

BIG SPRING HERALD

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"Reflecting a Proud Community"

50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

TUESDAY

June 6, 2000

WEATHER

Tonight:



PARTLY CLOUDY
TONIGHT 60°-65° WEDNESDAY 90°-95°

After Hours event canceled; set for June 22

Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce's Business After Hours, scheduled Thursday at Sherwin Williams has been canceled. The business sustained substantial damage from a recent storm and is unable to host the event. The next Business After Hours will be held June 22 at Teal Carpets, 2810 E. FM 700.

WHAT'S UP...

TODAY

□ VFW Post No. 2013, VFW Hall, 7 p.m.
□ Big Spring Chapter No. 67, Orders of the Eastern Star, 7:30 p.m., Masonic Lodge, 219 Main.

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.
□ Big Spring Downtown Lions Club, noon, Howard College Cactus Room.
□ Line dancing, 1 p.m., Senior Citizens Center, Industrial Park.
□ Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie, 7 p.m., Eagles Lodge, 704 West Third.

THURSDAY

□ Gideons International, Big Spring Camp No. U42060, Herman's, 7 a.m.
□ Big Spring Senior Citizens Center Art Classes, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. for 55 and older.
□ Kiwanis Club, noon, Howard College Cactus Room.
□ Friends of the Library, noon, Howard County Library.
□ Christmas in April Board of Directors, noon, 1607 E. Third, Lions Bingo Building.
□ Texas Tech Exes annual meeting, 6 p.m. meeting, 6:30 p.m. meal, 7 p.m. speakers. Speakers will include Gerald Myers, Sonny Dykes and Dr. Harrington.
□ American Legion Auxiliary, 7 p.m.
□ Masonic Lodge No. 598, 7:30 p.m., 219 Main St.

FRIDAY

□ Signal Mountain Quilting Guild, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., St. Mary's Episcopal Church, call 267-1037 or 267-7281. Bring a lunch.
□ The Greater Big Spring Rotary Club, noon, Howard College Cactus Room.

INSIDE TODAY...

Abby 9
Classified 8-9
Comics 10
General 3,5
Horoscope 9
Obituaries 2
Opinion 4
Sports 6-7

Vol. 97, No. 188

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.

Living History group to join activities at Big Spring State Park

By ALLISON THOMAS
Staff Writer

Big Spring State Park will be hosting several events this Saturday, beginning with "Living History," a presentation on the Civil War, at 5:30 p.m. and ending with the annual stargazing event at 9 p.m.



ALTON

Living History will take place at the pavilion at the top of

Scenic Mountain and will begin at 5:30 p.m.

"This is put on by volunteers dressed in Confederate soldier uniforms from the 1860s. They will have their tents set up in a camp, and have their rifles on display to demonstrate soldier life," said park manager Ron Alton. "They will also be playing period music of the time. They have a fife, and a giant Confederate bass drum, which is pretty interesting to look at."

Living History is a club composed of volunteers whose hobby is historical reenactment.

"It has been a couple of years since they were last here. Then

we actually had a battle reenactment, which we won't be doing this year. The members will be there to demonstrate the soldier life and to answer questions. It really makes history come alive," said Alton.

After the Living History event there will be a nature walk at 8 p.m., also beginning atop Scenic Mountain.

The nature walks are a month-long event, taking place every Saturday in June.

At 9 p.m., astronomers from the West Texas Amateur Astronomy Club of Midland and San Antonio will set up high-powered telescopes at the pavilion area. Those attending will

be able to watch the sunset from the bluff. When the stars appear, it will be possible to view the night sky through the telescopes.

"We'll have a telescope (focused) on the moon showing the craters and the mountains," said Alton. "We'll also be able to see some faint galaxies, some double stars, and the planet Mercury."

The amateur astronomers will be on hand to answer questions and educate the public about the solar system.

Parents are encouraged to bring their kids.

"This is a real outlet for learning," said Alton. "It gets them

interested in astronomy by seeing it instead of reading about it in a textbook. The Astronomy Club wants to generate interest and educate both the young and old."

If this Saturday proves to be too cloudy for stargazing, the event will then take place on July 8.

"If there is only partial cloud cover, we might still have it," said Alton. "If people aren't sure, it would be best for them to call."

Park entrance fees apply as usual, \$2 per adult, \$1 for seniors, and children 12 and under are admitted free of charge.

Area veterans remember 'The Longest Day'

By CARL GRAHAM
Staff Writer

On June 6, 1944, the United States began a two-week campaign that some have called the longest day. It was Operation Overlord — D-Day — the beginning of the end for Nazi Germany.



HERNANDEZ

O m a h a , Utah, Gold, Juno and Sword — these were the

names of beaches that served as beachheads for the enormous invasion of German-held territory by Allied forces.

Fifty-six years later, there are still a few veterans around who remember the day, what they were doing and where they were.

Local resident Jesse Hernandez remembers.

"I was with the 450th Bomb Group which operated out of the southern part of Italy," said Hernandez. "Our main concern or mission as you would say was to eliminate the oil fields and refineries. We knew if we could shut down their fuel supply, you could shut them down."

Hernandez said they did their job and it helped shorten the war.

"We did exactly what we set out doing," said Hernandez. "It was a costly thing but in the end it's probably what won the war because without fuel, it's hard to operate."

Hernandez returned to the states and ended up at Kirkland Field in Albuquerque, N.M. which is now Kirkland Air Force Base. There he started working on B-29s. He is retired from the Big Spring State Hospital and worked for many years for Pinkie's Liquor Store.

Leo Welch, in an interview two years ago, recalled that the enormity of the assault wasn't realized at first by many of those who participated.

"We just went in and did the job we were trained to do, and



World War II veterans, from left, Dealon Stanley, Jesse Hernandez, Leo Welch, John Ryan and Charles Usery lay a wreath in remembrance of those who lost their lives during the invasion of Normandy. The ceremony took place on the east side of the Howard County Courthouse.

Big Spring offered prayers on D-Day

HERALD Staff Report

Jesse Hernandez, who took part in Operation Overlord, the invasion of Normandy by Allied forces on June 6, 1944, still keeps a copy of a "Second Extra" of the Big Spring Herald from June 4, 1944.

Stories from the historic issue centered on the early morning landing. One local story, however, was of Big Spring Mayor G.C. Dunham

calling for a day of prayer. "Our brave men today have launched the fateful campaign for liberation of Europe and the invasion of Germany, and with them should go the prayers of every person in the homeland," Dunham said.

"According to plans, the churches of Big Spring are open today that all who will may come to offer their prayers for the protection and guidance of a Divine Providence in this crucial step

for mankind.

"While I am sure that none will go about his or her work today without uttering a silent prayer for the men over there, I do beseech Big Spring people to give a more earnest demonstration of their concern by going to the church of their choice and drawing upon a source of Power higher than that of man.

"This is the best thing each of us can do today."

and we did."

Stationed in England at the time of the invasion, Welch said it was obvious something major was taking place.

"We had seen plenty of bombing raids before, but this was

continuous. Plane after plane, and pulling gliders. I woke up the captain and said 'Something's going on.'

"We knew it was something

See D-DAY, Page 2

BSHS academic team gains key experience at nationals

By LYNDEL MOODY
Staff Writer

Returning from national competition in New Orleans recently, Big Spring High School's academic team comes back wiser and more prepared for next year, its sponsor said.

"I am very proud of the students for all their hard work and their participation in the national competition," academic team sponsor Elizabeth Saenz said. "I expect them to return next year."

Competing in four preliminary games for a chance to advance to single elimination round, the Big Spring students competed along with 48 other schools from around the nation.

"We won one game and lost the other three," Saenz said. "The first two games were very

tough, but the kids were concentrated and very focused. We won the first game by 20 points and at the last minute."

Weakness in current events and geography hurt the team during the competition, she said.

"In the third game during the 60-second round, our team did not know the providences of Canada and the other team swept it," she said. "They gained all their points plus ours and jumped ahead by 200 points. That was a killer."

According to Saenz, the team hopes to order some books that contain questions used in the competition to practice for next year.

"With this experience behind them, they will be more prepared for next year and have a good chance to return to nationals," Saenz said. "They will also know the providences of Canada."

Funding for the trip to New Orleans was approved by the Big Spring Independent School

See ACADEMICS, Page 2



SAENZ

March

Annual event of faith slated Saturday from courthouse

By DEBBIE L. JENSEN
Features Editor

Several hundred local Christians will march through downtown streets Saturday evening, proclaiming their faith to the community.

This annual event, known as March for Jesus, has changed in several ways this year, said organizer Jack Nixon. It is being called Jesus Day, putting the focus on a day of service to the community. The march, which in years past took place in the morning, will end the day, starting about 6 p.m.

"We just encourage everyone to use this day for any type of service that they can provide, whether it is visiting people in nursing homes or feeding the poor, whatever they can do," said Nixon. He said Jesus Day is not designed to recognize any one church or denomination.

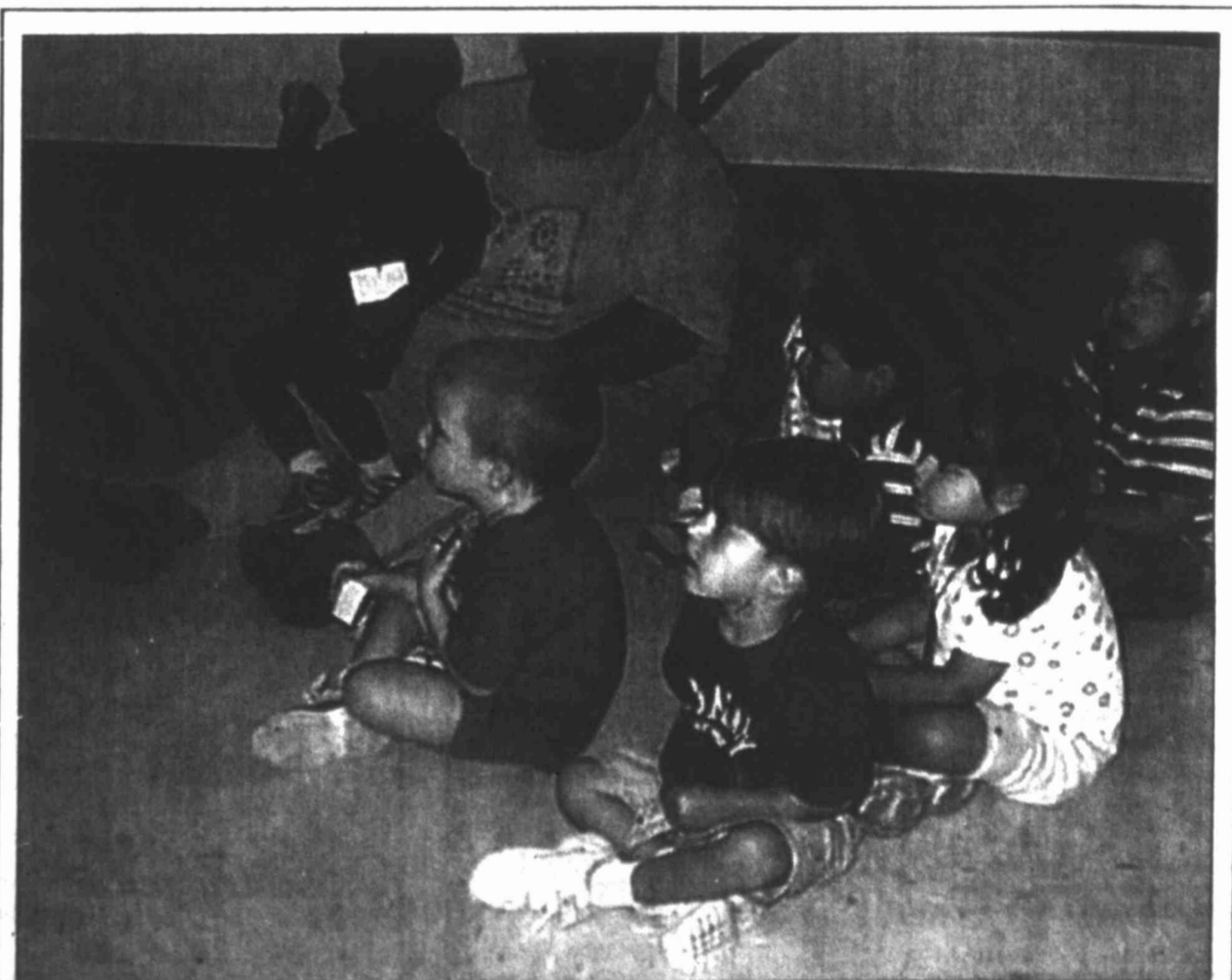
"It's a day to lift up the name of Jesus," Nixon said.

Those who want to march should gather between 5 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. on the east side of the courthouse. The route of the march has also changed this year, Nixon noted.

Marchers will step off at 6 p.m., taking a left on Third Street to Scurry, where they will turn south to Fourth Street and turn left, heading east. Arriving at Goliad, the march will turn left again, going north to Third Street. Marchers will turn left on Third and head west back to the courthouse.

"We want to circle the heart of the city," Nixon said. "We will circle the courthouse, city hall and come by the police station — all parts of our local government."

See MARCH, Page 2



Jeremy Brooks, center, of West Side Community Day Care Center was among the children waiting to watch a film during the Learn to Read program at the Howard County Library this morning.

JUN 6 2000

Federal regulators approve deal to make AT&T No. 1 in cable TV

WASHINGTON (AP) — AT&T Corp. now has the government's OK to complete an acquisition that would make it the nation's largest cable television business. But still, the nation's biggest long-distance company will have to shed some of the cable interests it already owns.

The Federal Communications Commission on Monday signed off on AT&T's purchase of MediaOne, the final regulatory hurdle before the deal can go through. The agency conditioned its approval on AT&T getting rid of some assets so it would comply with rules capping how many customers a single cable company may reach.

The Justice Department signed off on the deal — originally valued at \$58 billion — two weeks ago. AT&T has until May 19, 2001, to complete the necessary divestitures.

Consumer advocates railed against the FCC decision, saying the commission gave AT&T too many ways to skirt the intent of media ownership limits.

"This is an exercise of their public interest authority for the benefit of one corporation," said Gene Kimmelman of Consumers Union. He said the group would challenge the commission's decision in court.

Andrew Jay Schwartzman, of the public interest firm Media Access Project, criticized the FCC for giving the company a year to shed cable interests.

FCC rules prohibit one company from controlling more than 30 percent of the multi-channel video market, which includes cable and competitors such as direct broadcast satellite. According to the commission, AT&T would serve nearly

42 percent of the market without divestitures.

Under the commission's action, AT&T has three options for complying with the ownership limits:

—Get rid of MediaOne's 25 percent interest in cable systems owned by Time Warner.

—Shed programming interests, including Liberty Media Group, that sell to Time Warner's cable system. That would help make the case that AT&T has no influence over the programming decisions of Time Warner, making it a partner not counted toward the ownership cap.

—Find other ways to get rid of more than 9.7 million cable subscribers.

AT&T has six months after closing its merger to decide what it will divest. On Monday, company officials said they

were reviewing their options.

"I'm certainly not ruling anything out," said Jim Cicconi, AT&T general counsel. "We haven't made up our minds."

Cicconi said the company is looking at whether there are ways to insulate its partnership with Time Warner short of spinning off its programming interests, like Liberty Media.

The company hopes to close the deal as soon as possible, not likely later than Aug. 4.

The merger would further AT&T's plan to offer high-speed Internet access, local phone service and TV programming directly to homes using cable lines. AT&T has pursued this strategy since a 1996 telecommunications law freed phone and cable companies to get into each others' businesses.

Federal regulators have been eager to see companies like

AT&T inject more competition in the local phone market, a key goal of the 1996 law, by offering service over cable lines.

FCC Chairman William Kennard said the agency's decision struck an appropriate balance, fostering new competition in the local phone market while protecting consumer interests in high-speed Internet service and cable TV programming.

"Today's action represents the very goals of the 1996 Telecommunications Act," Kennard said.

Last month, a federal appeals court upheld a 1992 cable law giving the commission the ability to cap the number of subscribers a company can serve. The FCC said it would give companies six months to come into compliance with the limits.

But commission officials said that because of the complexity

of transactions required in this case, it would give AT&T a year to comply. In the interim, the company must abide by safeguards to prevent AT&T from having undue programming influence over its stake in Time Warner cable systems.

Some groups wanted the commission to require AT&T to open up its cable lines to rival Internet providers as a condition for merger approval. AT&T has said it ultimately will give consumers a choice of Internet services.

But Greg Simon, co-director of the lobbying group openNET Coalition, warned that "by the time the FCC determines if AT&T has fulfilled its vague voluntary commitments on open access, it may be too late to offer customers meaningful choices for cable Internet services."

Investors urged to use caution with variable annuities

WASHINGTON (AP) — On the plus side, they offer lifelong payments to investors, guaranteed death benefits and deferred taxes. But federal regulators warn that variable annuities, an increasingly popular way to save for retirement, also have pitfalls.

The Securities and Exchange Commission on Monday issued an "investor alert" and a brochure on its Web site to help investors understand the benefits, costs and risks of variable annuities, which combine features of mutual funds and insurance.

The warning came as Paul Royce, director of the SEC's Investment Management Division, told an industry group that SEC inspectors have been gathering information on sales of variable annuities from bro-

kerage firms and financial advisers around the country with an eye to possible sanctions.

A variable annuity is a contract between an investor and the company selling it in which the company agrees to make periodic payments to the investor, beginning immediately or at some future date. The investor buys a variable annuity contract by making either a single purchase payment or a series of payments.

The payments to the annuity holder vary and are determined by the performance of the underlying investments. The instruments are tax-deferred, which means annuity holders pay no taxes on the income and investment gains from their annuities until they withdraw their money.

In general, the SEC says, the benefits of tax deferral will outweigh the costs of a variable annuity only if it is held as a long-term investment to meet retirement and other long-range goals.

Individual Retirement Accounts and 401(k) retirement plans, which offer tax deferral at no cost, are often more advantageous than variable annuities, the SEC notes.

The agency issued this advice:

—IRAs: If an investor buys a variable annuity through a tax-advantaged retirement plan such as an IRA or 401(k), he or she will get no additional tax benefit from the variable annuity. Investors should consider buying a variable annuity in that situation only if it makes sense because of the annuity's other features, such as lifelong

payments and a guaranteed death benefit.

—Charges: Before they invest in a variable annuity, consumers should make sure they understand the charges that come with it, including sales charges, mortality charges, administrative fees and expenses of the mutual fund investment options.

—Exchanges: Investors who own a variable annuity and are considering exchanging it for another one should weigh the decision carefully. An investor who makes the exchange often loses the ability to withdraw money without paying substantial charges.

Mackey, the head of the variable annuities trade group, said he fully supported the SEC's efforts "to educate the public about annuity products."

States' power to help grandparents win visitation curbed

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court gave new vigor to parents' "fundamental right" to raise their families free from government interference, ruling Monday that Washington state went too far in letting grandparents seek visitation.

The thrust of the 6-3 decision: States must be very careful in helping grandparents and others with close ties to children win the right to see them regularly against parents' wishes.

"So long as a parent adequately cares for his or her children ... there will normally be no reason for the state to inject itself into the private realm of the family to further question the ability of that parent to make the best decisions concerning the rearing of that parent's children," Justice Sandra Day O'Connor wrote in the court's main opinion.

But the dispassionately worded ruling in one of the most emotionally charged cases in recent Supreme Court history stopped far short of answering all questions the state courts face daily in visitation battles over children.

The court did not give parents absolute veto power over who gets to visit their children, disagreeing with part of a ruling by Washington's highest state court that appeared to do so.

And in finding the state law "breathhtakingly broad," Monday's decision said nothing to directly endanger grandparent-visitations laws in all 49 other states.

"We want to assure grandparents throughout the country

that their visitation orders have not been lost by this decision," said Josephine D'Antonio of Grandparents Court.

Perhaps most notably, however, the ruling gave grandparents no special status in visitation cases.

O'Connor, one of six grandparents among the nine justices, lumped America's 60 million grandparents in with all "persons outside the nuclear family" in discussing state efforts to provide visitation rights.

Scott Bullock of the conservative Institute for Justice praised the ruling. "While one can hardly avoid sympathizing with grandparents who wish to have contact with their grandchildren, the Supreme Court thankfully remained focused on the state law's sweeping intrusion into the family realm."

The American Civil Liberties Union's Michael Adams also hailed the decision as "a serious blow to outside interference in family matters."

The case involved a Mount Vernon, Wash., couple left with no legal right to see their two granddaughters. Gary and Jenifer Troxel had gone to state court to seek more time with the two girls, 10-year-old Natalie and 8-year-old Isabelle.

The girls are the daughters of the Troxels' dead son. After he died, the girls' mother, Tommie Granville, limited their visits to see their grandparents. The Troxels went to court, and two years later were awarded visitation of one weekend a month, one week during the summer

and four hours on the girls' birthdays.

They benefitted from a state law that allowed "any person," a relative or not, to win a court-ordered right to see a child any time such visitation was found to be in a child's best interest. Under the law, state courts did not have to determine whether a child would be harmed by disallowing visitation.

Many state laws allow only grandparents to seek visitation rights, or limit the privilege to people who show a substantial relationship with a child.

The justices did not say whether a state visitation law must require a showing of harm. They also did not give definitive answers about just who should be allowed to seek visitation rights or what standard judges should employ in protecting the rights of parents and nuclear families.

The decision comes at a time when intact nuclear families are becoming scarcer and the number of nontraditional families is rising.

"The demographic changes of the past century make it difficult to speak of an average American family," O'Connor said. "The composition of families varies greatly from household to household."

A recently released survey by AARP found about one in nine American grandparents above the age of 50 helps care for at least one grandchild. The survey showed that 8 percent provide day care regularly, and 3 percent function as parents, rearing a grandchild.

Mexican activist places bounty on border agents

REYNOSA, Mexico (AP) — In the latest crackle of border friction, a Mexican activist on Monday offered \$10,000 to anyone who kills a U.S. Border Patrol agent.

Carlos Ibarra Perez, 60, says too many illegal immigrants are being slain by federal agents and private landowners while making their way into the United States, and he wants to avenge their deaths.

"They (the Border Patrol) are massacring people," said Ibarra, spokesman for a 7,000-member advocacy group called the Citizen Defense Committee. "And now we're ready to defend ourselves."

Incensed U.S. officials immediately opened an investigation into Ibarra's threat.

Threatening a federal agent is against the law, and FBI agents were expected to review a video tape of Ibarra's news conference.

"This is very serious. This is very bad," said Border Patrol supervisory agent Ramiro De Anda. "This is the community — I don't want to say conspiring, but doing harm to an agent. It's crazy."

The Mexican government also condemned Ibarra's statements.

"The embassy of Mexico strongly condemns such irresponsible actions and finds such a statement to be an intolerable provocation," said Jose Antonio Zabalgoitia, spokesman for the Mexican embassy.

Activists on both sides of the immigration issue decried Ibarra's threat.

"We already live in a climate of tension that we believe leads to abuse," said Nathan Selzer, spokesman for Project Libertad, a Harlingen-based immigrant rights group. "Now you're putting in the back of agents' minds that everybody is trying to kill them. It's just going to create more violence."

Two weeks ago, a Border Patrol agent in nearby Brownsville shot and killed an illegal immigrant during an early morning struggle on the banks of the Rio Grande.

In Arizona, ranchers are fighting back against what they term "a literal invasion of illegal immigrants."

At least one rancher is patrolling his property from a 25-foot steel tower with night vision goggles, other ranchers are patrolling their spreads armed with rifles and others are detaining suspected illegal immigrants for authorities.

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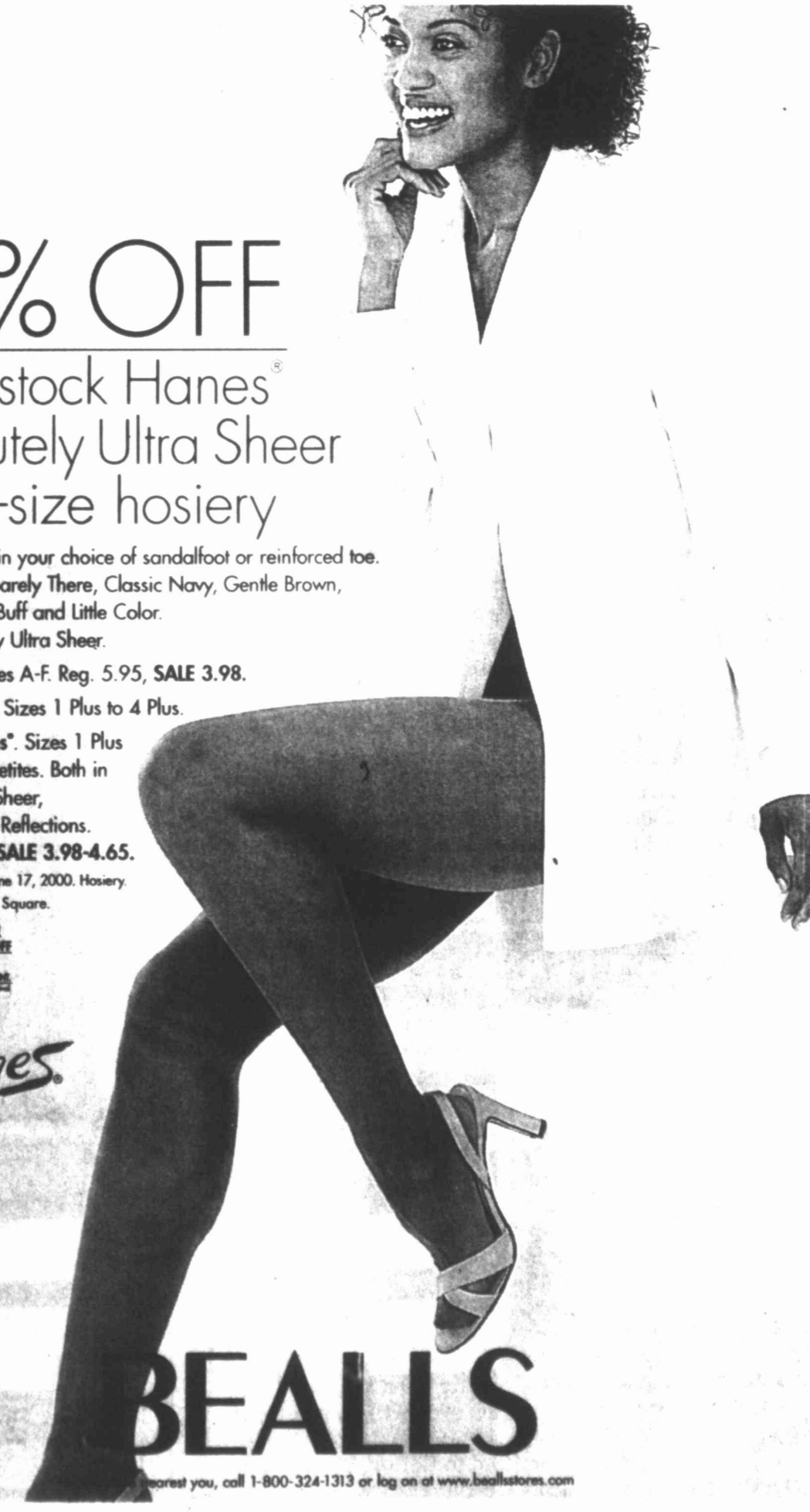
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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

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Debbie Jensen
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John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

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News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Let's send Bulldogs to state in style

Coahoma's Bulldogs are headed to Austin for the University Interscholastic League (UIL) state baseball championships, hoping that the fourth time is a charm.

Having taken on all comers from West Texas in claiming a fourth straight Region I, Class 2A baseball championship, the Bulldogs now have their sights set on doing something they've never done before — win their state semifinal game and play for a state title.

The Coahoma baseball program has enjoyed nothing short of phenomenal success.

In fact, no other Class 2A school has ever sent a baseball team to the state tournament for four consecutive years.

The No. 4-ranked Bulldogs will board a bus and head for Austin at 8 a.m. Wednesday.

At 10 a.m. Thursday, the Bulldogs will play a state semifinal game against Weimar's Wildcats at Dell Diamond in Round Rock. The other Class 2A semifinal will follow at 1 p.m. when No. 1-ranked and unbeaten Gunter takes on Colmesneil.

Bulldogs head coach Scott Lewis and his players could care less whether its Gunter or Colmesneil that survives the second Class 2A game, they simply want to make sure they're the survivor of the first.

One thing's almost certain, none of the tournament's other qualifiers will boast a larger or more vocal fan following.

Coahoma's fan support, in fact, is almost as storied as the school's baseball programs.

The support Coahoma teams receive was never in better evidence last Friday when Bulldog fans clearly matched the solid backing boasted by Holliday's Eagles, even though they found themselves traveling to Mineral Wells after the Region I, Class 2A championship game was moved from its originally scheduled location in Abilene and were still on hand when the first pitch was delivered after 10 p.m. in Glen Rose.

We here at the Herald offer our congratulations to the Bulldogs on their fourth consecutive trip to the state championships and wish them the best of luck in their bid for a state title.

Whether or not our readers will be able to make the trip to Austin with them, we encourage them to be on hand at Coahoma High School Wednesday morning, and give the Bulldogs the kind of send-off they deserve.

How To CONTACT Us

In order that we might better serve your needs, we offer several ways in which you may contact us:

- In person at 710 Scurry St.
- By telephone at 263-7331
- By fax at 264-7205
- By e-mail at either bsherald@xroadstx.com or jwalk-er@xroadstx.com.
- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721
- Our normal hours of operation are from 7:30 a.m. until 5 p.m.
- Our offices are closed on weekends and holidays.

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.

Time to get involved in the political process

The political season is upon us, and it's time for Americans to consider getting personally involved in the process of self-government. In short, pick your candidate and join his or her campaign as a volunteer.

There is great cynicism about politics, encouraged in part by journalists, but we have to put aside cynicism and recognize a few basic truths. There is nothing dishonorable about politics. It reflects the people who are in it. If the good people leave politics to the bad people, then good folks have no one to blame but themselves for the sorry results. The only alternative to choosing rulers with bullets. Trust me, whatever defects our system has, it is far better than elections won or

lost with gunfire and death. One of the blessings we as Americans have is the knowledge that ours is virtually the only revolution in the history of the world that did not produce a dictator. People alive at that time understood that was because of the character of George Washington, which is why he was so revered — and deserves today to be revered.

You should also realize that you will be ruled. Your only choice is whether you will play a role in who rules you or will choose to accept passively whoever ends up in power election night. I urge you to become active. The price of the freedom the American Revolution won for us is active participation in the process of maintaining it.

Moreover, politics can be fun. If you are a young person with an empty summer facing you or one of those fortunate retired people who has time and energy, you should seriously consider volunteering to be a full-time worker in a campaign. There is simply no better way to learn the realities of the American political system.

You will find excitement and comradeship and might well form friendships that will extend far beyond the campaign.

One of the exciting things about a political campaign is that the huge amount of work necessary for victory has to be done by a certain time. Time becomes the most valuable asset of a campaign. Working under deadline pressure is very stimulating, at least for some folks.

All of the tasks — fund raising, voter identification, media buys, speeches and public appearances — have to be done simultaneously on an ongoing basis, and that takes a lot of volunteers. A political campaign is, after all, one big communications project.

The best candidate in the world cannot get elected unless a majority of the turnout plus one know who the candidates are, know what they stand for, and are motivated to get off the couch and go to the polling place. Nobody can win with supporters who stay home, a point to remember when evaluating early opinion polls.

All the poll tells you, even if it is done perfectly, is whom people say they would vote for if the election were held that day and if they decided to vote. The only thing that really counts is who actually votes on election day. If there is a turnout of only 10 percent of the eligible voters, then you can win with 5 percent plus one vote. That means that 95 percent of the eligible voters are going to be ruled by a person they didn't vote for. It's their fault, not the winner's.

Let me also caution you against seeking the perfect candidate — a candidate who agrees with you 100 percent on 100 percent of the issues. This country is far too diverse to expect that, and people who demand it are usually fanatics.

The twin perils that could sink this country are fanaticism and apathy. Virtue lies in the middle of those extremes. Finally, have faith. Don't succumb to cynicism. The past cannot dictate the future unless people allow it to do so. Americans have the power to create a wonderful future if only they will exercise it.



CHARLEY REESE



Murder in a world without Matlock

I've been trying to watch a little of the Ray Lewis murder trial on TV. Everyone is talking about the case, so one recent muggy afternoon I fell back on the sofa, grabbed the remote and punched myself into the courtroom.

I had forgotten how boring murder can be. It's been years since I've covered court, but the inherent monotony of watching most trials came rushing back.

You'd think deciding someone's fate would at least be interesting. Or that hearing details of gory stabbings and below-belt blows in the purple pre-dawn would be morbidly fascinating. It's not.

From hours of courtroom testimony, you might get one minute of real drama.

Watch long enough and you start longing for Matlock or Mason to come in and show these rank amateurs how it's done, to dispense with the legal mumbo jumbo and point a steady finger in the direction of the real culprit: "There he is! That's him!"

That never happens in real life. Lawyers drone on for

hours, citing numbers from deposition pages and exhibits. Every time things start to get juicy, somebody quickly calls a halt.

"I object, Your Honor, because that line of questioning causes the witness to say something halfway interesting!"

"Objection sustained." With the Ray Lewis case, I only made it through one lousy witness. By the time the lawyer established just where that particular witness was standing when the murder happened — to the left, to the right, behind the tree, by the stretch limousine, inside an apartment, at a window, 50 yards away, 20 yards, 3 feet — I was asleep.

I'm willing to admit it might be me. I didn't even get hooked on the O.J. trial as so many did. And that was considered the Super Bowl of Court TV. But then I don't like watching the Super Bowl, either.

I had high hopes for this trial. The Ray Lewis case is local, after all, and I recognize relevant street and club names. While I've never been to Brentwood, I have been to Buckhead.

But Brentwood. Buckhead. Boiled down to courtroom testimony, they sound a lot alike. Just fancy places to die.

I can see why John Grisham gave up lawyering to write fiction. His fictional lawyers chase around the countryside

avoiding (or pursuing) mobsters and assorted bad guys. They consort with an endless array of fascinating characters and stay eventful nights in seaside motels. They rarely approach the bench or stand around in suits fiddling with their copious notes.

The most dramatic real courtroom I ever frequented was the federal one in Greenville, Miss. U.S. District Judge William Keady presided, and "presided" was the right word. He was a big, white-haired, one-armed fellow who spoke in Solomon-like pronouncements.

Many of the cases Judge Keady heard involved inmates from nearby Parchman prison. I remember one hearing with a deaf-mute Rastafarian who objected to the prison diet and had to write out all of his testimony on an overhead projector.

It didn't really matter what the case was about, though, because Keady would make it interesting, cutting to the chase quicker than any judge I've ever seen. He was just as hard on the lawyers as he was the defendants, which added to the entertainment.

But Judge Keady is dead, and so are most trials, even those for murder. They lack the life, the hour-resolutions, we've grown used to from TV.

I think I'll stick with newspaper reports and highlights at 11. The blow-by-blow is too tedious.



RHETA GRIMSLEY JOHNSON



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Study suggests surge in kids with behavioral problems

CHICAGO (AP) — The number of U.S. youngsters with emotional and behavioral problems has soared in the past two decades in part because of more poor and single-parent households, a new study suggests.

The researchers found that problems such as attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder, depression and learning disabilities more than doubled from 1979 to 1996. Such conditions were identified in 6.8 percent of all doctor visits in 1979 and in 18.7 percent of visits in 1996.

The findings, which appear in the June issue of the journal *Pediatrics* and echo those in other recent studies, are based

on surveys of pediatricians on more than 21,000 patients.

Differences in doctor training in identifying such problems did not account for the increases, said Dr. Kelly Kelleher of the University of Pittsburgh and Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, the study's lead author.

In fact, the highest identification rates were for doctors who trained in the 1970s and before.

The findings suggest instead that most of the change was due to "an increase in problems and the kinds of patients they're seeing," said Kelleher.

The changes were associated with increases in the propor-

tions of single-parent families and Medicaid enrollment from 1979 to 1996, the researchers said. Fifteen percent of patients in the 1979 study lived in single-parent homes, compared with 22 percent in the 1996 study. Just 6 percent of the earlier patients were on Medicaid, compared with 18 percent of the 1996 patients.

However, pediatricians are geared primarily to deal with "acute" problems in which "children come in, the doctor gives them medicine, the children go away," Kelleher said. Doctors will be ineffective unless the system is restructured to allow pediatricians to

act more like mental-health professionals and spend more time with chronic ailments, he said.

The authors examined data from a 1979 survey of 30 Rochester, N.Y.-area pediatricians, and compared the results with 1996 data from a government-funded study of 395 pediatricians nationwide. A total of 21,065 patients ages 4 to 15 were involved.

The largest changes were in attention deficit/hyperactivity, which increased from 1.4 percent to 9.2 percent, and emotional problems such as anxiety and depression, which increased from a negligible amount to 3.6 percent.

Texas starts hot line to aid smokers in kicking the habit

HOUSTON (AP) — Texas has come up with the next best thing to a nagging grandmother to help smokers kick the habit.

Using the state's 1996 settlement with the tobacco industry, the Texas Department of Health has teamed up with the American Cancer Society and created a toll free hot line.

Run by the Texas Tobacco Prevention Initiative, the hot line uses clinically trained counselors to offer smokers self-help techniques and individualized counseling to ease smokers' transition to smoke-free lifestyles.

"Our research shows that two-thirds of smokers in the Houston area want to quit smoking in the next six months. The difficult part is that they don't know where to begin," Alfred McAlister, professor of behavioral sciences at the University of Texas-Houston School of Public Health, told the Houston Chronicle. McAlister is head of a study to gauge the hot line's success.

According to earlier studies at the university, embarrassment and family pressure to quit are leading motivators to

quit smoking.

The hot line is akin to one in California that has proved to double smokers' odds of quitting successfully.

Counselors assess callers' addiction levels and determination to quit.

They then provide individualized self-help materials and tips for quitting. Counselors advise smokers to, if possible, combine relaxation and replacement techniques with medicine to control physical cravings.

Kamal Saldin, a Houston student participating in the pilot program, said he has managed to kick the habit for more than three weeks.

"I started smoking in Eastern Europe, where nearly everyone smokes," he said. "When I came here, it was much less acceptable. It became an embarrassing habit."

The hot line which opened Monday, is available from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sundays. After hours, those who want to quit can leave a message.

The number to the hotline is: 1-877-937-7848.

Republicans offer compromises on patients' rights bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — Offering a compromise to jumpstart stalled negotiations, congressional Republicans proposed expanding the rights of some Americans to sue health plans, but only after all other remedies have been exhausted.

Damage awards would be capped to unspecified amounts and class actions suits would be prohibited under new proposals offered by Sen. Don Nickles, R-Okla., chairman of a House-Senate committee working on

compromise legislation giving Americans a stronger hand in dealing with HMOs and other health plans.

The proposals, a draft of which was obtained Monday by The Associated Press, come as talks among lawmakers working on a patients' rights bill have stalled. Republicans characterized their offers, which covered lawsuits and how many Americans would get federal patient protections, as major concessions to their long-standing

opposition to expanding rights to sue.

Democrats said the proposals didn't amount to much and would do little to move the negotiations forward.

"It doesn't appear to be a serious proposal," said Dennis Fitzgibbons, spokesman for Rep. John Dingell, D-Mich., a committee member and co-author of a bipartisan House bill favored by the White House and some House Republicans.

Under the draft proposal,

patients could sue health plans and HMOs for damages in federal court. They first would have to appeal denials of care to independent medical reviewers. If reviewers decide patients should get whatever tests or medications they were denied and plans fail to comply, patients could sue.

Punitive damages would be allowed, but with "reasonable ... limitations under limited circumstances," according to the two-page draft.

Kentucky community stunned after shootout kills prosecutor, gunman

BURKESVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Most residents in this tiny town knew Eddie Vaughn was trouble. They just didn't know how much.

Vaughn allegedly blasted his way into the home of a respected local prosecutor and shot him to death at 6 a.m. Monday, hours before he was to stand trial on sexual abuse charges.

Commonwealth's Attorney Fred Capps, able to arm himself with a handgun as Vaughn shot his way inside the house, returned fire and hit Vaughn at least twice, killing him, state police said.

Capps, 46, had been scheduled to prosecute Vaughn, 49, on two

charges of first-degree sexual abuse involving a child younger than 12. Capps was the prosecutor at Vaughn's arraignment in July.

The bodies of both men were found in a first-floor hallway, police said. Capps' wife, Catherine, was hit by debris but not seriously wounded, while their two children remained upstairs and were not harmed.

"There are dozens of shell casings and bullet fragments in the

interior of the home, which would indicate a tremendous amount of gunfire," state police spokesman Jerry Melton said.

Vaughn had a history of arrests in Louisville on drug and disorderly conduct charges. But few in this town of 1,800 about 140 miles south of Louisville thought he was capable of murder.

"He was a small-time criminal, but a very dangerous man," said David L. Williams, a fellow

attorney and the president of the Kentucky Senate. "He was always the kind of kid who threw knives at things — always a bad apple."

"They called him 'Crazy Eddie' up in Louisville. He was the stereotypical sort of person who lived his entire life to do something absurd like this."

Williams, a friend of Capps since the first grade, was also a classmate of Eddie Vaughn.

"The fellow that took Fred's

life, Fred and I both knew him and knew how dangerous he was," Williams said. "The difference between urban and rural prosecutors and lawyers is that they know where we live."

Vaughn's wife, Patricia, and brother, James, were arrested at the scene. Neither was armed, but both were charged with murder and held at the Adair Regional Jail in Columbia. Police would not say why the

two accompanied Vaughn to the scene, or exactly what prompted the murder charges against them.

Neighbors and friends described Capps as a devoted father who lavished attention on his son, John, 16, and his daughter, Lydia, 11. Capps spent much of his spare time coaching Little League baseball and ensuring that Burkessville's baseball fields were kept in order.

Inmate on lam after escape via helicopter

INDIANTOWN, Fla. (AP) — Authorities using bloodhounds trekked through mosquito-ridden marshes searching for a convicted sex offender and the helicopter pilot who plucked him from a treatment center yard in a daring escape.

The men fled from the helicopter after it cleared a 15-foot razor-wire fence surrounding the center and crashed Monday near an orange grove about 100 yards away, authorities said.

"It is out of a Hollywood script, isn't it?" said Jenell Atlas, a Martin County Sheriff's Office spokeswoman. "He landed in broad daylight, and he (the inmate) ran out like in a movie. But unlike in a movie, they crashed."

The inmate, Steven Whitsett, 28, and the student pilot, Clifford Berkhart, 23, were believed to be armed.

"We have brush so thick it will tangle your legs, and you can't get through it," Atlas said. "You've got to assume they're not prepared to survive out there."

The escape happened at 1 p.m. Monday after Berkhart allegedly took off in a training helicopter from a Fort Lauderdale airport. Guards at the center are not armed.

Whitsett was convicted in 1994 of child molestation and finished his prison sentence in 1999. He was being held at the treatment center while awaiting a civil trial under a law aimed at keeping dangerous sexual offenders locked up and in psychiatric treatment.

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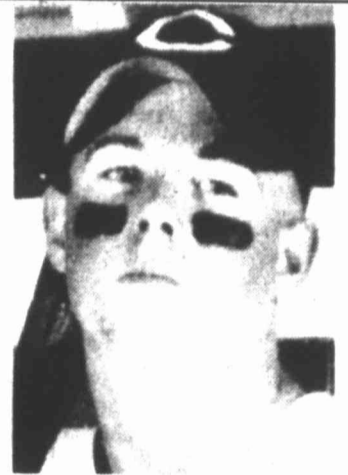
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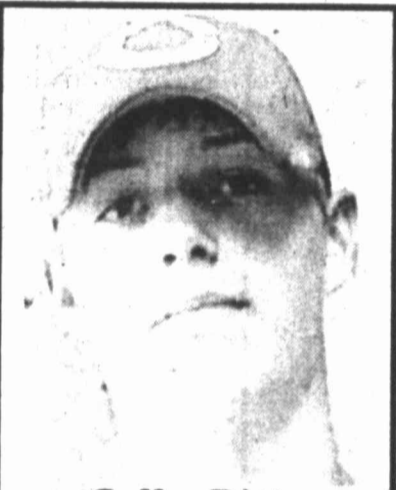
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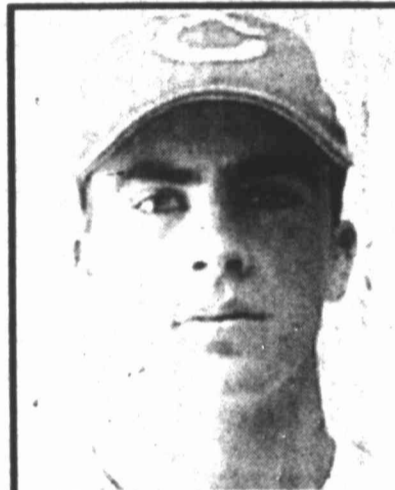
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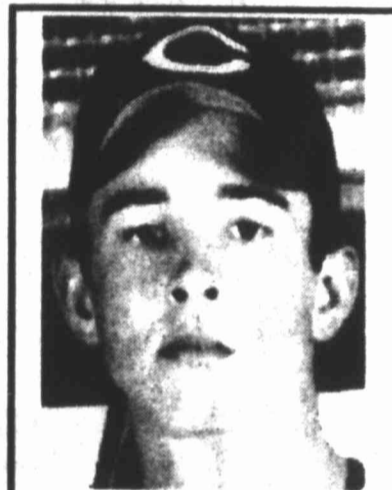
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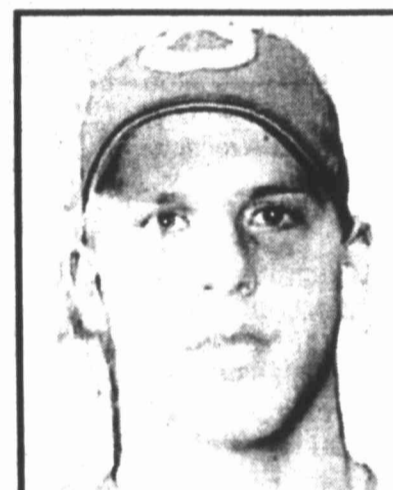
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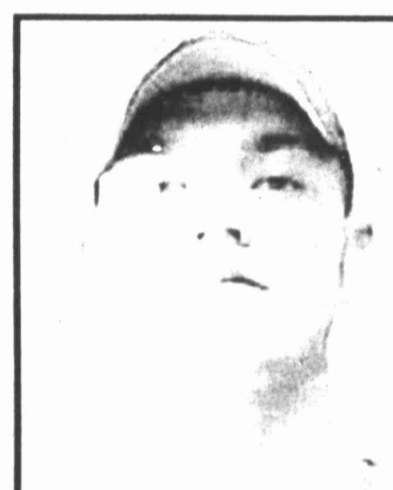
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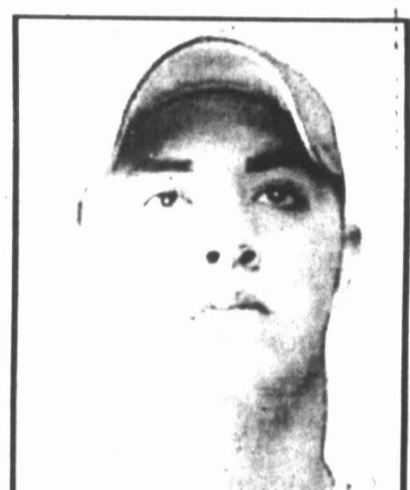
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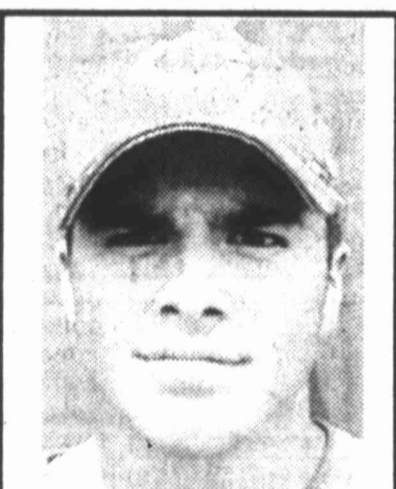
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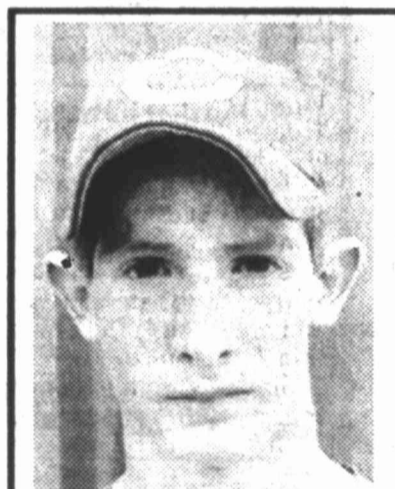
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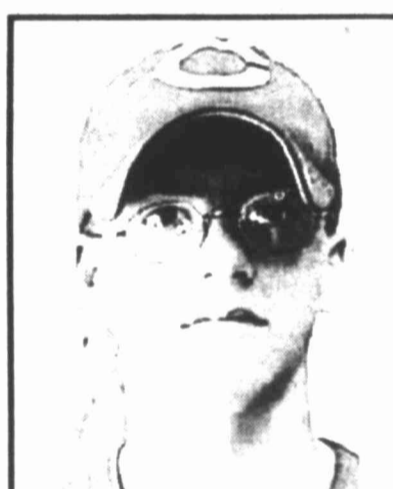
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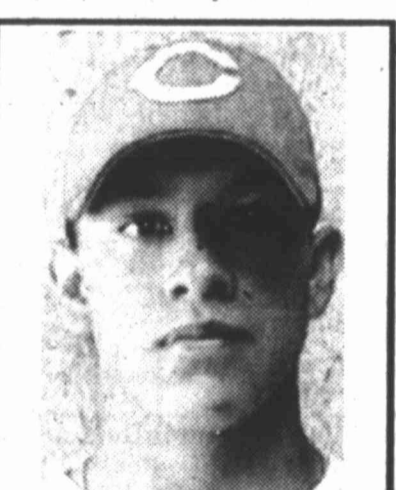
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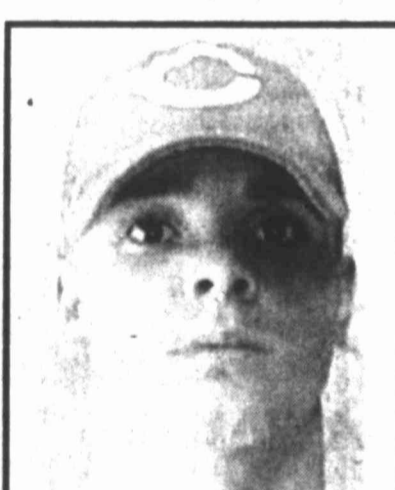
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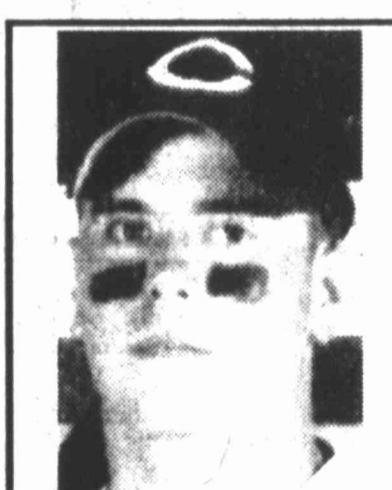
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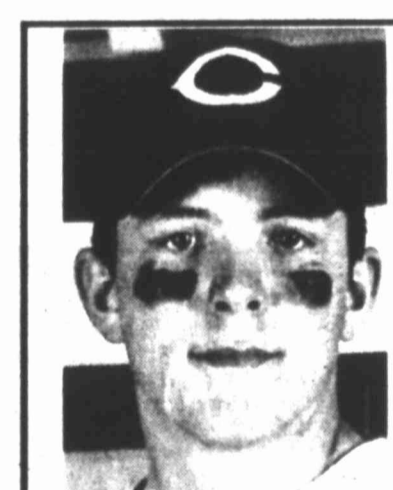
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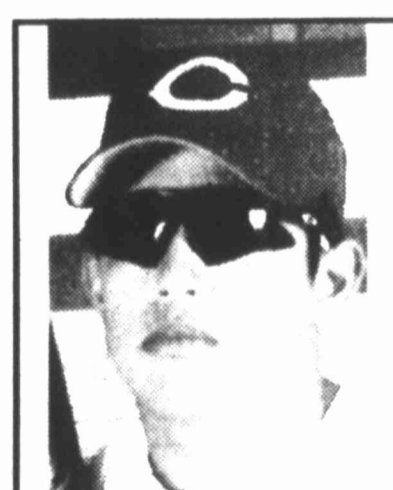
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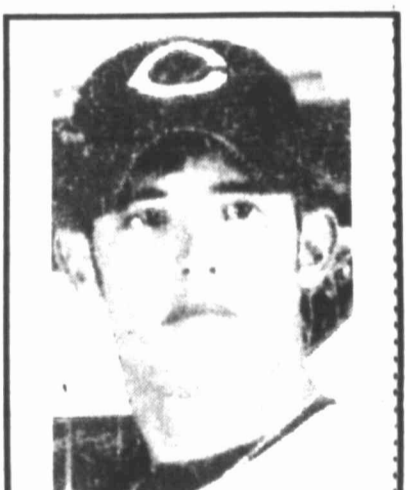
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JUNE 6

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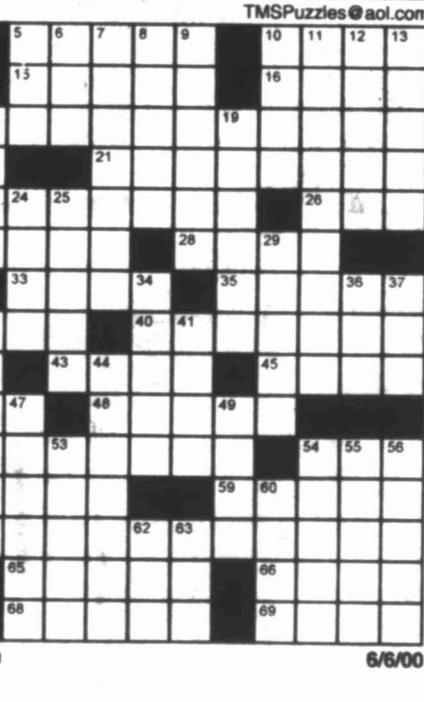
The ASSOCIATED PRESS Today is Tuesday, June 6, the 158th day of 2000. There are 208 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On June 6, 1944, in World War II Allied forces stormed the beaches of Normandy, France, in the D-Day invasion of Europe. On this date: In 1844, the Young Men's Christian Association was founded in London.

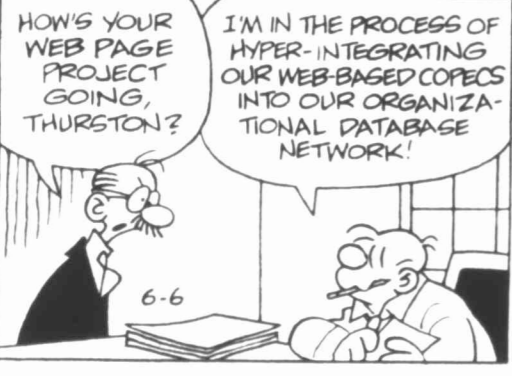
In 1918, the World War I Battle of Belleau Wood, which resulted in a U.S. victory over the Germans, began in France. In 1925, Walter Percy Chrysler founded Chrysler Corp. In 1933, the first drive-in movie theater opened, in Camden, N.J. In 1934, the Securities and Exchange Commission was established. In 1942, Japanese forces retreated in the World War II Battle of Midway. In 1966, black activist James Meredith was shot and wounded as he walked along a Mississippi highway to encourage black voter registration. In 1978, California voters overwhelmingly approved Proposition 13, a primary ballot initiative calling for major cuts in property taxes. In 1982, Israeli forces invaded Lebanon to drive Palestine Liberation Organization fighters out of the country. (The Israelis withdrew in June 1985.) In 1985, authorities in Brazil exhumed what was later identified as the remains of Dr. Josef Mengele, the notorious "Angel of Death" of the Nazi Holocaust.

THE Daily Crossword

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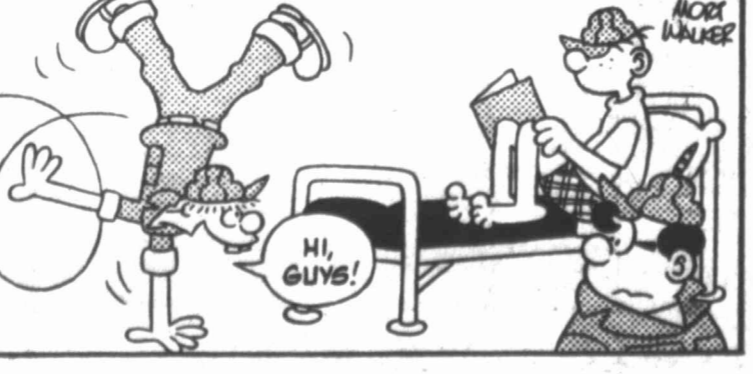
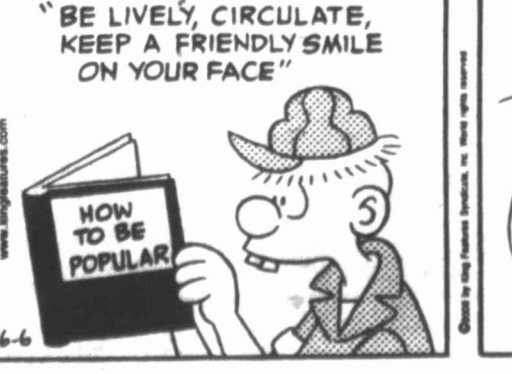
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Monday's Puzzle Solved: POPPY SCAT CAGY, ADORE TORE ATRA, REMITTANCE STEW, ESPN ORTHO HEAL, COOKE FAINTS, BEREFT SIFTED, ORE TESTS IRANI, LOS ERE TBS NOS, ASIAN MESAS CON, SCENIC LUCENT, SUTURE HAZEL, PLAT AMEBA EGOS, ANNE RELUCTANCE, SACS ENOS ENATE, MEET DUNE ASTOR. Ten years ago: A federal judge in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., declared as obscene the 2 Live Crew album "As Nasty As They Wanna Be." (The decision was later overturned on appeal.) Five years ago: U.S. astronaut Norman Thagard, aboard the Russian space station Mir, broke NASA's space endurance record of 84 days, one hour and 16 minutes. One year ago: Space shuttle Discovery returned from a 10-day mission that included a visit to the international space station. At the Tony Awards, Arthur Miller's "Death of a Salesman" was named best revival, "Side Man" best play, and "Fosse" best musical. In tennis, Andre Agassi won the French Open, defeating Andrei Medvedev 1-6, 2-6, 6-4, 6-3, 6-4. In golf, Juli Inkster shot a final-round 1-under 71 for a 16-under 272 total to win the U.S. Women's Open. Today's Birthdays: Actress Billie Whitelaw is 68. Civil rights activist Roy Innis is 66. Singer Levi Stubbs (The Four Tops) is 64. Singer-songwriter Gary "U.S." Bonds is 61. Country singer Joe Stampley is 57. Actor David Duke is 55. Actor Robert Englund is 51. Singer Dwight Twilley is 49. Playwright-actor Harvey Fierstein is 46. Comedian Sandra Bernhard is 45. Tennis player Bjorn Borg is 44. Actress Amanda Pays is 41. Record producer Jimmy Jam is 41. Rock musician Steve Vai is 40.