

BIG SPRING HERALD

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TUESDAY
April 13, 1999



Positively -- Big Spring

Big Spring CVB monthly meeting at 4 p.m. Wednesday

The Big Spring Convention and Visitors Bureau will hold its regular monthly meeting at 4 p.m. Wednesday in the board room at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce.

CVB chairman John H. Walker said the board will hear reports on recent events in the community as well as consider funding requests for upcoming conventions.

The meeting is open to the public.

Candidates reminded to turn in questionnaires

Candidates in contested school board and city council races are reminded to complete their questionnaires and get them to the Big Spring Herald no later than Thursday at 5 p.m.

Questionnaires received after that time will not be published.

Candidates who have questions regarding questionnaires may call Bill McClellan, news editor, at 263-7331, ext. 235.

WHAT'S UP...

WEDNESDAY

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.

Eagles Lodge Ladies Auxiliary, 7 p.m., Eagles Lodge, 704 W. Third.

THURSDAY

Gideons International Big Spring Camp No. 4206, 7 a.m., Hermans.

Big Spring Senior Citizens Center art classes, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. for 55 and older.

Kiwanis Club, noon, Howard College Cactus Room.

Rackley-Swords Chapter 379 Vietnam Veterans of America, 7 p.m., 124 Jonesboro Road.

American Legion Post 506, 7 p.m. Call 263-2084.

Masonic Lodge No. 1340, 7:30 p.m., 2101 Lancaster. Call Charles Bailey at 263-1067.

Tonight:



TONIGHT 47°-55° WEDNESDAY 65°-75°

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Vol. 96, No. 147

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.

Just routine items for city council, but there are a lot of them

By BILL McCLELLAN
News Editor

Big Spring City Council members have primarily routine items to address tonight, but there is no shortage of them. Twelve items of new business highlight the lengthy agenda.

Council members will revisit two issues they addressed in mid-March: a request to waive fees at Cotton Mize Complex and possible sale of the cemetery.

Both items had been approved

by the Parks and Recreation board, but stalled when they reached the council. The request to waive membership dues at Cotton Mize ballfield in lieu of the league making improvements was held up because it came after the budget had been approved. At the time, City Manager Gary Fuqua said he was not opposed to the idea, but noted the timing was the problem. "If we give \$2,500 back to the league, then at some point we are going to have to come up with it," he told the council on March 9.

The Parks Board had also voted to increase fees at Mt. Olive Cemetery. However, that issue was delayed because the city is considering selling the property.

More information on the two requests should be available for Monday's meeting.

In other new business, the council will consider:

- a proposed budget for the Howard County tax assessor-collector;
- an emergency reading of a resolution for renovation of the chlorine facility at the water

treatment plant;

- execution of change orders for credit to repairs of building at the McMahon/Wrinkle Airpark, stemming from the 1996 reroofing project;
- a resolution authorizing the mayor to execute a supplemental deliver point agreement with the Colorado River Municipal Water District;
- an ordinance determining the rate of pay for election judges and clerks, as well as appointing election judges and creating an early voting ballot board;

- granting of a partial residence homestead exemption for the 1999 tax year;
- an ordinance providing for an additional 15 percent penalty to defray costs of collecting delinquent taxes;
- appointment of one member to Main Street, Inc.

- appointment of two members to the housing board.

Under second reading, the council will consider giving the go-ahead to submit grant applications to the Texas Comm-

See COUNCIL, Page 2

'Think big,' lighting consultant says

By JOHN H. WALKER
Managing Editor

Volunteers involved with the Comanche Trail Park Festival of Lights project were told Monday that they needed to set a goal for their project and work toward it.

Gayle Smith of Little Rock, Ark., who was the project chairman for Fayetteville, Ark.'s "Lights of the Ozarks," which began the same year as Big Spring's "Trail of Lights," told about 15 persons they needed to think big.

"If you're going to do a silhouette of a person, make it about two feet bigger than life-size," she said.

"And if you've wrapped a tree and think you've got enough lights, go back and add two or three more strands ... you want everything to glow," she pointed out.

Smith spent the afternoon touring Comanche Trail Park, Big Spring State Park and the community with Festival of Lights founder Pat Simmons and shared some ideas with the group.

"I can just see Kids' Zone covered in lights, turning it into a winter wonderland ... and the Amphitheater is just magnificent ... you have so much potential," she said.

Smith suggested the group set a goal, whether it is for 1 million lights or more, and go to the public with their idea.

"You have the newspaper's support ... get your message out," she said.

She said that in Fayetteville, when people were having trouble imagining 1 million lights on the downtown square, the newspaper got involved.

"When the newspaper publisher (George Smith, now her husband) is behind the idea, it's hard for it to fail. The

See LIGHTING, Page 2



Gayle Smith (left) points out some Christmas lighting ideas to Pat Simmons, chairman of the Comanche Trail Park Festival of Lights. Smith was in Big Spring on Monday from Little Rock, Ark. to consult with volunteers about how to expand the project this December.

Longtime Silver Heels man named to volunteer fire department board

By MARSHA STURDIVANT
Staff Writer

Howard County commissioners Monday appointed Robert Ragan to the executive board of the Howard County Volunteer Fire Department.

Ragan, 65, has lived in the Silver Heels addition since 1965. He volunteered to serve on the executive board.

"When I was younger, I helped a little bit with the volunteer firefighters, and I've got quite

an interest in the volunteer fire department.

"We've had several near escapes from getting burned out here," Ragan said.

Ragan recently retired from oilfield service work.

He is married, with three children and six grandsons, he said.

"I love Big Spring. I was raised here as a boy, moved away and then moved back. I am honored to have been selected to serve on the board for the volunteer fire department," Ragan said.

The executive board has been newly created by commissioners to help facilitate communication between the firefighters and the county.

Also, the executive board, which is comprised of Ragan, commissioner Gary Sjmer as board president and one other community member, will also be responsible for budgets for the department, as well as other business deemed necessary.

In other business, commissioners listened to a report from Irene Dominguez, indigent

health care director.

Dominguez was directed by commissioners to seek answers from Austin, as well as do research into ways other counties are handling indigent health care bills that result from alcohol and drug abuse.

Commissioners said an opportunity for abuse of the county financial system exists if a primary diagnosis names what are obviously symptoms of prolonged alcohol or drug consumption.

"This is really a symptom of

alcohol and drug abuse.

"This medical condition is caused by the patient not following doctor's orders, and continuing to drink once a physical problem is treated," said Crooker.

Kilgore agreed, and said in the past commissioners have refused to pay indigent medical bills for such medical conditions.

Dominguez said she will report to the commissioners her findings about the questions raised.

BSHS students receiving academic honors today

By DEBBIE L. JENSEN
Features Editor

Ten Big Spring High School students left this morning to attend a ceremony in San Angelo, where they will be recognized for their academic accomplishments.

Sponsored by the State Board of Education, the 1999 Celebrations of Educational Excellence program is recognizing high school students all over Texas.

"The people that we send to be honored at this ceremony are the cream of the crop," said high school principal Kent Bowerman. "They are expected to do well not only in high school but in college and

beyond."

Local honorees are seniors Robin Dickens and Larissa Adkins; junior Justin Richter; sophomores Jesus Valdez, Luis Diaz Justin Nichols and Heather Harris; and freshmen Cody Burson, Bridget Cain and Amanda Sheedy. They will attend an awards ceremony on the campus at Angelo State University.

They will receive Celebrations of Educational Excellence medallions and a letter of congratulations from Texas Gov. George W. Bush, recognizing their accomplishments in several areas — core subjects such as math, English

See BSHS, Page 2



Big Spring High School students who left this morning to be honored in an academic awards ceremony in San Angelo included, from left to right, Jesus Valdez, Justin Nichols, Luis Diaz, Larissa Adkins, Robin Dickens, Cody Burson, Bridget Cain and Amanda Sheedy. Not pictured, but also to be honored are Justin Richter and Heather Harris.

APR 13 1999

OBITUARIES

Mattie Mae Staggs

Graveside service for Mattie Mae Staggs, 87, Denton, will be 2 p.m. Thursday, April 15, 1999, at Roselawn Memorial Park with Dr. Larry Reynolds officiating. She died Monday, April 12, 1999, in Denton.

Trueman Leroy Simon

Services will be held at a later date for Trueman Leroy Simon, 75, Big Spring. He died Monday, April 12, 1999, at a local hospital.

C.H. DeVaney

C.H. DeVaney, 88, Star Harbor, died Monday, April 12, 1999, in an Athens, Texas, hospital. Memorial service will be 11 a.m. Wednesday at the First Presbyterian Church in Coahoma with the Rev. Walter Lee and Rev. Allen Guthrie officiating.

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288
Jamie M. Palacios, 22, died Monday. Rosary is 7:30 tonight at Myers & Smith Chapel. Services are 10:00 AM Wednesday at Immaculate Heart of Mary. Burial will follow in Mount Olive Cemetery.

NALLEY-PICKLE & WELCH Funeral Home

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

C. H. DeVaney, 88, died Monday. Memorial services will be 11:00 AM Wednesday, April 14, 1999 at First Presbyterian Church in Coahoma. Private graveside services will be at 10:00 AM Wednesday at Trinity Memorial Park.

Trueman Leroy Simon, 75, died Monday. Services to be held at a later date. Natividad "Bill" Moreno, 82, died Monday. Services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home.

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be 10 a.m. Wednesday, April 14, 1999, at Trinity Memorial Park.

He was born March 30, 1911 in Midland County to the late Walter W. and Rosie Bell Crocker DeVaney. He had been a resident of Star Harbor for five years.

Mr. DeVaney was a member and elder of First Presbyterian Church in Athens. He served as president, vice president and director of the Texas Farm Bureau and was a legislative director for American Farm Bureau. He was a member of the board of directors for the National Cotton Council and Southern Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company.

Survivors include: daughters and sons-in-law, Rosalie and Myron J. Babler, and Sue and Clyde Murray, all of Star Harbor; son and daughter-in-law, Arlton and Pennie DeVaney of Star Harbor; sister, Mary Lee Hayworth of Fort Collins, Colo.; seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 49 years, Bama Hale DeVaney in 1982, and a son, Charles Elvon DeVaney in 1977.

The family suggests that instead of usual remembrances, memorials be made to First Presbyterian Church of Coahoma, 209 N. First, Coahoma; First Presbyterian Church of Athens, P.O. Box 927, Athens, 75751, or a charity of your choice.

The family will receive friends from 7-9 p.m. today at the funeral home.

Arrangements under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home.

Paid obituary

Jaime M. Palacios

Rosary for Jaime M. Palacios, 22, Big Spring, will be 7:30 p.m. today at Myers & Smith Chapel.

Funeral service will be 10 a.m. Wednesday, April 14, 1999, at Immaculate Heart of Mary with Rev. Christopher Coleman officiating. Burial will follow at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

She died Monday, April 12, 1999, in a Midland hospital following a long illness.

She was born April 27, 1976 in Big Spring. She was a lifetime resident of Big Spring and member of Immaculate Heart of Mary. She graduated from Big Spring High School in 1995 and was active in many school activities, including being a drum major her senior year. She was a student at Howard College in the business department.

Survivors include: her mother and stepfather, Margie Palacios and Ernie Granados of Big Spring; her father, Emelido Palacios of San Antonio; two brothers, Patrick Gonzales and Jason Gonzales, both of Big Spring; a sister, Krystal Gonzales of Big Spring; paternal grandfather, Estevan Palacios of San Antonio. The family will be at 2622 Langley.

Arrangements under the direction of Myers & Smith Funeral Home & Chapel.

Natividad "Bill" Moreno

Funeral service for Natividad "Bill" Moreno, 82, Big Spring, is pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home. He died Monday, April 12, 1999, in a local hospital.

LIGHTING

Continued from Page 1
Northwest Arkansas Times lighted their building in October, just to show people what they could do.

"It was amazing," she said.

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"The number of people who drove by the Times to look at the lights."

She said after they saw the Times' building, with 35,000 lights on it, there was no problem meeting the goal.

"People immediately got involved and excited," she said. "They saw how much of an impact it made."

Smith also pointed out the economic impact a lighting festival can have on a community, such as Marshall, Texas.

"They started that in 1983, in the middle of their worst economic year since the Depression and they now have more than 500 tour buses and generate thousands and thousands of tourist dollars."

Persons interested in the Festival of Lights project can call Simmons at 263-4607.

BSHS

Continued from Page 1
and science; scores on the TAAS test; academic competitions and honors. All local students to be honored today scored in the top percentages on the TAAS test.

The high school is limited to sending 10 students to be recognized, and Bowermon said the choice is not an easy one.

"We try to keep a running list of who we've sent before and try to spread this around," he said. "As many students as we have that are high achievers, we have to do it that way."

The list of 10 students is also balanced between each grade level, Bowermon said.

Students who do make the cut are subject to special treatment — at least for one day.

"They treat them like kings and queens there," Bowermon said. In past years, there has been a video link so students can see an address from the governor or other top state official.

"They really enjoy it, and they deserve the recognition," Bowermon said. "This is a really good thing to send our kids to."

COUNCIL

Continued from Page 1
unity Development Program and Texas Department of Health, and the purchase of software for the municipal court.

Following regular business, the council will enter into executive session to consider personnel matters concerning municipal judges and to discuss property for inmate housing.

Tonight's meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m. in council chambers at City Hall.

MARKETS

May cotton 60.35 cents, down 13 points; May crude 16.70, up 30 points; cash hogs steady at 27 even; cash steers steady at 65 even; April lean hog futures 41.97, down 30 points; April live cattle futures 67.15, down 12 points.

courtesy: Delta Corporation.
Noon quotes provided by Edward D. Jones & Co.
Index 10413.60
Volume 267,423,740
ATT 89% + 1/4
Asarco Inc 14% + 1/4
Atmos Energy 26% + 1/4
BP Amoco 102% + 1/4
Chevron 94% - 1/4
Cifra 16% to 16 1/2
Coca Cola 63% + 2
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Cornell Correc. 21% + 1/4
Dell 41% + 1/4
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Phillips Petroleum 48% - 1/4
SBC Com. 53% - 1/4
Sears 43% - 1/4
Texaco 59% + 1/4
Texas Instruments 106% + 1 1/2
Texas Utils. Co 40% - 1/4
Unocal Corp 37% - 1/4
Wal-Mart 106% + 1 1/2
Amcap 18.43-19.55
Europacific 31.34-33.25
Prime Rate 7.75%
Gold 283.20-284.20
Silver 4.84-4.89

Judge holds Clinton in contempt in Paula Jones case

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — A federal judge found President Clinton in contempt of court Monday for giving "intentionally false" testimony about his relationship with Monica Lewinsky, imposing a historic judicial rebuke on a chief executive who survived congressional impeachment just two months ago.

Historians said they believed Clinton was the first president to face such a penalty.

U.S. District Judge Susan Webber Wright imposed a civil rather than a criminal penalty for Clinton's testimony in the Paula Jones sexual harassment case, ordering Clinton to pay Mrs. Jones "any reasonable expenses including attorneys' fees caused by his willful failure to obey this court's discovery orders." He also was ordered to pay \$1,202 as reimbursement for the judge's travel in the case.

"The record demonstrates by clear and convincing evidence that the president responded to plaintiff's questions by giving false, misleading and evasive answers that were designed to obstruct the judicial process," Wright wrote.

Wright said she would delay enforcement for 30 days to give Clinton an opportunity to ask for a hearing or file a notice of appeal. One option is for Clinton to use his legal defense fund, which has raised \$4.5 million, to pay the sanction.

Senior presidential aides, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Clinton lawyers regarded the penalty as minimal since the judge had the option of citing the president for criminal contempt. But the lawyers were keeping options open until they learn how large a monetary penalty Mrs. Jones might seek, the aides said.

The ruling, a public reminder of the Lewinsky controversy at a time when national interest has turned to Kosovo and other matters, came just two months after the Senate voted to acquit Clinton of impeachment charges that grew out of the relationship and his denials of it.

Clinton is believed to be the first chief executive to be found in civil contempt while in office, according to Robert Dallek, a historian at Boston University.

TEXAS LOTTERY

PICK 3: 7,0,3
CASH 5: 9,10,27,29,37

Lottery numbers are unofficial until confirmed by the state lottery commission.

SUPPORT GROUPS

TUESDAY

•Support for MS and Related Diseases, 6:30 p.m. second Tuesday of each month, Canterbury South. Public invited. Call Leslie, 267-1069.

•Al-Anon, 8 p.m., 615 Settles.
•Seniors' diabetic support group, 2 p.m., Canterbury South. Call 263-1265.

•Compassionate Friends support group for parents who have experienced death of a child, 7:30 p.m. first Tuesday in February, April, June, August, October and December in the Family Life Center Building, First Baptist Church, 705 West Marcy. Enter by southeast door. Call 267-2769.

•Cancer support group, first Tuesday of each month, 7-8 p.m., VA Medical Center room 213. Call Sue Jones, 263-7361 ext. 7179 or 264-7518.

•"Most Excellent Way," an addiction support group, 3610 Dixon, call 264-9900.

•Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon open meeting and 8 p.m. closed meeting.

•Family Education and Support, sponsored by Howard County Mental Health Center, meets the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at 319 Rannels. For more information call Shannon Nabors at 263-0027.

•The Big Spring Alliance for the Mentally Ill meets the fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at 409 Rannels (formerly the TU building) for further information call Sondra at 267-7220.

•Samaritan Counseling Center of West Texas will have Dr. Ronald Meyer, D.Min., LCDC, LMFT, specializing in individual and marriage counseling, Attention Deficit Disorder and chemical dependency, available for clients in Midland. Appointments for counseling services are made by calling 1-800-329-4144.

•Narcotics Anonymous, 6 p.m., St. Mary's Episcopal Church. Call 268-4189 (pager no.)

POLICE

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

- UNAUTHORIZED USE OF A VEHICLE was reported in the 800 block of Creighton.
- ATTEMPTED BURGLARY OF A BUILDING was reported in the 200 block of North Gregg. A window and a door were damaged for an estimated loss

of \$200.

• BURGLARY OF A BUILDING was reported in the 600 block of West Third.

• JANA CARTER, 19, was arrested for local warrants.

• RUNAWAY was reported in the 2000 block of Rannels and 2200 block of Morrison.

• CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported at Comanche Trail Park.

• TONNA NIX, 27, was arrested for local warrants.

• STEVEN DICKSON, 20, was arrested for local warrants.

• MICHAEL WEBB, 32, was arrested for local warrants.

• CRIMINAL TRESPASS WARNING was issued in the 3300 block of West Hwy 80.

• DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE was reported in the 500 block of Donley, 1900 block of East 25th, 900 block of East I-10 and 800 block of FM 700.

• KRISTINA HEMBREE, 25, was arrested for local warrants.

• ROBERT SNEED, 53, was arrested for public intoxication.

• CLASS C ASSAULT was reported at the police station.

• UNAUTHORIZED USE OF A VEHICLE was reported in the 800 block of Pine.

• ALFRED EVANS, 44, was arrested for public intoxication.

• ANDY FLORES, 29, was arrested for local warrants.

• THEFT was reported in the 300 block of Owens, 400 block of Gregg and at the police station.

• MINOR ACCIDENT was reported in the 2600 block of Gregg.

• WEEKEND SUMMARY indicated six assault, one family violence, one burglary of a building, two burglary of a vehicle, four criminal mischief and two driving while intoxicated reports.

Also one driving while license suspended or invalid, one possession of drugs, one runaway, seven thefts and five convenience store thefts reported.

And one major accident, four minor accidents and 20 arrests reported.

SHERIFF

The Howard County Sheriff's Department reported the following incidents between 8 a.m. Monday and 8 a.m. today:

- RANDY RAY MIER, 21, was arrested for motion to revoke probation of evading arrest.
- JOHN SMITH, 20, was arrested for deadly conduct.
- JAMES LEE WOODARD, 34, was arrested for motion to revoke probation of driving while license suspended and motion to revoke probation of driving while license invalid.

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NATC

BELGRADE, YU — Hoping to Yugoslav war making out fuel supply craft today hit biggest oil refine on time in 24 h barded military and transport cen in Serbia.

The U.N. reported nearly Albanians pour early today after described as a sy: ing out of their Pristina, Kosovo's Refugees said S

Senat

AUSTIN (AP) — plan for compan research and dev create jobs in eco advantaged coun smaller than fir big enough to w Senate lawmake bill.

The Senate Fitee unanimously bill Monday, sen full Senate for co

"By boosting j oment in these a omy of the ent become stronger David Sibley, R-V

Senators to bill

AUSTIN (AP) — eight-liner gamin illegal gambling preliminary Ser Monday, after bei allow amusement bingo halls to g as prizes and t tracks to award p ting tickets.

The measure v by the Amuseme Operators of Te represents bus who distribute amusement ma "special interes that would favor ing interests.

The Senate bull's-eye on the ans' groups and owners and sign owned adult arc tracks that it's t said Bob Young dent.

The bill by Sen R-Waco, which r Senate vote t the House for would affect an e eight-liners in u state.

Eight-liners, w slot machines, eight ways of w cates that can b prizes.

Sibley said his what already is Slot machines a gambling is illeg

Opponents sa fall under the p ing children's offering stuffed other prizes. Mi

those posts-hav and representati ment-game operi ken out against t

The amendme cratic Sens. Ken Victoria and E Brownsville did opposition to the

Glen M. Gard Veterans of For in a letter to A the amendment help the lotto tic and the parimut I'm afraid."

The amendme to venues that hingo license ar sell alcohol on th

Amusement m venues — in ad mutual tickets a games — could o as lottery tickets

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GREEN I
HOWARD COUNTY
701 E. 2ND

NATO aircraft zero in on fuel supplies in fresh attacks today

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP) — Hoping to cripple the Yugoslav war machine by wiping out fuel supplies, NATO aircraft today hit the country's biggest oil refinery for the second time in 24 hours and bombed military installations and transport centers elsewhere in Serbia.

The U.N. refugee agency reported nearly 5,000 ethnic Albanians poured into Albania early today after what they described as a systematic clearing out of their villages near Pristina, Kosovo's capital.

Refugees said Serbian soldiers

at the border shot and killed a young woman who was trying to escape them.

More than a half-million ethnic Albanians have fled or been driven out of Kosovo since the NATO air campaign began March 24. The refugees say they were terrorized by Serb forces.

A pattern of such expulsions, most of them to Albania and Macedonia, is fueling speculation that the Serbs could be clearing key areas in Kosovo to fortify against any allied ground assault.

Fighting between Serb forces and Kosovo rebels was reported-

ly intensifying along Albania's northern border. Serb artillery fire on Monday struck the Albanian border village of Kamenica, hit several times in recent days, according to international monitors.

The Yugoslav news agency Tanjug claimed at least 150 members of the rebel Kosovo Liberation Army were killed in a border clash — if true, the highest single death toll in months.

For now, NATO is concentrating on its air campaign, while acknowledging bad weather has hampered efforts to halt the cri-

sis in Kosovo, where more than 2,000 people had died over the past year before NATO forces took on Yugoslavia last month.

The alliance says Yugoslav air defenses remain a formidable threat; frequent flashes of anti-aircraft fire could be seen lighting the sky as NATO planes flew in waves over Belgrade late Monday and early today.

Attacks continued into the daylight hours today. Four big detonations were heard this morning in Pristina, with reports indicating military barracks were being targeted.

Western military officials,

meanwhile, moved to beef up the NATO air armada. In Washington, defense officials said they were planning to send several hundred more U.S. warplanes — including ground-attack jets, radar-jamming planes and refueling tankers —

to join in the airstrikes. NATO has said it is doing everything possible to avoid civilian casualties, but Monday saw one of the more gruesome episodes of the air campaign — an apparently accidental hit on a passenger train.

Senate committee endorses tax credit bill

AUSTIN (AP) — A tax credit plan for companies to conduct research and development and create jobs in economically disadvantaged counties is slightly smaller than first proposed yet big enough to work, says the Senate lawmaker behind the bill.

The Senate Finance Committee unanimously passed the bill Monday, sending it to the full Senate for consideration.

"By boosting jobs and development in these areas, the economy of the entire state will become stronger," said Sen. David Sibley, R-Waco.

Corporations launching new spending on qualified research work would get a 4 percent credit on their state franchise tax. Those credits would double in the counties designated "strategic investment areas." The credit would be limited to 25 percent of the company's franchise tax liability.

Both of those figures are lower than the 5 percent and 50 percent tax breaks initially proposed last month.

As currently offered, the tax breaks would cost the state about \$132 million in the 2000-2001 budget years, with most of

it coming in the second year, Sibley's staff said.

Sibley said the reductions were necessary because the state can't afford to give away any more tax revenue.

Under the job creation portion of the bill, this credit would be based on the number of jobs created and their wages.

A corporation would have to create at least 10 permanent, full-time jobs in the strategic investment areas that pay more than the county's average wage with paid health benefits. Jobs transferred from another part of Texas wouldn't qualify.

A company would apply for the investment tax credit if it invests in machinery and equipment in a strategic investment area, pays an average weekly wage that's 110 percent of the county average and is engaged in certain industries.

That credit also was reduced from 15 percent of the cost of the machinery to 7.5 percent.

While the research tax break would apply statewide, job creation and investment tax credits would be granted only in the disadvantaged areas, and the research tax break would be doubled there.

Senators give initial approval to bill banning eight-liner devices

AUSTIN (AP) — A bill to ban eight-liner gaming machines as illegal gambling devices won preliminary Senate approval Monday, after being amended to allow amusement machines at bingo halls to give bingo cards as prizes and those at race tracks to award pari-mutuel betting tickets.

The measure was denounced by the Amusement and Music Operators of Texas — which represents business owners who distribute and operate amusement machines — as "special interest legislation" that would favor corporate gaming interests.

"The Senate has painted a bull's-eye on the backs of veterans' groups and small business owners and signaled corporate-owned adult arcades and race tracks that it's time to expand," said Bob Young, AMOT president.

The bill by Sen. David Sibley, R-Waco, which requires another Senate vote before going to the House for consideration, would affect an estimated 30,000 eight-liners in use around the state.

Eight-liners, which resemble slot machines, offer players eight ways of winning certificates that can be redeemed for prizes.

Sibley said his bill "clarifies what already is law in Texas. Slot machines are gambling and gambling is illegal."

Opponents say eight-liners fall under the provision allowing children's arcade games offering stuffed animals and other prizes. Military veterans whose posts have the machines and representatives for amusement-game operators have spoken out against the measure.

The amendment by Democratic Sens. Ken Armbrister of Victoria and Eddie Lucio of Brownsville did little but fan opposition to the bill.

Glen M. Gardner Jr. of the Veterans of Foreign Wars said in a letter to Armbrister that the amendment "would only help the lotto ticket distributors and the pari-mutuel race tracks, I'm afraid."

The amendment would apply to venues that have a racing or bingo license and a license to sell alcohol on the premises.

Amusement machines at such venues — in addition to pari-mutuel tickets and free bingo games — could offer such prizes as lottery tickets as long as they

were distributed on the premises, Armbrister said.

The venues would fall under a restriction in Sibley's bill defining an amusement game as a game of skill for which the prize awarded from a single play can't exceed \$5.

"We're not expanding gambling," Armbrister said. Supporters of his amendment said it would include VFW halls with alcoholic beverage and bingo licenses.

Veterans say many VFW posts in Texas use eight-liners to pay for such things as community service projects.

BoxCar Willie dies of leukemia

BRANSON, Mo. (AP) — BoxCar Willie, whose gentle country voice and songs of life on the road evoked memories of a time when hobos watched America pass by from the door of a freight car, died Monday of leukemia. He was 67.

He died at home, a family spokeswoman said.

BoxCar Willie had recently announced he was canceling his 1999 season of shows when the disease, first diagnosed in 1996, returned. Until his health began to fail, he was not only a Branson performer but one of the music town's elder statesmen.

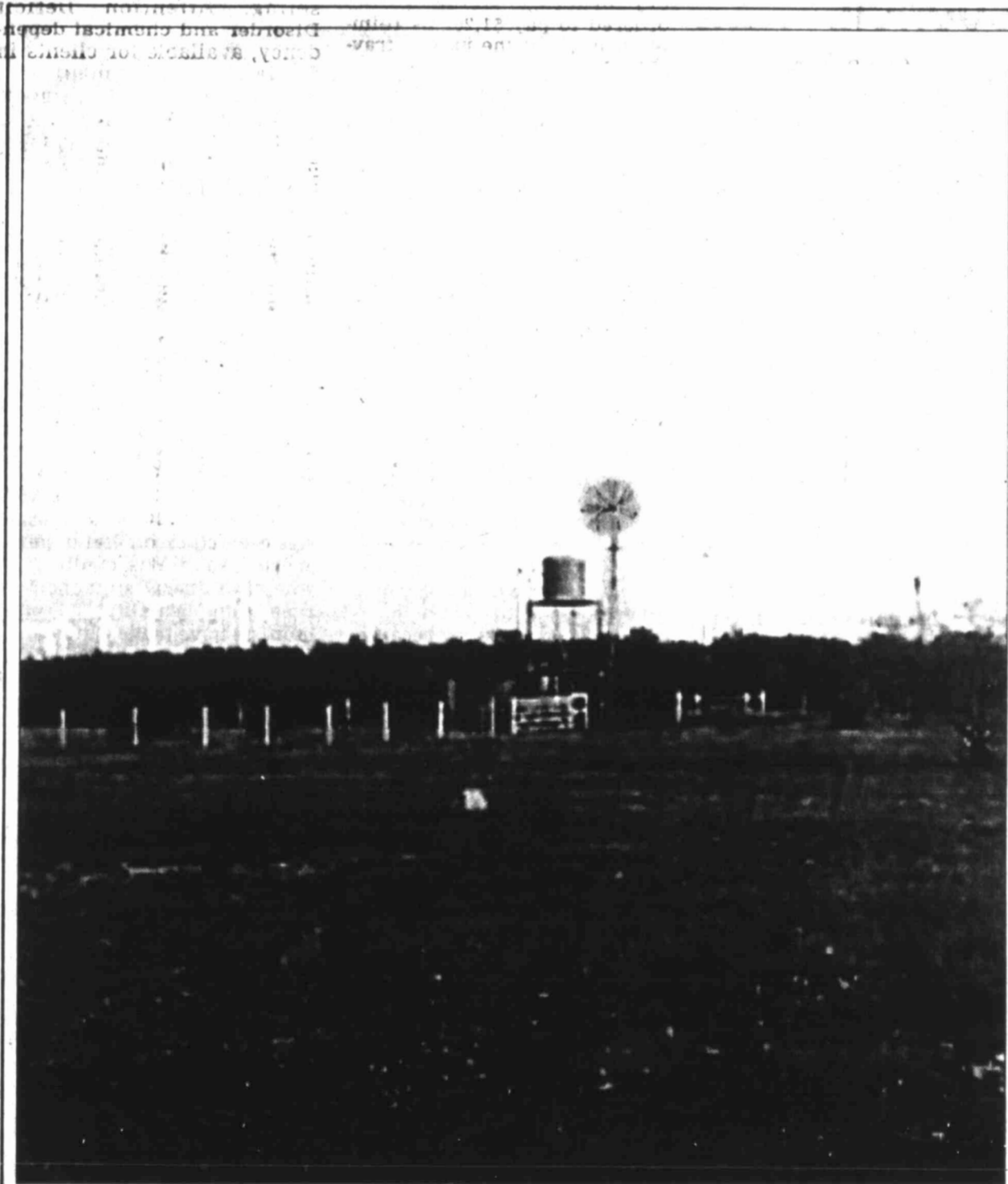
He did six or more shows a

week nine months of the year until his health failed.

Born Leclit Martin in Sterrett, Texas, in 1931, BoxCar Willie was the son of a railroad man who used to play his fiddle on the porch while his son sat in on guitar.

By his teens he had graduated to playing in jamborees all over the state, but he gave up show business to enlist in the Air Force. He spent 22 years there, logging some 10,000 hours as a flier.

After retiring from the service he returned to performing, and by the 1970s he had developed the singing hobo persona.



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EDITORIAL

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."
-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

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OUR VIEWS

Don't let your opportunity to vote be wasted

This morning, Crossroads Area folks rose to a rarity of sorts — rain. Wednesday morning will begin another event even more scarce — the opening of voting booths all across our area.

Too few citizens of other countries have the freedom to choose their leaders. In the United States however, we have the opportunity to select not only our president and governors, national and state leaders, but also our representatives on a local level.

That's what occurs beginning Wednesday, when area school boards and cities hold elections for trustees, council members and mayor. There are 36 contested candidates representing seven different entities. They involve Big Spring City Council, Coahoma City Council, Coahoma mayor, and Coahoma, Glasscock County, Forsan, Grady and Stanton school districts. Following the elections, all on May 1, 15 seats will be filled.

No one can vote in all of the elections, of course. Citizens have to reside in the city or school district in which the election is being held. But the breadth of the elections means almost every eligible voter in the Crossroads Area will have at least one choice to make.

Early voting is held at each entity holding an election — generally at the school business office or city business office — during normal weekday business hours. It continues through April 27, giving all those who want to participate ample opportunity.

It's your chance to make a difference in shaping your community, in helping make your school the best possible institution of learning for your town's children.

We encourage everyone to take advantage of that opportunity.

OTHER VIEWS

Congress has an opportunity to modernize some old thinking this session by eliminating the earnings test on Social Security benefits for people ages 65 to 69.

With more Americans enjoying longer, healthier lives, the government should be encouraging their continued participation in the work force, not discouraging it by hanging onto the antiquated and unnecessary restrictions on how much they can earn before risking a delay in the full collection of Social Security benefits.

Under the current system, for people 65 and older, retirement benefits are reduced by \$1 for every \$3 of income earned above \$15,500 a year. That ceiling is scheduled to rise to \$30,000 a year by 2002 because of action that Congress took four years ago.

Once a person stops earning above the limit (or reaches 70, when the penalty no longer applies), Social Security checks increase.

Congress should finish the journey it started four years ago and eliminate the earnings test completely. Once people reach 65, they should be entitled to draw on the benefits that they spent a lifetime paying into. And by encouraging them to stay a part of the work force, they continue to pay into the system.

The idea of eliminating the penalty on older working Americans has been debated before, but there has never been as much potential for this actually happening as now. A healthy economy and a supportive president give

this commonsense idea a fighting chance. Republicans in Congress are backing the proposal; their Democratic counterparts need to join President Clinton in removing the Social Security earnings test from the books.

FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM

A food safety investigation by Cox Newspapers turned up a variety of health-threatening problems lurking in the national food supply including E. coli bacteria in some school lunchroom meat.

While the majority of the food sold in the United States is wholesome, the public needs to be fully aware when contaminated, adulterated or otherwise suspect food is sold or served.

That's why the Texas Legislature should speedily repeal the state's "food-disparagement" law. Known as the "veggie libel law," the 1995 law was designed to quell public discourse on food safety by making it easy to sue those who speak out. In the first major test of the law, Texas cattlemen sued Oprah Winfrey. She won, but is facing continuing legal battles.

A bill to repeal the 1995 legislative crimp on free speech is pending in the House Civil Practices Committee, which held a hearing on the topic last week.

Rep. Ruth Jones McClendon, D-San Antonio, is the bill's lead sponsor. The 1995 law was a mistake. Correction is overdue. AUSTIN AMERICAN-STATESMAN

Amount of taxes we pay is truly outrageous

If you've got time to read this column, you're in better shape than 42 million Americans — that's the number who have yet to file their 1998 tax returns.

Most of them will manage to get their returns in the mail by midnight Thursday, but some 8 million will file for the automatic four-month extension the IRS offers anyone who bothers to apply.

Why do so many Americans procrastinate, especially when the federal government actually owes money back to 81 million of them? Last year, the federal government overcollected more than \$106 billion from U.S. taxpayers — an average of \$1,332 each, which could have been invested or earned interest for the individuals to whom the money rightfully belonged. Instead, it sat in federal coffers until taxpayers could file the necessary forms to get Uncle Sam to return their money.

Imagine how you'd feel if your phone company or credit-

card company made you pay upfront, overcharged you by more than \$1,000 a year and then made you spend 11 and a half hours filling out complicated forms so that you could get back the money it owed you.

Of course, that's exactly what the federal government does — and the states follow suit — by requiring employers to withhold income taxes from your paycheck. Yet most of us take the system for granted, never complaining or bothering to adjust our W-2s so that they accurately reflect what we owe.

Tax withholding is one of the biggest scams around, not only depriving individuals of the use of their own hard-earned money, but camouflaging their yearly tax burden, too. Until 1942, income tax was paid four times a year based on the earnings of the previous year.

As Nobel Prize economist Milton Friedman explains in his joint memoir with his wife, Rose, "Two Lucky People," this system "raised few problems so long as the income tax was fairly low and only a small fraction of the population was subject to the tax." But with the American entry into World War II, the federal government needed a huge infusion of revenue to pay for the war.

In 1939, fewer than 4 million

taxable returns were filed. Four years later, Friedman reports, taxable returns had increased tenfold, producing 15 times more revenue. With taxes skyrocketing, the government could no longer be sure Americans would put enough aside to pay their taxes on a quarterly basis and "withholding" was born. The government sold the public on the idea by agreeing to "forgive" part of the previous year's tax liability in return for prepaying taxes in 1943.

But like most government programs, withholding didn't end once the original crisis had abated. In effect, withholding turned employers into tax collectors and left employees believing they were entitled only to their "take home pay."

I remember my own shock when I received my very first paycheck. Where was the salary I'd been promised? After the deductions for some mysterious thing called 'FICA,' and federal and state taxes were taken out, I was taking home barely more than the 75 cents an hour I'd earned babysitting in high school. But like everyone else, I became more or less accustomed to prepaying my taxes and was thrilled any year the government beneficently decided to give me a refund.

That is until I started earn-

ing a substantial part of my income through speaking and writing, with no employer to deduct my taxes. Then I became one of those taxpayers who must make quarterly 'contributions' on my estimated tax liability each year. Believe me, writing checks directly to the IRS for the amount of taxes owed is a radicalizing experience. No longer hidden, the amount seems like exactly what it is: outrageous.

The average American now pays 35.2 percent of his entire income in taxes: federal, state and local. The federal tax burden takes up as large a share of the gross domestic product — 20 percent — as it did when American was fighting World War II. But as Wall Street Journal editorial writer Amity Shlaes points out in her new book, "The Greedy Hand: How Taxes Drive Americans Crazy and What to Do About It," withholding makes the onerous tax burden possible.

"Confronted with the idea of sending \$10,000 or \$20,000 to the government all at once, some of us would surely revolt."

Abolish the IRS? It's not necessary — just abolish withholding and the IRS will fall. It's a revolutionary idea, the kind that led to the founding of this nation.



LINDA CHAVEZ



"THINK, ALBRIGHT...WHAT DID YOU PROMISE THE KOSOVARs ABOUT RELOCATION?..."

War is a tragedy, not a topic for television

I hate war, but I especially hate war treated as a television special or a topic for TV talk show hosts. We truly do live in a country that has become an Orwellian nightmare.

Americans, exposed to hours of color images of refugees, now feel great compassion for the Albanians who have fled or been driven out of Kosovo. Indeed, you'd have to have a lead sinker for a heart not to feel compassion and sadness. But we have to remember our emotions are being manipulated.

There are, at this moment, several millions of refugees, many of whom have rotted in squalid camps for decades. Yet they don't exist in our consciousness because no corporation chooses to focus the cam-

eras on them and regale us day after day with the stories of their horrors.

So sleazy politicians are able to get away with the big lie: This war is necessary because of the humanitarian disaster, because they say the president of a small country of 10 million people is a fiend.

Listen, China invaded Tibet and has destroyed virtually 80 percent of its population as well as its culture and historical artifacts. Why did not — why has not — the United States respond to that humanitarian catastrophe with an ultimatum and bombs on Beijing?

Simple: China is a nation of over a billion people, with nuclear weapons and the missiles to deliver them. The United States' leaders are both cynical and cowardly. They love to bully little countries. They are scared of crossing any country with the means to fight back. They have become that most disgusting of human beings — the armchair warrior, the bar stool blowhard ever eager for someone else to fight someone else.

America and Europe used to

bully the Chinese when China was divided, weak and impoverished, so I'll give credit where it's due. Despite their cruelty and brutality, the communists have made China a country too strong to be bullied or exploited by Westerners.

And how convenient for the armchair warriors to have an all-volunteer military so that their sons and daughters are immune from bad policy decisions. Heck, many American enlisted people are paid below the official poverty level, so why should the rich, pink-fingered policy wonks care if they die or get maimed?

Another sign of media-induced insanity is that love of meaningless verbalization. People love to say — and I emphasize say — how they feel. Oh, they feel compassion for the refugees, as if saying that would put a single drop of water in their mouths or one crumb of bread in their bellies.

"I support the troops," people now love to say. Oh yeah? Did they support them when Congress reneged on its promises to them? Did they support them when the govern-

ment began to degrade and demoralize them? Just what in the hell do they mean by support other than that they are willing to break wind with their mouths in the safety of their home or office.

Bombing and attacking virtually defenseless small countries (we've bombed four different sovereign states in the last 10 months) does nothing but earn Americans the enmity of most of the world's people. This reckless and illegal behavior by a group of corrupt and incompetent American politicians will come back to bite us one day.

It will be interesting to see how brave all the armchair warriors are when war comes to American soil. It will, eventually, given the present course of the American government.

Perhaps then the talking heads on television will be interviewing American refugees — or become refugees themselves. No war should ever be viewed as if it were a sporting event or game or TV show. It is a tragedy and a crime against humanity — nothing more, nothing less.



CHARLEY REESE

Mallard Fillmore
by
BRUCE TINSLEY



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Speaker of the House
State Capitol
Austin, 78701
Phone: 806-839-2478, 512-463-3000.

IN B

Lions dump 1 in Little League

The Lions took over the Yankee Little League play behind the heroics of Gabby and Ryan Slate. Hernandez hit a scored, drew a bled, drew a bled, drew a bled twice i Lions to the v had a double a Kelley Stanley i Defensively, I strong perfor pitcher Chanc baseaman Bran catcher Alex H Angelo Garc Murphee prov hits for the Y Robert Finn defensive plays

Local drivers in Midessa S

Five driver Spring took p Saturday at Speedway. John Anders for the three competing in division by fin his head and fo ture race. Bert Hillger Stewart ran in problems — Hi ture after havi in his heat and he was able to first lap in heat In street stoc Loren Spencer in his heat, b fourth place in feature race. Rondel Brocl in the IMCA sion, but was come a driving first lap of the i shed a disappc

Teenage League continue th

The Howard Baseball Assor recently register interested in Teenage League summer begin Registration 5:30 to 8:30 each Friday at the A League park. To register, players ages 1 their \$50 regis their birth cert Anyone inter ing a team, l director or bei another aspect can contact offi 263-2552.

Cancer Sock golf event fo

The Big Sp Club will again golf tournament American Ca Relay for Life Entry fees ar er. For more ir Larry Bryan at

LOCAL

HIGH SCHOOL S 5 p.m. • Snyder Lady Spring Lady Stee 7:30 p.m. • Loraine Lady Coahoma Bulldo

HIGH SCHOOL B 5 p.m. • Sweetwater Spring Steers. 7 p.m. • Coahoma B Antelopes.

ON TH

Radio HIGH SCHOOL B 5 p.m. — Swe Mustangs at Big KBST-AM 1490.

Television NBA BASKETBA 7 p.m. — Los at Portland Trail 28. 7:30 p.m. — Spurs at Dallas Ch. 29. 9:30 p.m. — Sacramento Kin HOCKEY 6:30 p.m. — Philadelphia Fly 30.

IN BRIEF

Lions dump Yankees in Little League play

The Lions took a 7-3 win over the Yankees in National Little League majors division play behind the offensive heroics of Gabriel Hernandez and Ryan Slate.

Hernandez hit a double, singled, drew a base on balls and scored twice in leading the Lions to the win. Slate also had a double and a single, as Kelley Stanley added a double.

Defensively, the Lions got a strong performance from pitcher Chance Cain, second baseman Brandon Tate and catcher Alex Hoffman.

Angelo Garcia and Jacob Murphree provided extra-base hits for the Yankees, while Robert Finn provided big defensive plays in the outfield.

Local drivers fare well in Midessa Speedway

Five drivers from Big Spring took part in racing Saturday at the Midessa Speedway.

John Anderson led the way for the three local drivers competing in the mini-stock division by finishing third in his heat and fourth in the feature race.

Bert Hillger and Jimmy Stewart ran into mechanical problems — Hillger in the feature after having placed fifth in his heat and Stewart before he was able to complete the first lap in heat competition.

In street stock competition, Loren Spencer finished sixth in his heat, but improved to fourth place in that division's feature race.

Rondel Brock won his heat in the IMCA modified division, but was unable to overcome a driving mistake in the first lap of the feature and finished a disappointing eighth.

Teenage League signups continue through Friday

The Howard County Youth Baseball Association is currently registering youngsters interested in playing on Teenage League teams this summer beginning.

Registration will be from 5:30 to 8:30 each night through Friday at the American Little League park.

To register, prospective players ages 13-16 must bring their \$50 registration fee and their birth certificate.

Anyone interested in coaching a team, being a league director or being involved in another aspect of the program can contact officials by calling 263-2552.

Cancer Society schedules golf event for April 24-25

The Big Spring Country Club will again host a two-day golf tournament benefiting the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life on April 24-25.

Entry fees are \$75 per player. For more information, call Larry Bryan at 267-5354.

LOCAL GAMES

HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL

5 p.m. — Snyder Lady Tigers at Big Spring Lady Steers.
7:30 p.m. — Lorraine Lady Bulldogs at Coahoma Bulldogettes.

HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL

5 p.m. — Sweetwater Mustangs at Big Spring Steers.
7 p.m. — Coahoma Bulldogs at Post Antelopes.

ON THE AIR

Radio

HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL
5 p.m. — Sweetwater Mustangs at Big Spring Steers, KBST-AM 1490.

Television

NBA BASKETBALL
7 p.m. — Los Angeles Lakers at Portland Trail Blazers, TNT, Ch. 28.
7:30 p.m. — San Antonio Spurs at Dallas Mavericks, FXS, Ch. 29.
9:30 p.m. — Utah Jazz at Sacramento Kings, TNT, Ch. 28.
HOCKEY
6:30 p.m. — Buffalo Sabres at Philadelphia Flyers, ESPN, Ch. 30.

Collins says his Angels need to remember 13-6 win over Rangers

ARLINGTON (AP) — Anaheim Angels manager Terry Collins isn't going to make too big a deal about any series in April. Not even if it featured three impressive victories in four games against his top division rival.

At least, not yet. Following Anaheim's 13-5 victory over Texas on Monday, Collins said he might remind his team later this year about how well they played against the Rangers under pretty tough circumstances.

How tough? Well, they arrived in Arlington around dawn Friday after consecutive blowout losses at home and they had just put Mo Vaughn on the disabled list, where he joined eight other players, including everyday starters Jim Edmonds and Gary DiSarcina.

But the Angels responded with 34 runs on 57 hits over four games. They had 20

hits, including a club-record 10 doubles, in Monday's finale.

"All this is winning games in April," Collins said. "I don't think any statements have to be made April 12...."

"But we might look up in July or September and say, 'Geez, remember, when those guys were hurt? Boy, we could've fallen along the wayside — and we didn't.' Then, it could turn out to be real big."

Randy Velarde went 11-for-22 in the series and Troy Glaus was 10-of-18. Tim Salmon was 7-for-18, upping his career average against the Rangers to .396 — the highest of any opponent in Texas history.

On Monday, Salmon and Glaus each went 4-for-5. Salmon had two doubles, tied his career high with five RBIs and made a nice catch in right field that took away a potential home run from Juan

Gonzalez. Glaus scored twice, drove in two runs, set a career high for hits and tied the club record with three doubles.

"We just had a good series," Salmon said. "Putting up those numbers without Mo or Jimmy really makes us feel good about our chances when those guys get back."

The flip side is how bad Texas must feel. The ERA of the starters ballooned to 8.33 — and that includes Aaron Sele's 0.71. Take him out and it jumps to 13.50. "I am a firm believer it will get better; it can't get much worse," manager Johnny Oates said. "We are not this bad."

Mark Clark, a free agent signee touted as having pitched better than his 9-14 record last year for the Chicago Cubs, gave up eight runs and 11 hits over five innings Monday, walking one and striking out two. It was his second straight

poor start.

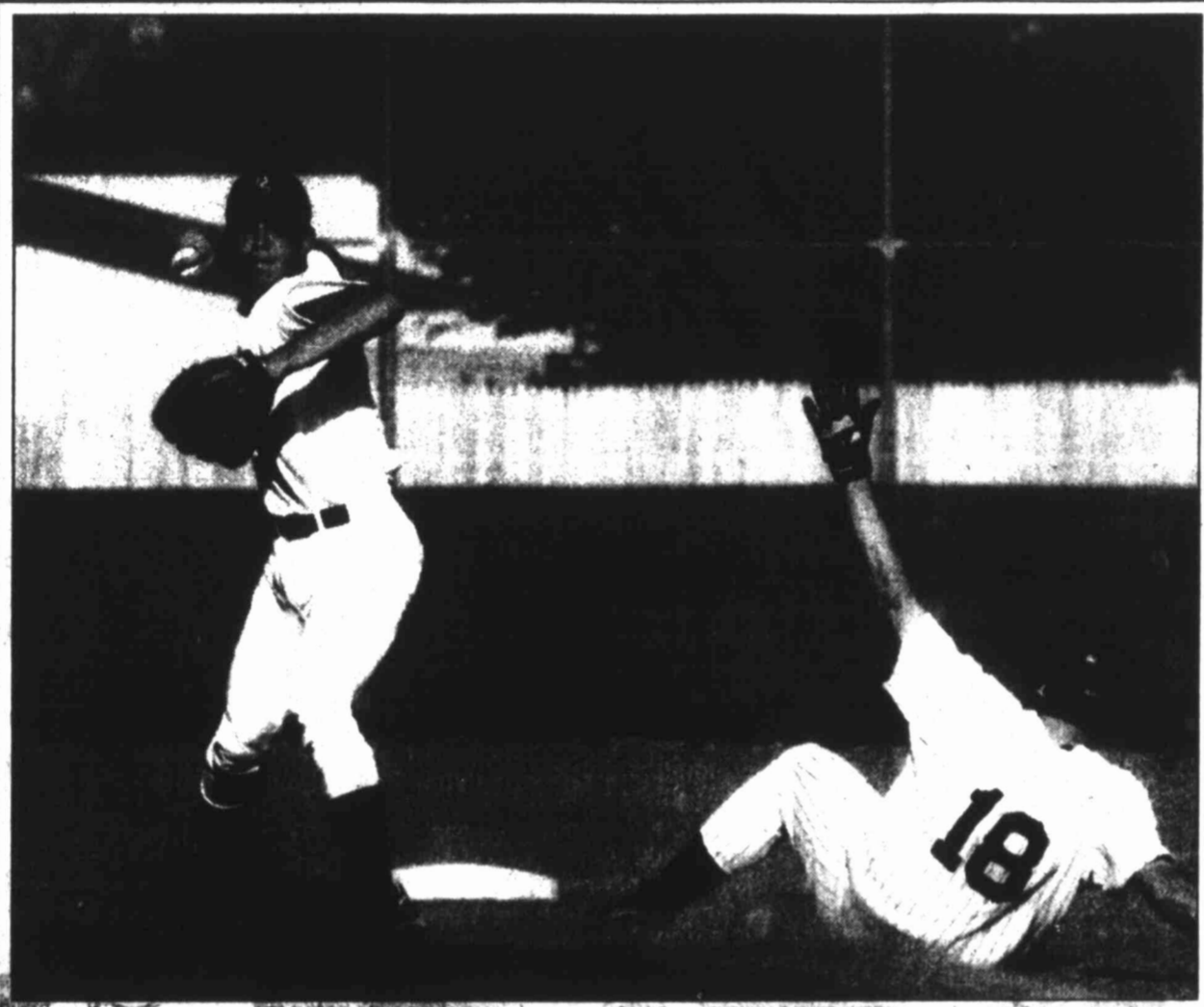
"Even the good pitches I threw didn't seem to be good enough," said Clark, who hadn't given up that many runs since June 30, 1997. "When I needed a good pitch, I always had a bad one."

Angels starter Ken Hill wasn't much better, allowing all five Texas runs, five hits and seven walks.

Hill went into the bottom of the fifth leading 8-3, putting him three outs from being eligible for the win. But he walked Rafael Palmeiro on four pitches then gave up a two-run homer to Todd Zeile. Mike Magnante (1-0) ended up pitching 2 1-3 innings of scoreless relief for the victory.

Hill said his mechanics are completely out of whack.

"Right now, I'm searching," said Hill, who even changed his delivery midway through his stint. "It's frustrating."



Big Spring shortstop prepares to make the throw to first in a bid for a double play after Snyder runner Cory Mandrell (18) during the top of the fourth inning in the Steers' 7-1 win over the Tigers last week. Owens' throw was too late to retire the Sam Bedell at first, but the Steers would end the next two innings with double plays. Big Spring will play host to Sweetwater's Mustangs today at 5 p.m.

Aikman deal could open cap room for Ismail

DALLAS (AP) — The Dallas Cowboys could secure enough room under the salary cap to sign wide receiver Raghib "Rocket" Ismail, with quarterback Troy Aikman poised to sign an extension in the next few days.

Aikman's agent, Leigh Steinberg, has told The Dallas Morning News and the Fort Worth Star-Telegram that he flew to Dallas to meet with Cowboys owner Jerry Jones on Friday and Saturday. Although some details remain to be settled, Steinberg said he expects Aikman to sign the extension before Saturday, the first day of the NFL draft.

"We've had discussions," Steinberg said. "I'm confident that at some point in the near future, we'll make a deal."

Jones advised that, for more information, "stay tuned over the next few days."

Meanwhile, the Carolina Panthers on Monday signed sure-handed receiver Patrick Jeffers to an offer sheet. The Panthers' one-year deal with the restricted free agent is believed to be worth between \$1 million and \$1.5 million, all of which must be absorbed on the salary cap for this year, according to the newspaper.

The Cowboys reportedly have until noon Friday to match the offer; otherwise, the club will receive a fifth-round pick as compensation.

"This is a deal that was the least matchable," Brad Blank, Jeffers' agent, said. "Dallas is going to have to take the whole hit now to keep him. Carolina didn't want to get matched, and I doubt they will. I think it's just too much cap room for the Cowboys to clear."

With three years left on a contract scheduled to pay him \$6.75 million in base salary this year, Aikman would allow the Cowboys with an extension to move a significant chunk of

Angelos reported still casting eyes on Redskins deal

BALTIMORE (AP) — Baltimore Orioles owner Peter Angelos is considering a new bid of at least \$625 million to buy the Washington Redskins, The Washington Post reported today.

"We are reviewing the matter," Angelos told the newspaper. "We'll make a decision shortly."

The NFL has put off a decision on the sale of the Redskins after team owners were unwilling to support a winning bid selected by the estate of late Redskins Owner Jack Kent Cooke.

Prospective bidders are awaiting word on a second auction.

Howard Milstein withdrew his group's \$800 million bid last week when it became clear he would not receive the necessary 24 votes from 31 NFL teams. Several owners expressed a preference for Cooke's son, team president John Kent Cooke, to own the Redskins.

that total into other years of the contract, giving the club leverage to sign Ismail and others.

The National Football League said earlier this month it was reviewing whether the Cowboys tried to manipulate the salary cap in their efforts to sign center Mark Stepnoski, Ismail and linebacker Quentin Coryatt to free agent contracts.

A Dallas official told the newspaper that Stepnoski could also sign with the Cowboys before this weekend's draft.

Ralph Cindrich, who represents Stepnoski, has declined repeated requests to discuss his client's status.

Brand reported ready to leave Duke early

DURHAM, N.C. (AP) — Two weeks ago Duke was on the brink of greatness. Now, the Blue Devils are on the verge of losing college basketball's consensus national player of the year early to the NBA.

Elton Brand will forgo his final two years at Duke and enter the NBA draft, The Associated Press has learned.

A source close to Brand, speaking on the condition of anonymity, confirmed Monday that the 6-foot-8, 270-pound sophomore center would become the first Duke player to leave school early for a chance to play in the NBA.

Brand will make the decision official at a Wednesday afternoon news conference at Duke, where players and coaches hope Brand's decision doesn't begin a chain reaction that could see sophomore Will Avery and

freshman Corey Maggette also jump to the pros.

"I guess we're finally entering the real world," the source said in reference to Duke losing its first underclassman to the NBA.

Brand, who averaged 17.8 points and 9.8 rebounds last season, was the main cog in the team's 37-2 record and NCAA runner-up finish to Connecticut. He was also the first sophomore to win the John R. Wooden Award.

Brand was honored this season by The AP, the Atlanta Tipoff Club and the U.S. Basketball Writers Association as player of the year.

Mike Krzyzewski said two weeks ago that players who come to Duke want to spend four years in college. But the coach, just days out of the hospital following hip surgery, was apparently unable to sway

Brand to stay in school after a weekend meeting between the two.

Meanwhile, the student newspaper at Duke, The Chronicle, also reported that Avery, the team's point guard, will forgo the rest of his eligibility and apply for the draft.

However, there have been conflicting reports over Avery's future and no official word has come from Duke on any additional news conferences.

Maggette is apparently still weighing his options.

Attempts to reach Brand, Avery and Maggette were unsuccessful.

The loss of Brand and possibly Avery would normally leave a huge void, but the program has received national letters of intent from four high school seniors who were selected to the McDonald's All-America team.

Lady Yearlings, Lady Mavs shine at Andrews track meet

HERALD Staff Report

ANDREWS — Runnels Junior High School's Lady Yearlings piled up 233 points in literally running away with the team championship Friday at the Andrews Junior High School Relays.

It was the ninth straight meet championship the team has claimed, dating back to their seventh-grade year at Goliad Middle School.

The Lady Yearlings were so dominant, in fact, that they fell just one point short of doubling the point production of Andrews' host squad that managed 117 points.

Frenship finished third with 84 points, while Sweetwater was fourth with 54. Snyder's 31 points left the young Lady Tigers in fifth place, while San Angelo rounded out the field with 23 points.

In seventh-grade competition, Goliad's Lady Mavericks managed 164 points to finish second in their division.

The highlight of the day for Big Spring's following was the Lady Yearlings' performance in the final event of the meet, where they established a meet record time of 4:24.85 in the 1,600-meter relay.

That record-setting foursome included Sterling Burchett, Stormie Huff, Dana Lockhart and Rachelle Guinn.

It was the last of three relays the Lady

Yearlings would win. In the 400-meter relay, Esha Ward, Huff, Guinn and Lockhart combined to post a time of 52.25 seconds.

A few minutes later, Ward, Ashley Tuttle and Latasha Banks posted a 1:55.06 in winning the 800-meter relay.

Runnels established its dominance early, winning all but one of the field events.

Ashley Smith got things started by winning the shot put with a 30-91/2 heave and teammate Krystal DeLeon was third with a 26-8 effort.

Guinn and Burchett finished first and second in the triple jump, respectively. Guinn topping the field with a 34-10 leap, while Burchett jumped 31-43/4. Teammate Carli Wise was sixth.

Guinn doubled up in the long jump, uncorking a 15-13/4 leap to win that event, while Huff was second at 13-9.

Huff won the high jump competition with a 5-foot leap, while Tuttle was third at 4-10 and Courtney Brock was fourth at 4-9.

The only field event the Lady Yearlings didn't dominate was the discus, but Samantha Castro managed an 86-21/4 effort that earned third place and Stefani Clark was sixth at 74-41/2.

Runnels racked up three first-place finishes in individual running events to go along with their three relay wins.

Sally Arguello won the 800 meters with

a 2:46.68 clocking, Guinn won the 100-meter hurdles with a time of 17:56 and Wise won the 300-meter hurdles.

While Arguello won the 800, Yael Portocarrero was second and Eve Tobar finished fourth. Brock finished second and Wise was fourth behind Guinn in the 100 hurdles, while Brock added another second in the 300-hurdles and Amanda Lasater was sixth.

In the 100 meters, Ward finished second with a 13.64 clocking, while Huff was fourth and Banks was right behind in fifth.

Lockhart added another second-place finish for Runnels in the 400 meters, while Shameka Johnson was fourth and Tuttle fifth.

The Lady Yearlings final points came from Kirsten Lewis and Banks finishing fourth and fifth in the 200 meters and Tobar and Sydney Rojas adding fifth and sixth places in the 1,600 meters.

Goliad's only wins in the seventh-grade division came in the high jump where Kim Green cleared 4 feet, 6 inches and tied with three other jumpers but took the victory based on the fewest number of misses; the long jump where Green posted a leap of 14-101/2; and in the 400 meters where Leina Braxton was clocked at 1:06.38.

Green added a second-place finish behind Braxton in the 400 meters, posting a time of 1:07.10. Lindsay Phillips fin-

ished third in the high jump, matching Green's winning leap of 4-6, but had more misses.

Braxton and Karissa Majers tied for fourth and fifth places in the long jump behind Green, both posting 13-2 marks. Majers added a third in the triple jump with a 30-3 effort.

In the weight events, Ciera Butler provided second-place points in both the shot put and discus, posting a 27-113/4 in the shot and a 70-01/4 heave in the discus. Whitney Hufford was third in the shot with a 27-7, while Samantha Newton was third in the discus and Braxton continued her production by finishing sixth.

All three of the Lady Mavs relay teams posted second-place finishes — the team of Sonya Ortega, Majers, Braxton and Green posting a 54.46 in the 400-meter relay; Braxton, Jeanene Richards, Newton and Rene Williams putting up a 2:02.23 in the 800-meter relay; and the foursome of Green, Majers, Sara Acevedo and Richards crossing the tape in the 1,600-meter relay with a 4:43.67.

Acevedo added a second in the 1,600 meters and fifth in the 800, while teammate Erica Stewart was third in the 800.

Richards was sixth in the 100 meters, while Majers and Rene Williams finished second and sixth in the 200.

Rounding out the Lady Mavs' finishes were Whitney Opeppard's fourth and Phillips' sixth in the 300-meter hurdles.

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