the River Ministry, Circle Baptist Encampment in Stanton and other places.

"They give real meaning to the term 'commitment,'" said pastor Robert Moore of the church. "They're always there. They have a commitment to work, serve and give."

Moore adds that the number of items made by the group is "astounding."

They have completed about 300 quilts. They are at present making 40 lap throws for nursing home residents and 60



Members of Ackerly First Baptist Church who have been creating handmade quilts and other items together for 15 years are, from left: Augustus Cook, Murlene Williams, Mary Webb, Pauline Schuelke and Verle Miller. Their pastor calls the group the "Sewing Saints" because they give so many items to families, nursing home patients and church projects. They are shown with some of about 300 quilts they have made.

toboggans for state hospital patients.

They regularly make and fill hundreds of bags with toiletries and other items for a Bible school mission in Mexico.

Every Tuesday, they are working by 9 a.m. and will spend the day there, putting in

about eight hours. All of the members are more than 75 years of age.

Through the years, they have given at least one quilt to every pastor. They also make baby blankets for women of the church who are expecting.

Moore said he has sent an article about the "Sewing

Saints" to the "Baptist Standard" magazine, where he hopes to see it published.

"All of them are a source of inspiration to those who know them," Moore says in the article. "And they issue to us all a challenge to a greater commitment to our church and its programs."

Don't take your faith for granted

There are a lot of things in life that we tend to take for granted. We treat them as if we expect them never to fail or disappoint us.

Husbands and wives can take one another for granted. Employers can take employees for granted. We can even take our houses for granted.

Every homeowner realizes that his or her home requires regular and routine maintenance. Even minor repairs must be made from time to time to keep the house comfortable.

Yet, we know the house will not collapse if it is not the subject of constant attention. So we tend to let some small tasks go undone until we "have to," and we let our frustration get the best of us because we took our homes for granted.

Now stop and consider a sandcastle. Sandcastles are fun to build. Even adults who go to the beach with their children can get caught up in building the ultimate castle. But you cannot take a sandcastle for granted. Sandcastles last only a short while if they are left unattended. The constant onslaught of wind and surf will soon leave it just another pile of sand. The builder can never assume that his sandcastle will last more than a day. To keep the castle from destruction requires constant attention.

Faith is often like a sandcastle. We can take faith for granted. When times are good and

our lives are running smoothly, it is easy to say, "Oh, my faith will last. It will always do me well. I can always count on my faith." Yet, when we begin to take our faith in God for granted like that, we tend to stop nurturing it. Without constant nurture, faith will eventually fail.

I cannot help but think of Daniel (as in Daniel and the lion's den). Here was a man of great principle and faith. His integrity had caused Darius, the king of the Medes and Persians, to notice him and elevate him to a place of honor and authority. In fact, he was put ahead of others who became extremely jealous.

Resentment moved these men to plot against Daniel. As a result of their conspiracy, Daniel was eventually cast into a den of hungry lions. However, when Daniel first heard about the plot, he went to his room "he continued kneeling on his knees three times a day, praying and giving thanks before his God, as he had been doing previously." (Daniel 6:10). He eventually faced the injustice with courage because he had nurtured his faith all along.

The apostle Peter many years later listed some qualities that a Christian must diligently add to his or her faith — goodness, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love (2 Peter 1:5-7). Then he wrote: "For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ" (vs 8).

As you nurture faith, "fixing your eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith,"



Russell Mullins
Guest Columnist

Please see FAITH, page A7.

CHURCH NEWS

Coahoma Church of Christ

The Coahoma Church of Christ will have Vacation Bible School beginning Sunday, at 6 p.m. and Monday through Wednesday at 7 p.m. Wednesday night will be a program by the children followed by an ice cream supper. This year's theme is "It's a Jungle Out There!" There will be classes for all ages. If you need a ride or more information please call 394-4277.

First United Methodist Church

"Every Blunder You've Ever Made Can Be Fixed" (John 21:15-19) is Dr. Ed Williamson's message Sunday at the First United Methodist Church, 400 Scurry. The message is about seeing every problem as "fixable" when we share in the fixing with God. Services are 8:30 and 10:50 a.m.

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

The General Convention of the Episcopal Church has its triennial meeting in Philadelphia, July 14-25. Many important issues will face the Convention and Fr. Liggett will try to keep everyone informed about the outcome of the meeting.

The Brotherhood of St. Andrew will meet in the Parish Hall at 8 a.m. July 19 for breakfast. Everyone is welcome to attend.

New carpet has recently been installed in the church. The church thanks all the parishioners and friends whose gifts made this carpet possible.

Friends of Unity

The Rev. Gerre Parker will give the message at 6 p.m. Sunday at Friends of Unity box car. Gerre is the minister for Discovery of Life Church in Midland. She is a religious science minister, graduated from Ernest Holmes College and her messages reflect the Science of Mind philosophy.

First Christian Church

The Rev. Paula Brooks, a "Timothy" of First Christian Church will deliver the message at the 10:50 a.m. service on Sunday. Elementary youth Sunday school classes will be presenting a special "Agape" to all those in attendance.

Odessa Christian Faith Center

Del Way of Kerrville will minister at Odessa Christian Faith Center 7 p.m. Wednesday. He is pastor and founder of Calvary Temple Church in Kerrville, where he and his wife Cindy have a weekly television program on Trinity Broadcasting Network. Odessa Christian Faith Center is at 8860 N. Andrews Hwy.

Special thanks from VA patients

A special "thank you" goes out to the following people who visited veterans at the VA Medical Center during "Rodeo Week," including Quayle Dobbs, Jody Nix, Mises Rodeo Texas Turner, Hawkeye Henson, Jimmy Anderson and Rick Chapman.



Fred Cox
VA Medical Center

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands: One nation under God, indivisible with Liberty and Justice for all."

I — me, an Individual, a committee of one. Pledge — dedicate all of my worldly goods to give without self-pity.

Allegiance — my love and devotion.

To the flag — our standard, Old Glory, a symbol of freedom. Of the United — that means we have all come together.

States — individual communities that have united; individual communities with pride

and dignity and purpose; divided yet united to a common purpose and that's love for country.

Of America and to the Republic — a state in which a sovereign power is invested in representatives chosen by the people to govern. And government is the people, not from the people to the leaders, not from the leaders to the people.

For which it stands one nation — meaning so blessed by God.

Indivisible — incapable of being divided.

With Liberty — which is freedom and the right of power to live one's life without threats or fear of some sort of retaliation.

And Justice — the principle or quality of dealing fairly with others.

For all — which means it's as much your country as it is mine.

Following are representative questions answered daily by VA counselors:

Q — I have a VA Loan Guaranty Certificate of Eligibility which was issued to me over 15 years ago. Can I still use it?

A — Yes. Certificates of Eligibility do not expire and are good for the maximum loan guaranty currently available.

Q — I am a veteran who is

having a difficult time making payments on my VA guaranteed home loan. What happens if I fail to make payments?

A — Failure to make payments on the loan may lead to foreclosure and the loss of your home. If the government is required to pay a claim as the result of failure to repay the loan, you may become indebted to the government for the amount of any such claim. If you find yourself in financial difficulty, please contact your loan holder to discuss the problem and make arrangements. If additional assistance or advice is required, contact VA toll free, 1-800-827-1000.

Q — Does the Department of Veterans Affairs help veterans find lenders for VA-guaranteed mortgages?

A — No. Veterans must make their own arrangements for loans through the usual lending channels such as banks, savings and loan associations and mortgage loan companies.

Q — I am interested in purchasing a motor home. Can I use my VA home loan guaranty?

A — No. Motor homes are not included in the VA loan guaranty program.

Fred C. Cox is the community relations coordinator at the VA Medical Center. He can be contacted at 264-4824.

Court ruling effect still in question

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Late June's Supreme Court decision striking down the Religious Freedom Restoration Act could mean open season on congregations or more pressure to compromise, depending on which expert you listen to.

Others see the church-state dynamic drifting out of the federal arena into state legislatures.

Those are early assessments of the result of the federal lawsuit filed by the Archdiocese of San Antonio against the city of Boerne.

In a victory for Boerne, the court declared the 1993 federal act under which the church sued unconstitutional.

Although the religious freedom act was overturned, the struggle between the city and archdiocese will be waged on other fronts, including constitutional protection of property rights.

Doug Laycock, the University of Texas at Austin law professor who argued for the act, said the future depends on "how willing courts are to find discrimination against congregations in

Please see FREEDOM, page A7.

SLICE OF LIFE

TIPS FOR LIVING

Your feet and your health

(NAPS) — Your feet frequently mirror your general health. Certain health conditions, such as arthritis, diabetes, poor circulation, AIDS, anemia and kidney malfunction can affect your feet. Sometimes the initial symptoms show in your feet.

With diabetes, your feet need special care. Here are some do's and don'ts for care of the foot in a diabetic patient.

Do bathe feet daily and use skin softening cream on them. Don't use scrapers, corn plasters or home remedies on corns.

Do avoid extremes of heat and cold. Don't walk on an injured foot even if it doesn't seem to hurt.

Do exercise to improve circulation. Don't stand in one position for a long time.

Do check with your doctor before using any medication on your feet. Don't use tobacco in any form.



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Steer Band honors

The Big Spring Steer Band color guard and drum majors recently returned from a Marching Auxiliaries summer camp where some students received top recognition.

Named to the All-American performance team at the camp were: flag captain Lori Broussard; Laci Lyons, Beatrice Trevino, Kami Horn and Crystal Ferguson, along with drum majors Stephanie Waggoner and Michele Steward.

The students attended camp from June 23-26 in Brenham, with classes and competitions all day. The all-performance team was selected for superior technique, leadership and all-around ability.

THE LAST WORD

Friendship is like earthenware, once broken it can be mended; but love is like a mirror, once broken that ends it.
Josh Billings

A taste of irony has kept more hearts from breaking than a sense of humor — for it takes irony to appreciate the joke which is on oneself.
lessamyn West

Big Friday FR Contin local addin "El subsci church of the Lay law o relig ble to city v actor of di church Sooi dicte chall and t have t "Th case. Peter" tional is declar Mar sel for ops' c lem w is tha church the co more v But Minn laws f ed reli with : Chopk hasn't legisla "We have t rest of about Mar law a Benja Law, v Boern have e religio "If tl nation and so (city c religio al," sh But l gious l of RFF than r that m muster "If tl get a peyote practi Ham decisi Indian prison smoke practi betwee againi and a gion th "We going but I t putes through not a b Ham church reason local Witho high: show j reason comm needs, Mich law at said la be the state le he said "Stat vide g federal have t way," FAI Contin (Hebri qualit through If yo granti stop re up on guarai weathr impor our fa tion of we mu sandca Russ Coaha THE B ALL SPOR

Some decry revivals of 'holy laughter'

FORT WORTH (AP) — A woman laughed uncontrollably. A man leapt from a front pew of the church and began spasmodically jerking, his arms flying up and down.

"In the name of Jesus, let it bubble up. Let it bubble up out of your belly," encouraged Rodney Howard-Browne, 36, a burly, long-haired evangelist from South Africa as he stood at the lectern of Calvary Cathedral near downtown Fort Worth last week.

Howard-Browne, who calls himself "the Holy Ghost bartender," was dispensing quick shots of the spirit-filled revivalism that is sweeping the land from Toronto, Canada, to Pensacola, Fla. Often the revivals are marked by "holy laughter," or people falling backward as they are "slain in the spirit," and miraculous healings.

The Pentecostal-style revivals which have received attention in national newsmagazines and on network television are going on in various cities in the United States, Australia, Europe, Africa and Asia.

Some discount the spirit-filled revivals as overblown emotionalism and refer to the "holy laughter" manifested by Howard-Browne and others as nothing more than religious hokum.

But many Christians see the protracted revival meetings marked by unusual signs of the spirit as a new "Great Awakening" similar to two far-reaching spiritual revivals that swept America in the 1700s and the 1800s.

"I may offend you, but I'm here to serve up the new wine of the Holy Spirit," Howard-Browne told some 2,000 people at Calvary Cathedral, where he preached to near-capacity crowds during a four-night revival. "Some of you have been drinking vinegar so long you look like a pickle."

Former Big Spring man dealing with INS mess

By DEBBIE L. JENSEN
Features Editor

Former Big Spring resident Robert Pekowski is, in his own words, living a nightmare.

The Lubbock resident's wife, a native of the Philippines, is in immigration limbo after her recent arrest under threat of deportation. Shirley Pekowski was released on bond June 28, but her problems with the Immigration and Naturalization Service are far from over.

"We've got a long, long way to go," said Pekowski in a recent telephone interview. His family lived in Big Spring many years while his father, Edward G. Pekowski was stationed at Webb Air Force Base.

"They are still talking about sending her back. I've lost my job. We have no money coming in." The Pekowskis have four children from age 8 months to 6 years old.

Pekowski said he still has many friends in Big Spring, and has heard from some of them during his recent difficulties.

His trouble began when

Pekowski, seeking to resolve problems he knew existed with his wife's immigration status, contacted INS himself. They had married in 1994 after meeting in Hawaii, where Pekowski was stationed with the U.S. Army.

He says he knew there were problems with her immigration status because she had never received a green card. The couple had attempted to resolve the problem earlier, but had missed an appointment with INS because he was suddenly transferred from Hawaii to Washington, D.C.

"I had contacted them (INS) myself," Pekowski said. "I was asking for their help in resolving her status."

Then, after receiving her file and finding a deportation order in it, Pekowski said agents came to their home and arrested his wife.

He was left caring for the children, including the baby that his wife had been still nursing, alone.

Now, Pekowski said his only hope is that INS will reopen his wife's case. Then he can present his argument that deportation would put the family at extreme hardship.

Church camp creates success stories

DALLAS (AP) — As 5-year-old Ursula Hicks approached the stage, the fear showed in her eyes. She tentatively stretched her hand toward the violin that was awaiting her fingers to make the "pop" sound of "Pop Goes the Weasel."

Twenty-nine other children, ranging in age from 5 to 11, stared intently at her as she approached.

Finally, her finger touched the string and a small pop sound was emitted. Dallas Symphony Orchestra violinist Bruce Wittrig finished the song and Ursula returned to her seat with a large smile on her face.

"It felt like fun," she said. Ursula and the other children who watched and listened to Wittrig are participating in a monthlong camp run by St. Paul United Methodist Church called Camp SucSeed.

The Rev. Janette Chandler Kotey, associate pastor and minister of music and the arts for St. Paul, said the purpose of the camp is to introduce young African-Americans to the arts. Most of the children are from the inner city, and many live in public housing.

The camp began on June 16 and runs through July 18. Campers can sign up by the week, according to Barbara Weaver, camp director.

"The program is geared toward the arts — music,

drama, and visual — and how the kids can use them in their everyday lives," Ms. Kotey said. "That is what makes the program unique."

Adrian Masterson, 11, said that the camp is helping him learn not only about the arts but also about religion.

"I'm getting to spread my mind and learning to help each other and help us learn about

God," he said.

Ms. Kotey said that one of the main goals of the program is to promote self-esteem in the children.

"We want to help them become wholesome citizens, and exposure to the arts can help them understand the world around them," Ms. Kotey said.

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Gospel concert set in Abilene

The "Legends" of Southern Gospel Music will appear at 7 p.m. Tuesday in Abilene at Radford Auditorium on the McMurry campus.

The "Legends" are James Blackwood, Hovie Lister and J.D. Sumner.

For more information, call Don Yelvington at 1-800-992-7469. Tickets are \$12 general reserved seating and general admission \$10.

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'97 Jeep Wrangler - Stk#U104.....	Was \$17,988	\$15,988
'96 Ford Windstar - Stk#P114.....	Was \$17,988	\$16,988
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By JOE Sports
Big All-St their Leagu taking Mann In th pound three Wilson five M ond vi While Blue s nities those Paso n "The really
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SPORTS

Big Spring Herald
Friday, July 16, 1997

SCOREBOARD

On the Tube
Women's U.S. Open, 3 p.m., ESPN
New York Mets at Atlanta Braves, 6:30 p.m., TBS
Boxing, 7 p.m., ESPN2
Calgary Stampede, 11 p.m., ESPN2

Local
District 3 Junior League Baseball Tournament
Big Spring American Blue vs. Midland Eastern, 8 p.m.
Two other games begin at 5:30 p.m.
at Roy Anderson Complex.

Got a story idea or
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1B

Aggressive AL Blue powers past El Paso Manning, 9-4

By JOHN A. MOSELEY
Sports Editor

Big Spring's American League Blue All-Stars advanced another step in their quest for a District 3 Junior League Tournament title Thursday, taking a 9-4 win over El Paso Frank Manning.

In the process, Big Spring batters pounded out 14 hits and roughed up three El Paso pitchers, while Dereck Wilson went six innings and scattered five Manning hits en route to his second victory of the tournament.

While their aggressive style cost the Blue stars a couple of scoring opportunities, manager Delvin Guinn said those were more than offset by the El Paso miscues they created.

"That's been our style and it's been really effective for us," Guinn said,

crediting third base coach Brandon Rogers for adopting that style of play for the team.

"That's the way he played baseball at the high school when he was an all-state first baseman and they went to the state tournament," Guinn added. "If he'd have been in a collision and had blood coming out his ears, he'd have still been out there at first base and challenging you when he got back to the plate."

As a result, Big Spring jumped out to a quick 3-1 lead in the first inning and countered with at least one run every time El Paso scored.

Willis Morrison, having returned to his third base position after a pitching stint Tuesday, opened Big Spring's first inning charge with a single to left and wasted little time in moving to third on two wild pitches El Paso's

Alex Delgado issued while walking Brandon Greathouse.

Ryan Guinn ripped an RBI single to right, swiped second and scored a few moments later when Dusty Floyd ripped a single to center for two of his three RBIs on the night.

Morrison and Floyd paced Big Spring's hitting attack, each finishing the night with 3-for-4 showings. As a result, Morrison scored three times and Floyd paced the team in RBI production. Clayton Kelso and John McKinnon were not far off the pace, each going 2-for-4 at the plate.

Big Spring's offensive pressure was so strong, however, that all but two players were credited with hits and none were denied chances to reach the base paths.

When Big Spring extended its lead to 4-1 in the top of the third inning and

El Paso trimmed the edge to 4-2 in the bottom of the frame, the homestanders simply tacked on another run in their half of the fourth when Manuel Holguin drew a walk, advanced to second on a passed ball and scored when McKinnon hit a one-out single to left.

The back-breaker came in the fifth, however, when Morrison doubled to left and scored on an infield single by Greathouse. After Guinn reached base on an error and moved to second on a double steal attempt that erased Greathouse, Kelso singled to right, scoring Guinn and chasing Delgado from the mound.

Floyd wasted no time in welcoming El Paso reliever Holt Grambling, ripping a double down the leftfield line to score Kelso.

While Wilson would face a couple of jams in the fifth and sixth innings, he

managed to escape with allowing just one run in each frame and then helped his cause with an RBI single in the top of the seventh.

However, in being thrown out at the plate for the final out of Big Spring's seventh, Wilson injured his knee and was replaced on the mound by Guinn, who worked his way out of a bases-loaded jam with one out by getting Grambling and Jeff Ramos to ground into force plays.

Big Spring now advances to the winner's bracket semifinal, facing Midland Eastern, an 8-2 winner over Odessa Jim Parker Thursday, tonight at 8 p.m.

Today's schedule also includes loser's bracket games pitting El Paso and Odessa Turner and Odessa Parker against Midland North Center. Both are set for 5:30 p.m.

Mariners hammer Rangers

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

SEATTLE — At his first All-Star game in Cleveland this week, Joey Cora of the Seattle Mariners got some sage advice. Obviously, he wasn't listening.

"The fellows there were telling me, 'Don't go out and hit 20 home runs because then people will expect it next year,'" he said.

Cora, a switch-hitter whose previous high was six home runs, hit his ninth — a three-run shot that capped a seven-run inning — as the Seattle Mariners continued their mastery over the Texas Rangers on Thursday night.

The Mariners beat Texas 12-9 for their fifth straight victory over last season's AL West champs.

Seattle improved to 6-1 against the Rangers this season and 43-13 since Lou Piniella became the manager here in 1993.

"I know I can hit home runs now," Cora said.

A switch-hitter, the 5-foot-8 second baseman is hitting home runs from both sides of the plate for the first time in his career. He's no longer a platoon player.

His home run in the fifth came against left-hander Eric Gunderson after the Mariners knocked Ken Hill (5-6) out of the game. He has five of his homers this year from the right side.

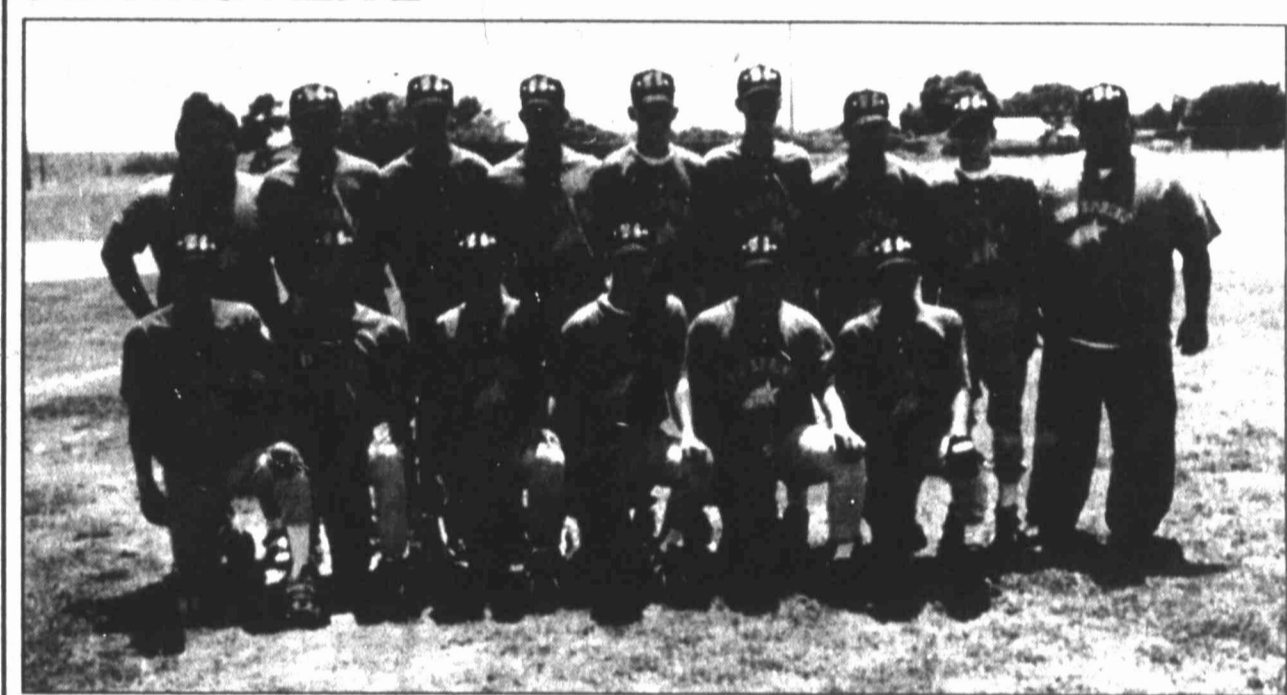
"It's unbelievable," Piniella said. "And we used to platoon him. You know he takes a good swing at that ball and he's got a good weight shift."

Cora went 4-for-6 to raise his average seven points to .337 on a night when Ken Griffey Jr. went hitless.

Alex Rodriguez was 4-for-5 with two doubles, Jay Buhner tripled and doubled twice and the Mariners had 18 hits, eight for extra bases.

Texas wasted red-hot Juan Gonzalez's five RBIs night and his 21st homer. He has seven home runs and 20 RBIs in his last 11 games.

STAYING ALIVE



Big Spring's Senior League All-Stars, pictured here in a team photo, continued to battle their way through the loser's bracket of the District 3 Senior League Tournament in Odessa Thursday, holding off a determined Lamesa rally and a dramatic 10-9 victory in a game that had been halted by storms Wednesday. Front row, from left, are: Ricky Solis, Leonard Munoz, Dustin Morgan, Jay Kuykendall, Jose Carneros and Ricky Yanez. Back row: Tony Ontiveros, Isaac Willborn, Brandon Nagle, Andy Neel, Jason Choate, Clint Bamert, Aaron Ovalle, Dustin Payne and Coach Lupe Ontiveros.

Alomar's streak comes to end

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the night Hideki Irabu's career started, Sandy Alomar's 30-game hitting streak ended.

And both players sounded relieved Thursday.

A sellout crowd of 51,901 at Yankee Stadium watched Irabu win in one of the most-anticipated major league debuts in recent years. The Japanese-born pitcher, who held out rather than play for anyone other than the Yankees, struck out nine in 6 2-3 innings as New York defeated Detroit 10-3.

"When I got up on the mound, all the things I went through the last six months, the orgeals, went through my mind like a flashback," he said through a translator.

Alomar, the All-Star game MVP, went 0-for-4 in Cleveland's 8-2 loss at Minnesota. He popped up to end the game, and fell just short of matching Nap Lajoie's team-record set in 1906.

"It's a load off my back," Alomar said. "I swung at a lot of bad pitches tonight."

"I felt anxious," he said. "I

AL ROUNDUP

wanted to get it early."

In other games, Chicago defeated Kansas City 6-3, Boston beat Toronto 8-7 in 11 innings, Seattle downed Texas 12-9 and Anaheim topped Oakland 8-4.

Irabu had waited a long time for this night.

The 28-year-old right-hander spent nearly a year breaking the bonds that tied him to his team in Japan, then refused to pitch for the San Diego Padres when they acquired his rights. He eventually was traded to New York and wound up with a rookie record \$12.8 million, four-year contract.

The Yankees and their crowd were ready for Irabu.

Sushi was sold alongside the regular hot dogs and beers at the concession stands. Some fans hung "K" cards from the upper deck, although there also were "sanshin" cards — the Japanese word for strikeout — drawn in fancy shodo (calligraphy).

"It was my first experience to face a crowd like this," Irabu said.

Irabu, called the Nolan Ryan of Japan because of his power pitching, got off to a smooth start. He retired the Tigers in order in the first inning and struck out Bobby Higginson and Travis Fryman, showing a 96 mph fastball.

Irabu struck out eight in the first four innings. Manager Joe Torre took him out in the middle of the seventh, even though the Yankees led 10-2 and the Tigers were not threatening, and Irabu received a standing ovation.

"I did it, basically, so the fans could show their appreciation," Torre said.

"I don't think he's ready for the majors. I didn't see anything overpowering," said Tigers leadoff hitter Brian Hunter, who grounded out twice and struck out against Irabu. "Everybody was hyping his fastball, but we didn't see it. Mediocre curve. The split was his best pitch. You can't really judge him on his first start, I guess."

Astros ace saves All-Star outing for Pittsburgh

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

Darryl Kile saved his All-Star performance for the Pittsburgh Pirates.

The Houston ace, a mere spectator Tuesday night in Cleveland, limited Pittsburgh to six hits in his third shutout of the season as the Astros routed the Pirates 7-0 on Thursday night.

"It's a big series for both teams," said Kile, who pushed Houston into a first-place tie with Pittsburgh in the NL Central. "The Pirates are trying to maintain the high level of play they had before the break and it would be big for us to come away with some wins."

NL ROUNDUP

In other National League games Thursday night, it was New York 10, Atlanta 7; San Diego 11, Colorado 5; Los Angeles 11, San Francisco 0; St. Louis 3, Chicago 2; and Florida 8, Philadelphia 7.

Houston ended Pittsburgh's seven-game winning streak.

"This was kind of a little exclamation point on top of making the All-Star game," Astros manager Larry Dierker said. "He didn't get to pitch, but he showed why he was picked."

Kile (11-3) has won his last four decisions and 10 of his last 11, losing only once since April 30. He took a no-hitter into the eighth in his previous start, a 2-1 victory over Cincinnati on July 5.

"He's probably the best in the league right now," Pirates manager Gene Lamont said. "He used to bounce quite a few curveballs up to the plate, but he can throw it for strikes now whenever he wants to."

The right-hander, who struck out seven and walked two, has given up only one run in two complete-game victories over Pittsburgh this year.

"When he's on, he's as nasty as any pitcher in the league," Pittsburgh's Al Martin said. "His curveball is so nasty, and

With golf's big names absent, unknowns in Quad City lead

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

COAL VALLEY, Ill. — Gary Hallberg hasn't made a cut in 17 months. Russ Cochran has one victory in two decades. Dave Stockton Jr. is struggling to live up to his name. Sean McCarty is making his PGA Tour debut.

Welcome to the Quad City Classic.

Tiger Woods isn't here. Neither are 21 of the tour's other top 22 money-winners. It's a perfect chance to revive a career or get one started.

Hallberg used a nothing-to-lose attitude to shoot a 5-under-par 65 Thursday and take a one-stroke lead into today's second round. Cochran, Stockton and McCarty were a stroke back. Dozens of others also are

hoping to take advantage of the absence of big-time stars; 20 golfers were only two back, and 55 players broke par at Oakwood Country Club.

"It was a beautiful day," said Hallberg, who has missed 18 consecutive cuts and has survived to play on the weekend in just one of his last 23 events. "I'm loose. I'm relaxed. I didn't have any crazy thoughts about my swing."

Hallberg, a top-100 player as recently as 1994, has cashed just one tour paycheck since September 1995. That was \$2,544 for finishing 63rd in last year's Hawaiian Open.

"I started getting hand problems a couple of years ago, carpal-tunnel syndrome," said Hallberg, who grew up in the Chicago suburb of Barrington.

"I had a lot of time off and lost my tour card."

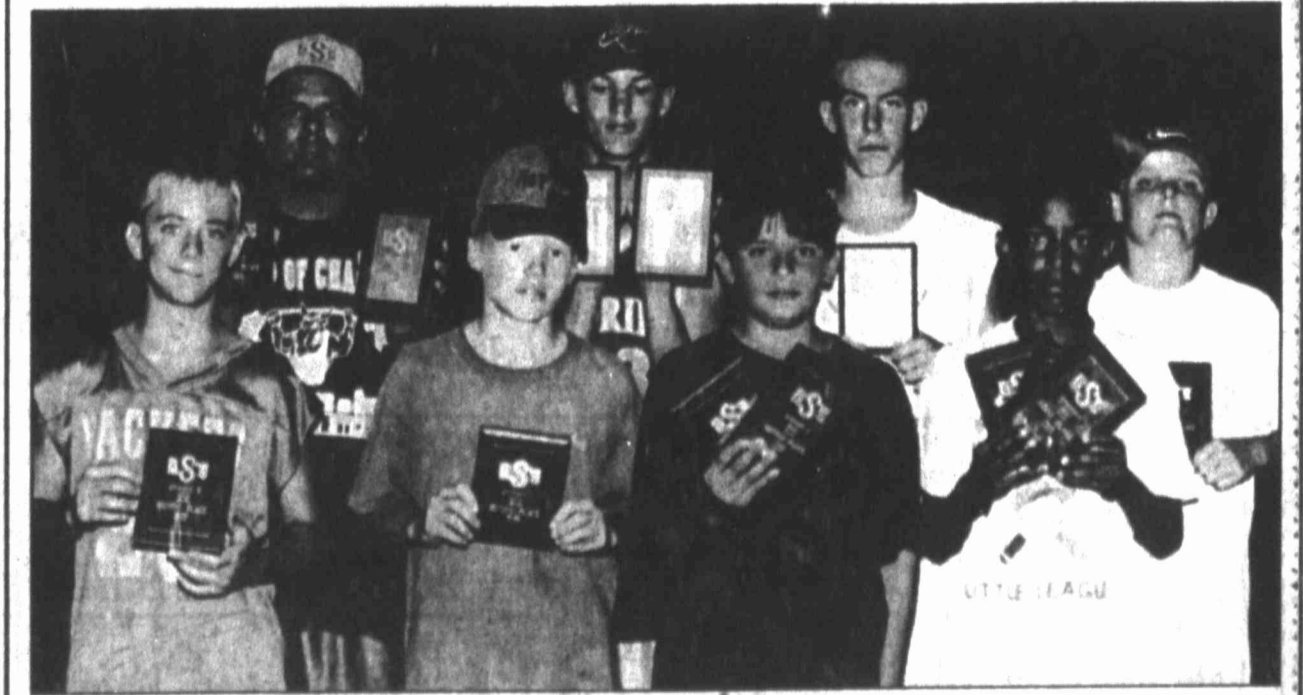
So he has been spending time with his family and working for a company that manufactures synthetic putting greens.

"A guy has to make a living," Hallberg said. "These have been tough times. I've struggled for a few years."

Cochran has struggled since shooting a course-record 65 in the third round of last year's PGA Championship. First, he "choked my guts out" in carding a final-round 77. He has been inconsistent since, unable to get another victory to go with his 1991 Western Open win.

"There have been disappointments," Cochran said. "You have to be able to accept the pain that goes with golf. This

AWARD WINNERS



Eight youngsters were honored for their achievements at the first Big Spring High School Football Camp Thursday at the Big Spring Athletic Training Center. The award winners, front row from left, are: Jeremiah Baeza, Brandon Neagle, Zack Tuttle and Tye Butler. Back row: Dwayne Fulgahn, Jon Lusk, Andrew Vizcanino and Bryson Hall.

SPORTS EXTRA

LOCAL GOLF

Here are results from the Big Spring Country Club's Watermelon Open, a 50-team men's and women's scramble staged July 4.

R. Harris, R. Romine	60
R. Plummer, C. Epply	60
K. Plummer, L. Plummer	63
J. Welch, S. Welch	64
D. Kasch, M. Kasch	64
H. Davis, J. Davis	65
J. Dudley, P. Horton	65
E. Britton, J. Britton	66
E. Harvey, E. Harvey	66
J. Welch, P. Welch	66
M. Rhodes, S. Rhodes	66
M. Scarborough, D. Scarborough	66
D. Simpson, L. McCullough	66
J. Phillips, L. Phillips	67
W. Pierce, T. Pierce	67
A. Pirkle, D. Pirkle	67
L. Underwood, P. Underwood	67
J. Freeman, C. Freeman	67
J. Mueller, L. Mueller	68

MAJOR LEAGUE STANDINGS

American League East Division

W	L	Pct.	GB
Baltimore	55	30	.647
New York	49	37	.570
Detroit	41	45	.477
Toronto	40	44	.476
Boston	39	48	.448

Central Division

W	L	Pct.	GB
Cleveland	44	37	.543
Chicago	44	42	.512
Milwaukee	39	47	.470
Minnesota	38	48	.442
Kansas City	36	47	.434

West Division

W	L	Pct.	GB
Seattle	50	38	.568
Anaheim	45	42	.517
Texas	43	43	.500
Oakland	37	53	.411

Thursday's Games

Anaheim 8, Oakland 4
Boston 8, Toronto 7, 11 innings
N.Y. Yankees 10, Detroit 3
Minnesota 8, Cleveland 2
Chicago White Sox 6, Kansas City 3
Seattle 12, Texas 9

Friday's Games

Toronto (Herzog 8-6) at Boston (Avery 2-2), 6:05 p.m.
Detroit (Moehler 6-6) at New York (Pettitte 9-5), 6:35 p.m.
Milwaukee (McDonald 7-6) at Baltimore (May 12-4), 6:35 p.m.
Cleveland (Anderson 3-1) at Minnesota (Robertson 7-6), 7:05 p.m.
Chicago White Sox (Alvarez 7-6) at Kansas City (Rosado 7-4), 7:05 p.m.
Texas (Oliver 5-9) at Seattle (Fassero 8-5), 9:05 p.m.
Anaheim (Dickson 8-4) at Oakland (Karsay 2-8), 9:35 p.m.

DETROIT LIONS—Signed TE Pete Chryplewicz to a three-year contract.

GREEN BAY PACKERS—Signed FB Gerald Sowell. Claimed RB Aaron Hayden off waivers from the San Diego Chargers and K Ryan Longwell off waivers from the San Francisco 49ers.

MIAMI DOLPHINS—Released FB Lee McClinton.

OAKLAND RAIDERS—Signed FB Derrick Clark.

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS—Re-signed DT Chad Eaton and FB Rupert Grant.

PITTSBURGH STEELERS—Signed WR Corey Holliday, OT Paul Wiggins and WR Mike Adams.

TENNESSEE OILERS—Agreed to terms with CB Denard Walker and DE Pratt Lyons.

WASHINGTON REDSKINS—Signed C Dan Turk.

JUNIOR OLYMPICS

ABILENE — Results from the USA Track and Field Region 12 Junior Olympics, held at Elmer Gray Stadium in Abilene on Thursday:

YOUNG MEN (17-18)

2,000 steeplechase — 1. Tony Jagens, Clear Lake, 6:33.35; 2. Jonathan Santos, Arlington, 6:38.97; 3. Kyle Swift, New Braunfels, 6:40.78; 4. Robert Coulson, Clear Lake, 6:47.80.

Decathlon:

Individual points — 1. Jake Boone, Bellville, 6,397; 2. John Bloom, Lubbock, 6,225; 3. Jason Montgomery, Dallas, 5,230; 4. Brent Aaron, Stinnett, 4,427; 5. Alfred Martin, Dallas, 4,162; 6. Rashad Anderson, Dallas, 2,358.

High hurdles — 1. Bloom 15.14 (8:33); 2. Boone 15.34 (8:09); 3. Montgomery 16.64 (8:62); 4. Aaron 18.34 (9:2); 5. Martin 2.04 (3:46); 6. Anderson 22.84 (1:60).

Discus — 1. Boone 145-6 (7:54); 2. Aaron 114-3 (5:02); 3. Montgomery 104-9 (5:02); 4. Bloom 103-10 (4:57); 5. Anderson 64-9 (2:67); 6. Martin 62-5 (2:54).

Pole vault — 1. Boone 13-7 (6:59); 2. Bloom 13-3 (6:31); 3. Montgomery 9-8 (3:45); No height: Aaron, Martin, Anderson.

Javelin — 1. Boone 145-9 (5:07); 2. Bloom 142-01 (4:50); 3. Montgomery 111-6 (3:56); 4. Aaron 77-3 (2:59); 5. Martin 75-0 (2:00); 6. Anderson 65-10 (1:27).

1,500 — 1. Boone 4:38.87 (8:27); 2. Bloom 4:41.06 (8:74); 3. Aaron 5:14.64 (4:78); 4. Martin 5:24.62 (4:26); 5. Montgomery 5:44.01 (3:33); 6. Anderson 6:39.10 (1:27).

INTERMEDIATE BOYS (15-16)

3,000 meter walk — 1. Josh Zuniga, Missouri City, 16:54.00; 2. 2,000 steeplechase — 1. Andrew Matine, Dallas, 6:48.83.

Decathlon:

Individual points — 1. Gavin Boothe, Dallas, 4,648; 2. Phillip Fuller, Dallas, 4,238; 3. Corree Hall, Dallas, 3,850; 4. Chuck Wilks, Weatherford, 3,684; 5. Timothy Walker, Dallas, 3,204; 6. Jared Monk, Stinnett, 2,874.

High hurdles — 1. Boothe 16.64 (6:73); 2. Tie, Fuller 18.44 (4:83); Wilks 18.44 (4:83); 4. Hall 19.54 (3:86); 5. Walker 19.

BASKETBALL

National Basketball Association

GOLDEN STATE WARRIORS—Named Garry St. Jean general manager. Moved Ed Greedy from director of player personnel to director of scouting.

HOUSTON ROCKETS—Signed F Rodrick Rhodes and C Serge Fournier to three-year contracts.

UTAH JAZZ—Re-signed F Antoine Carr to a one-year contract and G-F Shannon Anderson to a two-year contract.

FOOTBALL

National Football League

CHICAGO BEARS—Signed WR Haywood Jeffries, DB Kevin Scott, G Bob Sapp, S Van Hiles, DE Shawn Swaidy, L Rich Hogans, S Rickey Parker, DT Mike Miano, and DE Marvin Thomas.

Nicklaus flashes old form in opening Senior Players

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

GOLF

DEARBORN, Mich. — Fit and feisty, he was looking a little like the Jack Nicklaus of old. Despite bogeys on Nos. 16 and 17, Nicklaus shot a 3-under-par 69 in the first round of the Senior Players Championship on Thursday and trailed co-leaders Larry Gilbert and Dana Quigley by two strokes.

Dave Stockton and South African John Bland were one shot off the pace, each at 68 over the 6,876-yard Tournament Players Club of Michigan course.

"I don't know why I was even bothering to hit the ball down the right side of the fairway," Nicklaus said. "I couldn't have reached the water (on the left) with a bazooka."

Still, he fashioned a Nicklaus flourish at the finish, hitting a 5-iron to 5 feet for a birdie on the final hole.

"So, I had two bogeys in a row," Nicklaus said. "Obviously, if I'd screwed up 18, that would have spoiled the whole day, wouldn't it?"

that, I know. When a guy like me gets to that level, it's just really special."

Gilbert, seeking his third win since joining the Senior tour in 1993, played almost flawless golf. He missed only two fairways while hitting all 18 greens in regulation. It was the 16th round of par or below for Gilbert, winner of three PGA Club Professional championships before joining the tour.

"I had 31 putts, despite a three-putt," Gilbert said. "With a hot putter, I could have been maybe 8-under."

Hale Irwin, winner of four Senior tour events this season, was well off the pace with a 73. Graham Marsh was tied with defending champion Raymond Floyd at 70.

Stockton, who won the tournament in 1992 and 1994, recovered from two quick bogeys and was even at the turn.

Bland, who was edged by friend Marsh by a stroke in the U.S. Senior Open last month, turned a bogey-free round into really something special with birdies at Nos. 16 and 17.

John Schroeder, Vincente Fernandez and Larry Mowry were tied with Nicklaus, who has played sparingly this year because of a sore hip. Yet, clearly, his competitive juices can still be stirred.

"Aside from the fact that I haven't won this year ... I would be in a very good frame of mind to go to the British Open," Nicklaus said. "I would feel competitive. It would give me a great boost mentally."

Quigley, who has played in seven Monday qualifiers in an effort to gain entry into Senior tournaments since his 50th birthday on April 15, birdied five of the final six holes. He curled in a 20-footer at No. 18.

"Nothing seems very hard in this game when you're on a roll like that," said Quigley, out of Crestwood Country Club in Rehoboth, Mass. and well-known around New England golf circles. "It's like no effort at all. Great players always say

Nicklaus, who designed the TPC of Michigan, looked like he might charge into a commanding lead when he reached 4-under with a two-putt birdie from 30 feet at No. 13. Instead, he began to struggle.

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His five-foot putt for par hit the hole but spun out on the 16th.

"Actually, I hit a very, very nice putt that just spun right clear around the hole. Came out," Nicklaus said. "I accept that one. That just happened."

But he couldn't accept what happened next. Nicklaus drove into a bunker on the right side of the 17th fairway, then caught the lip and ended up in the next bunker. He finally knocked a 6-iron to 12 feet, but missed the par-saving putt.

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SPORTS BRIEFS

From staff and wire reports

BSUGSA slates ragball toumey

The Big Spring United Girls Softball Association (BSUGSA) will have its third annual Co-Ed Ragball Tournament July 18-19 at the Roy Anderson Complex.

Teams must include five males and five females with a maximum roster of 15 players ages 15 and older.

Entry fees will be \$10 per person.

For more information, contact JoEllen at 263-3623, Bobby at 263-7510 or Janet at 264-0023.

Summer baseball camp scheduled

Howard College coaches and players will conduct a summer baseball camp at Jack Barber Field July 21-24 on the Howard College campus.

Camp sessions will be from 9 a.m. until noon and designed for youngsters between the ages of 9 and 14.

Registration will be at 8 a.m. Monday, July 21, and the fee will be \$90 per participant.

For more information, call 264-5040.

CGA slates benefitt tournament Sunday

The Chicano Golf Association has scheduled a benefit 4-man scramble tournament for Sunday at the Comanche Trail Golf Course to help cancer patient Raul Hernandez meet medical expenses.

Entry fees are set at \$15 per player and participants will pick their own teams, according to CGA official Billy Pineda.

Members of the association will also be cooking a barbecue dinner with plates priced at \$5

each.

Tennis camp starts Monday

The 1997 Bill Willis Tennis Camp has been scheduled for July 14-18 at the Figure 7 Tennis Center at Comanche Trail Park.

Camp sessions will include a minimum of two hours of intense practice each day — each day having its own objectives and priorities.

The camp is open to boys and girls between the ages of 5 and 19. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. Monday. A fee of \$125 will be charged of each participant.

For more information, contact Willis at (806) 655-5206 or Sara Corse at 263-2275.

Crossroads Summer League results

A forfeit by Coahoma allowed Forsan to improve its record to 5-2 and move into a second-place tie in Crossroads Summer Girls' Basketball League junior division standings Thursday.

Forsan, which had an opportunity to grab a share of the league lead Thursday, dropped a 20-19 decision to Garden City.

In senior division play, Big Spring improved its record to 7-0 with a 41-22 win over Stanton, while Sterling City knocked off Garden City, 40-35, and Sands II forfeited to Coahoma.

Monday's junior division schedule calls for Garden City to face Greenwood in the 5:30 p.m. game, while Coahoma takes on Big Spring II in the 6:30 contest.

Garden City and Grady tangle in the 7:30 p.m. senior league opener, followed by Sterling City and Forsan at 8:30, while Greenwood and Stanton close out the night's play at 9:30.

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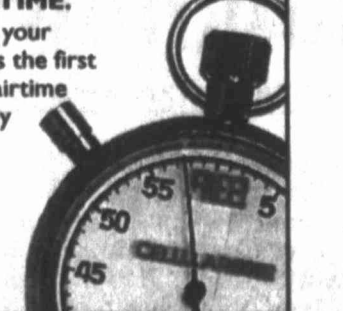
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SPORTS EXTRA

LOCAL GOLF

Here are results from the Big Spring Country Club's Watermelon Open, a 50-team men's and women's scramble staged July 4.

B. Harris, R. Romine, R. Crockett, C. Eppy.....60
R. Plumlee, J. Plumlee.....63
J. Welch, S. Welch.....64
D. Kesch, M. Kesch.....64
H. Davis, J. Davis.....65
J. Dudley, P. Horton.....65
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MAJOR LEAGUE STANDINGS

American League

East Division

Team	Pct.	GB
Baltimore	.55	—
New York	.49	37
Detroit	.45	47
Toronto	.44	47
Boston	.39	48

Central Division

Team	Pct.	GB
Cleveland	.44	37
Chicago	.42	39
Minnesota	.42	39
Kansas City	.36	47

West Division

Team	Pct.	GB
Seattle	.50	—
Anaheim	.45	42
Texas	.43	43
Oakland	.37	53

Thursday's Games

Anaheim 8, Oakland 4
 Boston 8, Toronto 7, 11 innings
 N.Y. Yankees 10, Detroit 3
 Minnesota 8, Cleveland 2
 Chicago White Sox 6, Kansas City 3
 Seattle 12, Texas 9

Tonight's Games

Toronto (Hentgen 8-6) at Boston (Avery 2-2), 6:05 p.m.
 Detroit (Moehler 6-6) at New York (Pettitte 9-5), 6:35 p.m.
 Milwaukee (McDonald 7-6) at Baltimore (Key 12-4), 6:35 p.m.
 Cleveland (Anderson 3-1) at Minnesota (Robertson 7-6), 7:05 p.m.
 Chicago White Sox (Alvarez 7-6) at Kansas City (Rosado 7-4), 7:05 p.m.
 Texas (Oliver 5-9) at Seattle (Fassero 8-5), 9:05 p.m.
 Anaheim (Dickson 8-4) at Oakland (Karsay 2-8), 9:35 p.m.

BASEBALL

American League

BOSTON RED SOX—Activated 18 Mo Vaughn from the 15-day disabled list. Optioned INF Arquimedes Pazo to Pawtucket of the International League.

CLEVELAND INDIANS—Activated OF David Justice from the 15-day disabled list. Optioned INF Damian Jackson to Buffalo of the American Association.

KANSAS CITY ROYALS—Activated OF Rip Roberts from the 15-day disabled list. Placed OF Jermaine Dye and 2B Jose Offerman on the 15-day disabled list. Recalled C Mike Sweeney and OF Rod Myers from Omaha of the American Association. Optioned C Sal Fasano to Omaha. Activated RHP Jose Santiago from the 15-day disabled list and optioned him to Wichita of the Texas League.

NEW YORK YANKEES—Called up RHP Hideki Irabu from Columbus of the International League. Optioned RHP Jim Mecir to Columbus.

SEATTLE MARINERS—Claimed RHP Tim Scott on waivers from Colorado. Transferred LHP Tim Lincecum to the 60-day disabled list.

National League

ATLANTA BRAVES—Placed OF Kenny Lofton on the 15-day disabled list, retroactive to July 6.

FLORIDA MARLINS—Recalled LHP Tony Saunders from Charlotte of the International League. Optioned RHP Rob Stanifer to Charlotte. Transferred RHP Kurt Miller from the 15-day disabled list to the 60-day disabled list.

LOS ANGELES DODGERS—Placed RHP Ismael Valdes on the 15-day disabled list, retroactive to July 6. Purchased the contract of OF Eric Anthony from Albuquerque of the PCL. Designated RHP David Spivak for assignment.

NEW YORK METS—Activated INF Manny Alexander from the 15-day disabled list. Optioned INF Shawn Gilbert to Norfolk of the International League.

PITTSBURGH PIRATES—Optioned LHP Chris Peters to Calgary of the Pacific Coast League.

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL

American League

BOSTON RED SOX—Activated 18 Mo Vaughn from the 15-day disabled list. Optioned INF Arquimedes Pazo to Pawtucket of the International League.

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National League

East Division

Team	Pct.	GB
Atlanta	.57	—
Florida	.51	36
New York	.49	38
Montreal	.47	39
Cincinnati	.38	48

Central Division

Team	Pct.	GB
Houston	.44	45
Pittsburgh	.43	44
St. Louis	.42	45
Cincinnati	.38	48
Chicago	.37	51

West Division

Team	Pct.	GB
San Francisco	.51	—
Los Angeles	.46	42
Colorado	.43	46
San Diego	.39	49

Thursday's Games

St. Louis 3, Chicago Cubs 2
 Florida 8, Philadelphia 7
 Houston 7, Pittsburgh 0
 N.Y. Mets 10, Atlanta 7
 San Diego 11, Colorado 5
 Los Angeles 11, San Francisco 0

Tonight's Games

St. Louis (Morris 6-5) at Chicago Cubs (Gonzalez 5-2), 2:20 p.m.
 Philadelphia (Schilling 9-8) at Florida (Brown 8-5), 6:05 p.m.
 Houston (Hampton 4-7) at Pittsburgh (Loizos 6-5), 6:35 p.m.
 Montreal (Bullinger 5-8) at Cincinnati (Barba 5-8), 6:35 p.m.
 N.Y. Mets (Reynoso 6-2) at Atlanta (Glavine 9-4), 6:40 p.m.
 San Diego (Hitchcock 5-5) at Colorado (Thomson 2-6), 8:05 p.m.
 San Francisco (Foulke 1-2) at Los Angeles (Nomo 8-7), 9:05 p.m.

BASKETBALL

National Basketball Association

GOLDEN STATE WARRIORS—Named Gary St. Jean general manager. Moved Ed Gregory from director of player personnel to director of scouting.

HOUSTON ROCKETS—Signed F. Rodrigue Rhodes and C Serge Zwiert.

NEW YORK KNICKS—Signed F. John Thomas to a three-year contract.

UTAH JAZZ—Re-signed F. Antoine Carr to a one-year contract and G. F. Shandon Anderson to a two-year contract.

FOOTBALL

National Football League

CHICAGO BEARS—Signed WR. Hayward Jeffries, DB Kevin Scott, G Bob Sapp, S Van Hiles, DE Shawn Swadlow, LB Rich Hogans, S Ricky Parker, DT Mike Milano, and DE Marvin Thomas.

Nicklaus flashes old form in opening Senior Players

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

DEARBORN, Mich. — Fit and feisty, he was looking a little like the Jack Nicklaus of old. Despite bogeys on Nos. 16 and 17, Nicklaus shot a 3-under-par 69 in the first round of the Senior Players Championship on Thursday and trailed co-leaders Larry Gilbert and Dana Quigley by two strokes.

Dave Stockton and South African John Bland were one shot off the pace, each at 68 over the 6,876-yard Tournament Players Club of Michigan course.

John Schroeder, Vicente Fernandez and Larry Mowry were tied with Nicklaus, who has played sparingly this year because of a sore hip. Yet, clearly, his competitive juices can still be stirred.

GOLF

"I don't know why I was even bothering to hit the ball down the right side of the fairway," Nicklaus said. "I couldn't have reached the water (on the left) with a bazooka."

Still, he fashioned a Nicklaus flourish at the finish, hitting a 5-iron to 5 feet for a birdie on the final hole.

"So, I had two bogeys in a row," Nicklaus said. "Obviously, if I'd screwed up 18, that would have spoiled the whole day, wouldn't it?"

Quigley, who has played in seven Monday qualifiers in an effort to gain entry into Senior tournaments since his 50th birthday on April 15, birdied five of the final six holes. He curled in a 20-footer at No. 18.

"Nothing seems very hard in this game when you're on a roll like that," said Quigley, out of Crestwood Country Club in Rehoboth, Mass., and well-known around New England golf circles. "It's like no effort at all. Great players always say

that, I know. When a guy like me gets to that level, it's just really special."

Gilbert, seeking his third win since joining the Senior tour in 1993, played almost flawless golf. He missed only two fairways while hitting all 18 greens in regulation. It was the 16th round of par or below for Gilbert, winner of three PGA Club Professional championships before joining the tour.

"I had 31 putts, despite a three-putt," Gilbert said. "With a hot putter, I could have been maybe 8-under."

Hale Irwin, winner of four Senior tour events this season, was well off the pace with a 73. Graham Marsh was tied with defending champion Raymond Floyd at 70.

Stockton, who won the tournament in 1992 and 1994, recovered from two quick bogeys and was even at the turn.

Bland, who was edged by friend Marsh by a stroke in the U.S. Senior Open last month, turned a bogey-free round into really something special with birdies at Nos. 16 and 17.

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SPORTS BRIEFS

From staff and wire reports

BSUGSA slates ragball tourney

The Big Spring United Girls Softball Association (BSUGSA) will have its third annual Co-Ed Ragball Tournament July 18-19 at the Roy Anderson Complex.

Teams must include five males and five females with a maximum roster of 15 players ages 15 and older.

Entry fees will be \$10 per person.

For more information, contact JoEllen at 263-3623, Bobby at 263-7510 or Janet at 264-0023.

Summer baseball camp scheduled

Howard College coaches and players will conduct a summer baseball camp at Jack Barber Field July 21-24 on the Howard College campus.

Camp sessions will be from 9 a.m. until noon and designed for youngsters between the ages of 9 and 14.

Registration will be at 8 a.m. Monday, July 21, and the fee will be \$90 per participant.

For more information, call 264-5040.

CGA slates benefit tournament Sunday

The Chicano Golf Association has scheduled a benefit 4-man scramble tournament for Sunday at the Comanche Trail Golf Course to help cancer patient Raul Hernandez meet medical expenses.

Entry fees are set at \$15 per player and participants will pick their own teams, according to CGA official Billy Pineda.

Members of the association will also be cooking a barbecue dinner with plates priced at \$5

each.

Tennis camp starts Monday

The 1997 Bill Willis Tennis Camp has been scheduled for July 14-18 at the Figure 7 Tennis Center at Comanche Trail Park.

Camp sessions will include a minimum of two hours of intense practice each day — each day having its own objectives and priorities.

The camp is open to boys and girls between the ages of 5 and 19. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. Monday. A fee of \$125 will be charged of each participant.

For more information, contact Willis at (806) 655-5206 or Sara Corse at 263-2275.

Crossroads Summer League results

A forfeit by Coahoma allowed Forsan to improve its record to 5-2 and move into a second-place tie in Crossroads Summer Girls' Basketball League junior division standings Thursday.

Forsan, which had an opportunity to grab a share of the league lead Thursday, dropped a 20-19 decision to Garden City.

In senior division play, Big Spring improved its record to 7-0 with a 41-22 win over Stanton, while Sterling City knocked off Garden City, 40-35, and Sands II forfeited to Coahoma.

Monday's junior division schedule calls for Garden City to face Greenwood in the 5:30 p.m. game, while Coahoma takes on Big Spring II in the 6:30 contest.

Garden City and Grady tangle in the 7:30 p.m. senior league opener, followed by Sterling City and Forsan at 8:30, while Greenwood and Stanton close out the night's play at 9:30.

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Air Max 24/7	\$70	\$43	1/2 Price		
Nike Air Zoom Flight	\$120	\$50	Jackets, Shorts, T-Shirts		
Nike Women's Air Max	\$130	\$67			
Nike Air Windrunners	\$65	\$45			

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HOROSCOPE

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR SATURDAY, JULY 12:

The unexpected prevails in your life this year. Establish security, and maintain direction. Career is demanding and might take more time than you wanted to invest. Roll with added responsibilities. An associate helps you create more of what you need financially. Examine your long-term needs, and make wise choices. If you are single, you will long for a deeper relationship. Because of your heartfelt intent, you can turn desires into reality. If attached, your relationship deepens. A special trip this winter could bring wonderful encounters or mark a new beginning. LIBRA is an anchor. The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
You are more of a curmudgeon than you realize. You have the best of intentions, yet cause upset. Let go of a heaviness. Reduce emphasis on responsibility, at least for the day. A friend adores the care-free you. Tonight: Let a party happen.***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
You are more exhausted than you are aware. Even the Bull needs a nap once in a while. Slow down the pace. Get a home project under control. Make your day relaxing. Let a family member pitch in! Tonight: Get physical.***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
You want to play more. Share your good intentions with others, in the most loving way you know. Caring adverbs. A flirtation could get out of control.

You'll need to make a decision before too long. Tonight: Listen to your instincts.****

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
You are negative about work and an authority figure. Opportunity knocks on your door, once you relax your rigid attitude. A purchase for the house might cheer up the atmosphere. You might enjoy browsing. Tonight: Whatever happens is at your place.***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
Don't let news trouble you. In fact, with your positive ways, things could turn out for the better. Others respond to your caring gestures. You don't want to let a partner know how much you like his quirkiness. Tonight: Do what you enjoy.***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
Your more possessive side emerges over a money matter. Work on positive ways of letting another know just how much you care about him. It seems that another is in a sour mood. Go off, and do your own thing. Tonight: Indulge yourself!***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
A lot going on is opening up doors. You question another's motive when he becomes difficult. There is much more in play here than meets the eye. A friendship could become a lot more. Tonight: A smile goes a long way!****

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
You need a day off from everything. Life has been unusually demanding. Allow yourself time to recharge. A boss or trusted friend might have something special to share with you. Take care of yourself first. Cancel plans, if

necessary. Tonight: Do what you like.***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
Find your friends, and make the most of this fun Saturday. A loved one is cantankerous; it might be best to bypass him for now. Fun, communications and a deep sense of caring allow you to see the big picture. Don't daydream about that trip; do it! Tonight: Go for it.****

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
You are in the limelight; enjoy yourself and make merry. How you feel about a family member interferes with the moment. You will deal with feelings about a domestic matter when you are ready. A partner lavishes attention on you. Tonight: You are a force to behold!****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19)
Be willing to adjust plans, should you hit a snag. Flexibility is needed the next few days. Open up to a greater sense of what is possible. A loved one coaxes you beyond your limitations. Examine desires, and go after your own. Tonight: Take off for a favorite fun spot.****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
Close relating is normal for you. An exciting situation opens up with someone in your daily life. Remain optimistic, even if your checkbook feels under the weather. Discussions need to be open; let someone get to know you. Tonight: It's a romantic night for two!*****

BORN TODAY
Comedian Milton Berle (1908), comedian Bill Cosby (1938), fitness guru Richard Simmons (1948)

For America's best extended horoscope, recorded by Jacqueline Bigar, call (900) 000-0000, 99 cents per minute. Also featured are The Spoken Tarot and The Runes, which answer your yes-or-no questions. Callers must be 18 or older. A service of InterMedia Inc., Jenkintown, Pa. ©1997 by King Features Syndicate Inc.

Readers Corner

We accept reader's submissions for this monthly feature including photos, poems or other items. It runs the fourth Wednesday of each month. You can mail, fax or drop them off at the Herald office. The address is 710 Scurry, P.O. Box 4123; Big Spring; 79721. The fax number is (915) 264-7205. Contact 263-7331, ext. 235 for more information.

Bill collectors ask neighbors to knock on debtors' door

DEAR ABBY: We have a cordial relationship with our next-door neighbors, but we are not close. We are aware that they have been experiencing financial difficulties, but they have never revealed any details and we haven't asked.



Abigail Van Buren
Columnist

About three months ago, we started receiving calls from collection agencies saying that they had not been able to reach our neighbors, and asking us to tell our neighbors to contact them. There have been 15 or 20 of these calls, usually at dinner-time. When I tell them that we have no intention of doing their work for them and embarrassing our neighbors, they become persistent — even rude.

I am infuriated by this invasion of our privacy, and the harassment to which we are being subjected because these agencies can't do their job. If they have our neighbor's address and have had no response to their letters, they should send someone in person to speak to them — they shouldn't ask us to do it.

Abby, is this legal? And is there any regulatory agency we can contact to keep from being bothered? — HARASSED IN SANTA CLARITA, CALIF.

DEAR HARASSED: No, it's not legal. According to the Federal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you should have received no more than one phone call.

You can deal with this problem in one of two ways: Call the local office of the Fair Trade Commission and file a complaint, and they will go after the collector. Or, contact the local bar association and consult a consumer protection attorney. My experts tell me that you may be entitled to damages.

DEAR ABBY: My husband's brother and his wife live next door to us. Until recently, we were all best friends. My sister-in-law and I did everything together.

Not long ago, she accused me of doing something that she later found out I had not done. Even after finding this out, she has not apologized for accusing

me. We were best friends for nine years, but now she won't even look in my direction.

I am hurt that she accused me before she got the facts, and angry that she never bothered to apologize. How should I handle this? Can we still be friends? — NOT SO GUILTY AFTER ALL

DEAR NOT SO GUILTY: Your sister-in-law may be so embarrassed about her mistake that she's reluctant to approach you. Since the friendship is clearly important to you, be the bigger person and make the first move. Tell her you are relieved that she learned the truth, and you'd like to put the incident behind you so you can continue to be close friends.

DEAR ABBY: In regard to the family whose parents failed to keep in touch on a road trip, and therefore couldn't be located when a grandparent died, you advised, "The best policy is to leave a detailed itinerary with friends or family or ... make a point of checking in regularly."

I would like to add another suggestion: Before going on the road, invest in a long-distance pager. The cost is reasonable and can even include a toll-free pager number. Give the number to a couple of trusted friends or family members.

Back this up with voicemail service on your home phone and check your messages daily. If you call during off-peak hours, the cost will be minimal.

That's what I did, and it certainly gave me peace of mind. — ELLEN K. HOWE, WEST COVINA, CALIF.

DEAR ELLEN: An excellent idea. Thanks for sharing it.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$3.95 (\$4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby, Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, Ill. 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS, and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$3.95 (\$4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, Ill. 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

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Sorenstam struggles at U.S. Open

NORTH PLAINS, Ore. (AP) — Annika Sorenstam had to be dreaming. A triple bogey? Five over par after nine holes? Tee shots off the pace after the first round?

"It was tough," she said, "real tough."

The calm, graceful player who has dominated her sport for two years crumbled Thursday under the intense pressure of trying to become the first golfer to win the U.S. Women's Open three times in a row.

Golf's "other" Swede, Liselotte Neumann fared much better.

She shot a 4-under-par 67 in a bogey-free day to take a one-shot lead into today's second round of the premier event of women's professional golf. Eight golfers, including Nancy Lopez, were within two shots of the lead.

Neumann, the 1988 U.S. Open champion, used precise putting and, over the difficult final four holes, a conservative strategy to forge her one-shot lead.

A disastrous triple-bogey left Sorenstam at 5-over-par 41 through nine holes.

"I was a little confused. I was a little upset. I didn't know what was happening," she said. "As far as I can remember the last three or four years, I haven't been 5-over-par after nine holes. It's like, 'Where am I and what am I doing? Take me away from here.'"

She had one more bogey before finishing at 6-over 77.

"I felt like I was ready. I didn't feel nervous at all. I was just excited about being here," Sorenstam said. "For some reason maybe it was the tension, maybe there was something inside of me that put this together."

For hours after her round, she took putt after putt on the practice green. She is not one to give up.

"I can shoot 5-under on this course," Sorenstam said. "That's what I've got to tell myself, anyway."

Susan Redman used her first-ever hole in one to vault into tie with Kelly Robbins, Deb Richard and Se Ri Pak at 3-under 68.

Hall of Famer Lopez, who never has won a U.S. Open, was tied with Trish Johnson, Muffin Spencer-Devlin and Lorie Kane at 69.

Six shots back, at respectable 2-over-par 73, was JoAnne Carner, "Big Mama," who won this tournament twice, the last time in 1976, and is the oldest of the 150 competitors at 58. She is the oldest woman to shoot a score that low in the tournament's 52-year history.

Johnson could have been tied for the lead, but she drove her third shot into a marshy area in front of the 18th green for double-bogey.

Sorenstam's triple bogey came on the par-4, 388-yard 9th, when her tee shot sailed into a bunker. Using a 9-wood, she hit her second shot far to the right into deep, clingy knee-high fescue that hid her ball so long she nearly had to give it up for lost before a member of the gallery found it.

She took a swing, and the ball traveled about three inches, then she swung again, finally getting back onto the course. She finished with a 7.

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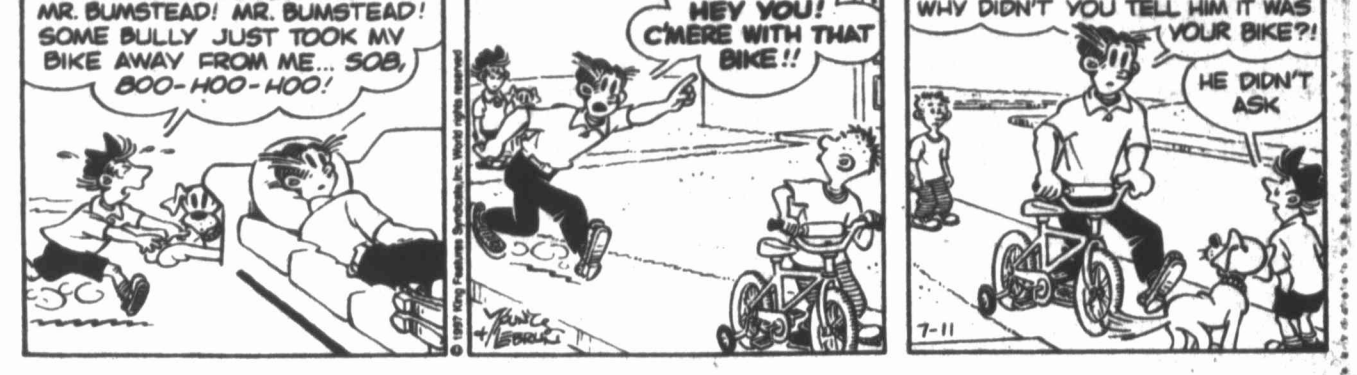
JULY 11

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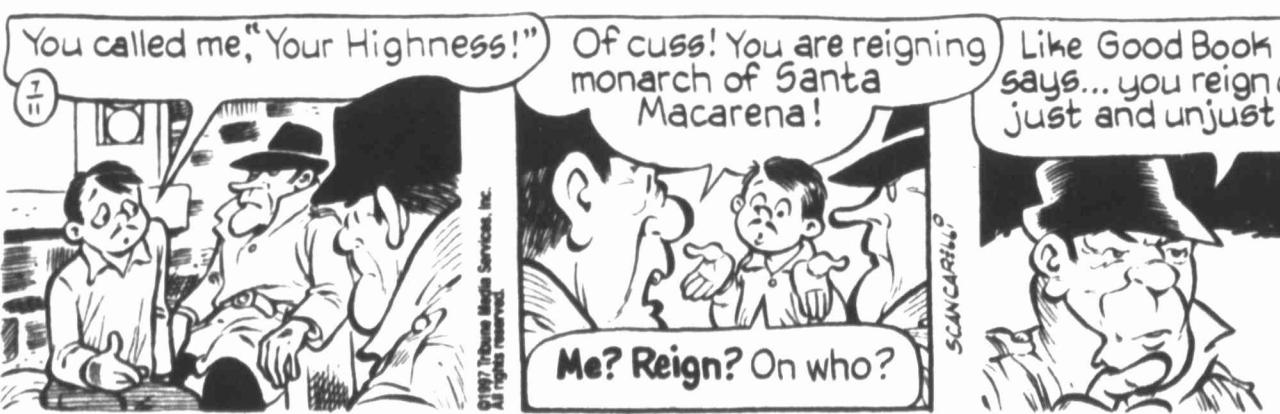
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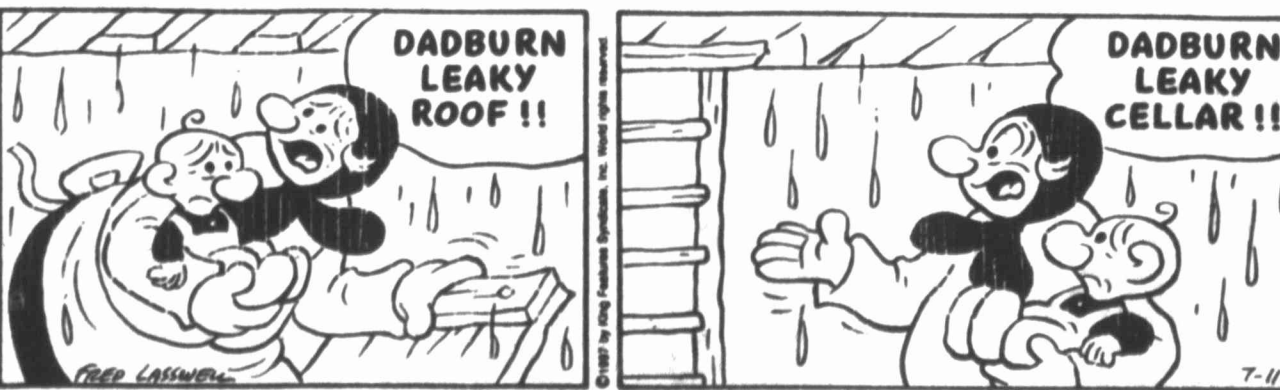
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THIS DATE IN HISTORY

The ASSOCIATED PRESS Today is Friday, July 11, the

THE Daily Crossword

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down.

Thursdays' Puzzle solved: A word search puzzle with a grid and a list of words.

192nd day of 1997. There are 173 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On July 11, 1804, Vice President Aaron Burr mortally wounded former Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton in a pistol duel near Weehawken, N.J. On this date: In 1533, Pope Clement VII excommunicated England's King Henry VIII. In 1767, John Quincy Adams, the sixth president of the United States, was born in Braintree, Mass. In 1798, the U.S. Marine Corps was created by an act of Congress. In 1864, Confederate forces led by Gen. Jubal Early began an invasion of Washington, D.C., turning back the next day. In 1934, President Roosevelt became the first chief executive to travel through the Panama Canal while in office. In 1952, the Republican National Convention, meeting in Chicago, nominated Dwight D. Eisenhower for president and Richard M. Nixon for vice president. In 1955, the Air Force Academy was dedicated at Lowry Air Base in Colorado. In 1977, the Medal of Freedom was awarded posthumously to the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. in a White House ceremony. In 1978, 216 people were killed when a tanker truck overfilled with propylene gas exploded on a coastal highway south of Tarragona, Spain.

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