

BIG SPRING HERALD

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"Reflecting a proud community"

50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

MONDAY
May 10, 1999



**Positively ...
Big Spring**

**Tickets on sale for
Wednesday chamber
community luncheon**

Tickets are now on sale for Wednesday's quarterly luncheon hosted by the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce.

Tickets for the 11:45 a.m. luncheon at the Dora Roberts Community Center are \$7 each and are available at the chamber.

WHAT'S UP...

TODAY

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

□ Howard County NAACP, 7 p.m., Chamber of Commerce conference room.
□ Big Spring Amateur Radio Club, 7 p.m., Club House.

□ Big Spring Comandery No. 31, 7:30 p.m., Masonic Temple, 211 1/2 Main. 6:30 p.m. dinner.

□ Big Spring Assembly No. 211, Social Order of the Beauceant, 7:30 p.m., Masonic Temple, 211 1/2 Main. 6:30 p.m. dinner.

TUESDAY

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

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.

□ Christmas in April, noon, Lions Club Den, 1607 E. Third.

□ Friends of the Library, noon, Howard County Library.

WEATHER

Tonight:



PARTLY CLOUDY

TONIGHT
60°-62°

TUESDAY
92°-95°

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Vol. 96, No. 169

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.

Allen Damron to open Pops in the Park's July 3 show

By JOHN H. WALKER
Managing Editor

Plans are moving along for the second Pops in the Park fireworks display and patriotic music presentation in the Comanche Trail Park Amphitheater on Saturday, July 3.



JENNINGS

"We're continuing to work to

raise money to help fund the project," explained July Fourth Foundation Committee member Carroll Jennings.

Jennings said the Pops celebration, which has a budget of \$30,000, is being presented by the City of Big Spring, Big Spring Symphony, Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce and Big Spring Herald.

Last year, an estimated 5,500 persons filled the Amphitheater to view the presentation while police were forced to close the park to traffic when the crowds reached an estimated 10,000 per-

sons inside the park.

Attendees this year will be treated to an expanded show, with well-known Texas performer Allen Damron scheduled to open the program at 6 p.m.

Damron, who is considered to be a Texas legend, is well-known for his prowess as a singer and storyteller. His repertoire includes folk, maritime, humorous, historical, Irish, Spanish, Texan, Indian, cowboy and children's songs.

He was one of nine performers selected by the Texas Legislature to be a "Texas

Sesquicentennial Goodwill Ambassador to the World" and he is one of the founding fathers of the world-renowned Kerrville Folk Festival.

Following a 90-minute performance by Damron, the Big Spring Chorale will join the Symphony on stage at the Amphitheater for a presentation of a wide variety of music.

After a planned flyover, the tempo of the music will pick up — and turn patriotic — as Conductor Gene Smith leads the

See POPS, Page 2



ALLEN DAMRON

Carriers loaded down with 6,164 pounds of food

By MARSHA STURDIVANT
Staff Writer

Local and regional efforts Saturday to Stamp Out Hunger netted a 25 percent increase for the West Texas area, according to organizers of the eighth annual National Association of Letter Carriers.

"We did really, really well," said Pat Blevins, supervisor of customer service for the Big Spring post office.

Big Spring letter carriers gathered 6,164 pounds of canned and non-perishable food. The entire area gathered 50,253 pounds of food, she said.

"And Pecos, Kermit and Crane is still not in, so we will have even more than that," Blevins said.

The 1998 food drive collected about 40,000 pounds, she said.

Assisting letter carriers, who collected the food, were the CWA Local 6101, the AFL-CIO Local 351, the IBE-CO Union 2922 and Fire Workers Local 2922, she said.

"We really appreciate their help, and thank everyone for their work," Blevins said.

All the donated food was collected and transported to the West Texas Food Bank, she said.



Herald photo/Bill McClellan

Postal workers Brian Mayfield and Jesse Saenz get help from Lupe Canales and Stephen Gay (left to right) while dropping off goods at the West Texas Food Bank during Saturday's National Association of Letter Carriers "Stamp Out Hunger" drive.

HOG's thermal camera drive now at half-way point

By DEBBIE L. JENSEN
Features Editor

The community-wide fund drive for the thermal imaging camera has passed the halfway mark, Harley Owners Group members have announced.

HOG is spearheading a drive to raise nearly \$18,000 to buy the camera.

"We've got nine grand in the bank," said Barry Barnett of HOG. "We had a lot of organiza-

tions helping us." In particular, the local car clubs which recently sponsored a show and "cruise night" to benefit the camera fund, gave the drive a big boost, Barnett said.

"We're very grateful to everyone who's been helping us out on this," he said. "We really want to push it this summer and hope to have it done by September."

At that time, HOG members will be celebrating the 70th

anniversary of the Harley-Davidson Shop, Barnett said.

On Saturday, the next camera fundraiser is planned in the parking lot of the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. HOG members and other supporters will be selling hotdogs and soft drinks from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. to benefit the camera fund.

Motorcycles, fire trucks and other equipment will be on display for the public to see. HOG members and firefighters will

also be at the event to meet people who stop by.

"And we'll probably be out in the street, asking people to give," Barnett said.

Bob Stapp, of the Big Spring Professional Firefighters Association, said the group extends its thanks to all those who have helped in the drive so far.

"And we sure hope other peo-

See CAMERA, Page 2

Sonic, KBST team up to help collect items to help relieve Oklahoma tornado victims

By BILL MCCLELLAN
News Editor

Big Spring Sonic Drive-In owner Mike Abusaab watched as his employees loaded boxes of clothing and household goods which are destined for the relief effort in Oklahoma following last week's tornadoes.

"People are absolutely generous," he said. "The response we have received has been overwhelming, and we've just been doing this a few days."

West Texas area Sonic Drive-Ins, including the one in Big Spring, are teaming up in an effort to send supplies to victims of the storms which caused an estimated \$500 million in

damage, 41 deaths and almost 750 injuries.

Abusaab said he was told the victims were in need of almost everything.

"They need clothes, toothpaste, tooth brushes, sleeping bags. We'll take everything," he said.

The items will be loaded into trucks and taken to Midland, where Federal Express will send them to Oklahoma City for distribution by the Feed The Children Foundation.

Citizens wishing to make donations of clothing, non-perishable food, household goods, or other items can take them to any Sonic Drive-In.

"We're also accepting monetary donations for anyone who

would like to help that way," said Abusaab. "Checks should be made out to Feed The Children Foundation, and we'll send them along, too."

KBST Radio is assisting in the project and donations can be dropped off at the station, 608 Johnson St.

This is the second time in the past year that area Sonics have helped in relief efforts. Last year, they assisted in the aftermath of flooding in Del Rio.

"We thought then that we would probably get one truckload and we ended up with six truckloads," said Abusaab. "I think we'll probably do as well this time, too. People are really responding. West Texas has very caring people."



HERALD photo/Bill McClellan

Donations to Oklahoma tornado victims are being loaded into a truck by Sonic employees James McComb, Pat Gomez, owner Mike Abusaab, J.P. Sherman, and Jimmy Archer.

Wilderness Camp housing on city council's agenda for Tuesday

By MARSHA STURDIVANT
Staff Writer

Housing for the Wilderness Camp is on the agenda again Tuesday for Big Spring City Council when it meets at 5:15 p.m. in council chambers.



FUQUA

"We still have two options and we've explored both of those. We've sent the information to the Texas Department of

Corrections and have asked for their guidance. We're waiting on word from them, and we're keeping our fingers crossed that we hear from them before the council meeting," city manager Gary Fuqua said this morning.

Council members tabled consideration of a location for the facility two weeks ago when a site which had previously been unavailable came available at the last minute.

The Wilderness Camp holds inmates from the Texas Department of Criminal Justice who are allowed to work on projects in the community. City

officials estimate that the labor provided by the approximately 100 inmates amounts to a savings for the community of \$50,000 monthly.

However, current housing is inadequate for the program and the city is trying to find a another site.

Also, a first reading of a resolution increasing the lease agreement with Cornell Corrections Inc. is expected to be approved.

"Cornell is making an \$8 million investment in their expansion, and their bank has asked them to ask us to consolidate all

four leases into a 50-year contract," Fuqua said.

Currently, the Cedar Hills lease is set at 50 years, while the other three are set at 35 years each, he said.

Among other new business on the agenda, the oath of office will be administered to newly elected council members Stephanie Horton and Chuck Cawthon.

Other new business would authorize the city manager to execute amendments to enter into an agreement with Poka Lambro.

Other items are submission of

Water Colorado City joins Angelo in rationing use of water

By JOHN H. WALKER
Managing Editor

While the extended West Texas drought has caused both San Angelo and Colorado City to implement mandatory water rationing measures, Big Spring city officials see no need to restrict water usage at this point.

City Manager Gary Fuqua told a gathering of community leaders at last week's Community Round Table that while the city would encourage voluntary conservation on the part of its citizens, there were no plans to implement mandatory restrictions.

"Because of the foresight of the CRMWD (Colorado River Municipal Water District), we have water to use without having to worry about running out," Fuqua said.

CRMWD, now in its 50th year, has never restricted the use of water by either a member city (Big Spring, Snyder and Odessa) or a contract customer.

But that's not the case in Colorado City, where mandatory measures were implemented effective May 1.

With Champion Creek Reservoir, the main source of water for Colorado City, at just 17 percent of its capacity and Lake Colorado City just 40 percent full, city officials put the mandatory plan into action.

City manager Steve Shutt has

See WATER, Page 2

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Twisters roam West, North Texas; no injuries or major damage reported

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

Thunderstorms pounded parts of Texas overnight, with a radio tower and electric lines blown down and several twisters sighted.

No injuries had been reported by 8 a.m. from the storms, which blew in with a cool front.

A twister was reported just south of Alvin this morning, but no damage was reported, a Brazoria County sheriff's dispatcher said.

National Weather Service radar detected a tornado just after midnight west of Rocksprings and a radio tower was blown down near San

Angelo, according to Tom Green County sheriff's officers. A building's roof was torn off near Robert Lee and two mobile homes were damaged in the area.

Tornadoes also were reported late Sunday near Post, about 30 miles southeast of Lubbock, and at the Dickens County

Correctional Center, near Spur, which is 50 miles east of Lubbock. No damage was reported in Post, and the prison warden at Dickens reported only minor structure and fence damage.

Another twister was spotted by radar west of Sanger near Denton. Storm spotters said winds toppled a high-voltage electric transmission line across a farm-to-market road.

Another tornado warning was posted for the Granbury area when rotation was identified within a squall line over Lipan. Residents of Oak Trail Shores

north of Granbury were alerted, but no twister touched down.

Wind gusts exceeding 60 mph accompanied the storms, which also dumped hail up to three-quarter inch in diameter in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. Other large hail fell in McCulloch County and near Brownwood, where some homes and underpasses were flooded.

The Panhandle was also pounded. Golfball-size hail fell near Canyon. Dime-size hail fell near Washburn, Wayside, Lipscomb and Darrouzett.

The system ravaged the Houston area in the predawn

hours, snapping trees, damaging some roofs and snarling rush hour traffic. Despite tornado warnings in some Houston-area counties, no twisters were confirmed.

A Texas Department of Public Safety trooper spotted twisters along Interstate 10 between Sheffield and Bakersfield, where hail was almost three inches in diameter. Hail up to 2 inches in diameter broke out a DPS patrol car's windshield near Pecos.

Winds gusted to 60 mph east of Samnorwood and near Collingsworth.

23 killed in gambling bus crash

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — The ponytailed woman searched the faces outside the golf clubhouse, seeking a scrap of news about her mother.

"Which was the worst? The back or the front?" she asked.

On the charter bus trips with her casino club, the mother liked to ride up front. Now the daughter sought reassurance that she might not be among 23 people killed when the club's bus ran off a highway Sunday — Mother's Day.

"It was all the same. They told me they all flew forward," said a woman in black checked shorts, waiting to learn about her own mother.

Neither had yet seen the news pictures that showed the bus's glass front crumpled and facing the ground, the left front wheels pushed atop the big compartment below the driver's seat, the floor shoved within feet of the roof. The rear two-thirds looked almost intact.

Terrell Walker, safety director for Custom Bus Charters, which chartered the bus for the trip to Casino Magic in Bay St. Louis, Miss., said the driver told him the bus had been cut off by a car.

The bus, traveling east on Interstate 610, swerved across all three lanes of the highway and off the road, crossing a narrow, paved golf cart path that emerges from a tunnel next to

the highway and crashing down one embankment and up the other.

It came to rest on a flat, grassy area along the highway where it passes through one of the city's biggest parks.

People flew out of the windows when the bus finally stopped alongside a small stand of trees just past the embankment, said Linda Watkins, who had been driving just behind the bright red bus.

Federal law does not require seat belts in excursion buses. Only driver Frank Bedell, 49, of New Orleans, was wearing one. He was among 18 people hospitalized late Sunday, half of them in critical or guarded condition.

Watkins said she saw a white car swerve in front of the bus, and the bus changed lanes. Then the white car swerved back in front of the bus, which ran off the road.

Margaret Messore and her husband arrived moments later.

"There were people scattered around the ground and people hanging out the front of the bus that were unconscious or dead," she said.

Golfers who had come through the path moments before the crash and Mrs. Messore's husband broke windows to get people out before the arrival of rescue workers, who had to brace the bus with timbers and use ladders to

reach its windows.

It was the worst traffic accident in city history, Mayor Marc Morial said. He none of the dead would be identified until relatives were notified.

Walker, of the charter company, said 46 people were on the bus, but the list of passengers was lost in the wreckage.

The trip started in La Place, La., 26 miles west of New Orleans. Four more people had been waiting to board the bus in New Orleans, including Charlene Schexnider, who has traveled with the group for years.

"I consider everybody on the bus my friend," she said.

The people on the bus were members of a club who go to the casino twice a month, said George Tassin. Eight members of his family, mostly women on a Mother's Day trip, were on the bus, and his wife, daughter and an aunt were among the injured, he said.

He said his aunt was making her first trip since the recent death of her husband.

"My aunt finally decided to go this one time and this happened," he said.

Four gambling charter buses crashed in New Jersey en route to Atlantic City in late December and early January. One crash on Christmas Eve killed eight people and injured 15 others.

PROPERTY TAX PROTEST AND APPEAL PROCEDURES

published by:
Howard Co. Appraisal Dist.
P.O. Drawer 1151
Big Spring, Tx. 79721-1151

The law gives property owners the right to protest actions concerning their property tax appraisals. You may follow these appeal procedures if you have a concern about:

- the value placed on your property
- any exemptions that may apply to you
- the cancellation of an agricultural appraisal
- the taxable status of your property
- the local governments which should be taxing your property
- any action taken by the appraisal district that adversely affected you.

Informal Review

Taxpayers are encouraged to make an appointment with an appraiser to discuss their property value. You should bring information to substantiate why you feel the property value is incorrect.

Review by the Appraisal Review Board

If you can't resolve your problem informally with the appraisal district staff you may have your case heard by the appraisal review board (ARB).

The ARB is an independent board of citizens that reviews problems with appraisal or other concerns listed above. It has the power to order the appraisal district to make the necessary changes to solve problems. If you file a written request for an ARB hearing (called a notice of protest) before the deadline, the ARB will set your case for a hearing. You'll receive written notice of the time, date and place of hearing. The hearing will be informal. You and the appraisal district representative will be asked to present evidence about your case. The ARB will make its decision based on the evidence presented. You can get a copy of a protest form from your local appraisal office.

Note: You shouldn't try to contact ARB members outside of the hearing. The law requires ARB members to sign an affidavit saying that they haven't talked about your case before the ARB hears it.

Review by the District Court

After it decides your case, the ARB must send you a copy of its order by certified mail. If you're not satisfied with the decision, you have the right to appeal to district court. If you choose to go to court, you must start the process by filing a petition within 45 days of the date you receive the ARB's order. If the appraisal district has appraised your property at \$1,000,000 or more, you must file a notice of appeal with the Chief Appraiser within 15 days of the date you receive the ARB's order.

More Information

You can get more information by contacting your local appraisal district office. You can also get a pamphlet describing how to prepare a protest from the appraisal district or from the State Comptroller's Property Tax Division at P.O. Box 13528, Austin, Texas 78711-3528.

DEADLINE FOR FILING PROTEST WITH THE ARB*

Usual Deadline

On or before May 31 (or 30 days after a notice of appraised value was mailed to you, whichever is later).

Late protests are allowed if you miss the usual deadline for good cause. Good cause is some reason beyond your control, like a medical emergency. The ARB decides whether you have good cause.

Late protests are due the day before the appraisal review board approves records for the year. Contact your appraisal district for more information.

Special Deadlines

For change of use (the appraisal district informed you that you are losing agricultural appraisal because you changed the use of your land), the deadline is before the 30th day after the notice of the determination was mailed to you.

For ARB changes (the ARB has informed you of a change that increases your tax liability and the change didn't result from a protest you filed), the deadline is before the 30th day after the notice of the determination was mailed to you.

If you believe the appraisal district or ARB should have sent you a notice and did not, you may file a protest until the day before taxes become delinquent (usually February 1). The ARB decides whether it will hear your case based on evidence about whether a required notice was mailed to you.

*The deadline is postponed to the next business day if it falls on a weekend or holiday.

FOR COMPLETE AREA SPORTS COVERAGE, READ THE HERALD.

Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce

cordially invites you to the

Spring Community Luncheon

Wednesday, May 12, 1999

11:45 A.M.

Dora Roberts Community Center

100 Whipkey Dr.

Tickets: \$7.00

Available at the

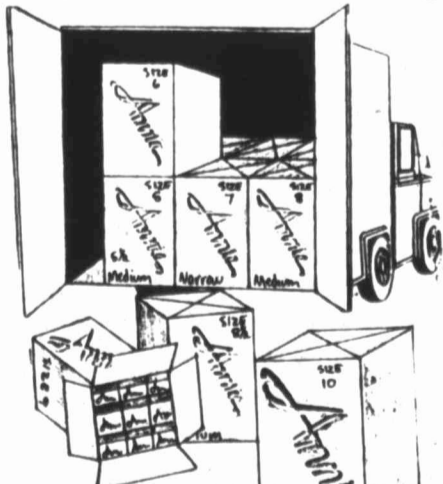
Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce

Catered by

Al's BBQ

MIGHTY MAY DAYS

SALE STARTS TUESDAY 10 A.M.! ★ STOCK REDUCTION SALE ★



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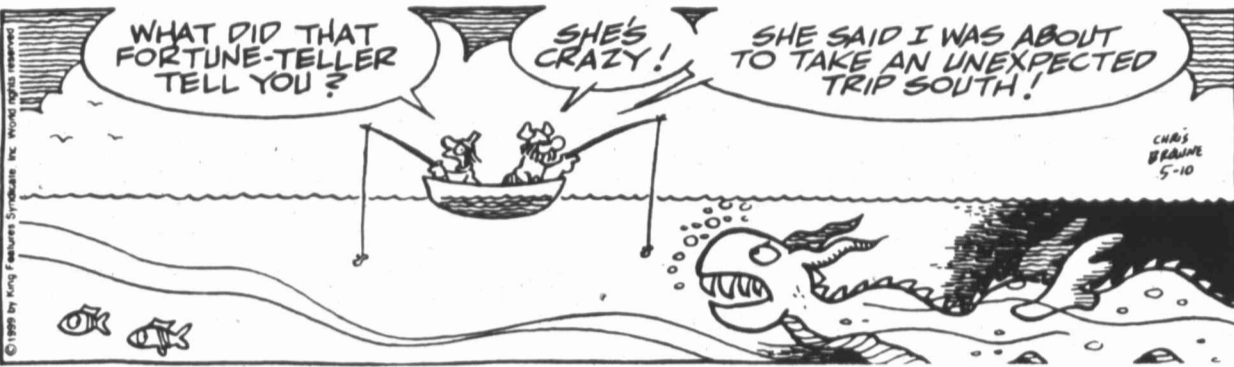
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OPEN 10 AM-6 PM

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Channel	Time	Program	Channel	Time	Program	Channel	Time	Program	Channel	Time	Program	Channel	Time	Program	Channel	Time	Program	Channel	Time	Program																																													
KMID (2)	6:30	News (CC)	KPEJ (3)	7:00	20/20 (CC)	KERA (5)	8:00	Antiques Roadshow	FAM (6)	8:30	Life, Camera, Action	KOSA (7)	9:00	20/20 (CC)	WFAA (8)	9:30	20/20 (CC)	KWES (9)	10:00	20/20 (CC)	WTBS (11)	10:30	20/20 (CC)	UNI (13)	11:00	20/20 (CC)	DISN (14)	11:30	20/20 (CC)	NASH (15)	12:00	20/20 (CC)	TMC (16)	12:30	20/20 (CC)	SHOW (20)	1:00	20/20 (CC)	HBO (22)	1:30	20/20 (CC)	KMLM (24)	2:00	20/20 (CC)	A&E (25)	2:30	20/20 (CC)	DISC (26)	3:00	20/20 (CC)	TNT (28)	3:30	20/20 (CC)	FSN (29)	4:00	20/20 (CC)	ESPN (30)	4:30	20/20 (CC)	AMC (31)	5:00	20/20 (CC)	BET (33)	5:30	20/20 (CC)

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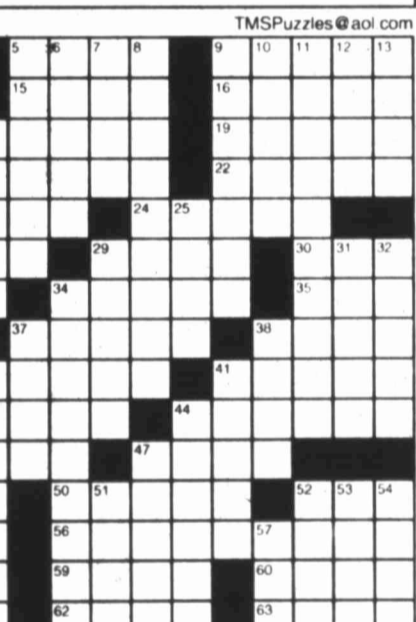
THIS DATE IN HISTORY

The ASSOCIATED PRESS
Today is Monday, May 10, the 130th day of 1999. There are 235 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:
One hundred years ago, on May 10, 1899, movie musical star Fred Astaire was born in Omaha, Neb.
On this date:
In 1774, Louis the 16th ascended the throne of France.

THE Daily Crossword

- Edited by Wayne Robert Williams
- ACROSS
- At any time
 - Leveling device
 - Earn
 - Musical postscript
 - Writer Morrison
 - Ascend
 - Playful pranks
 - Parakeet
 - enclosures
 - Keats opus
 - Gibb and Griffith
 - Cigar residue
 - Baltic capital
 - Country occupied by China
 - Without much color
 - "Mr. Mom" star
 - Sure shot
 - Perfect places
 - Adorable one
 - 11th month
 - Coffee shop
 - Hebrew lawgiver
 - Make eyes at
 - Fitting
 - Keats opus
 - Beauty business
 - To the degree
 - Silver and Perlman
 - Errand boys
 - Grace closings
 - Does wrong
 - Gin's partner
 - Singer Gorme
 - Neighbor of Wash.
 - Muddle
 - Inexpensive
 - Mortgage attachments
 - Niagara's source
 - Dressing gown
 - Surrenders by treaty
 - Lairs
 - Mini-army
- DOWN
- Reverberation
 - Cardless suit
 - Verge
 - Collegiate cheer
 - Tightfisted
 - Japanese automobile maker
 - Very black
 - Says wrong
 - Bloodcurdling
 - Delete
 - 90-degree turn
 - Words of understanding
 - Hardy lass
 - Holding cells
 - Clair or Coty
 - Showy flower
 - Pie nut
 - Make adjustments
 - Like a southpaw
 - Sudden winds
 - Tint
 - Levels
 - Advised
 - Phobos or Phoebe
 - Lummoxes
 - Garfield's pal
 - Time long past
 - Windows image
 - Liability
 - Summertime quaffs
 - One of the Gershwins



By Frances Burton
Summerville, GA



BIG SPRING Herald

Reflecting a Proud Texas Community

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