

BIG SPRING HERALD

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

SUNDAY

May 28, 2000

WEATHER

Today:



TODAY 90°-95° TONIGHT 63°-67°

Trinity Memorial Park will host annual ceremony

The annual Howard County Memorial Day ceremony at Trinity Memorial Park will be 2 p.m. today. The All Veterans Council of Howard County and the VA Medical Center of Big Spring will sponsor the event. Each veterans organization will lay a wreath at the main flag pole in honor of all Howard County veterans.

Ride to Remember group to gather at Memorial here

Some 150 to 200 motorcyclists will participate in the second annual "Ride to Remember" on Memorial Day.

A short service, which includes laying of the wreaths and the reading of a couple of short poems, will begin about 11:30 a.m. when the motorcyclists arrive at the Big Spring Vietnam Memorial.

The riders will get started at the Permian Basin Vietnam Memorial, located between the Midland International Airport and the Confederate Air Force headquarters, at around 9 or 9:30 a.m.

"A Ride to Remember" is a local portion of the "Rolling Thunder," a nationwide motorcycle ride to the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C.

WHAT'S UP...

MONDAY

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

TUESDAY

□ Intermediate line dance classes, 9 a.m., Senior Citizens Center, call 267-1628.

□ Big Spring Rotary Club, noon, Howard College Cactus Room.

WEDNESDAY

□ Optimist Club, 7 a.m., Howard College Cactus Room.
□ Senior Circle Big Spring Mall walkers meet 9:15 a.m. in front of movie theater box office.

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Vol. 97, No. 180

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.

Kiwanis Club invites area citizens to hear report on lawsuit reform advances in Texas

HERALD Staff Report

Ken Hoagland, director of communications for Texans for Lawsuit Reform, will speak at a noon luncheon of the Kiwanis Club of Big Spring on Thursday in the Cactus Room at Howard College.

The public is invited. "We feel like this is important information that the public needs to know about," said Billy T. Smith, Kiwanis Club secretary-treasurer.

Hoagland will speak on the impact of frivolous lawsuits and their effect on the Texas Economy.

"One of the most important public policy issues in Texas for individuals, businesses and professionals is the issue of lawsuit abuse and the increasingly

LAWSUIT REFORM

When: Noon Thursday
Where: Howard College Cactus Room.
Who: Ken Hoagland, Texans for Lawsuit Reform
Sponsor: Kiwanis Club of Big Spring.
Lunch Reservations: \$5.25, call Billy T. Smith, 267-6479 by 5 p.m. Monday.

litigious nature of our society," a release from the Texas for Lawsuit Reform (TLR) stated.

Hoagland will concentrate on recent legislative measures designed to address lawsuit

abuse in Texas and will also outline future legislative priorities for Howard County area citizens who are concerned about the issue.

Among the TLR-supported bills that passed during the most recent legislative session were ones that:

- Builds a check and balance into the awarding of government-sponsored contingency fees.

- Defines legal liability for businesses that make good faith efforts to address computer products and services associated with the year 2000.

- Bans suits by governmental entities against firearm manufacturers for crimes committed with guns. It prevents plaintiff

See REFORM, Page 2A

Fly your flag!



MEMORIAL DAY 2000

2 P.M. TODAY — 15TH ANNUAL HOWARD COUNTY MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY, TRINITY MEMORIAL PARK
11:30 A.M. MONDAY — RIDE TO REMEMBER SERVICE, VIETNAM MEMORIAL, CORNER OF SWORDS AND RACKLEY

Pops!

Preparations going well for annual celebration in Comanche Trail Park

By CARL GRAHAM
Staff Writer

According to Pops In The Park committee member Andi Andrews-York, preparations for this year's big event are going well.

"Everything seems to be shaping up and looking good," said York.

"The fireworks have been ordered and local and area media coverage has been arranged. It's going to be a great one once again."

York said the decorations committee, Pat Simmons and Pam Brewer, would be decorating the place in red, white and blue.

"With it being the Fourth of July, you just about have to go with our national colors of red, white, and blue," said York. "The decoration committee always does a great job so I know it will really look good."

Clay Grizzle, Howard College

drama director, is in charge of the stage and everything is going well there, according to York.

York is in charge of this year's talent show which will be going on prior to the annual fireworks display at dusk.

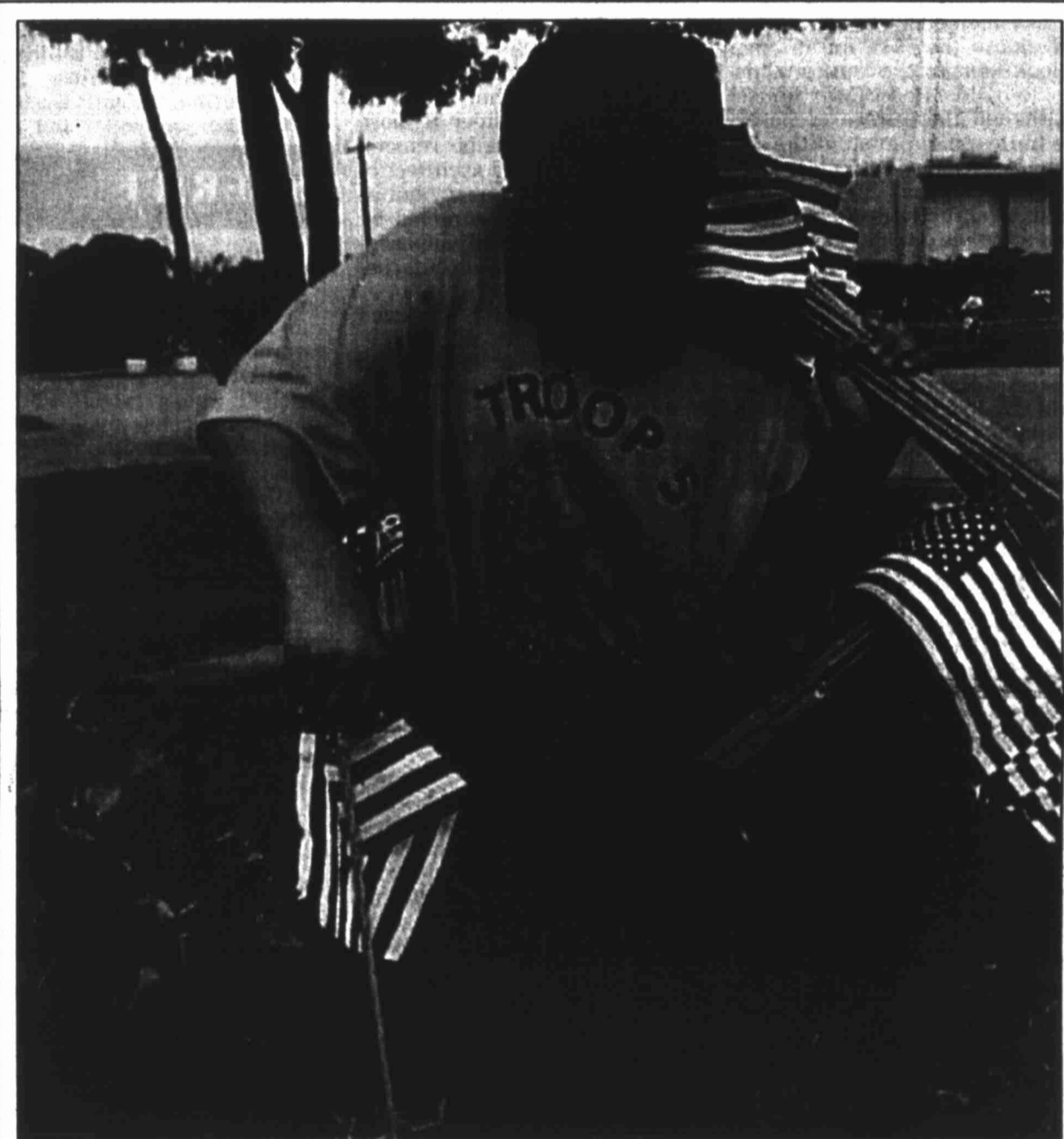
"We are currently accepting people who would like to perform in our talent show," said York. "We are looking for family-appropriate talent such as individual and group singing, short skits, musical instruments, or anything that would be considered tasteful."

York can be contacted at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce office at 263-7641 for those interested in performing in the talent show.

Randy Roberts is in charge of the sound system and has procured a company to handle all the sound needs for the event.

York said anyone desiring to run a concession stand should contact Richard Steele, who is in charge of that project. Concession stand prices are \$30 for a non-profit organization and \$50 for a commercial booth. Sale of alcohol beverages is prohibited.

See POPS, Page 2A



Cody Chandler, of the Boy Scouts Buffalo Trail Council, was one of many boys placing miniature flags on veteran's graves Saturday at Trinity Memorial Park in preparation for the annual Howard County Memorial Day ceremony at the cemetery at 2 p.m. today.

Coahoma High School graduating seniors receive scholarships

By GINA GARZA
Staff Writer

Coahoma High School seniors received scholarships during their commencement ceremonies at 7 p.m. in the Coahoma stadium Friday night. Those receiving scholarships were:

Amy Abrego — Howard College Honors Scholarship and Keating Memorial Scholarship.

Brett Bennett — Lubbock Christian University Basketball Scholarship.

Blair Marlana — Athletic Booster Club Scholarship, Doris Tiller Memorial Scholarship and Howard College Honors Scholarship.

Walt Bordelon — Dora Roberts Scholarship.

Robert Boyett — Coahoma Area Merchant's Scholarship, Doris Tiller Memorial

Scholarship and Howard College Honors Scholarship.

Marc Ditto — Christian Youth Service Scholarship, Howard College Honors Scholarship, Keating Memorial Scholarship and Wendell Lawrence Scholarship.

Gary Hale — Sports Productions, Inc. Scholarship.

Mandi Hanslik — FFA Booster Club Scholarship South Plains College Livestock

Judging Scholarship.

Kris Harding — Athletic Booster Club Scholarship and Dora Roberts Scholarship.

Carmen Hipp — Christian Youth Service Scholarship, Dora Roberts Scholarship, Dora Roberts Yearbook Scholarship, FFA Booster Club Scholarship, Howard College Honors Scholarship and Howard County Fair Queen Scholarship.

Ken Hogan — Midland College Counselor's Scholarship.

Kris Lynn — Dora Roberts Scholarship.

Kirstin Marshall — Dora Roberts Diplomat Scholarship, Howard College Honors Scholarship.

Tyler Marshall — Angelo State University Carr Academic

Scholarship.

See COAHOMA, Page 2A

Salvation Army still seeks fans for needy households

By GINA GARZA
Staff Writer

The Salvation Army is in desperate need for fans to help out those who have no air conditioning.

"We are in need of fans," said Maj. Ron Alexander. "It doesn't matter what kind — floor, window and table. We just want to keep people cool."

According to Danelle Castillo, social services director, the Salvation Army, has received six to eight fans and about \$200 to \$300 in donations.

"We have already given out these fans," she said. "There was a single mom with five children and we gave them two fans. We have also given a fan to an elderly woman."

Castillo added that many home health agencies are

requesting fans for their patients.

Due to the high heat so far this year, many people are finding themselves without fans to help cool themselves.

According to the United States Department of Agriculture, the temperature in Howard County area has hit 100 or above for seven days this year.

You can drop off fans at the Big Spring Herald, 710 Scurry, or at the Salvation Army, 811 W. Fifth. Hours at the Salvation Army are from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, and the Herald hours are from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

"If people just want to donate money, we'll accept that too."

See FANS, Page 2A



Domaz Diaz, from left, Ysidro Diaz, Martha Diaz, Hector Diaz and Martin Diaz Jr., receive one of the fans from Danelle Castillo and Major Ron Alexander of the Salvation Army.

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Memorial Day dedication set for Temple veterans home

DALLAS (AP) — State Land Commissioner David Dewhurst and other state officials have planned a Memorial Day ceremony to dedicate the first of four specialized long-term nursing homes for the exclusive use of Texas veterans and their families.

The new facility in Temple is named in honor of the late William R. Courtney, a former Temple mayor and decorated World War II Army veteran.

Dewhurst, who also serves as chairman of the Texas Veterans

Land Board, said similar facilities should be completed later this year in Floresville, Big Spring and Bonham to serve the state's 1.6 million veterans.

Dewhurst said the homes will be open to all Texas veterans, and to their dependents and survivors on a limited basis.

Lawmakers in 1997 authorized the Veterans Land Board to issue up to \$50 million in bonds for construction of the facilities. Dewhurst said there was enough remaining money to build 12 more if the federal gov-

ernment continues to foot two-thirds of the bill.

He said the federal Veterans Administration has estimated that Texas eventually will need 42 such homes.

According to Dewhurst, a third of Texas veterans are age 65 or older, and many of those are in need of specialized care.

"They are suffering from service-related injuries, Alzheimer's disease or other older age disabilities," he said.

Each home will have 160 beds and include special sec-

tions for Alzheimer's patients and survivors and family members of veterans. The homes will be open only to those who doctors say need specialized care, Dewhurst said.

Dewhurst will deliver the keynote address at Monday's opening in Temple. Political and military figures also will be on hand, including U.S. Rep. Chet Edwards, D-Waco; state Reps. David Counts, D-Knox City, and Dianne Delisi, R-Temple; and Brig. Gen. Jeanette Edmunds.

Student in school prayer fight mentions Jesus at graduation

SANTA FE (AP) — As the U.S. Supreme Court mulls the appropriateness of student-sponsored prayer at public school events, a girl at the high school that brought the case invoked Jesus Christ's name during commencement ceremonies.

Marian Ward, wearing her green cap and gown, asked all in attendance Friday night at Santa Fe High School's football stadium to join her for the invocation.

"Let us bow our heads and give this day to the Lord," she said, her voice sometimes trembling as she continued through the prayer. The Galveston County Daily News reported Saturday.

The crowd erupted in applause after Ward closed by saying, "I pray that you'll be with the graduates. Bless this ceremony, in Jesus' name. Amen."

The family of Debbie Mason sat silently as her peers cheered. She later said she was

protesting a prayer she had asked school officials not to allow, saying some might not agree with a Christian prayer.

Mason, a Baptist, has been active in supporting plaintiffs who successfully sued the Santa Fe Independent School District over the football game-prayer issue.

Ward's prayer appears to have violated a ruling by the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, which outlawed any public prayer at public high school football games and limited prayers at graduations to non-sectarian and non-proselytizing speech.

Protesters lined up outside the very same Galveston County stadium last August when Ward delivered a pregame prayer, in defiance of the 5th Circuit.

The district, backed by the state of Texas and Attorney General John Cornyn, argued their case before the Supreme Court in March. A decision is expected later this year.

Reform Party blames Buchanan for petition drive failure

DALLAS (AP) — The chairman of the Texas Reform Party blames presidential hopeful Pat Buchanan for their failure to gather enough signatures to get 18 state and local candidates on the ballot for November elections.

Party chairman Larry Steele said volunteers will be unable to gather the required 38,000 petition signatures by the Tuesday deadline. He blamed Buchanan, who has submitted signatures to qualify as an independent candidate in Texas, for

diverting resources from the party.

"The Reform Party did not get a penny in assistance from Mr. Buchanan," party chairman Larry Steele said of Buchanan. "He would have been a hero if he would have helped us, in the state that is the birthplace of the Reform Party, to get on the ballot."

Buchanan submitted his Texas petitions May 8 and is trying to meet petition deadlines in Georgia and Oklahoma. His campaign also is working

through Reform Party state conventions to gain delegates to the national convention in August in Long Beach, Calif.

The secretary of state's office is verifying his petitions and expects to determine in July whether he has enough valid signatures.

"Texas is such a difficult state that you need both a big name and big money to get the job done. The big name and money went into the independent candidate's petition instead of the party petition," said Russell

Verney of Dallas, a former national party chairman.

"The fallout is that the people who have been working within the vineyards of the party for the last four years are left standing high and dry."

The Reform Party, an outgrowth of the candidacy of Dallas businessman Ross Perot, never has been listed on the Texas ballot.

Perot also qualified as an independent.

Buchanan also has qualified in Hawaii and South Dakota.

Lawmakers hold party for concealed hand gun law

AUSTIN (AP) — Supporters of the controversial concealed hand gun law threw it a fifth birthday party Friday, offering as a gift a study that claims licensed gun owners commit fewer violent crimes in Texas than other people.

The House Speaker's committee room was decorated with red, white and blue balloons, and a cake shaped like the Texas flag read: "Happy Birthday Concealed Hand Gun Law."

Before the law was passed, "the doomsday scenarios were predicted universally by most of the (editorial) boards in the states and by most of the citizens," said former state Sen. Jerry Patterson, who co-authored the law in 1995.

That hasn't happened, he said. He offered the study as his

proof. "I feel vindicated, quite frankly," said Rep. Ron Wilson, D-Houston, co-author of the bill with Patterson, R-Pasadena.

According to the report, the population of Texas has an arrest rate for violent crime that is 5.5 times higher than that of concealed hand gun license holders. The murder and non-negligent manslaughter rate is 1.4 times higher than those people who legally carry a concealed hand gun, the study said.

About 220,000 Texans have concealed hand gun licenses.

The study analyzes crime data provided by the Texas Department of Public Safety from 1996 through 1998, the first three years the law was in effect. It was conducted by Bill Sturdivent, an engineer from

Navasota.

"I think they have twisted the numbers again. I think that it's obvious that people with concealed hand gun licenses are not going to be arrested at the same rate as the general population. That's a no brainer because you are only supposed to get a concealed hand gun license if you are a highly reliable and responsible citizen," said Nina Butts of Texans Against Gun Violence.

"We're talking about human life and gun violence, and we have not seen proof that this law has really caused crime to be prevented."

Lower crime rates have nothing to do with the law, she said.

Butts' group earlier released a dueling report that said more than 940 Texans holding concealed hand gun licenses were

arrested between 1996 and 1998, and 263 of those were felony arrests ranging from drug charges to murder.

Sturdivent said that and other studies unfavorable to licensed gun owners do not properly analyze crime data or do fair comparisons. He also said that 55 percent of license holders convicted of violent crimes are cleared.

Just last week, protesters called for the licensing and registration of handguns in addition to a repeal of the concealed carry law, signed by Gov. George W. Bush, the presumptive Republican presidential nominee. Patterson and Wilson were joined by Reps. Ray Allen, R-Grand Prairie; Leo Berman, R-Tyler; Bob Turner, D-Coleman; and Suzanne Hupp, R-Lampasas.

School refutes lawsuit's claim that teachers threw out Bibles

HOUSTON (AP) — Planning to fight a lawsuit, Willis school district officials deny that teachers confiscated and threw away Bibles, or ordered students to remove religious book covers.

"The district has investigated these allegations and determined that they are unfounded," school officials said in a prepared statement. "Students at Willis Independent School District have not been told they cannot bring Bibles to school, and Bibles have not been confiscated or thrown into the trash."

District spokeswoman Judy Thornton told the Houston Chronicle the district has no policy calling for seizure of Bibles from pupils.

She also said school policy does not prohibit the reading

of Bibles during free-reading time.

In a lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court in Houston, the Florida-based Liberty Counsel, a legal watchdog group, alleges that Lynn Lucas Middle School teacher Sara Flotman threw away Bibles owned by 15-year-old Angela and 13-year-old Amber Harbison, saying, "This is garbage."

The Harbisons' claims are among eight allegations that the school district violated the U.S. and Texas constitutions. The allegations include freedom of religion and freedom of speech violations.

The lawsuit also claims the school district told three students to remove book covers with the Ten Commandments printed on them.

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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.

John H. Walker
Publisher
John A. Moseley
Managing Editor
Debbie Jensen
Features Editor
Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Ceremony gives us a chance to honor veterans

Today at 2 p.m., the All-Veterans Council of Howard County and the Veterans Administration Medical Center will join with Trinity Memorial Park to hold the 15th annual Howard County Memorial Day Ceremony. Today's ceremony gives us the opportunity to pay our respects to the men and women who served this great country though the military. No, not all of our veterans died in combat, but they all served us just the same. They all served to help preserve our lifestyle and, trite as it may sound to some, they served to preserve our life, liberty and the opportunity to pursue happiness. Confederate General Robert E. Lee said that it is good that war is so distasteful, least we grow fond of it, and while those of us who lost family or friends in war might prefer to forget, now is a time to remember. Today, make plans to attend these special ceremonies at Trinity Memorial Park and on Monday, fly your flag proudly. Let us remember the men and women who served our nation and let us pay our respects to them. God bless them for their service and may He never let us forget what they did so that we might have the opportunity to gather in order to pay our respects.

YOUR VIEWS

TO THE EDITOR:
On behalf of myself and all the seniors at the Spring City Senior Center, I would like to thank all the participants in the benefit for our Center that was held at the Big Spring Mall, Saturday May 20: the Big Spring Herald, KBST, Newsweek 9, Big Spring Mall, KBYG, Santa Fe Sandwiches, the Low Riders, the Line Dancers, the Freestyle Kings, Allan's Furniture and Sears for helping put it all together. All of you are greatly appreciated.
BOBBE... LEONARD, DIRECTOR

TO THE EDITOR:
I grew up during the height of the Cold War. I can remember people that had bomb shelters, doing bomb drills at school and remember slogans and bumper stickers that read, "better dead than red." I also remember names such as Khrushchev, Castro, Commie, Russia and Red China, which didn't mean a whole lot of at the time. All I remember my Dad saying about communism was that you had no freedom, and that the government watched you all the time to make sure that you were doing what they told you to do. The only real encounter that I had with communism was when we had to leave our South Florida home because of the Cuban missile crisis. As I look back on the last 25 years or so, some of these

rumors and conversations appear to be coming true, but not from Cuba, Russia or China. Here in America, the same thing is happening. Almost anywhere you go anymore there is a video camera "for your protection." The government, at some level, has rules or regulations for just about anything you do or want to do. They tell you what kind of gas to use in your lawnmower, not to hate other people, how old you have to be to drink, smoke or even buy glue. If they don't have it covered by a rule or regulation, then you have to get a license or permit. The government takes money out of your paycheck to give away to other people or countries. Everyone has to have a "national I.D. number" disguised as a social security card. Even the very money we earn is no longer gold or silver. But worst of all, our nation as part of a larger gang known as NATO or the UN randomly wages unprovoked war on smaller nations as part of a trumped-up "peacekeeping" effort. So, it looks as if childhood fears have realized courtesy of our own government. How do you remember that this country is not a democracy, not a republic?
TIM HATCHER, BIG SPRING

LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor. Please:
• Limit your letters to no more than 300 words.
• Sign your letter.
• Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
• Letters of a political nature will not be published.
• We reserve the right to edit letters for style and clarity.
• We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
• Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered for publication.
• We do not acknowledge receipt of letters.
• Letters from our circulation area will be given preference.
• Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721.

Court makes it tougher for parents to do their job

As if being a good parent were not already one of the most difficult jobs in America, the U.S. Supreme Court this week decided to make the job harder yet. In a 5-4 decision, the court struck down a provision of the 1996 Telecommunications Act, which forbids cable television companies from sending pornographic programs or channels into subscribers' homes between the hours of 6 a.m. and 10 p.m., unless the companies can completely block the signals from being transmitted to subscribers who have not ordered them. Under the law, adults who want to obtain pornographic channels may order them from cable or satellite companies, but those who do not want to receive them may have the channels "blocked." This provision remains unchanged by the court. The problem, however, is the technical difficulty of effectively blocking sexually



LINDA CHAVEZ

explicit images and audio, which sometimes "bleed" onto television screens, anyway. Cable companies often use cheap and imperfect blocking technology, either by design — to entice new viewers — or because it is uneconomical to do otherwise. Therefore, a television set tuned to the "blocked" channel may still pick up, intermittently, both pictures and sounds of whatever happens to be on at that moment. So, what might youngsters happen across while channel surfing? Well, Playboy channel, for example, describes its programming as depicting "female/masturbation," "girl/girl sex" and "oral sex." And Playboy may not be the worst. In enacting the 1996 telecommunication law, Congress set out to protect children from this material, while not unduly restricting adults from obtaining pornography if they want it. Congress gave cable companies a choice: They could either use sophisticated technology to ensure both pictures and audio were fully blocked from subscribers who did not want to receive them, or they could restrict transmission of pornography to after 10 p.m. and before 6 a.m.

But these sensible restrictions were too much for the court, which decided the rules placed an undue burden on cable companies and pornographers. So, now, the court has struck them down, leaving parents no protection for their children, and tying Congress' hands to devise realistic alternatives. Is it any wonder that parents feel besieged by forces beyond their control or influence? It has become increasingly difficult — no, make that virtually impossible — for parents to protect their children from the sex and violence that permeate our culture. It is everywhere. Scantly-clad or nude images appear on billboards and magazine covers, in newspaper advertisements and catalogs. Even network fare during the early evening hours makes sexual innuendo and repartee the staple of most sitcoms. And now, it's not only this soft-core material that will bombard homes, but the really vile stuff, too. In a biting dissent, Justice Stephen G. Breyer notes that some 22 million American children may be affected by this decision. The First Amendment doesn't protect the right of a man to stand up in the middle of a crowded theater and shout

"fire" when there is none. It doesn't protect the right of companies to make false and misleading claims on behalf of their products. It doesn't protect the rights of political candidates (or anyone else) from using a bullhorn in a residential neighborhood at 3 a.m. So, why does the First Amendment not allow Congress to restrict sexually prurient cable programming to the hours when most of these 22 million children will be fast asleep? "Congress has taken seriously the importance of maintaining adult access to the sexually explicit channels here at issue," Breyer writes. "It has tailored the restrictions to minimize their impact upon adults, while offering parents help in keeping unwanted transmissions from their children. By finding 'adequate alternatives' (to these restrictions) where there are none, the Court reduces Congress' protective power to the vanishing point. This is not what the First Amendment demands." Indeed not. Once again, the Supreme Court has behaved in imperious fashion, making law and defining rights where they do not exist. And America's families will be forever the worse for it.



May their sacrifices never be in vain

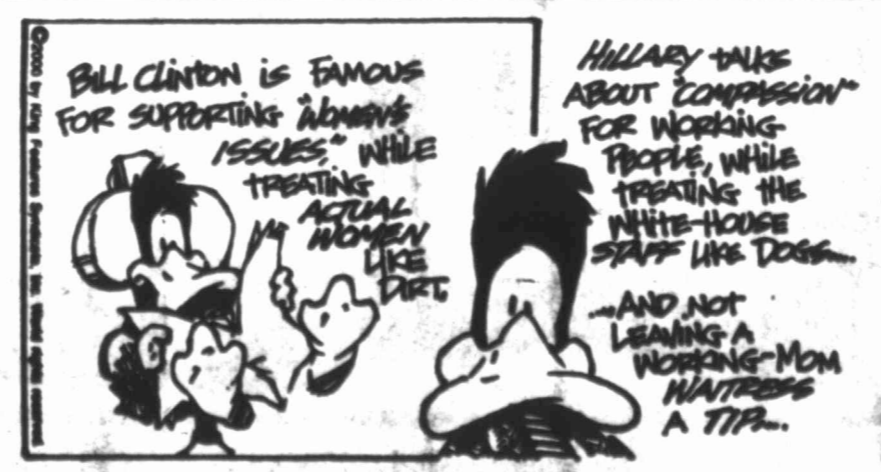
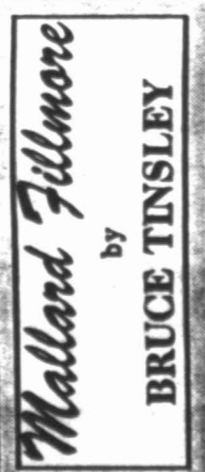
BISHOP DAVID R. BROWN
American Legion chaplain
More than 1 million men and women have lost their lives fighting for freedom in the U.S. armed forces. We can never reimburse the price they paid. We can summon no words to allay the pain of their loved ones. We can, and we should, honor America's war dead on Memorial Day. We, as beneficiaries of America's departed heroes, should make three pledges on Memorial Day to ensure that the Supreme Sacrifice of our nation's war dead never will be in vain. The first pledge we should make is to fly the U.S. Flag and to participate in our community's commemorative events. America's patriots shed their blood in defense of our nation's core values of freedom, justice and equality as well as the U.S. Flag that symbolizes our values. Memorial Day should unify all American in solemn tribute to those who did not come marching home and to commemorate the principle for which they fought. The second pledge we should make is to teach our children that the freedoms they may take for granted were purchases by incredible sacrifice. When we lead by example, by bringing

our children and grandchildren with us to Memorial Day public observations, we teach the leaders of tomorrow that freedom is not free. The third pledge is to participate in our democracy in order to give patriots-present the best opportunity to triumph against evil. Today's troops form the light of hope that pierces the darkness of tyranny, but that light is growing dim due to inadequate military spending and foolhardy defense policy. Safeguarding the bounty of 1 million war dead is a military that is smarting from a 300 percent increase in deployments and a one-third decrease in active-duty strength since 1987. This is a military receiving fewer tax dollars, as a percentage of gross domestic product, than the military that suffered the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941. We must act as if Memorial Day 2000 is Dec. 6, 1941; as if "We the People" have an opportunity to deter aggression, save lives, and give our men and women in uniform a fighting chance. We must demand that our congressional representatives and our president reverse the declining readiness of the armed forces. Our telephone calls, e-mails, faxes and letters to Congress and to the White House can reverse the neglect that erodes our military.

threatens national security, and endangers the values for which Americans gave their lives. These contemporary pledges flow from the earliest traditions of Memorial Day. Southern women in the spring of 1865 planted flowers on the graves of Confederate war dead. Gen. John Logan, commander in chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, an organization of Union veterans, ordered his group to decorate the graves of Union troops on a uniform date in 1868. These and other commemorations would give rise to the first national Memorial Day observance on May 30, 1868, at Arlington National Cemetery. Gen. James Garfield, keynote speaker for the observance, said those who lost their lives fighting for freedom engaged in the ultimate expression of humanity's "highest virtues." The general was right! More than 1 million men and women, preponderantly of modest means and infinite courage, sacrificed all of their tomorrows while fighting for America's unifying "virtues." Surely we can honor their sacrifice, transmit the values for which they fought, and preserve the "common defense" that is liberty's backbone. By our vigilance, the sacrifices of America's departed heroes shall never be in vain.

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DALLAS (AP) — ful death lawsu government for ended the Bra siege will be de and not a federa The decision Friday by U.S. Walter S. Smit weeks before th of the trial. Federal limits suits against t

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Texas' electricity delivery systems said in good shape

HOUSTON (AP) — Texans shouldn't worry about suffering power outages during the summer, when demand for electricity is high, Energy Secretary Bill Richardson said Friday.

Richardson was in Houston hosting a summit on electrical reliability. Houston is one of 10 cities nationwide Richardson is visiting to assess regional electricity capabilities.

The meetings are in response to the hot summer of 1999, when blackouts and brownouts in the Northeast were frequent.

"Houston is in good shape, but I am worried about areas of the Northeast, a little about California, and pockets of the

Southwest," Richardson said. He described the United States as having the electrical system of a Third World country, and said that the nation is severely lacking in power generation and transmission capacity.

Richardson stressed the importance of passing federal legislation allowing for more competition, which he said would lead to improved facilities and capacity.

Industry leaders, government officials and representatives of regulatory agencies from Texas discussed energy issues at the summit, with the central debate being the effects of deregulating

electricity in the state.

Robert Bryant, president and general manager of Golden Spread Electric Cooperative, Inc. in Amarillo, said passage by the state Legislature of the Public Utility Regulatory Act in 1999, which mandated customer choice in suppliers, was expected to lower rates.

But Bryant said that deregulation has led to higher rates and reduced operating efficiency in the Panhandle and Oklahoma, where his company offers service.

Steve Schaeffer, a senior vice president for Reliant Energy, Inc. in Houston, said that if prices did go up, it would

increase competition in local markets, creating better generation and transmission of electricity.

In 1999, Texas' peak electricity demand hit 66,000 megawatts, which was during the summer. Supply during that peak demand was at 70,112 megawatts, according to the Texas Public Utility Commission.

Richardson said consumers can reduce energy consumption by doing dishes and laundry early in the morning, keeping blinds and curtains closed, turning off lights, and changing air conditioner filters frequently.

Father now says he lied about wife's role in heat-related death of their infant

HOUSTON (AP) — A Houston man is saying he lied when he testified at his wife's trial that she knew their 8-month-old son was in the car when she drove to a convenience store and left the vehicle for about 10 hours in temperatures that reached more than 110 degrees.

Sandra Artega, 30, was convicted in April of reckless injury by causing the death of her son, Senon Artega Jr., on Aug. 1. She was sentenced to 12 years in prison.

The child died of heat exposure after Artega abandoned her car at a north Houston gasoline station after a night of drinking. The mother got a ride for herself and her daughter from a limousine driver, but left the infant in the car.

Sandra Artega testified she didn't know the baby was in the car and didn't see him when she parked at the station.

At the trial, Senon Artega Sr. testified he remembered a fight he had with his wife at a friend's house just before she left with their two children.

He then testified he didn't know how the baby got into the car.

Now he says it was he who put the baby and that his wife didn't know about it.

Defense attorney Paul C. Looney said Friday the husband lied during the trial because he has a criminal record and because he never expected his wife to be imprisoned.

Looney said Artega was expected to correct his testimony at a hearing this week before state District Judge Carol Davies, but court personnel couldn't get his wife to the Harris County Jail in time.

Prosecutors said the new testimony would not likely lead to a new trial or help an appeal.

Judge urges round of DNA tests for Texas death row inmate

DALLAS (AP) — A Texas death row inmate scheduled to be executed next week for the rape and ax murder of his 12-year-old stepdaughter has won preliminary approval to have newer, more accurate genetic testing performed on blood samples and other evidence used in his conviction.

State district judge Stephen Ellis of Brownwood ruled Thursday that Ricky McGinn, whose execution is set for Thursday, is entitled to further tests of key genetic evidence using more sophisticated technology than was available at his

trial five years ago.

"New testing with the advancements in DNA may not change anything," Ellis said in his ruling. "But then again, there is at least a chance that the defendant might be exonerated. The need for finality in this case, although very important, is not as important as the need to ensure that justice is done."

McGinn is awaiting a final decision from the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals.

McGinn was convicted of the rape and murder of his stepdaughter, Stephanie Flanary,

after disappearing from her rural Brownwood home in May 1993.

Investigators identified blood found in McGinn's car and on an ax as the victim's. But subsequent DNA tests on a pubic hair recovered from the victim's genitals and on a semen stain on the victim's shorts were incomplete.

Defense attorneys successfully argued that improved technology constituted new evidence that must be considered.

"New DNA technology could provide conclusive proof of guilt or innocence," said

Maurie Levin, an attorney with the nonprofit Texas Defender Service in Austin, which represents death-row inmates. "We shouldn't execute someone without giving them that chance. Why not wait 30 days and let the testing be completed?"

Brown County District Attorney Lee Haney, who tried McGinn, opposed the bid for new testing.

"What I'm concerned with is the law, and he has been found guilty by a jury," Haney said. "This is certainly not going to prove his innocence."

Leaders contend Texas prisons are full, more needed

HOUSTON (AP) — Texas prisons are full and voters may be asked to approve another large prison construction loan next year, key legislative leaders said Friday.

If Texas continues to imprison and parole convicted criminals at current rates, the state will have to build prisons to house 15,000 more inmates by the year 2005, state Sen. Kenneth Armbrister, D-Victoria, said in today's editions of the Houston Chronicle. Armbrister is the chairman of the Senate Criminal Justice Committee.

The project could cost as much as \$775 million.

State Rep. Pat Haggerty, R-El Paso, and Texas Board of Criminal Justice Chairman Alfred "Mac" Stringfellow confirmed talks are already under way about a new round of prison construction.

"Certainly not to the extent we just experienced. I'm not sure we'll have something that size," Stringfellow told the Chronicle. "We are projecting a need."

Texas just spent \$1.7 billion to build prisons to house 94,000

criminals. The state now has the capacity to incarcerate 153,719 people in 116 prisons and jails.

But those institutions have been full for two years and the Texas Department of Criminal Justice has turned to county jails to house its prisoners.

Last week, the agency said it must rent another 1,500 beds in county jails by the end of August, bringing the total to 4,600.

While cheaper in the short-term than building more prisons, county jail beds have a lim-

ited supply and Texas' growing prison population will demand a more permanent solution, Stringfellow told the newspaper.

"Quite frankly, I can't see fixing the problem without additional construction," he said. "However many more units that is, I don't know."

"I don't believe the problem can be solved unless we build more units."

Talks underway to remove Confederate plaques

AUSTIN (AP) — Aides to Gov. George W. Bush are working on a plan to take down two Confederate plaques from the Texas Supreme Court building and replace them with plaques reaffirming the state's commitment to equality.

The NAACP has called for the removal of the plaques, saying the Confederate flag and seal are inappropriate for a court-house.

The measure is being met with opposition from Confederate heritage groups, who say the plaques have historical significance.

Michael Jones, the governor's spokesman, told Saturday's editions of The Dallas Morning News that no final decisions have been made.

Denne Sweeney, commander

of the Texas Sons of Confederate Veterans, said he met with Clay Johnson, Bush's chief executive, May 16 to discuss the matter.

One of the new plaques would read "The courts of Texas are entrusted with providing equal justice under the law to all persons regardless of race, creed or color," according to Sweeney. The other would explain the building's dedication to Confederate veterans, he told The Associated Press.

Sweeney, who has seen the proposal, said the other plaque may read "Because this building was built with monies for Confederate widows, it was at that time dedicated to the Texans who served in the Confederacy." The building was dedicated in 1954.

Sweeney's group is not opposed to posting the plaques on the building but said the others should remain.

The current plaques bear a rebel flag in relief and a quote from Robert E. Lee commending Texas soldiers.

Gary Bledsoe, president of the Texas NAACP, said he has met several times with Bush's aides on the matter.

"I've been negotiating with them. But we said we'd let them make the first announcements," Bledsoe said. He has said the rebel flag is a symbol of slavery and is offensive, serving as a "minorities beware" sign outside of the building.

Justice Al Gonzales, who is overseeing the issue for the Texas Supreme Court, said nothing has been finalized.

Jury to decide suit on Branch Davidian deaths

DALLAS (AP) — The wrongful death lawsuit blaming the government for the fire that ended the Branch Davidian siege will be decided by a jury and not a federal judge.

The decision, made late Friday by U.S. District Judge Walter S. Smith, comes only weeks before the June 19 start of the trial.

Federal limits on private lawsuits against the government

and its agencies require that most such cases be heard and decided by a judge without a jury. But federal judges have discretion to bring in juries to hear some civil cases that normally do not involve juries.

Attorneys representing Davidians and their families are seeking a multimillion dollar judgment against the government for actions in the 1993 siege that they allege caused the

deaths of more than 80 members.

"I applaud the decision by the judge and look forward to having a jury — as representatives for the American people — hear this case," said Davidian attorney Jim Brannon. "The last jury that heard about Waco declined to believe the government and I have no reason to expect a different result in this case."

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President Clinton proposes nutritional information labels for meat, poultry

WASHINGTON (AP) — Whether it's a box of Wheaties or a package of hamburger meat, consumers should have easy access to nutritional information, President Clinton said Saturday. He proposed that the government require labels on beef and poultry for the first time.

Nutritional labels, required for processed food since 1994, tell shoppers just how much fat, cholesterol, calories and nutrients are in each serving.

"Providing citizens with accurate information that affects their lives is one of government's most vital responsibilities," Clinton said Saturday in his weekly radio address.

But information alone won't help, he said: "Citizens have a responsibility to use that information wisely."

Clinton also released updated nutritional guidelines that advise more exercise, safe handling of food and moderated sugar consumption. They also suggest that Americans pay attention to nutritional labels.

About six in 10 supermarkets post nutrition information near their meat cases, and some major meatpackers and poultry companies voluntarily put nutrition labels on packages.

Now, Clinton said, "It's time we made it mandatory."

"We wholeheartedly believe in the consumers being

informed," said Mary Young, a nutritionist with the National Cattlemen's Beef Association. Nutrition information "not only helps them understand lean cuts of meat but it also helps them understand that meat is packed with iron and zinc."

The Agriculture Department will gather comments about the proposal, which could take effect by the end of the year but may stretch into 2001.

It's the latest in a series of food safety and nutrition initiatives from the administration. This month Clinton ordered new testing requirements for listeria, a pathogen in processed meats. The Food and Drug Administration has proposed

expanding nutrition labels on processed foods to include artery-clogging trans fatty acids, a common ingredient in baked goods.

The government's new dietary guidelines for Americans, also released Saturday, are revised every five years to reflect new scientific research.

The 2000 version takes an upbeat approach — "Eating is one of life's greatest pleasures," it says — and adds sections emphasizing the importance of whole grains, exercise and safe handling of food.

Today, Americans make better choices about healthy eating, Clinton said.

"Yet despite this progress, the

vast majority of Americans don't have healthy diets," the president said. "We're eating more fast food because of our hectic schedules, and we're less physically active because of our growing reliance on modern conveniences, from cars to computers to remote controls."

The USDA guidelines, contained in a 39-page booklet, largely followed recommenda-

tions of an advisory panel of 11 nutrition experts.

The administration bowed to criticism from the food and soft drink industry, however, and weakened recommendations for the section on sugar that urged consumers to "limit" consumption of sugary foods and beverages. The final version says consumers should "moderate" sugar intake.

FBI hunts for cause of 'Killer Resume' e-mail virus

WASHINGTON (AP) — Computer experts and the FBI pursued yet another e-mail virus Saturday, this one using a guise of a woman's work resume to threaten the world's computers.

Unlike an earlier bug that claimed to be looking for love, the new threat was discovered Friday looking for a job. The virus — called "Killer Resume" — is spread through e-mail systems using the Microsoft Outlook program, FBI officials said. They refused to elaborate

on the investigation.

The virus could spread as businesses open overseas on Monday and in the United States on Tuesday, after Memorial Day, FBI spokesman Rex Tomb said the long holiday weekend could give corporations and computer users time to update their anti-virus programs before resuming normal operations this week.

"We have done all that we can to alert the people of the United States and the world," Tomb said. "We will now have to wait

and see if in fact people around the world have taken heed of the warning."

Several corporate e-mail systems already were infected and shut down by Friday, according to reports from the FBI's National Infrastructure Protection Center and computer security firms.

The document used by Killer Resume is called "EXPLORER.DOC" or "RESUME.DOC," said the Santa Clara, Calif.-based Network Associates.

The FBI advised computer

users not to open e-mail with the subject line "Resume - Janet Simons," to deactivate the executive summary feature in Outlook, then to delete the e-mail without opening it. The executive summary feature will select, and essentially open, an e-mail file even as a user scrolls a list of incoming messages.

Earlier this month, the "Love Bug" virus, and a later variation, reached millions of computers purportedly bearing a love letter. Estimates of the damage ranged up to \$10 billion.

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Suspect in Wendy's shootings a fugitive free on \$3,500 bail

NEW YORK (AP) — A man arrested in the execution slayings of five people at a Wendy's was a fugitive free on \$3,500 bail after a string of armed robberies at fast-food restaurants, authorities said Saturday.

Prosecutors had requested a bail of \$100,000 for John "Benji" Taylor, but the judge released him last summer "on a ridiculously low bail," said Sherry Hunter, a spokeswoman for the Queens district attorney.

The 36-year-old suspect and an alleged accomplice were to be arraigned Saturday for killing five Wendy's employees and wounding two others. Their heads wrapped in plastic, they

were bound, gagged and shot execution-style.

It was the most gruesome crime on a trail that authorities say stretches back to the summer of 1996, when Taylor was assistant manager of a McDonald's near the Empire State Building. He was found guilty of trying to break into the restaurant's safe and was sentenced to five years' probation.

Then, in the course of a week last June, he was linked to robberies or attempted robberies at four fast-food businesses in Queens.

A source close to law enforcement officials who spoke on condition of anonymity said

Taylor admitted his guilt in robberies on June 19 and June 23, and prosecutors were negotiating a 12-year sentence last August. He then raised the \$3,500 bail set by Judge Pauline Mullings.

Taylor failed to appear in court on Oct. 22 and again on Nov. 5. Authorities issued a warrant for him and he had been a fugitive since.

A spokesman for Gov. George Pataki said Pataki has proposed legislation that would give prosecutors the right to appeal low bail for a suspect like Taylor. The bill passed the Senate earlier this week, and is up for a vote in the Assembly.

"Had this legislation been in place, this animal potentially would have been behind bars, rather than on the street," said the spokesman, Michael McKeon.

Taylor was arrested Friday afternoon at his mother's house in Brentwood, N.Y., about 30 miles from the scene of Wednesday's killings in Flushing, Queens.

The other suspect, Craig Godineaux, 31, was arrested at a men's clothing store where both suspects worked. Each admitted to a role in Wednesday's murder-robbery, authorities said.

Taylor worked at the Flushing Wendy's briefly in 1999.

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Company says it warned owners about pier collapse

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — As city officials announced that a grand jury will investigate the collapse of a nightclub pier, a construction company said it told the owners hours before the tragedy that a collapse was imminent.

Three women were killed and dozens of others injured May 18 when the pier supporting the week-old open-air nightclub Heat broke apart and plunged about 40 people into the dark, murky Delaware River.

Investigators have been looking into whether pier owner Michael Asbell and nightclub owner Eli Karetny knew the 91-year-old pier was unstable.

The district attorney has asked investigators not to release preliminary findings into the cause of the accident so

potential grand jurors would not be prejudiced, said Barbara Grant, spokeswoman for the mayor.

Commerce Construction Corp. said Friday it was hired by Karetny to look into cracks in the concrete surface of the pier. In a statement, the company said it sent a diver to inspect the pier on May 16.

The day of the collapse, Commerce said, Karetny asked the company to come back and look at "significant changes" in the pier. Based on observations that morning and on the diver's previous report, "the company directly warned Mr. Karetny and Mr. Asbell that collapse of the pier was imminent," Commerce said.

"Commerce was not advised and did not know that the club

was in use," and thought the owner's would take appropriate action, the company said.

Earlier this week, Commerce president Terry Zettle said his company gave the nightclub a report stating that the foundation was slanting and metal supports were twisted.

Attorneys for Asbell and Karetny did not return phone calls Friday.

Urban Engineers Inc., the company hired by the city to investigate the collapse, sent divers into the murky river again Friday to look at the twisted wreckage. The company has delivered a preliminary report to the city. A final report is due in one or two weeks.

Officials speculate that the pilings supporting the pier had become tilted.


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After nine years, NASA saying bye to reliable eye on the universe

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Compton Gamma Ray Observatory is poised for a suicide plunge to Earth, ending a successful nine-year \$670 million space mission that opened a new window on the universe.

Starting Tuesday, NASA engineers will send signals to the satellite to perform a series of rocket firings that will drop the Compton from its 317-mile orbit and send it into a final, fiery dive to the Pacific Ocean early on June 4.

"It will be like losing a member of the family," said Donald A. Kniffen, a NASA scientist who has worked with the Compton since 1979, when the astronomical observatory was little more than engineering sketches and scientific dreams.

Even though the Compton still was capable of collecting science for the world's astronomers, the craft is ailing. After a gyroscope failed, engi-

neers from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration decided to deliberately crash the 17-ton spacecraft while they still could control it.

An analysis showed that if NASA did nothing, the craft would eventually fall on its own, with one-in-1,000 chance of killing someone on Earth. The craft's orbit carries it over some of the most populated areas of the world, including Mexico City, Miami and Bangkok, Thailand.

Using the remaining guidance and control equipment on Compton reduces that risk of fatality to about one in 29 million. NASA chief scientist Ed Weiler said he chose safety over science.

"How much science is worth the risk of even one human life?" Weiler asked when announced his decision.

NASA was not eager to repeat

the nail-biting experience of Skylab, the 78-ton space station that crashed in 1979. Engineers had no control over the station when it dropped from space and spread hundreds of pounds of hot metal across the Indian Ocean and into a remote section of western Australia. No one was hurt.

The Compton will be the largest spacecraft brought down in a deliberate, controlled crash.

NASA engineers plan to dump the Compton in a remote part of the Pacific Ocean, 2,500 miles southeast of Hawaii. The impact target is a corridor 16 miles wide and some 1,426 miles long. It angles across the equator, northwest to southeast, and ends about 680 miles south of the Galapagos Islands.

A rocket firing to lower the orbit is scheduled for Tuesday night from the space agency's Goddard Space Flight Center in

Greenbelt, Md. A second firing is set for Wednesday. That will set the craft up for two final firings June 4.

The rocket thrust will slow the Compton enough to drop it into the atmosphere, where friction heat will burn up most of the craft. The main concern is for six 1,800-pound aluminum I-beams that may survive the re-entry and splash into the ocean.

Kniffen said he is approaching the end of Compton with a mixture of sadness and pride.

Since the craft was launched April 5, 1991, he said, the instruments on the Compton have completely changed the way astronomers view the universe.

The instruments were designed to detect gamma rays, an energetic form of light invisible to the eye and hardly detectable on Earth.

But in space, the Compton found that the whole universe was bathed in gamma rays,

with explosions occurring in distant galaxies almost daily.

Before Compton, Kniffen said, astronomers thought gamma ray bursts, the most energetic events in the universe, could be detected only in the Milky Way, the home galaxy of the Earth and Sun.

"Within months of its launch, we had proof that gamma ray bursts were coming from all directions in the universe," he said. "We realized that some of them were coming from very early in the history of the universe," which means they were far beyond the Milky Way and were very, very powerful.

During its mission, the Compton recorded more 2,500 gamma ray bursts, while only about 300 had been detected previously, NASA said. Some of its detections came quickly enough to alert other observatories which then collected observations in visible light and X-rays.

The cause of the gamma ray bursts is still a puzzle, but Kniffen said the libraries of data from Compton may help astronomers find answers.

Compton also detected gamma rays streaming from black holes, from exploding stars and from the sun.

An analysis of the data has helped astronomers, for the first time, begin to understand how black holes can trigger jets of X-rays and gamma rays that streak outward at velocities approaching the speed of light.

The Compton was originally expected to last only two years. But when that time was up, the mission was extended repeatedly. It took its last bit of data — a gamma ray snap shot of the sun — on Friday.

"It performed far beyond our expectations," Kniffen said. "Dollar for dollar, it was one of the most successful missions NASA has ever had."

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Flowers, notes placed at school where popular teacher fatally shot

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Scores of grieving children, parents and colleagues brought flowers and notes Saturday to the middle school where a popular English teacher was fatally shot on the last day of classes.

In a courtroom across town, a judge ordered that 13-year-old Nathaniel Brazill remain in custody while a grand jury decides whether the honor student should be tried in Barry Grunow's death.

The seventh-grader had been sent home by an assistant principal Friday around 1 p.m. for throwing water balloons in class. According to police, he rode his bicycle back to school about two hours later with a semi-automatic pistol in his pocket.

The pistol — a compact, 5-inch model called a Raven — was loaded with four bullets he had stolen from his grandfather's dresser drawer a week before, Police Chief William Smith said.

Brazill was trying to talk to two girls in Grunow's class. When the teacher told him to leave, police say, he pulled out the gun and shot Grunow in the head. Grunow, 35, was the father of two and had worked at the school for seven years.

Police say the boy rode away on his bicycle, but flagged down a police officer about a quarter of a mile from the school and surrendered. He told investigators he liked Grunow.

"Everybody's talking about

the gun, but we need to try to figure out what made him do that," said Corey Jackson, a pastor and neighbor of Brazill's.

Early Saturday, Brazill, wearing a two-piece khaki jail uniform, his wrists shackled, appeared before Palm Beach County Circuit Court Judge Jorge LaBarga and a courtroom packed with cameras and reporters.

His parents were visibly distraught, but the boy's expression was obstructed from view. He was flanked by two public defenders, who said they are still working on how to best represent their client.

"It is too premature, we need to spend more time with our client," said lawyer Damon Amedeo.

Brazill is being held at the Palm Beach Regional Juvenile Detention Center in West Palm Beach.

The grand jury has to review the case by June 17.

Curtains were drawn Saturday at the home of Brazill's parents.

An elderly man answered the door and said the family was not yet ready to comment.

"As far as I know, he was real good," said Jackson, Brazill's neighbor.

"They were supposed to go to church with us last night. We're still in shock."

Outside Lake Worth Middle School, a memorial of flowers and posters covered a 40-foot section of the school's fence. Parents and children hugged,

cried and tried to console one another.

Many of the messages were addressed to "Shaggy," a nickname given to Grunow because of his hair.

Students, parents and school officials said he was well-liked and known for unconventional methods, like reading J.R.R. Tolkien's "The Hobbit" aloud in class with different voices for the characters.

Students said he regularly joined them in pickup basketball games after school.

At least 200 people stopped at the school Saturday to speak with grief counselors, who also planned to be there today.

"I know how my children are taking this, and I just don't have the answers," said Beverly

Hart.

Her 12-year-old daughter Amber should have been in Grunow's class, but her mother asked her to stay home. It's a practice Hart has followed the past few years with all her children out of concern that kids are likely to bring weapons or fight, she said.

Even though she was absent, Hart came home to find Amber "shaking from head to toe hysterically on the couch" Friday after finding out about the shooting.

"He was a great man. I always enjoyed it when my kids were going to be in his classes," said Hart.

"Every way you look at it, it's a tragedy. It's scary."

Jackson decides not to attend graduation despite injunction

DECATUR, Ill. (AP) — The Rev. Jesse Jackson may not have attended high school commencement ceremonies here, but his presence was felt by at least two of the graduates.

Roosevelt Fuller and Gregory Howell — who Jackson helped get into an alternative school after they and four others were expelled last fall — graduated Friday night after months of racial tension and turmoil in this central Illinois town.

"If it wasn't for him, this wouldn't have come," Fuller said.

Jackson, invited to the graduations of both young men by their families, was forbidden from attending because he led protests last fall over the expulsions of the six students.

In an emergency hearing Friday, a Macon County judge upheld his prior ruling that Jackson and other Rainbow/PUSH Coalition protesters could not come within 50 feet of the city's three high schools without permission.

School administrators argued that Jackson's presence would take the spotlight off the graduates and could spark unrest.

After the judge's ruling, Jackson backed off his threat to challenge the injunction by attending the ceremonies. Instead, he announced he would leave on a planned trip to Europe.

"In no way does he want to let the Decatur school board use him as a diversion to the graduation of these students," Rainbow/PUSH spokeswoman Macy Morales said.

Other coalition leaders decided against trying to attend the

commencement exercises as an act of civil disobedience. Instead, they gathered at a church to congratulate Fuller and Howell and to honor their parents and others who supported them as they worked toward graduation.

There were no demonstrations at any of the three high schools Friday night. When Howell was introduced at Eisenhower, the crowd cheered and many of the graduating seniors stood to applaud.

The controversy began when a brawl broke out in the stands during a high school football game Sept. 17. Six students involved in the videotaped melee were expelled, and criminal charges were filed against four, including Fuller and Howell.

The case sparked a national debate over zero-tolerance policies on violence in schools and brought Jackson and his supporters to this central Illinois town to protest.

Circuit Judge James Hendrian permanently banned the protesters from campus in March, agreeing with school administrators that demonstrations had disrupted classes.

Rainbow/PUSH leaders contended that the court order was not applicable to graduation ceremonies, and Jackson said on Wednesday that he planned to attend at the invitation of Fuller and Howell despite the school board's threats to have him arrested.

Jackson had helped to pressure the district to put the pair in an alternative school so they could graduate with their classmates.

Train derails in Louisiana

EUNICE, La. (AP) — Freight cars loaded with hazardous chemicals exploded and caught fire after a Union Pacific freight train derailed Saturday, sending fireballs into the sky and setting nearby woods on fire.

Houses and businesses within a mile of the accident were evacuated and three emergency shelters were open, state police Sgt. Richard Hazelwood said. No injuries have been reported.

He said 29 cars derailed and at least 10 caught fire.

The blast shattered windows up to a quarter-mile away, said Trooper E.J. Chesne.

Mark Davis, regional spokesman for the railroad in Omaha, Neb., could not immediately identify what chemicals

were burning, but said some of the freight was hazardous.

He said four cars contained flammable liquids, including a tanker of acrylic acid and one of ethylene glycol antifreeze.

An explosion nearly two hours after the initial derailment sent a fireball 150 to 200 feet into the air, said Peter Piazza, a news photographer.

Flames appeared to rise 50 to 70 feet from other burning cars and there appeared to be flames as far as a mile down the track, said Piazza, who viewed the derailment from a helicopter.

Davis said the train was heading from Freeport, Texas, to Livonia, La., when it derailed shortly before noon in Eunice, 77 miles west of Baton Rouge.

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COSC 8401 01 COSC 1401 LAB MTWR 3-5 p.m. HGC 101 Atkins
CPMT 1349 01 Computer Networking Technology MTWR 6-8 p.m. HGC 103 Eastley
CPMT 9349 01 CPMT 1349 LAB MTWR 8-10 p.m. HGC 103 Eastley

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Steers basket scheduled for

The 2000 Basketball Camp scheduled to be held at Steer Gym.

Camp sessions from 8:30 a.m. each day through June 1.

The camp is open to students between the eighth and tenth grades. For more info, call the center at 264-4444.

Summer tennis slated to begin

The 2000 Big Spring Summer Tennis Camp will be held through Thursday, June 8, at the Figure 7 Tennis Center. The four-day sessions will be for youngsters between the ages of 5 and 18 with hours of instruction each day under the supervision of Sarah Corbett Blacketer.

Fees are \$96 per camp session and \$120 per week to a.m. to noon each day.

For more info, call Blacketer at 264-4444.

Ballapalooza deadline is extended

The deadline for the Ballapalooza softball tournament, scheduled for the weekend of June 9-10, has been extended to June 16-17. The deadline for registration is now June 16.

For more info, call the country club at 267-5354 or Steve Anderson at 267-5354.

Junior golf clinic for June 6-9

A junior golf clinic for youngsters 5 years of age and older will be held from June 6-9 at the Country Club.

Non-members will pay a \$25 fee to try club membership.

Clinic participants will be well as learning to play the game. Clubs will be provided for youngsters who bring their own.

For more info, call the country club at 267-5354 or Steve Anderson at 267-5354.

Camp of Champions begin June 5

The Camp of Champions weightlifting and basketball training camp will begin June 5 at the Spring High School Training Center.

The camp is for youngsters in grades 5-8.

For more info, call Ricky Long at 267-5354 or the Big Spring High School department at 267-5354.

ON THE

Television

AUTO RACING
10 a.m. — IRL 500, ABC, Ch. 2
3:30 p.m. — NASCAR, TNN, Ch. 5
5 p.m. — NASCAR, Coca-Cola 600, TBS
MAJOR LEAGUE
1 p.m. — Texas, Minnesota Twins
7 p.m. — Boston, New York Yankees
30.
NBA PLAYOFFS
2:30 p.m. — Lakers at Portland
NBC, Ch. 9.
EQUESTRIAN
1:30 p.m. — ESPN, Ch. 30.
FIGURE SKATING
11:30 a.m. — Skating Champion, Ch. 30.
GOLF
1 p.m. — PGA final round, CBS.
4:30 p.m. — Sony Valley Classic, Ch. 30.
RODEO
2:30 p.m. — Showdown, ESPN
TRACK & FIELD
4 p.m. — Mod, FXS, Ch. 29.

IN BRIEF

Steers basketball camp scheduled for Monday

The 2000 BSHS Steers Basketball Camp has been scheduled to begin Monday at Steer Gym. Camp sessions will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. each day through Thursday, June 1. The camp is open for youngsters between the second and eighth grades. Fees will be \$45 per youngster. For more information, call Jimmy Avery at 264-0403.

Summer tennis clinic slated to begin Monday

The 2000 Big Spring Steer Summer Tennis Clinic has been scheduled Monday through Thursday, June 1, at the Figure 7 Tennis Center in Comanche Trail Park. The four-day camp for youngsters between the ages of 5 and 18 will feature three hours of intensive training each day under the direction of Sarah Corse and Jim Blacketer. Fees are \$96 per player and camp sessions will be from 9 a.m. to noon each day. For more information, call Blacketer at 264-6834.

Ballapalooza touney deadline is extended

The deadline has been extended to Tuesday for the Ballapalooza softball tournament, scheduled June 3-4 at the Roy Anderson Complex. Entry is \$120 per team, 20-team limit. For information or to register, contact Andi Andrews-York at 263-7641.

Junior golf clinic slated for June 6-9 at BSCC

A junior golf clinic for youngsters 5 years of age and older has been scheduled for June 6-9 at the Big Spring Country Club. Non-members of the club will pay a \$25 fee, while country club members will attend free. Clinic participants will take part in contests for prizes, as well as learning and practicing the game. Refreshments will be provided. Clubs will be provided with youngsters who do not have them. For more information, call the country club pro shop at 267-5354 or Steve Ward at 264-0293.

Camp of Champs will begin June 5 at BSHS

The Camp of Champs weightlifting camp at Big Spring High School will begin June 5 at the BSHS Athletic Training Center. The camp is designed for youngsters in grades 5-8. For more information, call Ricky Long at 263-0519 or the Big Spring High School athletic department at 264-3662.

ON THE AIR

Television: 10 a.m. — IRL Indianapolis 500, ABC, Ch. 2 and Ch. 8. 3:30 p.m. — NHRA Castrol Nationals, TNT, Ch. 35. 5 p.m. — NASCAR Winston Cup Coca-Cola 600, TBS, Ch. 11. MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL: 1 p.m. — Texas Rangers at Minnesota Twins, FXS, Ch. 29. 7 p.m. — Boston Red Sox at New York Yankees, ESPN, Ch. 30. NBA PLAYOFFS: 2:30 p.m. — Los Angeles Lakers at Portland Trail Blazers, NBC, Ch. 9. EQUESTRIAN: 1:30 p.m. — Foxhall Cup, ESPN, Ch. 30. FIGURE SKATING: 11:30 a.m. — World Figure Skating Championships, ESPN, Ch. 30. GOLF: 1 p.m. — PGA The Memorial, final round, CBS, Ch. 7. 4:30 p.m. — Senior PGA Boone Valley Classic, final round, ESPN, Ch. 30. RODEO: 2:30 p.m. — Calgary Stampede Showdown, ESPN, Ch. 30. TRACK & FIELD: 4 p.m. — Modesto Invitational, FXS, Ch. 29.

Tiger blitzes rest of field with 7-under 65 at Memorial

DUBLIN, Ohio (AP) — The course that Jack built is becoming Tiger's turf. Tiger Woods manhandled Muirfield Village for a 7-under 65 on Saturday that gave him a six-stroke lead in the Memorial Tournament and brought on a chorus of concessions from the players he left in his wake. "Oh, come on guys," said Ernie Els, told that Woods lost a three-stroke lead in the final round last week in Germany. "Don't even try. He's six or seven shots ahead. What can I say? It's over." Woods made his first bogey in 48 holes on No. 18, but still was at 17-under 199 and has plenty room for error against Steve Lowery as he tries to become the

first repeat champion in the 25-year history of the Memorial. Lowery birdied the 18th for his second straight 66. That left him at 205 and in the final pairing Sunday, when he will spot the No. 1 player in the world six shots on a course that Woods has reduced to a pitch-and-putt. "I'd have to bet on Tiger," Lowery said. The six-stroke lead is largest on the PGA Tour this year, and the most for Woods since he took a nine-stroke lead into the 1997 Masters and won by 12. Woods, however, was not quite ready to accept his fourth victory of the year. "If it were over, there would be a trophy," he said. A victory Sunday would be the first time Woods has successfully defended a title. Justin Leonard, made an ace on No. 8 and had a 66. It was as good as Leonard has felt about his results all year, and the fact he was seven strokes behind was not about to spoil his mood. The same can't be said for Harrison Frazier, who started the third round just one stroke behind Woods, and Els, trying to win for the first time in over a year. By the time they walked off the seventh green, Woods had a 10-stroke advantage over Els and was six ahead of Frazier. Both got caught up watching an

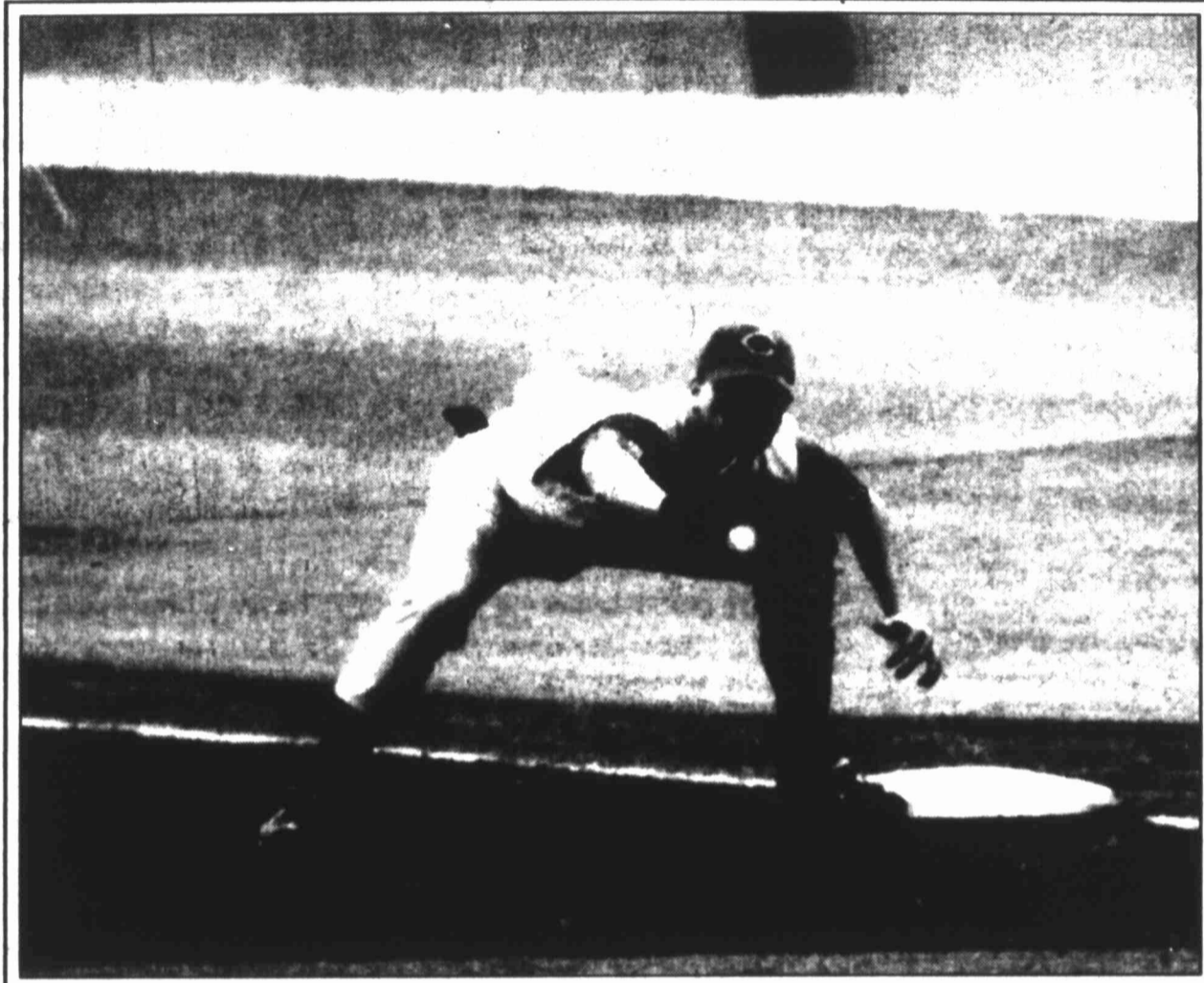
awesome display of golf that featured a six-hole stretch in which Woods was 6 under. "He hit shots today that I don't know if any other human can hit," said Frazier, who had a 43 on the back nine and wound up with a 78. "He's the best player in the world," Frazier continued. "It's been a long time since I've played with him, and now I know why." Woods, who said he "got around" for a 63 on Friday, actually hit the ball much more crisply on Saturday, when players could lift, clean and place their ball in the fairway because of overnight rains and a light drizzle late in the round.

Houston nips Rice, moving into NCAA regional title game

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

HOUSTON — The Houston Cougars got only three hits, but took advantage of four walks, two hit batsmen and two sacrifice flies to defeat crosstown rival Rice 5-2 on Saturday in an NCAA regional game. The win, puts top-seeded Houston in today's 1:30 p.m. championship game against the winner of an elimination game late Saturday night between Rice and Texas Tech, a 10-1 victor over Princeton in a loser's bracket game earlier Saturday. If Houston loses Sunday afternoon, the same two teams would go right back out for a second game to determine the championship. Shane Nance (9-2) got the victory, striking out seven and walking two in 7.2 innings. Rice starter Marc Gwyn (7-7) took the loss. He allowed four runs on two hits, walked four and struck out six. Aaron Melebeck homered in the first to give the Cougars a 1-0 lead, and Mitch Ackal homered for Rice in the fourth for a 1-1 tie.

advances to the championship round today. Southwest Texas State (34-28) had to play Florida late Saturday in an elimination game. Florida remained alive by beating Baylor 10-1 earlier Saturday. San Jose State's Spartans took the lead in the first inning. With one out, Brian Stream reached on an error by Bobcats third baseman Brian Kent. After Southwest Texas State starter Tim Wade (3-3) got Junior Ruiz to fly out, Tony Tognetti hit the first pitch he saw over the right field wall. An inning later, John Fagan hit a solo shot to extend the Spartans' lead to 3-0. San Jose State's Joey Baker (8-7) pitched a complete game for the win, allowing nine hits, striking out six and walking none. Baker helped his cause with ground ball double plays in the third and fourth innings. Baker ran into trouble in the sixth when Jason Washington and John David Janek led off with singles. An error on right fielder Brandon Macchi allowed the runners to take an extra base on Janek's hit. But Baker retired the next three batters, two on run-scoring grounders, to escape the jam with minimal damage. Bobcats starter Tim Wade (3-3) went 5.1 innings, allowing three earned runs on six hits and a walk before giving way to Chad Messengale. Kent kept the Bobcats in the game by throwing out two runners at the plate in the fifth, one off an assist by left fielder Terrence Moore.



HERALD photo/Jim Fiero

Coahoma first baseman Travis McMillian looks the ball all the way into his glove on a throw from Bulldogs pitcher Delvin White during the first inning of Thursday night's 6-0 regional semifinal win over Stamford's Bulldogs. Coahoma will go after its fourth straight Region I, Class 2A baseball championship this week when they face the winner of Saturday night's late match up between Abernathy and Holiday. Holiday went into the showdown with an edge, having won the first game in the best-of-three series 10-2.

Braves' bats heat up to beat cooled Astros

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

John Rocker got the biggest boos and didn't get anyone out. Fortunately for the Atlanta Braves, they still had Kerry Ligtenberg in the bullpen. After his abrupt greeting by Houston fans, Rocker walked the bases loaded with no outs in the bottom of the ninth inning before Ligtenberg came on to preserve the Braves' 6-5 victory Saturday. Andrew Jones, Brian Jordan and Chipper Jones hit home runs for the Braves in cooled-down Enron Field. "You have to have a little luck in this game," Braves manager Bobby Cox said. "It didn't look like we were going to get any strikes thrown. In that situation you are looking for a pop out, anything to get an out."

Ward hit a line drive to strong-armed center fielder Andrew Jones, and Bill Spiers stayed at third rather than take a chance on tagging up. Ligtenberg then got Richard Hidalgo to ground into a game-ending double play. "I was basically trying to throw as hard as I could and hit my spots," Ligtenberg said. "I didn't know how I was going to do it, I was just trying to get some outs. I was trying to get some guys to pop out or hit some ground balls." The one-run loss was Houston's 13th in 14 games this season. "I missed my pitch earlier," Hidalgo said. "I was trying to get my pitch and drive it, but I missed my pitch and then I hit the ground ball." Chipper Jones thought Spiers would score from third on Ward's fly. "I think he would have scored, about a 95 percent

chance," Astros manager Larry Dierker said. "Maybe they could have made a hero throw, but I doubt it." The Astros lost more than the game. Left fielder Moises Alou left the game with tightness in his left quadriceps muscle one day after outfielder Roger Cedeno was placed on the 15-day disabled list. Alou was listed as day-to-day. The Braves got the early lead in the first regular-season game played at Enron Field with the roof closed. It was 72 degrees inside with the air conditioning while temperatures outside rose into the 90s. Ken Caminiti hit a solo home run in the seventh and Lance Berkman hit a two-run homer in the eighth, giving the Astros homers in 14 straight games, tying a club record. "There have been 91 home runs hit in Enron Field this season in 24 games. There were a com-

An Indy icon, Foyt talks and owns as well as he drove

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — When A.J. Foyt came to the Indianapolis 500 in 1958 as a 23-year-old no-name, he was turned away and told to bring back some proof he belonged. Oh, Foyt returned all right. And after 42 years, four victories as a driver and another as a car owner, he doesn't just belong, he practically owns the place. "You've got to look at this race track like the Kentucky Derby," he said Friday. "Because there's just one. There will never be no more." Just as there will never be another Foyt. He's won on every circuit he raced, taking the checkered flags in the Indy 500, the Daytona 500 and the 24 Hours of LeMans, and he was the inaugural inductee into the Motorsports Hall of Fame in 1989. As exciting as he is on the track, the Texan is just as colorful off of it. He tells it like it is in a language that's all his own. When his crew chief Kenny Brack the 1998 Indy 500 by allowing him to run out of gas, Foyt slammed a computer to

the pavement. A year earlier, he slapped Arie Luyendyk in a dispute over who won at the Texas Motor Speedway. Foyt wasn't always so fiery. When he arrived as a rookie, no one knew who he was when he went to sign in. His car hadn't arrived yet, and he didn't have any proof he had a ride with Dean Van Lines. So he was told to come back. For two or three days, he hung around outside the garage area, waiting patiently for his car to arrive. "Then I went and signed in," he said. Foyt didn't take long to prove himself, winning for the first time in 1961, his fourth race here. He won again in 1964 and 1967, and had a couple of near misses in 1975 and 1976 when he ran out of fuel. He ran out of fuel again in 1977 but managed to get back in the race and close the gap on Gordon Johncock. When Johncock's engine blew, Foyt raced by him and became the first four-time winner at the Indianapolis 500.

"In 1977, it was a great day," he said. A car owner since early in his career, Foyt sided with Speedway president and IRL founder Tony George when Championship Auto Racing Teams left Indianapolis. He called CART a bunch of elitists, and has been one of the IRL's staunchest defenders. Not even fellow Indy icon Mario Andretti is spared his wrath when it comes to the open-wheel split. When Foyt was asked if he was happy about the return of two-time champion Al Unser Jr., who spent the last five years with CART, Foyt said everyone is. "Where did the Unsers make their name? Where did A.J. make his name? Right here," Foyt said. "Probably the only one that's not happy about him being back would be Mario Andretti. I guess he made this place, but he don't care about this place." Foyt's devotion to Indy was rewarded last year, when Brack won the race and gave Foyt his fifth championship. Foyt's other two drivers, Billy Boat and Robbie

Buhl, finished third and sixth. He has three cars again this year, but he got them into the race in very different ways. Brack decided at the end of last season he needed a new challenge and jumped to CART, and Boat and Foyt parted ways. Foyt hired Eliseo Salazar and Jeff Ward, and they put him right back up front. Salazar will start from the outside of the first row and Ward will start from the outside on the second. Then Boat came knocking on Foyt's garage door on Bump Day, desperately searching for a car that could get him in the race. Foyt gave him Ward's backup car, but it developed problems with less than an hour to go in qualifying. Foyt then brought out Salazar's backup, a G Force-Oldsmobile Aurora that hadn't turned a lap all week, and Boat qualified in the last row. "I've got three great race cars, I've got three great drivers and I've got three great crews," Foyt said. "If we can top last year, we'll have done something."

SPORTS EXTRA

TRANSACTIONS

AMERICAN LEAGUE - Recalled RHP Seth Etherton from Edmonton of the PCL. BALTIMORE ORIOLES - Announced the resignation of Paul Zaaska, bullpen catcher. Promoted Al Caputo from assistant groundskeeper to groundskeeper. CLEVELAND INDIANS - Placed OF INF Jobert Cabrera on the inactive list. Recalled OF Dave Roberts from Buffalo of the International League. NEW YORK YANKEES - Activated LHP Allan Watson from the 15-day disabled list. Options RHP Dan Ellis and RHP Tim Lincecum to Columbus of the International League. OAKLAND ATHLETICS - Released OF Rodney Clifton from Modesto of the California League. NATIONAL LEAGUE - Placed OF Travis Lee on the 15-day disabled list. Contracted to May 25. Purchased the contract of OF Turner Ward from Tucson of the PCL. CHICAGO CUBS - Placed SS Ricky Gutierrez on the 15-day disabled list. Waived RHP Brian Williams. Recalled INF Chad Meyers and RHP Tim Worrell and RHP Matt Karchner from Iowa of the PCL. HOUSTON ASTROS - Placed OF Roger Cedeno on the 15-day disabled list. Recalled OF Lance Berkman from New Orleans of the PCL. LOS ANGELES DODGERS - Sent RHP Orel Hershiser to San Bernardino of the California League. Activated RHP Mike Fetters from the 15-day disabled list. MILWAUKEE BREWERS - Signed C Joshua Litalien from the 15-day disabled list. MONTREAL EXPOS - Placed RHP Mike Thurman on the 15-day disabled list. Recalled INF Trace Coakle from Ottawa of the PCL. SAN DIEGO PADRES - Signed 1B Ryan Klesko to a three-year contract extension through 2004. SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS - Sent RHP Joe Nathan to San Jose of the PCL on a rehabilitation assignment. BASKETBALL - NATIONAL Basketball Association - Phoenix Suns - Signed G Jason Kidd to a one-year contract extension through the 2003-04 season. FOOTBALL - NATIONAL Football League - NEW YORK JETS - Agreed to terms with TE Anthony Becht on a five-year contract. TENNESSEE TITANS - Signed LB Terry Allen to a two-year contract. HOCKEY - NATIONAL Hockey League - COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS - Claimed D James Howard off waivers from the New York Islanders. SOCCER - Major League Soccer - D.C. UNITED - Signed forward Pete Marino, making room on roster by waiving forward Michael Burke. TAMPA BAY MUTINY - Traded forward Raul Diaz Ace to D.C. United for two first-round 2001 SuperDraft picks, one 2002 second-round SuperDraft pick and midfielder John Messersmith. COLLEGE - ARKANSAS - Announced the resignation of Thoma Tills, women's assistant basketball coach, to become women's basketball coach at Tyler Junior College. KANSAS - Named Stanley Redburn as the school's new track and cross country coach.

MAJOR LEAGUE STANDINGS

Table with columns for American League (East and West Divisions) and National League (East and West Divisions), showing team names, wins, losses, percentages, and games behind.

Table with columns for National League (East and West Divisions) and American League (East and West Divisions), showing team names, wins, losses, percentages, and games behind.

AL LEADERS

Table listing top performers in the American League, including batting averages, home runs, RBIs, and other statistics for various players.

NL LEADERS

Table listing top performers in the National League, including batting averages, home runs, RBIs, and other statistics for various players.

NHL PLAYOFFS

Table detailing NHL playoff results, including conference finals, Stanley Cup Finals, and other tournament outcomes.

NBA PLAYOFFS

Table detailing NBA playoff results, including conference finals and the NBA Finals.

Those Rangers may look real, but they paid to play for fun

ARLINGTON (AP) - They may look like the real Texas Rangers, but those uniformed baseball players at The Ballpark in Arlington this weekend paid to play for fun. One glance and it's easy to realize they look like the real Rangers because of their regulation uniforms and not their playing ability. More than 40 men and one woman paid \$2,995 each (\$500 more for those who needed hotel accommodations) to take part in the Texas Rangers Fantasy Camp, unusual in that it is being held at the actual major league stadium during the season. "It is more than worth it. I would have probably paid double," said Jason Bramlett, 30, a small business owner from Hurst. "This is something you think you can only imagine being a part of." All of the campers get the opportunity to be close to former Texas Rangers greats taking part in the camp. Some get to act out their unfulfilled childhood dreams of being a major-league player and others get to briefly revive a career cut short. In 1965, Carl Haddock, 56, of Springtown, was in his first season as a minor-league pitcher in North Carolina for the New York Mets when he was called to military duty in Vietnam. During the four-day fantasy camp, which ends tonight, Haddock was back on a pitcher's mound for the first time since returning from Vietnam. "I hadn't done it in a long time so I thought I'd come out here and see what it'd be like again - and see if I still had the stuff," Haddock said. "I will be able to say I did pitch in the Ballpark off the mound." Haddock struck out a couple of batters in his first outing of the weekend, even with a pulled hamstring and his already sore arm. "About a minute and six seconds into the deal after exercises and stretching, I pulled the hamstring real good," Haddock said. "I've followed baseball all of my life," Bramlett said. "Nolan, that's the main reason I came out here. Also the chance to meet Gaylor, Fergie, Jim Sundberg and other greats." Bramlett hasn't played organized baseball since he got out of high school in 1988, he said. The slow-pitch church softball he has played since isn't the same. Sundberg said it was enjoyable to be around campers so energetic and enthusiastic about their opportunity. It's not making him miss baseball though. Sundberg said it was enjoyable to be around campers so energetic and enthusiastic about their opportunity. It's not making him miss baseball though. "I put it behind me quite a few years ago," Sundberg said. "My body lets me know that I'm glad I'm not doing this. I'm still just sitting around watching." Pete O'Brien wasn't getting to sit much while serving as the camp's roving hitting instructor. He was surprised at what he saw in the campers, who varied greatly not only in age and body shape but in skill level and past experience. "I thought I was going to see some slow bats and some bad hands," said O'Brien, a former Ranger (1982-88) who still lives in the area. "There is some pretty good talent, everybody's got a pretty good hack. "Everybody is having a good time and putting forth a great effort. That's what makes it fun." Sundberg, Gaylor Perry, Fergie Jenkins and Mickey Rivers were among former Ranger players serving as instructors during the camp. Hall of Fame strikeout king Nolan Ryan, who had heart bypass surgery April 23, visited campers on Friday. "I've followed baseball all of

my life," Bramlett said. "Nolan, that's the main reason I came out here. Also the chance to meet Gaylor, Fergie, Jim Sundberg and other greats." Bramlett hasn't played organized baseball since he got out of high school in 1988, he said. The slow-pitch church softball he has played since isn't the same. Sundberg said it was enjoyable to be around campers so energetic and enthusiastic about their opportunity. It's not making him miss baseball though. Sundberg said it was enjoyable to be around campers so energetic and enthusiastic about their opportunity. It's not making him miss baseball though. "I put it behind me quite a few years ago," Sundberg said. "My body lets me know that I'm glad I'm not doing this. I'm still just sitting around watching." Pete O'Brien wasn't getting to sit much while serving as the camp's roving hitting instructor. He was surprised at what he saw in the campers, who varied greatly not only in age and body shape but in skill level and past experience. "I thought I was going to see some slow bats and some bad hands," said O'Brien, a former Ranger (1982-88) who still lives in the area. "There is some pretty good talent, everybody's got a pretty good hack. "Everybody is having a good time and putting forth a great effort. That's what makes it fun." Sundberg, Gaylor Perry, Fergie Jenkins and Mickey Rivers were among former Ranger players serving as instructors during the camp. Hall of Fame strikeout king Nolan Ryan, who had heart bypass surgery April 23, visited campers on Friday. "I've followed baseball all of

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Kuehne lead 18 of CORNING. Defending champion Kuehne shot a Saturday to tie for the lead with Mi Hyun. The third-round LPGA Corning Kuehne, with Jones by a six year, overcame on the first hole of the round at 1 shot ahead of I had a 69. Alone in this stroke back Ramsbottom at erratic 70. Pat with a 67 and with Liz Ear who celebrated day with a 68. Sherri Steink eight top-10 finish also moved in with a 66, the day. Kim, who began Ramsbottom a self-destructed. The 23-year-old Korean, the leader in rounds despite in her last shot with a bogey rallying with birdies to go to aster soon struck her: two bogeys and a double-bogey 364-yard dogleg bogey on the. Lady Steers Camp slated. The Big Spring Summer Basket for June 19-22. High School. Girls who will grade through for the year are eligible. Times will be 11:30 a.m. daily. Kathy Loter, basketball coach the camp. Camp on fundamentals shooting, dribbling, catching. Campers in daily kethal games. At the conclusion campers will be awarded to center, call 268 Loter at 800 V Spring. Basketball slated in Colorado. A youth basketball has been Friday and Saturday in Colorado City. Play will be in divisions - teams with players and under 16 for teenagers and under 12 for younger players in the under. Entry fees for teams are \$100. For more information, call Kristina Guerin at 268-1111. Sands scheduled camp for June. Sands High School basketball coach scheduled the "Champs" basketball camp. Camp sessions a.m. to 11 a.m. youngsters in those in grade sessions from. Fees will be.

Kuehne grabs slim lead going into final 18 of Corning Classic

CORNING, N.Y. (AP) — Defending champion Kelli Kuehne shot a 5-under-par 67 Saturday to race past struggling Mi Hyun Kim and take the third-round lead in the LPGA Corning Classic.

Kuehne, who beat Rosie Jones by a single stroke last year, overcame a double-bogey on the first hole and finished the round at 11-under 205, one shot ahead of Betsy King, who had a 69.

Alone in third place another stroke back was Nancy Ramsbottom after a somewhat erratic 70. Pat Hurst finished with a 67 and was tied at 208 with Liz Earley of Canada, who celebrated her 30th birthday with a 68.

Sherri Steinhauer, who has eight top-10 finishes this year, also moved into contention with a 66, the best round of the day.

Kim, who began the day with a two-shot lead over King, Ramsbottom and Cindy Flom, self-destructed with a 76, as did Flom.

The 23-year-old South Korean, the leader the first two rounds despite a muscle strain in her left shoulder, started with a bogey on No. 1. After rallying with two straight birdies to go to 10 under, disaster soon struck in earnest for her: two bogeys before the turn and a double-bogey on No. 10, a 364-yard dogleg right. Another bogey on the par-4, 412-yard

No. 13 dropped her six shots behind Kuehne and put her chances of winning for the third time on tour in jeopardy.

The wind, which had gusted during the first two rounds, died down and the soggy Corning Country Club course, soaked by a week of rain, dried out some more under sunny skies. The forecast for Sunday called for a chance of afternoon showers.

Kuehne started the day with a drive into the left rough on the first hole, a 402-yard par-4. She recovered nicely, but when her putt for par hit the hole and rolled 8 feet past, she missed again coming back and three-putted.

That failed to dampen her spirits.

"You make some, you miss some," said Kuehne, who rallied with six birdies to go to 10-under at the turn. "I'm not the least bit disappointed considering the start I got off to."

Kuehne then strung together seven straight pars and finished the day with a birdie on No. 18 after driving into the left rough again.

A year ago, Kuehne trailed Jones by a stroke entering the final round and won for the only time in two full years on tour.

"It was the first time I had ever played in the leader group," Kuehne said. "I've been in the situation before and I'm very comfortable."

WNBA 2000: Expansion theme for new season

NEW YORK (AP) — The WNBA is stretching out. Way out.

In only its fourth season, the league already has doubled in size from eight teams in 1997 to 16. Teams in Seattle, Portland, Indianapolis and Miami have joined the WNBA for the 2000 season.

Another theme this summer will be the Olympics. The league condensed its season to allow players to join their national teams for the Sydney Games.

"We had our origins with the great success of the 1996 Olympics and see it as an important story line," WNBA president Val Ackerman said. "We see it as an exclamation point at the end of our season."

Games begin Monday with a nationally televised rematch of last year's championship, New York at Houston.

The new season brings new rules, too, including an unlimited number of players from the defunct ABL on all rosters, and eight teams, not just six, in the playoffs in a best-of-three format in all rounds.

The 32-game schedule will be squeezed into 11 weeks, meaning many back-to-back games that might affect play in a league that sent two losing teams to the 1999 playoffs.

"If you did that in the NBA, four expansion teams in one year, you'd have four horrible teams," New York Liberty coach Richie Adubato said. "They'd win 16-18 games. That isn't the case. You still have all those ABL players, all the European players. They can play."

Last year's collective bargaining agreement allowed only three ABL players per team, while the 1999 expansion teams in Orlando and Minnesota were allowed five.

The coaches in Seattle and Portland look to develop a rivalry before someday challenging the three-time defending champion Houston Comets in the Western Conference.

Linda Hargrove, coach of the Portland Fire, said she and Seattle coach Lin Dunn are "Northwest expansion sisters."

"Portland and Seattle have a natural rivalry that will be very healthy," Hargrove said. "The West is so strong, it's important that we win against each other, making our rivalry even more intense."

Czech Republic star Kamila Vodichkova, the No. 9 pick in the draft, will be the centerpiece of the Seattle Storm's offense.

Dunn, who turned the last-place Portland Power of the ABL into

a conference champion in one season, never saw Vodichkova play in person before selecting the 6-foot-4 forward.

"We got a steal," Dunn said. "She's 27, strong, physical, can run and is just learning my system."

The WNBA draft began with an international flavor when the Cleveland Rockers selected 19-year-old Ann Wauters of Belgium as the top pick.

Like many players returning from Europe and South America, the willowy Wauters missed the first two weeks of the 22-day training camp.

"I know her to be the Belgian sensation," Ackerman said. "She's a player with some size, but also very versatile."

Ackerman said eight of the 12 Olympic women's basketball teams will have current or former WNBA players on their rosters. The WNBA Finals will end no later than Aug. 27 so players can rejoin their national teams

before the start of the Olympics in mid-September.

The league rode the popularity of the 1996 U.S. gold medal team, signed many of its stars and has averaged more than 10,000 fans the past two seasons.

Besides Teresa Edwards, 10 of 11 members on the U.S. national team will be in WNBA uniforms this summer. Edwards, training for an unprecedented fifth Olympic appearance, did not agree to terms with the league for the second consecutive season. She was a founding member of the ABL.

Coach Anne Donovan of the Indiana Fever coached Edwards in the ABL.

"I think Teresa Edwards is the greatest player in this game," Donovan said. "I would love to have seen Teresa in this league where she could be showcased and the public would get an opportunity to see her more than just during the two weeks of the Olympics."

CLOSER TO HOME

Lady Steers Basketball Camp slated June 19-22

The Big Spring Lady Steers Summer Basketball Camp is set for June 19-22 at Big Spring High School.

Girls who will be in the second grade through the eighth grade for the 2000-2001 school year are eligible. The \$45 tuition includes a T-shirt.

Times will be from 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. daily.

Kathy Loter, BSHS head girls basketball coach, will conduct the camp. Campers will work on fundamental skills such as shooting, dribbling, passing and catching. Campers will participate in daily contests and basketball games.

At the conclusion of the camp, campers will be given certificates and trophies will be awarded to contest winners. To enter, call 268-9372 or contact Loter at 800 W. 18th St., Big Spring.

Basketball tournament slated in Colorado City

A youth basketball tournament has been scheduled for Friday and Saturday, June 9-10, in Colorado City.

Play will be conducted in four divisions — boys' and girls' teams with players in the fifth grade and under, as well as divisions for teams composed of players in the sixth grade and under.

Entry fees for the 10-player teams are \$100.

For more information, Call Kristina Guerra at 728-2377 or Celinda Stewart at 7289-4039.

Sands schedules hoops camp for June 26-30

Sands High School head basketball coach Harold Scott has scheduled the "Camp for Champs" basketball camp for June 26-30.

Camp sessions will be from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. each day for youngsters in grades 1-4, while those in grades 5-8 will attend sessions from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Fees will be \$25 for those

attending the morning sessions, while afternoon sessions will be \$30.

The deadline for registering is June 19.

For more information, call Scott at 353-4800.

Softball tournament set for June 9-11 in Stanton

A challenge men's softball tournament has been scheduled for Friday through Sunday, June 9-11, in Stanton.

The tournament will feature one to six home run per game challenges, the lowest prevailing.

The deadline for entries is 7 p.m. Thursday, June 8.

For more information, call Mike Martinez at 756-2603, or Mack Galan at 684-5277 or 559-0134.

Forsan reunion organizers seeking team pictures

Organizers planning the Aug. 5 all-class reunion at Forsan High School are currently seeking team pictures of the 1966 and 1967 Queens basketball teams that reached the state tournament in Austin.

Anyone having a picture of one or both of those teams is asked to call Boyce Hale at 267-6957.

Country club schedules parent-child tournament

A parent-child tournament has been slated for June 10-11 at the Big Spring Country Club.

Entry fees for the trophy division — age groups 5 to 11, 12 to 15 and 16 to 18 — will be \$30 per team with a \$15 additional charge for another child play-

ing with the same parent.

Open division fees will be \$80 per team with a \$40 fee for additional children playing with the same parent.

Play will begin with a 9 a.m. shotgun start on Saturday, and Sunday's round will begin at 1 p.m.

For more information, call 267-5354.

UGSA Cubs split games in Division I UGSA action

The Division I Cubs managed to split games with the Royal Blast and the Monarchs in Big Spring United Girls Softball Association (UGSA) action recently.

The Cubs managed a 12-11 win over the Royal Blast, as Paige Smith and Bianca Mireles combined for the win. Smith, Tina Olivares, Melanie Olivares and Savana McDonald led the way offensively.

Brenna Conner, Kara Fraley and Chesley Huckabee did most of the damage for the Blast.

Four days later, however, the Monarchs dealt the Cubs a 9-5 loss behind the pitching of Kelly Sage.

In Division V action, the Purple Jade took a 5-2 win behind the pitching of Heather James, who fanned 13 batters.

Men's slowpitch softball league now being formed

Plans are currently under way to create a 12-team men's slowpitch softball league in Big Spring this summer.

Anyone interested in entering a team in the Spring City Men's Softball League should call Becky Crane at 264-2376 or Andi Andrews-York at 263-7641.

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MAY 28 2000

Ryan now armed with new outlook after heart surgery

ARLINGTON (AP) — The pain in his chest was so strong, so overbearing that he had to lie down. Right there, on the field of a minor league baseball stadium.

Nolan Ryan thought he might be dying.

"That is one of those times that you don't know if it is your time or not, he said. "That's where you find the strength in your faith. I thought I was going to die out there laying on that ground."

The 53-year-old strikeout king on Friday made one of his first public appearances since emergency double bypass heart surgery April 23. Ryan was at The Ballpark in Arlington, posing for pictures and speaking with more than 40 people taking part in a Texas Rangers fantasy camp.

The Hall of Famer said he felt good, and certainly appeared that way. Ryan, who looks as if he could still go to the mound and add to his 5,714 career strikeouts and seven no-hitters, said his recovery is going well.

"It's an adjustment the first couple of weeks not being able to do much. The last two weeks I've gotten a lot better. I'm driving myself now and up to walking 40, 50 minutes a day," Ryan said. "I'm making some steps in the right direction."

His doctors, while pleased with his recovery, say he needs another month or so before resuming full activity. The ballpark appearance fulfilled a commitment made long before his unexpected surgery.

Ryan said the surgery has changed his perspective on life. "You realize how fragile life is and you reach a point where you start realizing maybe you ought to enjoy some of the things that you have accomplished," Ryan said.

He plans to cut back on travel and personal appearances, but he will make few changes in his family life and business ventures — a bank, a ranch and a minor league team in which he is part-owner. None requires his daily attention, allowing him to set his own schedule.

"You get involved in all of your activities and the demands on your time and trying to accommodate as many people as you can," he said. "When something like this happens, all of a sudden, you step back and say maybe you need to reassess what you are doing."

Ryan had shown no signs of health problems until April 23. He began feeling sick while walking around the Dell Diamond, the new home of his team in Round Rock.

He didn't have a heart attack, but doctors found severe blockage in his left coronary artery, which supplies 75 percent of the blood to the heart. Surgery was performed within hours.

Other than a family history of heart problems, Ryan said there is still no real explanation for that blockage, the only one doctors found in his heart.

Ryan retired from baseball in 1993. He seemed in excellent health, with no problems during annual checkups the past 10 years. He has always eaten right and continued to exercise since retiring.

His wife, Ruth, said she doesn't know anything more her husband could have done the past decade to prevent what happened, but has seen some good.

"He has a very improved type of attitude about things, as far as he doesn't get excited and he doesn't put pressure on himself to get things done," she said.

ROUNDUP

Continued from page 9A

bined 118 for all of last season in the Astrodome.

Quilvio Veras doubled and scored on Chipper Jones' sacrifice fly in the first inning off Shane Reynolds (5-1). Veras singled in the third and scored on Andruw Jones' homer for a 3-0 lead.

John Burkett loaded the bases in the third on walks to Spiers and Alou and a single by Jeff Bagwell. Hidalgo singled home a run and Berkman had an RBI grounder.

Jordan hit a solo in the sixth and Chipper Jones' two-run homer in the eighth ended Reynolds' day. He allowed eight hits, six earned runs, walked one and struck out three.

Burkett (4-2) pitched six innings, gave up seven hits, two earned runs and five strikeouts for the victory.

Alou is hitting .330 in 26 games this season with six home runs and 18 RBIs. He walked twice before leaving the game.

Alou missed last season recovering from surgery to repair a torn anterior cruciate ligament on his left knee. Cedeno is on the disabled list with a broken left hand.

Yankees 8, Red Sox 3

Derek Jeter's private plane was worth the money.

The Yankees shortstop, who rented his own flight in order to get to the game, went 3-for-4 with a steal and RBI single Saturday as New York beat the Boston Red Sox 8-3.

Jeter, who had been on the disabled list since May 11

because of a strained abdominal muscle, stopped an 0-for-14 slide, his longest since April 1997, with a third-inning single.

After Jorge Posada's tiebreaking homer off John Wasdin (0-1) put the Yankees ahead 4-3 in a five-run sixth, Jeter added an RBI single and Paul O'Neill followed with a three-run homer off Tim Young.

Jeter had been in Tampa, Fla., on Friday night for a one-game rehabilitation assignment, and the Yankees had planned to have him take a commercial flight Saturday. Instead, Jeter paid to rent a plane and returned late Friday night.

New York won for just the fifth time in 12 games and again tied Boston for the AL East lead. The Yankees also avoided losing seven straight to Red Sox for the first time since Sept. 14, 1984, to April 24, 1985.

Pedro Martinez and Roger Clemens face off in the series finale Sunday night.

Boston shortstop Nomar Garciaparra also returned. Garciaparra, on the DL since May 12 with a strained left hamstring, went 1-for-3.

Orlando "El Duque" Hernandez, who had been scheduled to start for New York, felt tightness in his upper back warming up before the game and was replaced by Jason Grimsley, who allowed three runs and five hits in five innings.

The win went to Mike Stanton (1-0).

Mariners 6, Devil Rays 3

John Olerud's two-run single snapped a fifth-inning tie and the Seattle Mariners went on to

beat Tampa Bay 6-3 on Saturday, for the struggling Devil Rays' 11th loss in 13 games.

Brett Tomko (3-2) allowed three hits in five-plus innings, and the Mariners got a pair of RBI singles from Mark McLemore. Five Seattle pitchers combined on the four-hitter.

McLemore's RBI single off Bryan Rekar gave the Mariners a 4-1 lead in the top of the sixth. His single off Rick White drove in Seattle's final run in the eighth.

Rekar (1-3) was coming off his strongest outing of the season, a club-record 5 2-3-inning relief stint that got him his first win since last July 10. He limited Seattle to two hits — one of them Raul Ibanez's RBI double — through four innings, but the Mariners kept pecking away.

Olerud snapped a 1-1 tie with his two-run single in the fifth and the first of McLemore's two RBI singles finished Rekar. The right-hander allowed four runs and seven hits in 5 1-3 innings.

Rockies 7, Pirates 6

Todd Helton hit two home runs, including a ninth-inning shot that lifted the Colorado Rockies over the Pittsburgh Pirates 7-6 Saturday.

Helton had tied the game with a three-run homer in the fifth. He went 4-for-4 and raised his average to .406.

Jason Kendall went 4-for-5 with three runs scored and Wil Cordero added a two-run homer for the Pirates.

Colorado erased an early 5-0 deficit and got an impressive effort from relievers Julian Tavarez and Gabe White (4-0).

The two held Pittsburgh to one run and three hits in 4 1-3 innings.

The bullpen set the stage for Helton as he hit the first pitch from Jason Christiansen (1-3) into the bullpen beyond right field for his 15th homer of the season.

Cubs 3, Giants 2

Jose Nieves' sacrifice fly in the 11th inning gave the Chicago Cubs a 3-2 win Saturday over the San Francisco Giants, just the Cubs' eighth win in 24 road games this season.

Henry Rodriguez opened the 11th with a double off Aaron Fultz (1-1). Pinch-runner Chad Meyers moved to third on a groundout and, after a walk, scored on Nieves' fly to right.

Daniel Garibay (1-1) pitched two hitless innings for the win. Rick Aguilera pitched the 11th for his eighth save in 12 opportunities.

After being held scoreless on one hit for the first 7 2-3 innings, the Cubs tied the game at 2 on back-to-back homers by Rodriguez and Julio Zuleta off reliever John Johnstone. Rodriguez's 12th homer of the season went into the seats above the brick wall in right-center.

Zuleta's first major league homer, capping a 12-pitch at-bat, went to left field.

The two homers deprived San Francisco starter Russ Ortiz of a win after a roller-coaster performance in which he allowed one hit in six scoreless innings — striking out a career-high 11 and matching his career high with seven walks.

NCAA

Continued from page 9A

Jason Quintana (6-4) took the loss for Princeton after allowing seven hits and seven runs in five innings of work.

Scott Holzhauser had two hits and two RBIs for Tech. Martin and Jon Watterson had two hits apiece for the Tigers.

Florida 10, Baylor 1

WACO — The Florida Gators scored in each of the first five innings, eventually beating Baylor 10-1 on Saturday.

Jeff Cardozo (6-2) went the distance for Florida, allowing seven hits, walking one, and striking out eight.

Baylor (45-17) made several small mistakes in the first few innings, and Florida made the

Bears pay.

In the first inning, Baylor starter Kyle Evans (11-2) walked leadoff hitter Mark Kiger, who later came around to score on Jason Dill's single to left center field.

In the third, Baylor third baseman Matt Williams dropped Kiger's infield pop up. The error cost the Bears a run one batter later, when Kurt

Keene homered to center to give Florida a 4-1 lead.

A fourth-inning passed ball by Kelly Shoppach put runners at second and third.

Kiger followed with a sacrifice fly that drove in the Gators' fifth run.

Baylor was led by Anthony Hensley, who went 2-for-3 and drove in the Bears' only run with a second-inning single.

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◆When a piece of music is meant to be played estinto, it should be so soft that it can hardly be heard.

◆The triangular area between the sides of two adjacent arches is called a spandrel.

Do you have a story idea for the *life!* section? Call 263-7331, Ext. 236.

It's A

GRAND OLD FLAG

We see it every day, suspended in a place of honor in front of houses and buildings, hospitals and schools. But somehow, many of us end up taking for granted the flag of the United States of America.

Not Jesse Hernandez. The World War II veteran venerates this symbol of our national freedom.

"It's a very sacred thing," said Hernandez, who flies a flag in front of his home on most holidays, and plans to fly one Monday, which is Memorial Day. "A lot of guys spilled their blood for that flag, to keep it flying."

On Memorial Day, flying Old Glory takes on a new significance for Hernandez.

"I remember all the guys that didn't make it back," he said. His own nephew was killed in Vietnam, and in World War II, Hernandez said he lost many friends.

"I had four friends killed, ... and I was pallbearer for all of their funerals," he said. "That was tough."

The Air Force veteran is a past commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2013 and a past district commander for the VFW.

"Memorial Day is more than just a day to go out boating," he said. "We should all take a few minutes to remember."

Hernandez said nothing put a lump in his throat like handing a folded flag to the widow of a veteran killed in action.

"The flag is a symbol of that sacrifice," he said.

With Memorial Day Monday, and July 4 around the corner, flags are sure to be flying from many more homes and businesses than usual in coming weeks. But will we treat the Stars and Stripes with the respect it deserves?

Did you know, for example, that on Memorial Day, the flag should be flown at half-staff until noon?

Here are some tips, provided by the Big Spring VA Medical Center, for correctly placing, displaying and caring for your U.S. Flag.

Public Law 94-344, known as the Federal Flag Code, contains rules for handling and displaying the U.S. Flag.

Traditional guidelines call for displaying the flag in public from sunrise to sunset. It may be displayed at all times if it is illuminated during darkness. Unless it is an all-weather flag, however, it should be taken down during storms.

It should be hoisted briskly and lowered ceremoniously.

When carried in procession with other flags, the U.S. flag should be either on the marching right (the flag's right) or to the front and center of the flag line. When displayed on a float in a parade, it should be suspended so that it falls free.

The flag should not be draped over a vehicle.

When displayed with another flag, against a wall from crossed staffs, the U.S. flag should be on its own right (left to a person facing the wall) and its staff should be in front. In a group of flags displayed from staffs, the U.S. flag should be at the center and the highest point.

When displayed with other flags, such as states, cities or organizations, the U.S. flag should be at the top.

When displayed flat against the wall on a speaker's platform, the flag should be above and behind the speaker with the union on the left side as the audience sees it. When the flag hangs from a staff in a church or public place, it should be to the speaker's right, left to the audience. Any other flags displayed should be on the opposite side of the speaker.

The flag may cover a casket, but never a statue or monument. It should not be draped or drawn back in folds.

Whenever the flag is to be displayed at half-staff, first raise



At top, Old Glory, the flag of the United States of America, flies in front of the home of local veteran and Herald columnist Al Scott every day. At left, Jesse Hernandez, World War II veteran, looks at the flag he flies frequently in front of his home. Below, Phil Corbin of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2013, folds the U.S. flag during a ceremony retiring and replacing the flag at Hangar 25 Museum.

'A lot of guys spilled their blood for that flag, to keep it flying.'

Jesse Hernandez, WWII veteran

- Display it with the union down, except as a symbol of distress.
 - Let it touch anything beneath it, including the ground, floor, water.
 - Place anything on the flag, such as letters, insignia or designs.
 - Fasten or display it in a way that will allow it to be damaged or soiled.
 - Use it for holding anything.
 - Use it as clothing, bedding or drapery; attach it to a costume or athletic uniform. However, it can be worn on the uniform or patriotic organizations, military personnel, police and firefighters.
- When the flag is hoisted or lowered, Americans should stand at attention facing the flag and place their right hand over their heart. Uniformed military members render the military salute.



Safe abandonment: Crusader's drive to save newborns spreads

MOBILE, Ala. (AP) — Barbara Knott was abandoned as a newborn, left in a basement in New York City by a mother who couldn't care for her and had already given away other children.

Knott's story took a happier turn: She ended up far away from Manhattan, a child of adoptive parents in Mobile.

Now 38 and with two teenaged sons of her own, Knott fully supports a movement that started in Mobile and has spread across the country to allow mothers to anonymously give up their newborns at hospitals.

"I would love to meet them, so they don't feel guilty," Knott says of what are often troubled and confused young mothers.

At least 28 states have either adopted or are considering "safe abandonment" legislation this year alone, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

The drive started in Mobile after the 1995 death of a newborn boy who was drowned in a toilet by a young, unwed mother.

Local television reporter Jodi Brooks, who covered the 1998 murder trial and the abandonment of other newborns along the Gulf Coast, became outraged.

She got together officials from area hospitals, welfare offices and the district attorney, who agreed not to prosecute women abandoning their infants. The result was a policy allowing

mothers to drop off newborns at Mobile-area hospitals within 72 hours of birth, no questions asked. That proposal was later adopted by prosecutors across the state — and emulated across the country.

"Relinquishing a newborn in the safe environment of an emergency room is not child abuse or child neglect," says chief assistant prosecutor George Ward in Wayne County, Mich., where the program is in place.

However, some child welfare advocates say it has drawbacks, including encouraging mothers to abandon their children.

Dr. Charles Shubin, head of pediatrics for Mercy FamilyCare Community Health Center in Baltimore, Md., also

says anonymous abandonment leaves the child without knowledge of possibly important genetic issues, and if the mother is already granted immunity there's no reason for her to remain nameless. Plus, he adds, it "doesn't get the mom any help."

Other critics have questioned how emergency workers would determine an infant's age or the role the mother's family or father plays.

It's unclear how many newborns are abandoned every year.

Michael Kharfen, a spokesman for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, says there were media reports of 105 infants abandoned in "public

places" in 1998, including 33 who were dead. In 1991, the only other recent year for which figures were compiled, there were 65 infants abandoned in public places — eight of them dead.

Because the figures are based on media reports and are not compiled regularly, it's unknown whether the numbers reflect an increase over time, Kharfen says.

Texas passed a law last year providing a favorable defense for a parent who voluntarily delivers a child 30 days old or younger to a licensed emergency medical services provider. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, D-Texas, has also proposed legislation that would create a federal database of abandoned

babies in hopes of finding out what influences the decision by parents. Lee acted after 13 babies were abandoned in a 10-month span in her hometown of Houston; three were dead.

In Alabama, where state officials estimate that about a dozen newborns are abandoned annually, lawmakers passed a law May 12 allowing hospitals statewide to accept the children without a court order.

Since the program began in Mobile for infants less than three days old, one baby has been rescued from a trash pile, another two have been turned in at hospitals, and two girls — aged 13 and 14 — have received counseling that guided them through successful pregnancies.

GETTING ENGAGED



Jeanie Denton and Chuck Hand, both of Big Spring, will exchange wedding vows on June 2, 2000, at the Dora Roberts Community Center with China Long officiating.



Pamela Barraza of Lubbock and Tracey Martinez of Odessa will be united in marriage on Aug. 12, 2000, at Holy Redeemer Catholic Church with the Rev. Jim Nugent officiating.

She is the daughter of Gilbert and Viola Barraza of Big Spring and the granddaughter of Merce Yanez.

He is the son of Joe and Peggy Martinez of Odessa.



Heather Knous and Douglas Morris, both of Lubbock, will be united in marriage on June 16, 2000, at Treasure Island Hotel Chapel in Las Vegas, Nev.

She is the daughter of Richard and Beverly Knous of Del Rio and the granddaughter of Jim and Jean Huckaby and Verlin and Edith Knous, all of Big Spring.

He is the son of the late Walter and Mary Morris.



Stephanie Gail Anderson and Brant William Murphy will exchange wedding vows on Aug. 4, 2000, at East First Street Baptist Church with the Rev. Dudley Mullins officiating.

She is the daughter of Ticia Anderson and the granddaughter of Brant Anderson of Big Spring.

He is the son of Bill and Nancy Murphy of Garden City and the grandson of David and Jo Massey of Spring.



Veronica Moran and Billy Sumpter, both of Big Spring, will be united in marriage on July 15, 2000, at Victoria's Wedding Chapel in Las Vegas, Nev.

She is the daughter of Joe and Amalia Moran of Big Spring and the granddaughter of Antonio and Ventura Cervantes of Coahoma.

He is the son of Cecil and Joanie Sumpter.



Kimberly Robertson of Big Spring and Lance Turnbow of Walnut Ridge, Ariz., will exchange wedding vows on Aug. 5, 2000, at First United Methodist Church.

She is the daughter of Terrell and Cheryl Robertson of Big Spring.

He is the son of Sloan and Ann Turnbow of Walnut Ridge, Ariz.

NOW gives ranking to TV shows

NEW YORK (AP) — The National Organization for Women declared Fox the "network of shame" Monday for the way it portrays women in "Who Wants to Marry a Multimillionaire" and other programs.

Among the four largest broadcast networks, NBC got the highest marks from NOW.

Fox ranked at the bottom for the number of women it depicted in its lineup, the sexual exploitation of women and the amount of socially responsible programming, said NOW President Patricia Ireland.

"It's a heads-up to Fox but really all of the networks that we're watching," Ireland said.

Fox had no comment on the report.

NOW ranked ABC, CBS, NBC and Fox, using its own subjective criteria and its own volunteers, based on all the programs shown during the February ratings sweeps period. It did not rank UPN or the WB, networks that appeal primarily to young men and women.

NBC received a B-plus on NOW's prime-time report card. CBS had a C-plus, ABC was given a C and Fox had a D-plus.

The study coincided with Fox's ill-fated "Who Wants to Marry a Multimillionaire" special with 50 women competing to marry a wealthy stranger. That show just missed being ranked at the bottom of NOW's list; the group found CBS's movie on JonBenet Ramsey, "Perfect Murder, Perfect Town," to be the worst.

Fox was criticized for shows like "Cops" and its airing of the movie "Independence Day," but some of the network's most popular programs — "Ally McBeal," "The X-Files" and "The Simpsons" — were praised by Ireland.

NBC's dramas scored particularly high, and Ireland praised "The West Wing" and the press secretary character played by Allison Janney.

CBS's "Family Law" received the top score.

NOW had praise for many of network television's dramas but said that in comedy, women were too often used as the targets for sexual comments and advances. Many NOW analysts noted "the abundance of young, beautiful, thin, white women" in comedy, the report said.

Ireland said she hoped to set up meetings with advertisers to let them know the type of material NOW considered objectionable.

She also criticized ABC's "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire" for a lack of women and minority contestants and suggested that its producers use some form of affirmative action to make the show more representative of the public at large.

Meanwhile, the National Hispanic Foundation for the Arts on Monday criticized the major television networks for including few Hispanic characters on programs set for the fall schedule.

ANNIVERSARIES

Hammon



LOYD AND MARY HAMMON

Loyd and Mary Hammon will celebrate their 50th anniversary on June 3, 2000, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Fellowship Hall of Trinity Baptist Church, hosted by their children and their families.

Loyd Hammon was born in Tulsa, Okla., and Mary Kathryn Frazier was born in Denison.

Before the couple met, Loyd served with the U.S. Marines during World War II in the South Pacific. He was on Tinian when they dropped the atomic bomb.

The couple met when Mary was working at L&H Drugstore in Odessa during the summer of 1948.

Loyd called the band hall at the high school and they started dating in October 1948.

The couple was married on June 4, 1950, at the Westside Baptist Church in Big Spring with the Rev. Cecil Rhodes officiating.

Loyd and Mary have two daughters, Carolyn Johnson of Austin and Gloria Garcia of

Lubbock and, one son, Sam Hammon of Port Arthur, and seven grandchildren.

The couple lived in Odessa, Knox City, Ozona and El Dorado and transferred back to Big Spring in 1959.

Loyd worked for ARCO Oil and Gas and had various business on the side including Odessa Pipe Yard and L&M Vacuum Service.

He retired from ARCO Oil after 29 years.

Mary retired from Cosden and worked for the Big Spring Education Employee Federal Credit Union and continues to work part time for Howard County at the Department of Public Safety.

The couple attend Trinity Baptist Church and enjoy traveling and reading. Mary enjoys making porcelain dolls and ceramics.

The couple had this comment about their marriage: We give the glory to the Lord for all his blessings and providing for us and our family all through the years.

ON THE MENU

SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER MONDAY-CLOSED MEMORIAL DAY

TUESDAY-Smothered potatoes, broccoli & salad, milk/rolls, fruit.

WEDNESDAY-Salmon, fries, french fries, corn, coleslaw, milk/cornbread, pudding.

THURSDAY-Enchiladas, spanish rice, beans, milk/cornbread, apple crisp.

FRIDAY-Bar-B-Q chicken, potato salad, blackeyed peas, salad, milk/rolls, cookies.

SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM (Goliad, Bauer, Matcy Big Spring Junior High)

Program begins June 1 THURSDAY-Chicken, mashed potatoes, green beans, spiced apples, hot roll, milk.

FRIDAY-Fish sandwich, french fries, pickle slices, beans, ice cream, milk.

Who's Who appears every Sunday in the Big Spring Herald life section.

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The public is invited to attend a seminar on character Saturday, June 3 in the east room of the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum at Howard County.

DR. NAT COOPER
Director of the Center for Character Development at Lubbock Christian University will be conducting the seminar entitled:

THE MISSING INGREDIENT: CHARACTER

PART I **MAKING MEN WITHOUT CHESTS - A Study in Ethical Decisions**

PART II **THE ROAD TO CHARACTER: How to Define What Character Is? Ethical Dilemmas - What Should I Do?** 9:30- 10:15

BREAK

PART III **WORKS & WHAT DOESN'T WORK** 10:30 - 10:45

PART IV **THE FOUR PILLARS OF CHARACTER** 10:45
Definition
Commitment to
Activities

LUNCH

SEVEN PILLARS - continued 1:00 - 2:00

PART V **MAKING AN ETHICAL DECISION** 2:00 - 2:30
Ethical Dilemmas - Amanda Archer

PART VI **CHARACTER AND COMMUNITY LIFE** 2:30 - END

268-1300

MAY 28 2000

Analysts expect Northrop Grumman to sell division, including Texas plants

FORT WORTH (AP) — Aerospace analysts expect Northrop Grumman Corp. to announce as early as this week its intention to sell its commercial aircraft parts division, including two plants in North Texas.

Northrop Grumman has struggled with falling revenues and profits due to a decline in orders from The Boeing Co., its prime customer.

Northrop Grumman announced last month that it was "exploring its strategic alternatives" for the company's commercial aerospace business. At the company's annual meeting last

week in Santa Monica, Calif., chairman Kent Kresa said the division has been profitable but added, "It is not where we are focusing our growth right now."

Analysts say the company wants to unload the low-margin division and concentrate on more-profitable high-tech defense electronics and information-technology businesses, the Fort Worth Star-Telegram reported.

"If you look at Northrop Grumman's business base that group is (the) one with the highest investment and lowest growth prospects in the near future,"

said Jon Kutler, president of Quarterdeck Investment Partners.

The commercial aerospace division also includes manufacturing and assembly plants in California, Georgia and Florida and is the largest independent U.S. supplier of aircraft parts and components. It is Boeing's largest subcontractor.

Analysts say the division could be attractive to other buyers who want to increase their share of the aerospace business.

"It's basically a wonderful way to gain access to the biggest part of the

world aviation market," said Richard Aboulafia, an analyst with the Teal Group, an aerospace forecasting firm.

Among rumored interested buyers are The Carlyle Group, a Washington-based global investment company led by former Secretary of Defense Frank Carlucci. Other possible bidders include General Dynamics, British Aerospace or DaimlerChrysler Aerospace.

Northrop Grumman spokesman Jim Taft declined to comment on the company's plans for the division.

The company got good news this

week when the federal government promised to pay to modernize its plants in Dallas and Grand Prairie. U.S. Rep. Martin Frost, D-Dallas, has sought the promise in exchange for supporting President Clinton by voting for a bill normalizing trade with China.

Dallas and Grand Prairie city officials say the government promise was largely tied to long-standing environmental issues at the Dallas plant, which is owned by the Navy. The Navy wants to turn the property over to the city of Dallas.

Boll weevil decline seen already in Howard Co.

Let me share with you some information that shows how boll weevil eradication is working for Howard County cotton producers.

Boll weevil traps have been in place since the 1998 growing year. These traps have been monitored on a weekly basis during the growing year.

The average number of weevils caught in 1999 per trap in Howard County was 12.6. 1999 represented the first growing season since implementation of the Boll Weevil Eradication.

In 2000, the average numbers of weevils are 5.2 for Howard County. This represents a 58 percent reduction of weevils.

Across the 24-county South Plains area that is surveyed annually, a total of 1,100 weevils were caught this past week compared to a total of over 7,000 in 1999 over the same area. Therefore, I would say that yes, Boll Weevil Eradication efforts are working both in Howard County as well as across the South Plains area.

Finally, I would like to share with you some county average weevil trap numbers that are not in any boll weevil management program. Hale County, in 1999, had an average of 13.6 weevils. Swisher County had 8.9 weevils in 1999. This year's average is 12.4.

If weevils are not managed, they will become an increasingly economically detrimental pest for cotton producing area.



DAVID KIGHT

(David Kight is Howard County Extension Agent - Agriculture. His telephone number is 264-2236 and his office is located in the basement of the Howard County Courthouse.)



Pictured here is some of the landscaping around Picante, located at 1912 Scurry, a new business specializing in Mexican imports. It is due to open June 12. Below, David Arguello Jr. helps unload a bookcase at the store, which is owned by Clyde and Beverly McMahon and Mike Madry.

Picante to feature imports

By GINA GARZA
Staff Writer

A new business, scheduled to open June 12, in Big Spring hopes to bring some spice to the shopping scene.

Picante, which means spicy in Spanish, is the name of the new business owned by Clyde and Beverly McMahon and Mike Madry, located at 1912 Scurry.

"We will have unique and unusual furniture imported from Mexico," said Beverly. "One thing about this furniture is that it is all hand made."

She added that it's not very likely that any of the furniture is duplicated.

"I started driving into Mexico, and not just the border towns, and fell in love with it," she said. "I wanted to bring some of their beautiful hand made items for everyone to enjoy."

"Everything in America is machine made and in Mexico, they still make a lot of things by hand," she added.

Picante will also have candles, art work, floral arrangements and some clothing and various items such as lawn furniture and a variety of pots.

"We will have candles from light pastel colors to the very bright colors," she said. "Dunes is the name of the clothing line from Mexico that I will have. It wears great and is easy to laundry."

The McMahons plan on adding to their clothing line as things go along.

"We want to bring the best of Mexico and of the Atlanta and Dallas markets to Big Spring and we will have every kind of price range to offer our customers," she explained. "We want to be able to cater to everybody."

Later this year, they plan on renting out the backyard for weddings and receptions.

"With the canopies and decor, it will make a nice place for a wedding or reception," added McMahon.

"We want to please all of our customers and adapt to their



needs," said McMahon. Store hours will be from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday. "We might possibly open on Sundays," she said. "We will just see how it goes."

Safety

Western Container bottles up another employee milestone

By CARL GRAHAM
Staff Writer

Western Container Corporation has bottled up another safety award, according to plant general manager Alf Marsh.

"We are proud to announce we have gone another 500,000 hours without a lost-time accident involving any of our over 180 employees," said Marsh. "It's once again a tribute to our outstanding safety committee and to the attitude of our employees because they take safety very seriously around here."

Marsh said that just last February, the local plant celebrated one year without any lost-time due to mishaps.

"Considering we operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and we have the oldest facility with the oldest equipment, I think this feat is phenomenal," said Marsh.

Marsh said Western Container would be throwing another barbecue to help celebrate another milestone for the corporation.

"Next Tuesday and Wednesday, the 30th and 31st of May, we will holding a barbecue to say thanks to our employees because it was them

that made this happen," said Marsh. "We will actually have about four different ones in order to accommodate all our shifts."

Western Container, recognized as the premier manufacturer of plastic beverage bottles for the Coca-Cola bottling system, has set several production records as well as these achievements will also be celebrated at the barbecue.

The company takes a number of steps to prevent on-the-job injuries, including an awareness program. This includes videos shown to all shifts once a month, an occupational therapist speaking on worker's compensation, education on lifting techniques, a substance abuse awareness program and sexual harassment training sensitivity training, among others.

Western Container provides incentives for employees who go without time lost due to an on-the-job injury. These include savings bonds and jackets.

"One of my priorities since coming here was to have every employee become safety conscious and be aware of their surroundings," said Marsh. "Considering we have now gone 18 months without a lost-time accident, I believe we are accomplishing that goal."

Better Business Bureau offers info on work at home schemes

Work at home schemes are nothing new to the Better Business Bureau, but today's con artists are turning to a new tool—the computer keyboard—to lure potential victims.

Work at home offers used to be advertised mainly through community newspapers, "back of the book" magazine advertisements, and the US Mail. Now, with the rise of the Internet and e-mail, con artists can transmit phony promotions to a wider audience, cheaper

and quicker. And they frequently tailor their pitch to those interested in making money via computer-related opportunities.

To help protect themselves from modern-day con artists who promise easy riches, The BBB has updated its Work at Home schemes publication. The brochure, which is also posted in the Bureau central website arms consumers with the very latest description of common

See BBB, Page 5B

Cotton farmers hope crop will make it through yet another drought year

COTTON CENTER (AP) — A little more than a week after planting 2,000 acres of cotton, Joe Stokes could beam about the little green seedlings breaking through the earth's surface, braving the scorching temperatures and grit-bearing winds.

But Stokes realizes he's one of the lucky ones this year in an area locals call the world's largest cotton patch. His luck comes from an irrigation system, which allowed the cotton farmer to get his crop in the ground when West Texas' cotton season is off to a bleak start.

Texas leads the nation in cotton production, and the new crop has been blessed by sufficient rain in South and Central Texas, says Texas A&M University cotton marketing specialist Carl Anderson.

Not so in West Texas. Dryland farmers haven't even begun planting, and farmers with irrigation are bracing for huge water and electric bills to keep their crops alive.

Stokes began planting early this year in order to take advantage of what little moisture nature provided. He was glad he did, because it didn't take long

for heat, wind and low humidity to wring the fields dry.

Such evaporation and wind erosion of the already dry West Texas farmlands can turn them as hard as cement, preventing the cotton seedlings from ever making it above ground.

"It's the wind that's killing us," Stokes said. "In the last 10 days we've lost two inches of moisture due to high winds, and two inches is on the conservative side."

"The key this year is whoever has the most water is going to make the best crop."

That's not good news for dryland cotton growers such as Kent Nix of Lamesa.

"This year it is just too dry to even consider planting until we see what is going to happen," Nix said. "This is the time that we generally like to be in the field planting. We probably have two more weeks. If we get good soil moisture over the next two weeks, then it's going to be decision time."

Nix isn't optimistic about the weather. He says May typically is wet, but so far, many farmers say they can count rain instead of measuring it.

"The day before yesterday, six drops hit my windshield and then the sand blew," Stokes said half-jokingly. "To make our normal yields, it's going to have to rain a lot during the growing season, and that's just not the forecast we're getting."

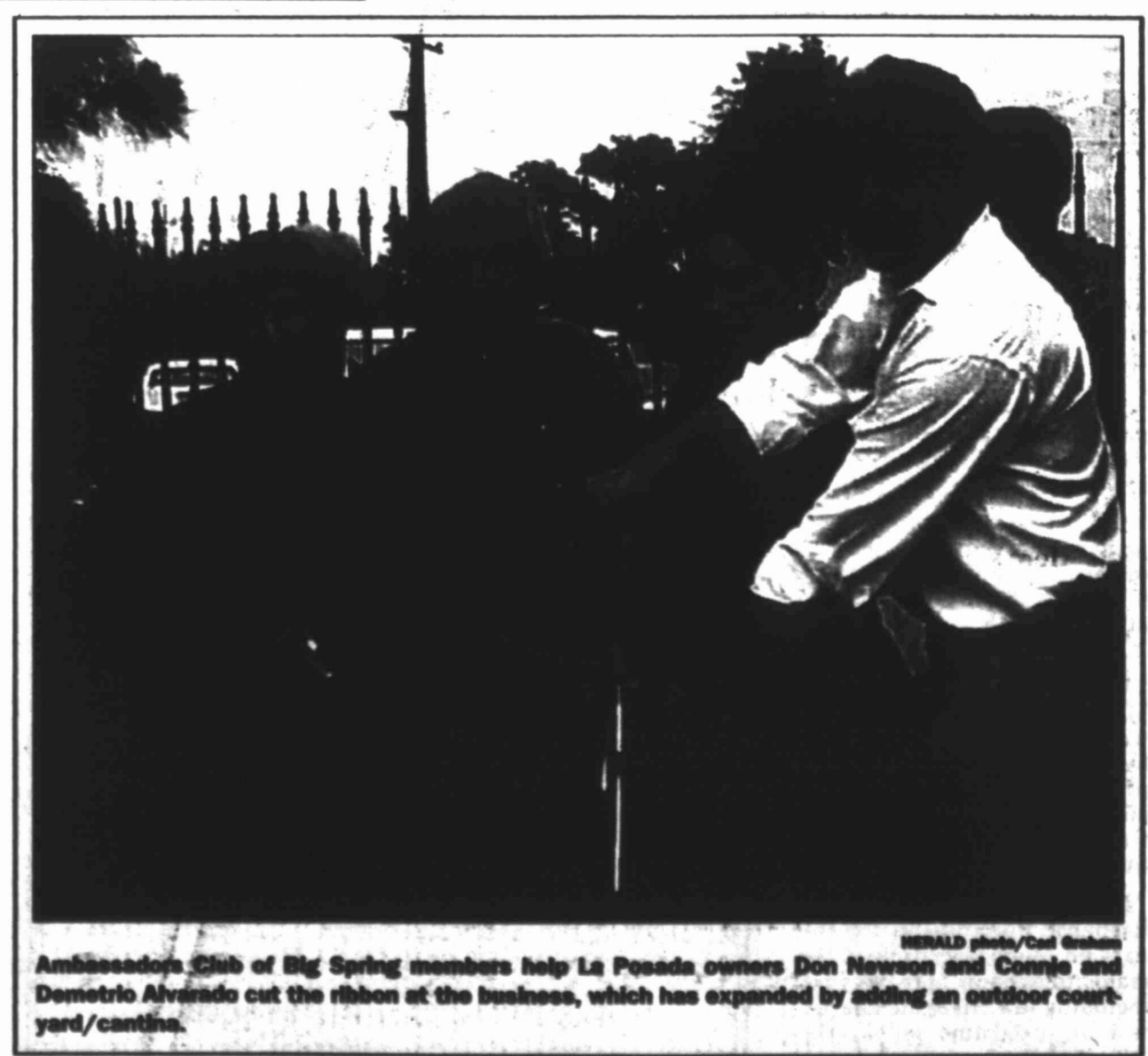
The National Weather Service's long-range forecast shows that the West Texas drought won't lift anytime soon. Anderson said the lack of rain in Texas and California has led farmers in the Southeast, where rain has been more plentiful, to step up production.

"This is a short-range weather pattern that we have to work ourselves out of," Nix said. "We'll get past it and to the point of what makes this a good area to grow the dryland cotton."

The sandy soil south of Lubbock and cotton being a drought-prone crop that can withstand the normal West Texas heat and sparse rains has been a good combination in the past for the South Plains, he said.

O'Donnell dryland farmer

See COTTON, Page 5B



Ambassador Club of Big Spring members help La Posada owners Don Newson and Demetrio Alvarado cut the ribbon at the business, which has expanded by adding an outdoor courtyard/cantina.

work at home ways they can be...
"We suggest caution when these things," Marston, Vice Operations of Basin BBB office promotions claimings and short term or no experience nationwide independence of anyone promised money.
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COTTON

Continued from F

David Pearson chance of those ing together th unfavorable as th he's still holding "We don't no the white flag u June, and that's to decide to cut try another c crop insurance said: "But it's to You just have going to rain."

Parts of West accounts for ab of the 14 million planted each y did get some ra April.

Texas A&M mist Randy Bo weather pattern of 1998, when n lion acres of co costing the stat million.

Cotton losses 1996, when \$355 es were recorde are looking for this year, pre million acres o may not get pla

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