

BIG SPRING HERALD

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

WEDNESDAY
March 29, 1999

Tonight:



CLOUDY
TONIGHT 45°-50° TUESDAY 70°-75°

Women of Kerrville at Munny Auditorium Tuesday at 7 p.m.

The second Crossroads Community Concert Series will kick off Tuesday night at 7 in the Municipal Auditorium with a troupe of performers from a world-renowned venue — the Kerrville Folk Festival.

"The Women of Kerrville," six performers who will be at the 28th annual festival later this summer, will perform for about three hours at the Auditorium.

Tickets are \$5, but a \$3 discount coupon is available at Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce members or at the chamber office at Third and Gregg.

City to conduct Capehart surveys beginning Tuesday

The city of Big Spring will be conducting surveys of residents living in the Capehart subdivision (former base housing) on Tuesday and Wednesday.

This survey is to determine eligibility for a grant application requesting \$350,000 for sewer line repairs from the Texas Community Development Program.

Surveyors will identify themselves as City of Big Spring employees and will be wearing identification badges. The purpose of the survey is to determine if income levels in the neighborhood meet the requirements for the grant.

All information will be kept confidential and local residents are urged to cooperate.

For more info, call 264-2525.

WHAT'S UP...

TODAY
□ Big Spring Evening Lions Club, 6:30 p.m., 1607 E. Third.

TUESDAY
□ Beginning line dance classes, 9 a.m., Senior Citizens Center.

WEDNESDAY
□ Coahoma Kindergarten Rodeo, 9 a.m. in elementary gymnasium.
□ Optimist Club, 7 a.m., Howard College Cactus Room
□ Big Spring Downtown Lions Club, noon, Howard College Cactus Room.
□ Line dancing, 1 p.m., Senior Citizens Center, Industrial Park.

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To reach us, please call 263-7331. Office hours are 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you miss your paper, please call 263-7335 before 7 p.m. on weekdays and 11 a.m. on Sunday.

Crossroads Area response to April 10 Texas Trash-off is lagging

By GINA GARZA
Features Assistant

It's a dirty business, but someone has to do it. The local version of the 14th annual statewide cleanup — with a name change to the "Don't Mess With Texas Trash-Off" — will take place in Big Spring Saturday, April 10. "I've sent letters out to organizations, schools, churches, businesses and individuals to ask for volunteers," said coordinator Pat Simmons.

So far, she has only received five responses. "If everyone would take care of their own property, we wouldn't have this problem with trash," she said.

This year's event was renamed to Don't Mess With Texas Trash-Off to help remind Texans of the state's anti-littering slogan, "Don't Mess With Texas."

The Trash-Off is also a part of the Keep America Beautiful's new national "Great American Cleanup" event which is held March through May in 12

states. "Last year's attendance in this event was 409 individuals with 32,500 pounds of litter being removed from our community," said Simmons.

She said there are other ways to prevent litter, including the proper use of dumpsters.

"If everyone would put their trash in a plastic bag, tie it up, throw it in the dumpster, and close the lid, it would help eliminate a lot of the trash around."

According to the 1998 statistics from the Texas Department of Transportation, 98 percent of

people are aware of the "Don't Mess With Texas" slogan, but one in three still litter. The worst being those between the ages of 16 and 24, both males and females.

More volunteers are needed to make this year's Trash Off a success. If your group or organization would like to join in the effort on April 10, call Simmons at 263-4607.

According to Simmons, working hours will be set by the individual or group, anytime between 8:30 a.m. and 2 p.m.

"The inmates will also be help-

ing out this year, but they will probably do theirs on Friday," she said.

Simmons said her reasons for coordinating the Big Spring cleanup are simple.

"I just yearn for the city to become a beautiful little city. The visual (appearance) of the city also reflects our spiritual outlook," she added.

Simmons said more people need to take responsibility for their garbage. About 180,000 people are expected to participate in Trash Off events in Texas this year.



Ballapalooza, a communitywide activity to help raise public money to refurbish for the taxpayer-funded Roy Anderson Sports Complex, is scheduled to get under way at 8 Saturday morning with both softball and ragball tournaments. Although work has yet to be started on the bleachers shown in this photo, organizers plan to paint the bleachers and construct canopies over the seats.

911 addresses

Saxon: No more extensions after new May 31 deadline to use emergency addresses

By BILL McCLELLAN
News Editor

Big Spring Postmaster Richard Saxon has extended the deadline to convert rural route addresses to 911 addresses one more time.

The new deadline is May 31. "I have agreed to extend the deadline one more time," said Saxon. "After that, there will be no more extensions, no more excuses. Everyone will have been granted enough time. After May 31, mail addressed to rural routes will be returned."

The three rural routes in Howard County were converted to 911 addresses on Nov. 20, 1997. At that time, notices were sent out that rural route residents had one year to change their addresses to comply with 911.

"When we got to Nov. 20, 1998, I extended it to Jan. 1, 1999, primarily to help out with the Christmas holidays. After Jan. 1, I extended again until March," said Saxon. "We got together and considering that it is income tax time, I have agreed to extend it once more, until May 31."

Saxon wants to remind rural route residents that the conversion is not a system driven by the post office. It is, he said, based on the need for emergency services to be able to respond quickly.

"The postal service agreed to kick in with that and send mail to those same (911) addresses," Saxon said.

"We have three rural routes and seven highway contract routes (HCRs). Previously, the format would be like RR 1, Box 5 or HCR 69, Box 10. But if somebody was trying to make an emergency call and that popped up on the screen, no one knows where that address is," Saxon said. "That's why it is necessary to convert to street addresses."

"The change will allow the various emergency response agencies to get quick access to their address."

"(911 director) Kay Kennemur has done wonders for the county. She worked closely with the post office through all of this," Saxon said. "We're not quite complete on our HCR routes."

See 911, Page 2

TEA issues mandate to halt caucasian flight from BSISD

By MARSHA STURDIVANT
Staff Writer

Anglo students seeking to transfer from the Big Spring Independent School District to one of the area districts will find themselves out of luck, as a directive from the Texas Education Agency prohibits districts from accepting Caucasian out-of-district students.

"Coahoma ISD received notification from TEA that for the school year 1999-2000, the school district shall not approve transfers where the effect of such transfers will change the ethnic majority or minority of the

school population by one percent in either the home or the receiving school district," said interim superintendent Wayne Mitchell.

He added that TEA must review all students transfers between school districts, and only those student transfers that were approved by May 1998 will be honored.

"In reviewing the transfers it was determined that Coahoma ISD's district contributed to the fact that the ethnic makeup of the Big Spring ISD was changed by more than 1 percent because the number of transfer students accepted by Coahoma," Mitchell said in a press release.

Area schools receive many requests for out-of-district student transfers, superintendents said. Smaller districts in the area receive about 35-40 student transfers each year.

"Some students transfer in, and perhaps when they find that we're like everyone else, we teach school, they transfer out," said Dr. Donald Bryan, superintendent at Sands CISD.

Sands, Forsan and Glasscock County schools all accept non-Anglo student transfers as well, their officials report.

"We cannot accept Anglo students from Big Spring, but we will accept any other race. We have certain criteria, such as

attendance, we look at their attendance record," Bryan said.

"We also check discipline records and academics. If they are a well behaved student with good attendance we will accept them," Bryan said.

Forsan ISD superintendent George White said the district accepts students until their student population reaches the required limits.

"We try to have three sections to every class, and we limit our transfers to not more than the 22 to 1 student-teacher ratio," White said.

Murray Murphy, deputy superintendent with Big Spring ISD, said about 190 students

transfer out of district each year.

"But then we receive transfers of about 125 students, so the difference in the 50 or so students is a small one," he said.

The reasons a student may transfer out of district are as varied as people, Murphy said. But maintaining an ethnic balance within 1 percent of what is determined through local population is the accepted standard, he said.

District officials begin reviewing transfer requests at the beginning of the school year. All districts have an exception to the transfer restrictions for employee's children.

Coahoma's 21st annual Kindergarten Rodeo set for 9 a.m. Wednesday

By DEBBIE L. JENSEN
Features Editor

Saddle up the broncs and bring out the barrels, it's time for Coahoma's Kindergarten Rodeo.

The 21st annual event is planned Wednesday beginning at 9 a.m. in the elementary gym and everyone is welcome to attend. A large crowd is expected.

"It is known so widespread now," said teacher Pam Carlile. "We'll have a lot of people who have just heard about it and want to see what it is all about."

Over the years, rodeo organizers have learned not to mess with success, so the event changes little each year. Quail Dobbs, rodeo clown who has retired from the professional circuit to serve Howard County as justice of the peace, is a fixture.

"As long as Quail is willing to do it, we will," said Carlile, a 12-

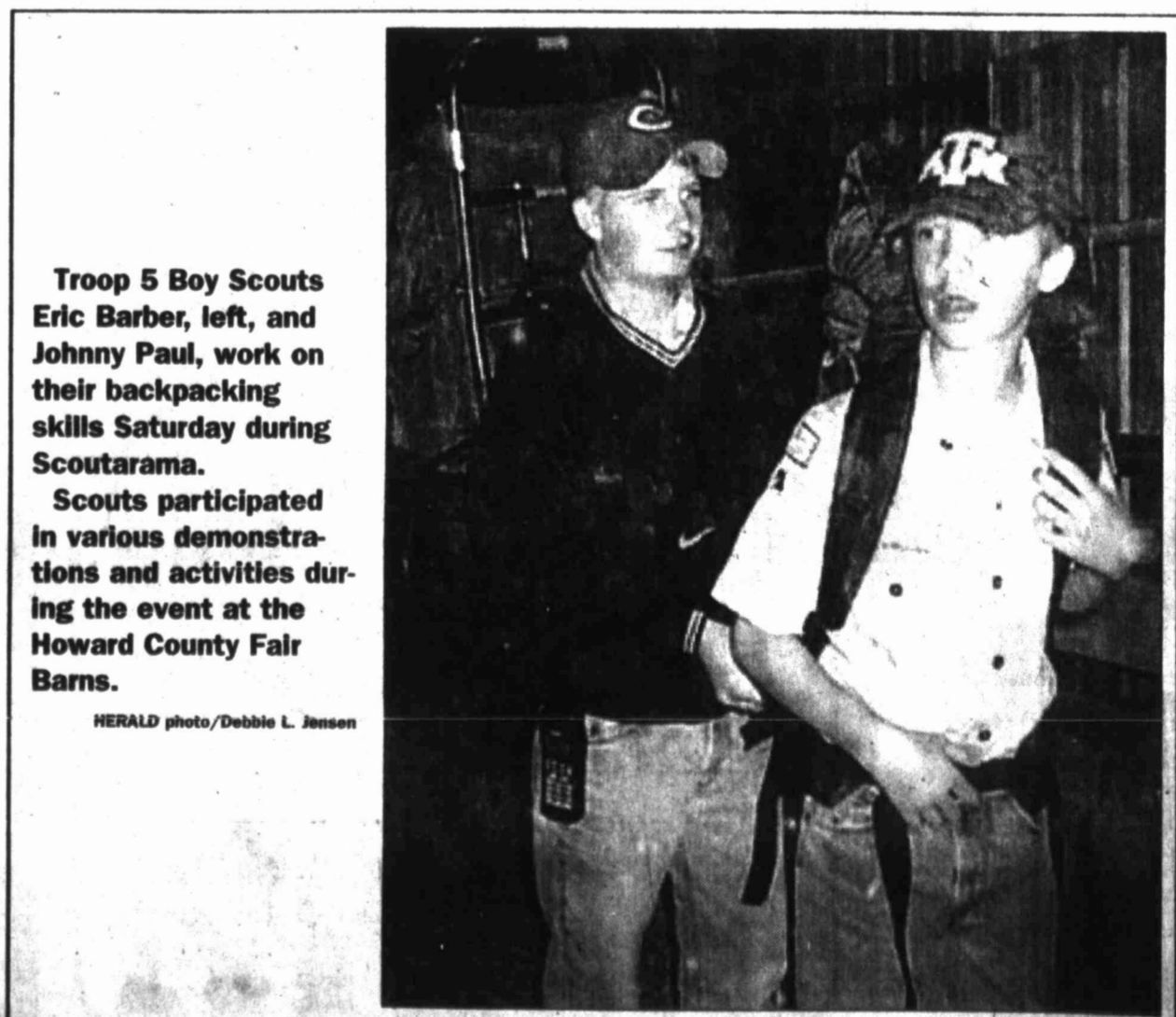
year veteran of the event. Dobbs, of Coahoma, has been part of the kindergarten rodeo since it was founded.

In that time, dozens of children each year have performed square dances, line dances, roping, riding and racing. Decorated sticks substitute for the livestock, but professional performers often stop by to entertain.

This year, along with Dobbs, Jim Bob Fellar, Dale Coates, Jody Nix and Miss Rodeo Texas Danyelle Rideout will all be part of the show. Jody Carper, professional calf roper and rodeo announcer, will lend his skills, and TU Electric's Mike Hammack and his guitar will give musical backup to Jody Nix.

Dobbs said during last year's rodeo that he would try not to let his new job keep him from joining in the big event.

See COAHOMA, Page 2



Troop 5 Boy Scouts Eric Barber, left, and Johnny Paul, work on their backpacking skills Saturday during Scoutarama. Scouts participated in various demonstrations and activities during the event at the Howard County Fair Barns.

HERALD photo/Debbie L. Jensen

Tens of thousands ethnic Albanians flee Kosovo amid bombing

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP) — Tens of thousands of ethnic Albanians streamed out of Kosovo today while NATO raced against time to smash Serb military units and ease what officials say is becoming Europe's worst humanitarian disaster since World War II.

Russia's prime minister, Yevgeny Primakov, announced plans to go to Belgrade on Tuesday in a new bid to end the Kosovo crisis. Russia has strongly opposed NATO's air campaign.

The crisis showed no signs of abating.

About 60,000 Kosovo Albanian refugees have arrived in northern Albania as of today, the U.N. relief agency said, straining the already desperate resources of one of Europe's poorest countries.

And thousands more were heading today for Macedonia to the east and Montenegro to the West.

"Are you American?" Nejmije Keimendi, 50, asked an Associated Press photographer as she trudged up a steep mountain road near Pec in southwestern Kosovo, accompanied by her two daughters. "Tell NATO that Pec is burning, and where are the ground troops?"

Early today, Yugoslav authorities closed at least one crossing point into Albania, erecting concrete barriers along the main road from the Kosovo city of Prizren to the Albania town of Kukës. It was unclear if other crossing points were also sealed.

Along Kosovo's border with Montenegro, about 3,000 Kosovo Albanians were trying to cross today. Police were charging \$60 per car to allow refugees to enter Montenegro.

Yugoslav officials said NATO's "shameful" attack was only inflaming the ethnic crisis in Kosovo, where ethnic Albanian rebels have been

fighting for independence from Serbia, the main Yugoslav republic. Russian Defense Minister Igor Sergeev claimed 1,000 civilians had been killed in Yugoslavia as the alliance pounded the country for a sixth day.

Belgrade has not announced casualty estimates, although Yugoslav U.N. envoy Vladislav Jovanovic claimed Friday that hundreds of civilians had been killed. It is impossible to independently confirm casualty figures.

Early today, Allied warplanes targeted mobile Serb units in Kosovo and cruise missiles launched from U.S. ships in the Adriatic joined in the barrage. Air raid sirens sounded again in the Yugoslav capital at mid-morning.

Serbian state-run television repeatedly showed video of a raging fire in the center of Kosovo's capital of Pristina that it said was set off by a NATO

missile attack on a police building.

Rather than restraining the Serbs, the attacks appeared only to have intensified their anger at the ethnic Albanians.

"The pattern that emerges (from their accounts) is paramilitary forces arriving, rounding people up and telling them at gunpoint to go," said spokesman Kris Janowsky of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees in Geneva. "So we are seeing officially sanctioned ethnic cleansing of the Albanian population in Kosovo."

A 24-year-old refugee from the Suva Reka area of southern Kosovo, Jeton Vranovski, told a reporter in Albania that when NATO airstrikes began, Serb police "came to our village and told us to go to America, go to NATO and they will help you."

Western leaders insisted the air campaign would continue until its goals were achieved. British Defense Secretary

George Robertson said the campaign was intensifying, focusing on Serb units as the Western alliance rushed to halt alleged Serb ethnic cleansing before too much damage was done.

"It will only be NATO airstrikes that will stop the violence," he told CNN.

NATO spokesman Jamie Shea said Sunday the situation is "on the brink of a major humanitarian disaster," unprecedented since World War II. More than 500,000 Kosovars are now displaced from the crisis, NATO said — the biggest population shift in Europe since 1945.

Bratislava Morina, the Serb refugee commissioner, called such accusations propaganda.

"There is no humanitarian catastrophe in Kosovo whatsoever," she said on state-run Serbian television. "The fact is that some Albanians are leaving their home in the regions where NATO is attacking civilian tar-

gets, also because some of their leaders left the country and went abroad."

Marko Gasic of the government-sponsored Serbian Information Center told Britain's Sky Television today that "NATO's role in this crisis is shameful."

NATO's assault is aimed at getting President Slobodan Milosevic to accept a peace plan that calls for 28,000 troops in Kosovo. Gasic told Sky TV that while Milosevic will hold discussions if asked, "he certainly won't be signing the capitulation that originally started the problem."

The latest round of airstrikes began Sunday night, according to the Pentagon in Washington.

About 50 warplanes took off from the NATO air base in Aviano, Italy, just after dark. Among them were British Harrier jets, who returned to Italy after successfully hitting Serb targets.

North Texas family appeals for return of 6-year-old girl

SAGINAW, Texas (AP) — The family of a 6-year-old girl pleaded Sunday for her safe return as authorities reported combed her neighborhood and posted fliers with her photo.

But officials reported no new leads into the disappearance of Opal Jo Jennings.

"I'm just about at the end of my rope," said Audrey Sanderford, Opal's grandmother and legal guardian. "All we can hope is somebody might have seen something."

Police said the kindergarten was snatched from in front of Ms. Sanderford's house Friday evening.

Witnesses told investigators a white male 40 to 45 years old got out of his car, grabbed the brown-haired girl, punched her in the chest and threw her into his car as she screamed once.

His vehicle was described as a two-door deep purple or black car with tinted windows, a lifted front end, chrome wheels and several antennas on the back.

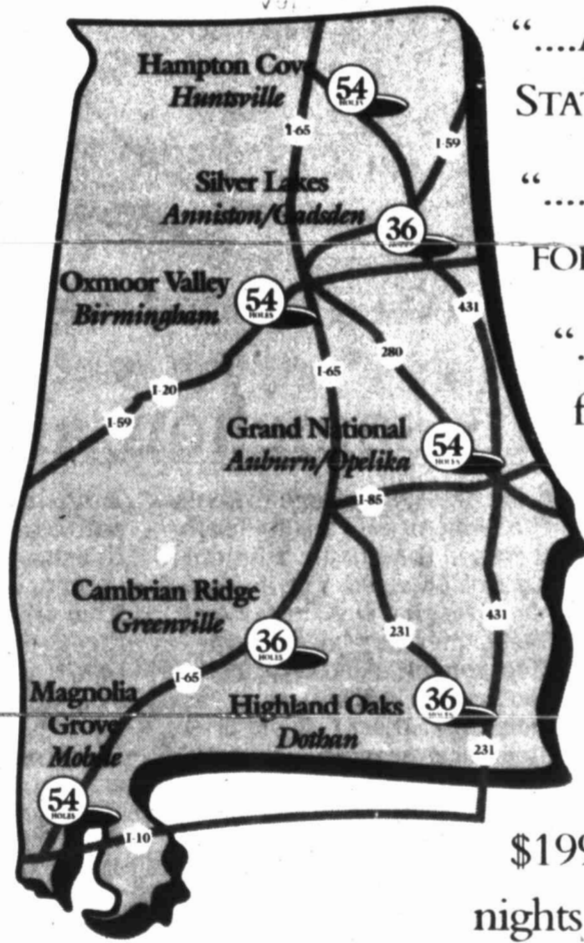
Saginaw Police Detective James Neale said investigators have not ruled out the possibility that a family member is involved in the abduction.

"We're canvassing the entire section of town," he said. "We're considering every possibility."

Shortly after Opal disappeared, officials activated the Amber Plan. Authorities credited a similar alert for the recovery of Fleisha Moore of Dallas, a 9-year-old girl who was abducted and found walking along Interstate 45 south of Dallas on Thursday.

We wanted to tell you how great our courses are, but *Golf Digest* readers beat us to it.

In the May issue of *Golf Digest's* 'PLACES TO PLAY' we received so many honors we had to make a list.



"...Alabama ranks fourth in the nation in BEST STATES FOR GOLF"

"...Alabama ranks fifth in the nation in BEST STATES FOR SERVICE"

"...Alabama's Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail ranks first, second, third and fourth in the nation for BEST 18-HOLE PAR-3 COURSES"

"...Highland Oaks in Dothan gets ★★★★★½ out of five stars in BEST COURSES WITH MAXIMUM GREEN FEE LESS THAN \$50"

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