

FRIDAY

June 30, 2000

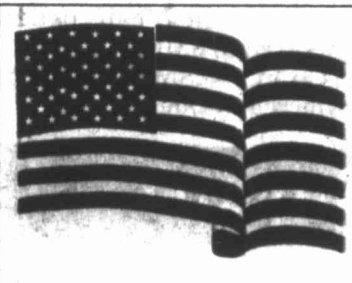
WEATHER

Tonight:



PARTLY CLOUDY

TONIGHT 64°-67° SATURDAY 87°-90°



FOURTH OF JULY...

A number of activities are planned in the Crossroads Area as we celebrate our nation's independence. Those activities are listed below for the convenience of our readers.

Saturday:

- Coahoma Fourth of July Parade, beginning at 10:30 a.m. on the west side of the football stadium. Activities will include a public address by State Rep. David Counts.
- Colorado City celebration and fireworks show in Ruddick Park. Activities will begin about 4 p.m. with free swimming, wheelbarrow races, food and drinks. The gospel group In His Name will perform at 7 p.m. Fireworks will begin about 9:30 p.m.

Monday:

- Pops in the Park, Comanche Trail Park Amphitheater in Big Spring. Activities begin at 4:30 p.m. with food and food booths. Entertainment will begin at the amphitheater at 6 p.m. Big Spring Symphony and Chorus to perform at 8:45 p.m. Fireworks at dark.

Tuesday:

- Colorado City Fun Fly-In breakfast, 7 a.m., former Webb Air Force Base Auxiliary northwest of the city. Breakfast free to those flying in, \$3 to others.
- YMCA Independence Day 5k Fun Run and Walk, Comanche Trail Park tennis courts area, 8 a.m. \$5 entry fee. Medals to winners in three divisions.
- Highland South Parade, 9:30 a.m. in Big Spring. Prizes to be awarded in five categories. Begins at corner of Stonehaven and Highland

INSIDE TODAY...

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

Fourth of July holidays prompt closings on Monday and Tuesday

HERALD Staff Report

Most city, county and federal offices will observe the Fourth of July holiday next week.

According to assistant city manager Emma Bogard, only emergency personnel will work on Monday and Tuesday; all other city offices will be closed.

Although the city's landfill will be close both days, business routes will have a sanitation pick up on Monday. A san-

itation pick up for regular Monday routes will take place on Wednesday, Bogard said.

Howard County Courthouse will be closed both Monday and Tuesday.

The Post Office will be open for normal business hours on Monday, but will be closed on Tuesday, and no mail will be delivered, said postmaster Richard Saxton.

See **CLOSINGS**, Page 2A



From left, Rebecca Sikes, Stormi Smith and Reba Smith, react to a puppet show at the party Thursday celebrating the completion of the Howard County Library summer reading program. The kids were among about 75 people who attended the party for activities and snacks.

HERALD photo/Debbie L. Jensen

Crossroads Area ready to celebrate holidays

By ALLISON THOMAS

Staff Writer

Big events are being planned in the Crossroads Area from the weekend through the Fourth of July. Fireworks, air shows and parades are just a sampling of the celebrations.

Coahoma will be kicking off the festivities on Saturday with its annual Fourth of July parade. It will begin at 10:30 a.m., beginning on the west side of the football stadium.

"We'll go from the stadium to South First Street, then turn north onto the service road, turn east onto Sixth Street, and go from Sixth to High School Drive, turning left into the parking lot of the stadium," said Coahoma Mayor Bill Read, outlining the route of the parade.

Read expects a big turnout for the parade, which is hosted by the Colorado City Lion's Club.

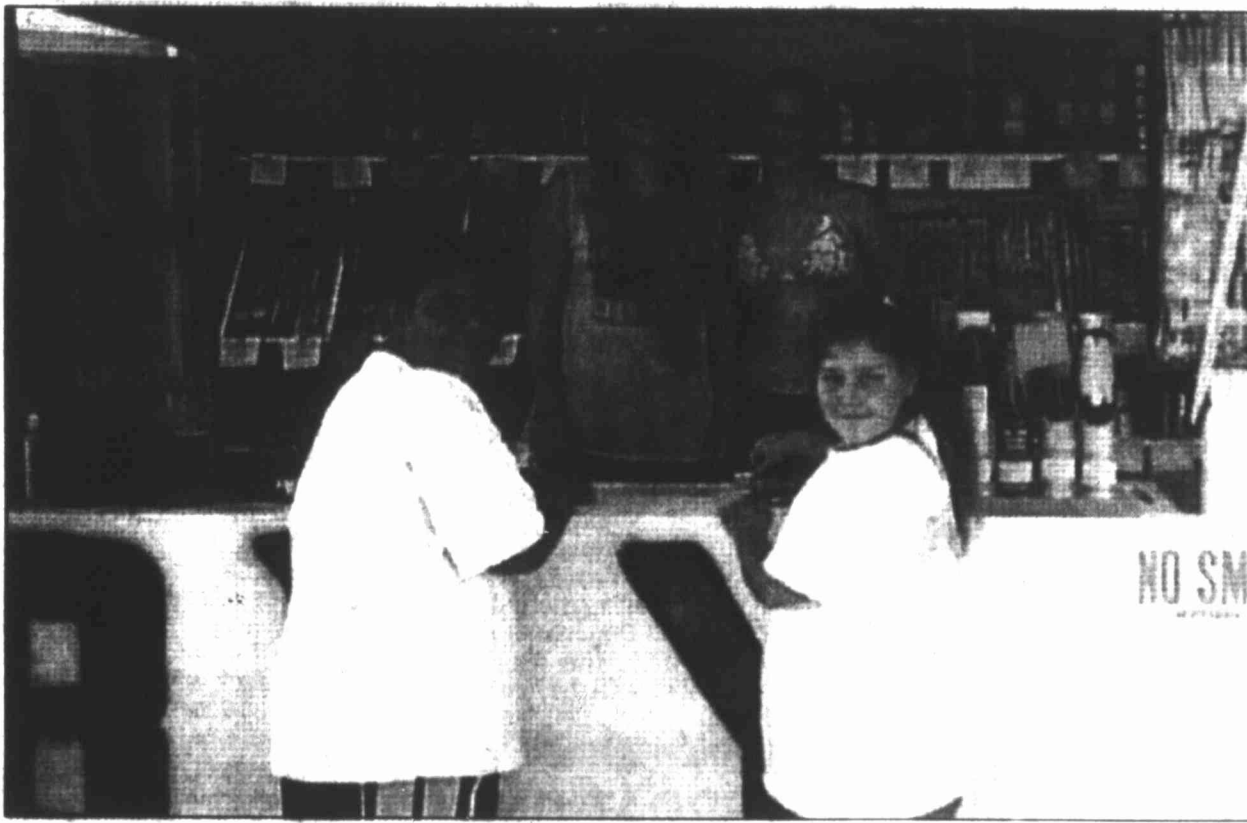
"You never really know until you get there," he said. "The Shriners will be bringing their little fire trucks, and several horse clubs will be coming out. Our state representative, David Counts, will be in the parade, and I will be there as mayor."

When the parade reaches the high school stadium, Counts will give a concluding speech.

Also on Saturday, Colorado City will be having activities in the form of swimming, singing and a fireworks show in Ruddick Park.

The festivities will begin long before the fireworks. The pool will be open for free from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Those attending will be able to purchase barbecue sandwiches, chips and a drink for \$4, and single drinks for \$1. There are several fun activities planned for both adults and kids.

"We'll be having wheelbar-



Customers A.J. Riddle, left, and C.J. Riddle get into the holiday spirit purchasing some fireworks at a stand on Highway 87 south. Renee Buckner and Kristy Morrow are running the stand to make extra money.

HERALD photo/Carl Graham

Caution urged when using fireworks

By CARL GRAHAM

Staff Writer

It's the time of the season to celebrate the Fourth of July and in keeping with the tradition, fireworks stands are up and running all over the area. There is one thing to remember though. Certain types of fireworks have been banned from use and none are allowed inside the city limits.

Howard County Volunteer

Fire Chief Tommy Sullivan said even though the county has had more rain than in the past, the danger still exists of a fire getting started.

"There is still a potential danger out there of fireworks starting a fire," said Sullivan. "We are no means out of the woods even though we have had more rain than last year. The county has once again instituted the ban on aerial fireworks. That means mis-

siles with fins or skyrockets with sticks."

Sullivan said fireworks that are legal to use should be handled with care.

"Fireworks should never be handled by young children without adult supervision," said Sullivan. "It's when people start playing around with them that someone gets hurt. If people would just handle

See **FIREWORKS**, Page 2A

row races and an air castle for kids to play in," said Mandy Proctor, EVP secretary for the

Colorado City Chamber of Commerce. "This is a good family event."

Entertainment before the fire

See **CELEBRATIONS**, Page 2A

Big Spring Garden Club helps to spruce up Heritage Museum

By GINA GARZA

Staff Writer

A local garden club is helping to spruce up a place of history.

"We have about \$7,000 we want to give to the Heritage Museum," said



KNOX

Big Spring Garden Club president Lucy Knox. "We want to have some landscaping done around the museum to help beautify it."

The garden club was established in 1925 by Molly Morgan, who had a dream of making the "desert bloom and wanted to encourage others to do and feel the same." The club has been active not quite 75 years. It disbanded during World War II when men were shipped off to

war and many women had to help with war effort.

"We are one of eight heritage clubs in the state and a charter member of the Southern Zone, District 1, Texas Garden Clubs, Inc.," Knox said. "I think it is fantastic and the club is very important to our history of Big Spring."

Knox said club members have planted trees, shrubs, flowers and other plants around town through the many years of oper-

ation. Of course, the garden club had to raise money for projects.

"We had eight garden clubs at one time — Rosebud, Planters, Green Thumb, Spaders, Four O'Clock, Oasis, After Five and the Big Spring club," she explained. "We bought a clubhouse and began to raise money by having garden shows and dinners. We raised about

See **GARDEN CLUB**, Page 2A

100th home comes off the line Thursday at Solitaire facility

By GINA GARZA

Staff Writer

Solitaire Homes rolled its 100th home off the line Thursday.

"We are very proud of this milestone," said Garland Gandy, general manager. "We have been officially in business in Big Spring since Nov. 22, 1999, and we are right where we should be by now."

The Solitaire complex, located at the former site of Signal Homes, was purchased with the help of Moore Development for Big Spring.

"We did some remodeling and rebuilding," Gandy added. "We were able to use some of the

things left by Solitaire, but needed to do some renovating. We spent about \$750,000."

Solitaire employs between 160 and 165 people, mostly from the Big Spring area.

"We will be adding more employees when our production goes up," Gandy explained. "Our goal is to have 200 to 225 employees."

Gandy has been in the manufactured-home business for about 30 years and has seen many changes among companies.

"I've been in this business a long time and I can honestly say that Solitaire is a very solid company," he added.

"This is a privately owned company, but it is a very reputable one," said Ron Dobbs, production manager. "In fact, we already have four plants and two more are in the works."

Dobbs added one benefit

See **SOLITAIRE**, Page 2A



Solitaire Homes rolled off its 100th home on Thursday. Pictured are the department leaders and quality control people who are just some of the employees who help make manufactured homes.

HERALD photo/Gina Garza

OBITUARIES

Hollis O. Lee

Hollis O. Lee, 79, of Big Spring, passed away at 11:30 a.m., Thursday, June 29, at his home.



Graveside service is 2 p.m. Saturday, July 1, 2000, at Mount Olive Memorial Park with the Rev. Herb McPherson, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church officiating.

Mr. Lee was born on Sept. 28, 1920, in Gorman. He was a veteran of World War II, serving in the U.S. Army as a medic on Okinawa and Iwo Jima.

Mr. Lee had been a resident for over 50 years in the Big Spring area, and he was a Baptist.

He married Emma Lee (Daisy) Lamar on Feb. 4, 1972, in Lovington, N.M.

Mr. Lee had worked for Oil Companies as a driller for 40 years, including Guthrie, Robinson and Duncan Drilling companies.

He is survived by: his wife, Daisy Lee of Big Spring; three sons and two daughters-in-law, Dean Lee of Farmington, N.M., Ronnie and Angela Lee, and Jim and Donna Lee, all of Big Spring; and nine grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by one son, Starr Lee; his parents, Oran and Jeannie Lee; a twin sister, Odessie Lee; and one brother, Dube Lee.

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

Paid obituary

Annie Eckert

Graveside funeral service for Annie Eckert, 77, Big Spring, will be at 3 p.m. Saturday, July 1, 2000, at Miles Cemetery, Miles.

Ms. Eckert died on Friday, June 30, 2000, at her residence.

She was born on Feb. 11, 1933, in Mereta. She was a former resident of San Angelo and had lived in Big Spring for the past 28 years. She loved cooking, painting and wildflowers. She was a member of Melvin Baptist Church.

Survivors include: two sisters, Mary Eckert of Big Spring and Mattie "Sis" Mull of San Angelo; one brother, Miles Eckert of Gardendale; and numerous nieces and nephews.

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

BIDS

Continued from Page 1A

"I think we are about a quarter of a million dollars above what we originally said we could afford," said Simer. "I think we should start with the landscaping and reconstruct the whole thing and re-bid the whole thing. I think there is a lot we could save in the landscaping, millwork, doors - just

a lot of things we need to look at cutting out. We need to look at just redesigning the whole thing."

Commissioner Jerry Kilgore agreed some cutting would be in order. "I don't think that completely redoing it is the answer, but we need to cut some things out of it. If we do that I believe it is still something we can do. It's just that the construction costs came in a lot higher than we had anticipated, especially when we have let this thing sit a couple of years. We'll just have to have a look at it and see."

A committee of 118th District Court Judge Robert H. Moore III, District Attorney Hardy Wilkerson, Commissioner Bill Crooker and Kilgore will study the project and see what, if any, modifications can be made to get it done less expensively.

Moore thinks the committee should take time after the holiday to put some thought into what direction to take.

"Lee George has said he would hold to his bid for 60 days so I don't see any real big hurry on this thing," said Moore. "There are a lot of things we need to look at and see where changes can be made to reduce costs. I am not ready at this time to say it can't be done if some modifications are made."

County architect Phil Furquerson said that in a time of escalating costs across the nation, it would be hard to get anything done any cheaper than the bid received.

"We put a lot of things in the project toward the end and I underestimated the electrical part quite a bit," said Furquerson. "We are in a time now of escalating construction costs so we just need to all work together to produce the bid amount that we got. Typically when you start over on a project like this, by the time new contracts are awarded the cost will increase by an additional 10 percent."

GARDEN CLUB

Continued from Page 1A

\$10,000 by the time it's all over with.

The idea of giving the money to the Heritage Museum was Knox's because, she said, many of the members are getting too old to participate in strenuous activities any more.

"Most of my members are old, retiring, in nursing homes, and sadly, some have died," she added. "I thought it would be a good idea to donate the money we had left before the club was inactive - which I expect it to be within the next few years."

Beautification efforts at the museum have already started, with inmates from the Wilderness Camp working Wednesday morning to clear away brush. Their efforts were supported by County Commissioner Bill Crooker, who lent a hand in the cleanup work.

Knox said she wouldn't be directly involved in the landscaping but rather just giving her opinions.

"I want to be able to voice my opinions and be able to report back to the members of the club who are left what is being done and what the money has been used for," she said. "I would also like to have a party and invite people to come to see what we have done and are doing."

Knox added she felt it was a privilege to have been a part of the growth in Big Spring through the garden club.

FIREWORKS

Continued from Page 1A

them safely, keeping water available in case of a spark or a fire, it can be a fun time to celebrate the holidays."

Big Spring Police Chief Lonnie Smith said the city ordinance banning any type of fireworks other than sparklers inside the city limits makes it fairly easy for his officers.

"If they use fireworks inside the city limits and we get a call from someone about it, they will probably be charged with a violation of our city ordinance," said Smith. "Of course that can all depend on the individual and what type of attitude they have. If they act like they

haven't done anything wrong or they want to argue with the officers about it, they will probably come away with a citation. If they are cooperative and volunteer to turn the fireworks over to us, chances are they won't."

Kylee Welch, a student at Texas Tech in Lubbock, is operating a stand in order to make some spending money. She was told by her distributor Texas Giant of Lubbock she could sell everything she has in her inventory stock.

However, County Judge Ben Lockhart said confirmed there is a ban on the sale or use of certain fireworks.

"Under the restricted fireworks ordinance, the use of sky-rockets with sticks or missiles with fins are prohibited from sale or use by anyone in Howard County," said Lockhart. "It is a Class C misdemeanor that carries with it a fine of up to \$500."

At mid-week, Sheriff Bill Jennings had his deputies distributing the order restricting the use and sale of fireworks to all vendors selling fireworks in Howard County.

CLOSINGS

Continued from Page 1A

Administrative offices for the Veterans' Administration Medical Center and Scenic Mountain Medical Center will be closed on Tuesday. Direct patient care for both hospitals will not be affected.

Hangar 25 Air Museum will be open for regular hours on Monday. Tuesday, the museum will be open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Heritage Museum will be closed both Monday and Tuesday in observance of the Fourth of July holiday.

Most federal offices, including the United States Department of Agriculture and the Social Security Office, will be closed on Tuesday.

CELEBRATIONS

Continued from Page 1A

works show provided by In His Name, a Christian gospel singers group. In His Name will be singing from 7 to 8 that evening.

Around 9:30 p.m., when the sun has set, the fireworks show will commence.

"They'll be setting off about \$5,000 worth of fireworks," said Proctor.

Admission to Ruddick Park, the fireworks show and all races and entertainment is free.

On Monday, Big Spring will be having its annual Pops in the Park event in Comanche Trail Park. There will be food booths, a talent show, and a fireworks display set to music played by the Big Spring Symphony and Orchestra.

Pops in the Park is an afternoon and evening event. Booths featuring food, games and novelties will open at 4:30 that afternoon. The entertainment will begin at 6 p.m.

"In the amphitheater there will be a 10-act talent show, with singing and dancing," said Carroll Jennings, event coordinator. "This should last until about 7:45 p.m."

The feature performance by the 52-member Big Spring Symphony and Orchestra will begin at 8:45 p.m. The two-part program is directed by Stan Haynes.

"The first part will be the symphony performing patriotic and area Texas music," said Jennings. "The Big Spring Symphony Chorus will be in the background singing. The second part will be 45 minutes of fireworks set off behind the stage while the symphony plays patriotic songs."

BIG SPRING AROUND THE TOWN

These include a Fun Fly-In breakfast in Colorado City, the Highland South parade and the annual Independence Day 5K Fun Run and Walk by the Big Spring YMCA.

The Fun Fly-In will be held at the old Webb Air Force Base Auxiliary northwest of Colorado City. A breakfast of eggs, bacon, coffee and fruit prepared by City National Bank employees will be free to pilots flying in. Everyone else attending will be charged \$3.

Attendance at the Fun Fly-In breakfast is expected to exceed 500, as it has in years past. The breakfast will be served at 7 a.m. The Fun Fly-In has been a Colorado City tradition since 1962.

This will be the 32nd annual Highland South parade. Anyone is welcome to join the event with an entry in one of the categories that include strollers, walkers, vehicles, horses and pets. Prizes will be awarded to the winner in each category.

Those who would like to enter the Highland South parade should show up between 9 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. at the corner of Stonehaven and Highland Drive.

The Independence Day 5K Fun Run and Walk will be held at Comanche Trail Park at 8 a.m. There will be a \$5 entry fee per person, although children 12 and under can participate for free.

There are three age groups: 35 and Under, 36 and Over, and 12 and Under. The 12 and Under group will be participating in a one-mile fun run.

"We give out medals to the winners in each division," said Pete Thiry, YMCA director. "The Fun Run and Walk will begin beside the tennis courts by the Community Center."

TEXAS LOTTERY

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

236.

COAHOMA FIRE AND EMS and the Muscular Dystrophy Association are co-sponsoring "Fill the Boot" during the local Coahoma Fourth of July parade on Saturday at 10 a.m. Bring your change and your wallets to help fill the boot. Look for members of the fire department in the parade.

FORSAN ALL-CLASS REUNION will be Aug. 5, 2000, 8 a.m. at the Forsan High School Cafeteria. Pre-registration is preferred. Call Boyce Hale at 267-6957.

Donations are welcome so we can continue our ex-student newsletter. Please contact other ex-students and let them know about our reunion.

The girls basketball teams of 1966 and 1967 will be honored. Both teams made the State Tournament. Anyone having a group picture of the teams, please contact Hale.

If you have old photos that may be of interest to your fellow alumni, please bring them mounted on a poster board so that they may be easily displayed and will not be lost.

Mail your newsletter items, fables, stories and tales of der-ring-do to Frank Tate; 5400 South Park Terrace Avenue; Apt. 14-203; Greenwood Village, CO; 80111-3344.

SUPPORT GROUPS

FRIDAY

•Turning Point A.A., 8-9:30 p.m., St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 10th and Goliad. Open to all substance abusers.

•Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon open meeting and 8 p.m. Big Book Study.

•Al-Anon support group, noon, 615 Settles.

SATURDAY

•Family support group for current and former patients and their families, 1 p.m. weekly, Reflections Unit of Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Call Beverly Grant, 263-0074.

MARKETS

July cotton 51.70, down 60 points; August crude 32.67, down 5 points; cash hogs steady at 48 even; slaughter steers steady at 68 even; July lean hog futures 71.05, down 15 points; June live cattle futures 68.02, down 2 points.

courtesy: Delta Corporation. Noon quotes provided by Edward Jones & Co.

AT&T	32% - 1/2
Archer-Daniels	9% - 1/2
Atmos Energy	19% - 1/2
BP Amoco	57% + 1/2
Chevron	86% - 1/2
Compaq Computer	25% - 1/2
Cornell Cos	7% - 1/2
Dell	49% + 3/4
DuPont	43% - 1/2
Exxon Mobil	80% - 1/2
Halliburton	47% - 1/2
IFCO Systems	26% + 1/2
IBM	109% - 4/8
Intel Corp	130% - 1/2
NUV	8% nc
Patterson Ener	28% + 1/2
Pepsico Inc	42% - 1/2
Phillips Petro	51% - 1/2
SBC Comms	45% - 1/2
Sears Roebuck	33% - 1/2
Texas Inc	53% - 1/2
Texas Instrument	70% + 1/2
TXU Corp	31% + 1/2
Total Fina	77% + 1/2
Unocal Corp	33% - 1/2
Wal-Mart	54% + 1/2
Wal-Mart De Mexico	22% - 22%

SOLITAIRE

Continued from Page 1A

Solitaire offers its employees its vacation time, but they take it all at once.

"We will be off from July 3-9 and again for the week of Christmas," he explained. "They do this because with this kind of business it is really hard to have even one of our key people out on vacation because it causes production problems. You know, everyone has his or her duty and we all work as a team."

Dobbs said Solitaire also picks those two weeks for vacation for the convenience of working parents because school is out and they can spend time with their children.

"We have really good employees here and everyone does a great job," he added.

"We'll be around a long time," said Gandy, "because we are able to weather just about any storm."

BRIEFS

THE BIG SPRING HERALD is organizing a National Night Out in Big Spring.

A group of volunteers will sponsor an annual event - slated for Aug. 1 this year - billed as a "night out against drugs and crime." It brings together neighbors to meet, share information and organize efforts to prevent crime where they live.

The effort would depend on the work of block captains who will organize gatherings in their neighborhoods. Anyone who is interested in serving as a block captain or volunteering in some way for this effort can call the Herald, 263-7331, ext.

More

WASHINGTON - At least 350,000 eligible Texans sponsored by HMOs close their doors, beneficiaries and industry groups Thursday.

The Texas number of 711,000 Americans who would be closed, according to American Association of HMOs say HMOs and regulatory limits and restrictions by Congress in have made services cumbersome and unprofitable.

"This program regulated and regulated and Karen Ignagni, association, who HMOs. AAHP said the informal survey of the largest Medicare beneficiaries up 18 that are plan draw service is

Nursing

AUSTIN (AP) - ing home operating facing a bankruptcy the next two years doesn't increase rates or help cover old insurance.

"We've taken our situation," said president of the Care Association, says about 700.

"We're running about 22 percent homes in Texas; 23,000 beds in bankruptcy could jump to 30 percent, Graves state would need nursing home as much as \$800

Hantavirus

MISSOURI CITY - An elementary school employee came down with a serious respiratory infection, clearing out a work, but state have ruled out hantavirus.

"Tests for hantavirus negative," Texas Health spoke McBride said Thursday.

Doctors had feared hantavirus who was not identified hospital for a June but is now home, officials said occurred in Missouri City, Houston suburb.

Hauntavirus, w in Asia and Eu

Man g

TYLER (AP) - in prison is ar harsh sentence victed of stealing a judge ruled Thursday.

Kenneth Payne face two years in al instead of the sentence a Smith handed him in.

Defense attorney who won the 29 a new trial after misconduct, arguators had "illeg his client's punishment."

"That is what ing from the beg told the Ty Telegraph.

"There is no w get 16 years in jing a candy ba mented.

Payne was ori a habitual offe his misdemeanor charge up to fe making him elig years in prison. But visiting ju ruled Thursday deserves a new t failure to testify during jurors d former correctl told the panel t still get out wtl years, even if tl 16-year sentence Payne has 10 tions, including He was on pa theft when he s bar Dec. 17. He conviction for s

MYERS & SMITH
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21th & Johnson 267-8288
Hollis O. Lee, 79, died Thursday. Graveside services will be 2:00 PM, Saturday at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

NALLEY-PICKLE & WELCH
Funeral Home
Trinity Memorial Park and Crematory
906 Gregg St. (915) 267-6331
Annie Eckert, 77, died Friday. Graveside services will be 3:00 PM Saturday at Miles Cemetery, Miles, Texas.

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Shaft (R)
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Titan A.E. (PG)
Daily: 2:00-4:30 6:30-9:00

STAR
College Park Shopping Ctr.
*Chicken Run (G)
Daily: 2:15-4:15 7:15-9:15
*The Patriot (R)
Daily: 2:00-4:30 6:30-9:00
CINEMA 4
*Rocky & Bullwinkle (PG)
Daily: 2:10-4:10 7:10-9:10
Big Mamas Home (PG-13)
Daily: 2:30 6:30
GONE IN 60 SECONDS (R)
Daily: 4:45 8:30
*The Perfect Storm (PG-13)
Daily: 1:30-4:30 7:30-9:30
*ME, MYSELF AND IRENE (R)
Daily: 1:45-4:30 7:15-9:15
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\$3.25 ALL MATINEES,
CHILDREN & SENIOR CITIZENS
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More HMOs plan to drop Medicare beneficiaries

WASHINGTON (AP) — At least 150,000 elderly and disabled Texans would be jettisoned by HMOs planning to close their doors to Medicare beneficiaries next year, an industry group announced Thursday.

The Texas number is part of 711,000 Americans nationwide who would be affected by the closure, according to the American Association of Health Plans.

HMOs say Medicare payment limits and regulations enacted by Congress in recent years have made serving senior citizens cumbersome and unprofitable.

"This program has been over-regulated and underpaid," said Karen Ignagni, president of the association, which represents HMOs.

AAHP said Thursday that an informal survey answered by 37 of the largest HMOs serving Medicare beneficiaries turned up 18 that are planning to withdraw service in at least one

county in 2001.

Those 18 health plans, which the association did not name, reported the anticipated withdrawals would affect 711,055 enrollees.

The predicted 2001 closings would double the more than 700,000 beneficiaries already stung by a swarm of HMO pull-outs that have plagued Medicare since 1999.

When an HMO closes, Medicare beneficiaries who were enrolled do not lose health insurance coverage. But they must find another HMO, which may mean having to switch doctors, or else return to submitting medical bills directly to Medicare, losing the extra benefits many HMOs offer.

"Medicare beneficiaries who are affected by plans leaving Medicare should remember that no matter what, they are still covered by a strong Medicare program," said Medicare Administrator Nancy-Ann DeParle.

DeParle stressed that those

affected by HMO closings can stay in their health plans until the end of the year and should not rush to make a change.

For HMOs that continue in Medicare, changes in premiums, copayments and extra benefits are expected and will not be final until fall, when Medicare mails information to beneficiaries about their choices.

Currently, Medicare says that of its 39 million beneficiaries, 27 million have at least one HMO open to them and 6.5 million are enrolled in one.

HMOs participating in Medicare must officially inform the government by July 3 of intentions to withdraw from the program in 2001. But some announced their plans to the public earlier.

For example, Aetna U.S. Healthcare said Thursday that it will not renew its Medicare contract next year in Texas and 10 other states. Some counties in New York, Pennsylvania and Northern California would be

cut.

The Aetna withdrawals alone, effective, Dec. 31, would touch 355,000 Medicare beneficiaries nationwide. Other large HMOs that have announced Medicare withdrawals in Texas so far include Cigna HealthCare and Presbyterian Health Plan, state insurance officials said.

"Unfortunately, inadequate government reimbursements have made operating a number of our Medicare HMOs no longer viable," said Aetna CEO William H. Donaldson.

Texas Insurance Commissioner Jose Montemayor advised Texans affected by the withdrawals to explore all their options and avoid hasty decisions on replacement coverage.

"Don't panic. You can continue to see your doctor, get referrals and receive other HMO services through the end of the year," Montemayor said Thursday.

"You have time to find alternatives."

Murder-for-hire trial awaits jury's decision

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Prosecutors closed their case Thursday in the murder-for-hire trial of Allen Blackthorne, portraying the millionaire as a man who hated his ex-wife and who, after a string of custody battles, turned his hatred into a scheme to have her killed.

Using Blackthorne's own words from earlier testimony, prosecutor Richard Durbin repeated several times, "He didn't hate Sheila Bellush. He just hated the things she did."

The closing statements came after three weeks of testimony in the federal trial. Jurors began deliberations shortly after 6 p.m., following three hours of final arguments. After a couple of hours, they ended deliberations until today.

Defense attorney Richard Lubin argued that the prosecution's case was built on the testimony of "a sociopathic liar," Daniel Rocha. Rocha is serving life without parole for solicitation of murder.

"Rocha is a complete and total manipulator. He has told so many stories he can't even keep them straight," Lubin said. "His entire life is a hustle. He always has an angle, always a scam, always a scheme."

Lubin said prosecutors put Rocha on the witness stand early in the trial so jurors would forget how outrageous and disreputable he is.

Bellush was killed on Nov. 7, 1997, about two months after moving with her second husband and six children, including quadruplets, to Sarasota, Fla. The 2-year-old quadruplets from her second marriage were discovered unharmed in the house, two of them crawling in their mother's blood.

Blackthorne, 45, is charged with interstate conspiracy to commit murder-for-hire and with interstate domestic violence. He faces a mandatory life sentence if convicted.

In September 1997, Bellush won custody of their youngest daughter, Daryl, and left the state.

That, Durbin said, led Blackthorne to hunt down his ex-wife.

Bellush and Blackthorne were divorced in 1989.

Blackthorne testified Monday that he once became so upset after a daughter fell out of a second-story window that he told Bellush he would kill her if "anything happens to my kids."

Blackthorne has denied accusations that during a trip to Oregon he asked Rocha, a golfing buddy, to find a hit man to kill his wife.

Rocha testified on the first day of the trial that he contacted a friend, Sammy Gonzales, who hired his cousin, Jose Luis Del Toro, the alleged gunman.

Gonzales also is serving a prison term in Florida for solicitation of murder. Del Toro, 23, a former high school football star in Uvalde, is scheduled for trial next month in Florida.

Lubin told jurors that in making their decision, they must consider whether Rocha and Gonzales pinned the murder on Blackthorne to win a deal as part of a plea bargain.

"Allen had nothing to do with this, and the prosecution has not shown that he does," Lubin said.

"The prosecution has to prove Allen is guilty, and they haven't."

Nursing home operators say they are facing crisis

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas nursing home operators say they are facing a bankruptcy crisis over the next two years if the state doesn't increase reimbursement rates or help contain rising liability insurance costs.

"We've taken a hard look at our situation," said Tim Graves, president of the Texas Health Care Association, which represents about 700 nursing homes. "We're running on fumes."

About 22 percent of nursing homes in Texas with an estimated 23,000 beds are currently in bankruptcy and the number could jump to as much as 45 percent, Graves warned. The state would need to increase nursing home spending by as much as \$800 million in the

2002-2003 budget to help the industry, he said.

Earlier this year, the state adopted a 3.7 percent increase in nursing home reimbursements but industry officials complained it was too small. The industry said it needed a 7 percent increase to offset the rising costs of liability insurance and labor.

The Legislature, however, had authorized only enough money for the smaller increase, the same amount as the year before.

The reimbursements pay nursing homes to care for patients covered by Medicaid, the state-federal healthcare program for low-income people.

Industry officials say Texas nursing homes lost money

every day on Medicaid patients in 1999. Health care providers say Texas' \$78-a-day average payment was one of the lowest in the country last year while liability coverage has tripled since 1998, raising the average premium from \$650 per bed to about \$1,800.

The financial crunch has worried state regulators and patient activists with concerns that some nursing homes are operating without liability insurance.

State Insurance Commissioner Jose Montemayor agreed the industry is facing a crisis. The state earlier this year opened its Joint Underwriting Association, an insurer of last resort, to not-for-profit nursing

homes needing liability coverage.

"We're researching the issue and hoping to have some recommendations to bring to the Legislature," Montemayor said. "We're going to ask the Legislature to study this."

Texas nursing homes have an occupancy rate of about 70 percent and could absorb some patients who are forced out of facilities that close, Graves said, although it would leave some families in less-than-ideal arrangements.

"I don't see that as an option," said Montemayor, noting the aging baby boomer generation is likely to create difficult space demands. "It's a tough situation right now."

Hantavirus tests negative for school employee

MISSOURI CITY, Texas (AP) — An elementary school employee came down with a "serious respiratory illness" after cleaning out a storage closet at work, but state health officials have ruled out hantavirus.

"Tests for hantavirus were negative," Texas Department of Health spokesman Doug McBride said Thursday.

Doctors had feared he might have hantavirus. The employee, who was not identified, was in a hospital for a week earlier in June but is now recovering at home, officials said. The incident occurred in a school at Missouri City, a southwest Houston suburb.

Hantavirus, which originated in Asia and Europe, cannot be

spread from person to person. It is passed through contact with infected rodents or their droppings, urine, saliva or nesting materials. The disease made national headlines in 1993 when 11 people died after being infected in the Four Corners area, where New Mexico, Arizona, Utah and Colorado meet.

The syndrome begins with fever, muscle aches, nausea and vomiting and can lead to respiratory failure and shock.

The employee probably came across some type of rodent droppings while cleaning the closet at Edgar G. Lever Jr. Elementary School on May 27, said Mary Ann Simpson, a spokeswoman for the Fort Bend Independent School District. No students

were at the school because classes had let out for the summer the day before.

Officials sent letters to the school's 780 students and their parents notifying them about the possibility of hantavirus and letting them know the district is taking special precautions regarding the prevention and elimination of any type of rodent habitation at its schools, Simpson said.

There has never been a confirmed case of hantavirus in the Houston area.

The closest cases to the Houston area were in the Beaumont-Port Arthur area, where two men contracted the virus in separate incidents in 1996. Both survived.

Man gets retrial for stealing candy bar

TYLER (AP) — Sixteen years in prison is an unreasonably harsh sentence for a man convicted of stealing Snickers bar, a judge ruled Thursday.

Kenneth Payne III, will now face two years in jail in a retrial instead of the 16-year prison sentence a Smith County jury handed him in March.

Defense attorney Linda Altier, who won the 29-year-old Payne a new trial after proving jury misconduct, argued that prosecutors had "illegally" enhanced his client's punishment range. "That is what I've been arguing from the beginning," Altier told the Tyler Morning Telegraph.

"There is no way a person can get 16 years in prison for stealing a candy bar," Altier commented.

Payne was originally tried as a habitual offender, bumping his misdemeanor shoplifting charge up to felony theft and making him eligible for up to 20 years in prison.

But visiting judge Gene Afer ruled Thursday that Payne deserves a new trial because his failure to testify was considered during jurors deliberations. A former corrections officer also told the panel that Payne would still get out within four or five years, even if they gave him a 16-year sentence.

Payne has 10 prior convictions, including three felonies. He was on parole for felony theft when he stole the Snickers bar Dec. 17. He has a previous conviction for stealing a bag of

Oreos.

D&N Grocery store owner Dale Klinner, who said he caught Payne stuffing the candy bar in his pants, has said he

hopes for another conviction, and another lengthy sentence.

Klinner said he plans to testify at Payne's new trial set for Aug. 28.

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JUN 30 2000

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
Features Editor
Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

We salute:

Each week, the *Herald* salutes individuals and groups from our community and area who have been recognized for special achievements or accomplishments.

We recognize these special people for working to help make our region a better place to live, work and play.

This week we salute:

• PARTICIPANTS IN THE HOWARD COUNTY LIBRARY'S SUMMER READING PROGRAM, and library staff who provided another fun and educational activity for our young people.

• 4-H STUDENTS FROM ALL OVER WEST TEXAS who enjoyed three days at camp this week at Howard College.

• HOWARD COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION, which was recently recognized by the State Bar of Texas for its successful mock trial program for local eighth graders.

• FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, which offered a patriotic God and Country concert Sunday night for the community.

• HOWARD COUNTY FAMILY AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION CLUB, which gave \$17,000 to start a Zula Rhodes 4-H and Ag Scholarship at Howard College.

Is there an individual or organization in our community that you feel should be saluted? If so, please send us their name and address so that they should be recognized. We must have your name and telephone number and you must provide it in writing.

OTHER VIEWS

Even if investigators prove no espionage was involved in the bizarre disappearance and recovery of computer hard drives containing nuclear secrets at Los Alamos National Laboratory, the security lapse that is looking more and more like the work of cartoon nuclear safety inspector Homer Simpson will surely bring about several profound changes. None will be very pleasant.

First, as sure as former LANL scientist Wen Ho Lee sits in a jail cell, the mistakes and cover-up can be expected to lead to a criminal investigation with indictments where warranted.

Also due for some attitude adjustment is the scientist-king culture in the national laboratories, which has resisted past attempts to bring greater security and accountability into the workplace.

Cries about privacy needs or stifled creativity will no longer carry the same weight. Included on the casualty list is the rising star of former U.N. ambassador and current Energy Secretary Bill Richardson, which may never again shine as bright. Whether his most current ambitions were for a vice presidency or a governorship, this issue is sure to haunt him.

Even if Richardson was a victim of circumstance, burned by someone too frightened to immediately notify authorities or own up to the disappearance later, he is the boss. Additionally, when the buck stopped with him, Richardson handled it poorly and drew the wrath of several members of Congress. That empty chair in a congressional hearing room said a lot.

ALBUQUERQUE (N.M.) JOURNAL

City government should not tolerate rioting

Two riots took place recently at opposite corners of the nation. In Los Angeles, the NBA championship victory of the Los Angeles Lakers provided an excuse for several thousand people to run amok, destroying automobiles, setting fires, vandalizing and burglarizing businesses and, in the opinion of several members of the city council, showing open hostility to police.



JEFFREY HART

Nevertheless, Mayor Richard J. Riordan and Police Chief Bernard C. Parks played down the seriousness of the riot, perhaps to calm the nerves of those organizing the Democratic Convention, which is scheduled to begin in L.A. on Aug. 14. "I think the police acted very responsibly, with restraint," pronounced the mayor. The police chief added, "I think that what we saw yesterday was a very disciplined effort by the police department. Certainly that property damage can be replaced."

Oh, the property damage can be replaced. Thus the police chief himself came close to declaring some kind of right to riot. It's all right, boys, the insurance companies will pay up. And what's a couple of burned cars among friends?

It's odd how small things stick in the mind and become metaphors. During the Los Angeles Rodney King riots — which caused enormous property damage — the rioters, mostly black, singled out stores owned by Koreans for special attention. In one report, I read of the destruction of such a store, which sold tropical fish.

The rioters threw the glass tanks out into the street and the reporter saw the tiny, many-colored fish flipping around in the gutter. More perhaps than the burning cars and smashed windows, this symbolized for me, the grinning evil of urban rioting.

Surely it is the primary obligation of government to protect the lives and properties of law-abiding citizens from assault by people operating outside the law. Of course police tactics should be professional, but the bottom line is that riots must be stopped, with whatever force is required. During the "Lakers" riot, the police did not "behave with restraint." Several thousand people rioted. There were only 11 arrests. The police did next to nothing.

Recent events in New York City were just as ugly and just as inexcusable. We first heard the term "wilding" during the Central Park Jogger case at least a decade ago. A group of black adolescents grabbed a young woman jogging in the park and beat her with rocks and clubs to the point where she suffered brain damage and went into a coma for days. She eventually emerged. "Wilding" is the slang word used by the black teens to describe their activity. The woman had been a rising professional on Wall Street. New York residents were angered, appalled. They responded to this and other outrages by eventually electing Rudolph Giuliani as their mayor.

A week or so ago we had more wilding, around the edges of the annual Puerto Rican Day Parade down Fifth Avenue. About 50 women were assaulted and abused by "wolf packs" of marauding young thugs. Their clothes were ripped off, they were groped and spat upon, punched and terrorized. Some were visitors from out of town, and some were tourists from Europe.

There are credible reports that police on the scene often did nothing. Marijuana fumes were thick in the air around the parade. To their credit, the New York City police have cracked down on drunkenness at the St. Patrick's Day Parade, but such sternness obviously was absent at the Puerto Rican parade. Many New Yorkers think that the police are now reluctant to enforce the law when minorities are involved. There seems to be no doubt that drugs and alcohol contributed to the atmosphere, in which the wilding occurred.

And, of course, for more than a year now the New York Police Department has been the target of a campaign casting it as racist and not only aggressive but murderous in its attitude toward minorities. None other than Senate candidate and first lady Hillary Clinton characterized the shooting of Amadou Diallo as "murder," with the race-baiter Al Sharpton standing at her side. It took a jury verdict to the contrary and a month of criticism for her to say that she "misspoke." She did not misspeak. As a lawyer, Hillary knew exactly what she was saying. She was attacking Mayor Giuliani by labeling the NYPD as murderers and adding to a campaign that now might have crippled their effectiveness.

After all, the four officers who shot Diallo were charged with murder by District Attorney Robert Johnson, a grossly inflated charge. Today an officer on duty might well be extremely reluctant to risk such a charge even if force were justified.

The fact is that under the Giuliani administration police behavior has been notably professional and restrained. Last year, 11 civilians were fatally shot by police. A decade earlier, in Mayor David Dinkins' final year, the number was 41,

without a single demonstration at City Hall, a prayer vigil outside the courthouse or a protest ballad by Bruce Springsteen condemning the "41 shots" fired at Diallo.

The NYPD today is being criticized and even sued for not reacting more decisively to the recent Puerto Rican Day wilding. The general impression around the city is that minorities are being cut a good deal of slack in regards to dangerous behavior. This is wonderful for race relations. Giuliani has a point when he says that the police have been put in a position where they can't win. In that situation, the city loses.

Since the riots of the 1960s, an entire academic literature has come into being about handling riots, which usually begin with a small group that "tests the water." Hit this early and hard, and the riot fizzles.

Sometimes I think of the famous Civil War "draft riots" in New York, which involved mostly immigrants rioting not only about conscription but against the war and fearing the prospective cheap-labor competition of freed blacks.

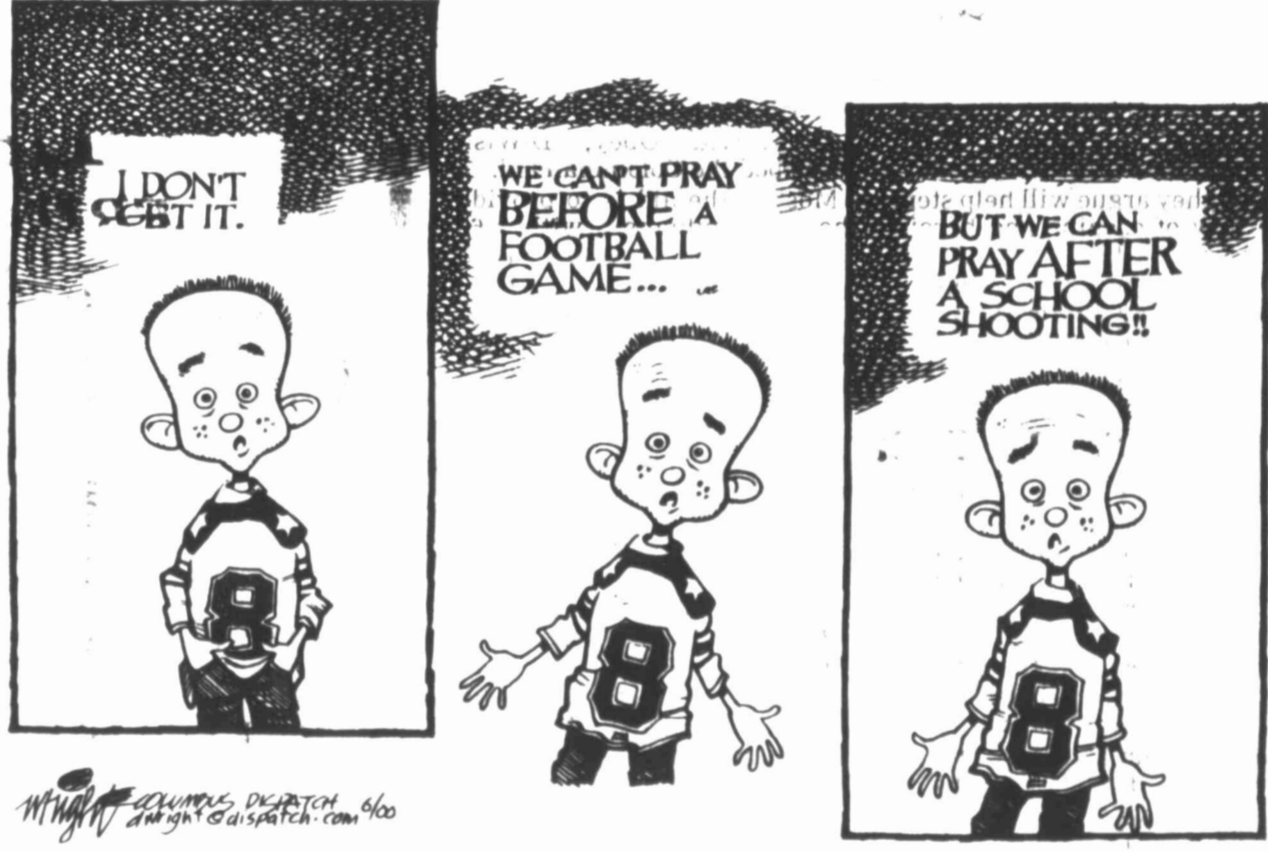
For a couple of days, the rioters took over much of lower Manhattan. They lynched a free black on a lamppost and invaded the black orphans' asylum near 42nd Street. The governor delayed sending soldiers because the mayor of New York City favored independence for the city.

But early one morning, the boy Augustus St. Gaudens, later the great sculptor, was going to his job as an apprentice. All along 23rd Street he saw artillery drawn up, manned by the federal blue-coats, with muzzles pointing downtown at the immigrant streets. That was the end of the riots.

The first responsibility of government is to protect the lives and property of the law-abiding.

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The election: It's 1888 again — sort of

At the June 1888 national conventions, one party favored high protective tariffs. One party banked everything on a Northern strategy. One party's nominee — a man who had lost reelection to the Senate the previous year — was not decided on until the eighth ballot at the convention.

This is not exactly parallel to the situation faced by the Republican Party of 2000 and its likely nominee, Gov. George W. Bush of Texas, but there are some similarities.

In 1888, the Republican nominee was Benjamin Harrison, Great grandson of a signer of

the Declaration of Independence, grandson of the ninth president of the United States, son of a U.S. senator, Harrison served in the Federal army during the Civil War and later became a senator from Indiana. Then, in 1887, he lost his Senate seat.

G. W. Bush is the grandson of a U.S. senator and the son of a president, and he also has tasted defeat.

Harrison and his party were anathema to the South. In fact, a Confederate flag controversy helped him take the presidency from Democratic incumbent Grover Cleveland. Cleveland had offered to return captured Confederate battle flags to the South. Harrison and the Republican Party were opposed, and their opposition solidified their Grand Army of the Republic (Federal Civil War veterans) support.

Today's Confederate flag controversy concerns its display in several state flags and atop the

South Carolina State Capitol. Whereas the 1888 controversy was a North-South dispute, the 2000 version is a strictly Southern affair, pitting those who view the flag as a symbol of a decimated generation's failed fight for independence against those who look upon it as a symbol of slavery and secession.

Bush has waffled on the issue. The likely Democratic nominee, Vice President Al Gore, has come out against the use of the flag in official settings. But then Gore, although a Southerner, has virtually given up on the South except for his home state of Tennessee.

Harrison's running mate in 1888 was Levi Morton of New York. It was a clear Northern strategy. Of course, in 1888 the West did not yield the balance-tipping power it does today, and Harrison was free to ignore it.

In 2000, the West is a battle-

ground, led by the mega-state California, though most political analysts agree that the real fight will be in the Midwest, right back to Benjamin Harrison's home turf.

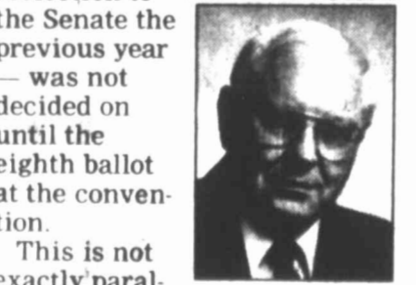
So unlike 1888, this year's candidates cannot pursue a one-region strategy. Bush has the South and Mountain states. Gore has the Northeast and West, and both must battle for the Midwest, an area little concerned with the Confederate flag.

What is similar between 1888 and 2000 is the politics of political dynasties.

Gore, it should be remembered is the son of a U.S. senator, and he was raised in Washington, D.C.

And finally, it is once again an election pitting a champion of the little guy against the champion of business. In the 19th century, business usually won.

That was not the case in the 20th century.



JACK ANDERSON

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 jwalker@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.

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 - 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.
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Mallard Fillmore by BRUCE TINSLEY

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Hanford

RICHLAND, fire that scorc... the Hanford nuc... and 20 homes a... two miles of s... lethal nuclear... was virtually c... Energy Sec... Richardson said... "There is no a... time," he said... declaring firef... a "mop-up" p... winds could... embers but "we... is now safe." He also said th... known air or s... tion at the na... repository of... nuclear weapons... "There does n...

Presid...

WASHINGTON passage greased... ers' home-distri... \$11.2 billion en... sure for Colombi... and victims of... ders finally has... the White House... The Senate pl... final congressio... the package on... after the House... 306-110. The lopsided... the bill's stop-an... through Congress... in February wh... Clinton asked for... the end, most m... nbt resist the... largesse it conta... Long Island Soun... lobster industry... ment along the A... border, and much...

Senate C...

WASHINGTON Republicans are... the first time in... patients a limited... HMOs, but what... major concession... dismiss as mere p... in the run-up to... tions. "We offered a sig... promise proposal... contested points... rights legislatio... Nickles, R-Okla... day night as... maneuvered the... Democrats on a 51... But Sen. Edward... D-Mass., offered... "Any Republica... back to their statu... sell this... has a th... a safe seat," he sa... The Republican... several guarantee... access to emergenc... out-of-network ph... specialists for a... million insured in...

Beeza Br...

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Federal regulators plan to launch airline maintenance checks in July

WASHINGTON (AP) — Fresh from forcing Alaska Airlines to make significant changes in its maintenance programs, federal regulators are turning their attention to the nation's nine other major airlines.

Nick Lacey, director of flight standards for the Federal Aviation Administration, said Thursday that three teams of federal inspectors will fan out in July to take a close look at the largest carriers.

The effort is expected to last four months and then turn to the larger regional airlines and cargo carriers, he said.

The announcement came as

the FAA reported that Alaska Airlines, under scrutiny since a January crash off the coast of California, has made enough improvements to continue doing maintenance on its planes.

The FAA had threatened to strip the airline of the right to do maintenance — a step that could have eventually grounded all its planes — unless its programs were improved.

Lacey said his inspectors will continue to closely monitor Alaska, but added, "We are encouraged by what we have seen so far."

At a briefing in Seattle, the

airline's president, John F. Kelly, said, "We're very pleased that the FAA has accepted our plan ... we really tried to go above and beyond what they asked for."

Lacey said the inspections of the other airlines will involve three teams of a half-dozen safety inspectors each. They will begin their work on July 17, focusing on maintenance programs.

He said the aim is to identify successful programs and safety practices so airlines can share them with one another. If problems are found, he said, the FAA will not hesitate to act.

Lacey declined to reveal which airlines will be visited first, but said he expects to make the results of the inspections public. The nine major carriers are American Airlines, America West, Continental, Delta, Northwest, Southwest, TWA, US Airways and United.

The close inspection of Alaska Airlines began after the Jan. 31 crash of Flight 261 in the Pacific Ocean off Los Angeles, killing all 88 aboard. Allegations of unsafe maintenance work, which first surfaced in 1998, were thrust back into the spotlight. The cause of that accident remains under investigation.

In its audit, the FAA uncovered nearly 150 cases in which aircraft maintenance could not be documented. A reinspection of the planes showed that the work had actually been done, but the lack of documentation raised serious concerns about supervision and could eventually lead to civil fines.

The FAA said that unless the airline came up with improvements in its procedures it would lose the authority to do maintenance and would not be allowed to hire outside companies to do the work. That would have meant that the carriers' planes would be grounded, one by one,

as they came due for work.

On Thursday, the FAA said Alaska has developed a plan to hire 150 additional maintenance workers — 82 have been hired so far — filled previously vacant safety executive posts, revised its heavy maintenance procedures and made other changes.

Lacey said FAA inspectors will continue to monitor the carrier until mid-July to make sure it is continuing to follow its plan.

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Hanford nuclear reservation fire dies out after scorching homes

RICHLAND, Wash. (AP) — A fire that scorched nearly half the Hanford nuclear reservation and 20 homes as it crept within two miles of some of the most lethal nuclear waste on Earth was virtually out early today, Energy Secretary Bill Richardson said.

"There is no active fire at this time," he said at 3:30 a.m., declaring firefighting efforts in a "mop-up" phase. He said winds could still kick up embers but "we believe the area is now safe."

He also said the fire caused no known air or soil contamination at the nation's largest repository of waste from nuclear weapons.

"There does not appear to be

any contamination whatsoever," Richardson said. "We are going to monitor this very carefully."

Thousands of people fled as the fire blackened 190,000 acres and destroyed more than 70 buildings, including 20 homes. Fifteen people were injured, one seriously.

The fire at sprawling site in southern Washington was sparked Tuesday by a fatal car crash. It burned 45 percent of Hanford's 560 square miles, department spokeswoman Julie Erickson said. About 30,000 scorched acres and all the burned homes are outside the reservation.

The fire burned across three old radioactive waste disposal

sites — a trench and two dried up ponds — but federal and state officials said initial surveys showed no elevated radiation levels.

It also burned near some excavated drums containing uranium wastes, but firefighters stopped that advance.

Hanford was created by the Manhattan Project during World War II to make plutonium for nuclear weapons. The site contains the nation's biggest volume of radioactive wastes.

The most lethal waste is in 177 storage tanks buried six feet underground that could explode if a spark were introduced inside. But Erickson said the flames got within two miles of

the tanks late Thursday.

Strong winds and temperatures around 100 caused the fire to explode Wednesday afternoon from 25,000 acres to 100,000 acres in less than two hours. More than 900 firefighters made progress Thursday when expected 40 mph winds failed to materialize.

It was the second time in two months that wildfire threatened a U.S. nuclear site. In May, a fire set to clear brush near the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico raged out of control, forcing evacuation of more than 20,000 people and destroying more than 200 homes and nearly 40 temporary buildings at the lab.

Richardson said that disaster

helped firefighters this week.

"We did learn from several other fires in the 1980s and Los Alamos," he said.

Keith Klein, the Energy Department's manager for Hanford, also said officials sought independent experts to check the site for radiation releases and secured classified materials.

Initial samples showed no sign of radiation releases, but more tests are planned on vegetation and air-monitoring filters, said Debra McBaugh, a state health department spokeswoman.

Of the injured, 13 were treated for smoke inhalation and a firefighter received a minor leg injury.

President Clinton will sign bill for Colombia, disasters, Pentagon

WASHINGTON (AP) — Its passage greased with lawmakers' home-district projects, an \$11.2 billion emergency measure for Colombia, the Pentagon and victims of domestic disasters finally has a clear path to the White House.

The Senate planned to give final congressional approval to the package on Friday, a day after the House endorsed it by 306-110.

The lopsided margin belied the bill's stop-and-start journey through Congress, which began in February when President Clinton asked for \$5.2 billion. In the end, most members could not resist the election-year largesse it contained for the Long Island Sound's struggling lobster industry, law enforcement along the Arizona-Mexico border, and much in between.

Saying that the bill "will make our nation safer and more secure," Clinton indicated that he stood ready to sign it.

"It has been four months since I first sent this request to Capitol Hill, and the needs are all the greater today," he said after the House vote.

The highest profile item was \$1.3 billion to help Colombia's government prevail in its four-decade conflict against drug traffickers and their left- and right-wing allies.

Both Clinton and House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., pushed the bill through. They argue will help stem the flow of cocaine and heroin from Colombia. The South American country supplies more than 80 percent of the cocaine used in the United States.

"This Colombian aid package is an investment in our future — a future free from the scourge of drugs," Hastert said after the vote.

Their combined drive for the money overwhelmed opposition by members of both parties. Opponents cited allegations of Colombian human rights abuses, fear of U.S. involvement in an unwinnable, four-decade-long conflict, and a preference to use the money for drug prevention programs at home.

"A profound mistake," is how Rep. David Obey, D-Wis., described the Colombian aid.

Most of the aid is to provide the Colombians with 60 Blackhawk and Huey helicopters, train and equip Colombian military and national police battalions, and for intelligence activity. Officials

envision retaking portions of southern Colombia that the rebels control, and fumigating jungle coca fields.

There would also be money for human rights programs in Colombia, for Bolivia, Ecuador and other nearby countries, and for U.S. aircraft performing

anti-drug surveillance.

The bill also contained \$2 billion to refill Pentagon accounts drained to pay for the 5,700 U.S. troops in the NATO peacekeeping team in Kosovo. There was also \$4.4 billion more for fuel, health care and other Pentagon programs.

Senate GOP advances limited patient rights bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Republicans are on record for the first time in favor of giving patients a limited right to sue HMOs, but what they call a major concession Democrats dismiss as mere political cover in the run-up to the fall elections.

"We offered a significant compromise proposal" on several contested points in patient rights legislation, Sen. Don Nickles, R-Okla., said Thursday night as Republicans maneuvered their plan past Democrats on a 51-47 vote.

But Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., offered a rebuttal.

"Any Republican who goes back to their state and tries to sell this ... has a thick skin and a safe seat," he said.

The Republican plan provides several guarantees, including access to emergency room care, out-of-network physicians and specialists for an estimated 56 million insured individuals.

Under the proposal, patients also would be permitted to file suit in federal court against HMOs that improperly denied care, as determined by an independent reviewer.

Republicans said the lawsuit provision would apply to 131 million insured people who could seek unlimited economic damages and up to \$350,000 in compensatory damages. Punitive damages would be barred, as would class-action lawsuits.

Democrats said the GOP proposal didn't go nearly far enough, and forced a vote on a proposal requiring that any protections cover all Americans with insurance — a group far larger than covered by the GOP measure.

"It was rejected, though, on a vote of 51-47, as Republicans said Democrats were proposing health insurance run by the federal government.

"There are a lot of people who

don't want a national health care plan," said Sen. Mike Enzi, R-Wyo. "And I can tell you that if I even considered one, they wouldn't send me back here."

But Sen. Byron Dorgan, D-N.D., derided the Republican approach as "Honey, I shrunk the plan," and taunted GOP lawmakers to say straight out that they oppose patient protection legislation.

The patient rights provisions were attached to unrelated legislation providing funding for several federal agencies for the fiscal year that begins Oct. 1. A final vote on that bill was scheduled for Friday.

The maneuvering did little to clarify the fate of patients rights legislation, which has emerged as a key election-year issue.

House-passed legislation grants more extensive protections to more Americans than either a Senate-passed bill from last year or the proposal adopted Thursday.

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life!

QUICK TRIVIA

◆General Douglas MacArthur finished first in his class at West Point in 1903.

◆James Polk, the 11th President, was the first not to seek re-election after a complete first term.

Got an item?

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

6A

Big Spring Herald

Friday, June 30, 2000

Getting to know you

Neighbors on Colgate will meet in the street for Fourth celebration

By DEBBIE L. JENSEN
Features Editor

Many people will celebrate the Fourth of July holiday with a picnic, day at the lake or family reunion.

Folks on Colgate Street in Big Spring, though, will use the opportunity to get to know their neighbors a little better.

"We thought this was a great time to start something like this," said Jeanie Knocke, a resident of the 700 block of Colgate who has organized a block party there.

The event will start in the evening hours Tuesday, with neighbors meeting in the middle of the street for a cookout, homemade ice cream, soft drinks and conversation. The city has arranged to block off a section of the street for the evening and everyone is encouraged to bring their lawn chairs. Two large grills will be set up for barbecuing.

"It's a great way to get to know your neighbors, and the way things are now, we all need to know our neighbors."

Jeanie Knocke,
block party organizer

Knocke said the idea could work well in plenty of other neighborhoods throughout the city.

"Lots of other people should do this," she said. "It's a great way to get to know your neighbors, and the way things are now, we all need to know our neighbors."

Knocke said cooperation between neighbors can make the atmosphere more pleasant and safer.

"They can watch out for each other," she said.

At least 15 families of the 25 living on Colgate have said they will attend, and Knocke said residents of nearby streets Bucknell and Tulane are welcome to attend the block party

also. "When I was growing up I had an aunt living in Austin," Knocke said, "and they always had block parties. I remember those so well, I had been wanting to do this for a long time."

Her son, who lives in Dallas, told Knocke his neighbors had met for parties several times, leading to a much better living environment. They exchanged business cards and learned the names of each others' kids.

In one case, a woman in the neighborhood saw water leaking out of another resident's garage one morning while that family was all out of the house. Since the block party, she had learned where the neighbors worked, so she was able to call

them and find out where to turn off the water and stop the leak.

"That just shows you how important this kind of thing can be," Knocke said.

Organizing the event, while it has meant some work, was not an overwhelming task, she said. Kids who live on the street helped her distribute flyers, and each neighbor who attends will bring food and \$5 to pay for drinks, ice and paper goods.

"I'm going to buy some stick-on nametags, and we are looking at getting a PA system so everyone can introduce themselves," Knocke said. "We are going to meet under the brightest street lights and ask all the neighbors to turn on their porch lights. Then we are just going to have a great time."

Residents of Colgate, Bucknell and Tulane, or people who want to organize their own block parties can call Knocke for information at 263-1757.

CHURCH NEWS

St. Paul Lutheran Church

Last Thursday evening the Serendipity Small Group Steering Committee met to organize the Small Group Bible study programs for the fall. Announcements will follow at a later date.

Richard Sanders leaves for a mission trip to Mexico on Monday. He recently returned from his first trip.

Members of St. Paul will mark a booth at "Pops in the Park" Monday. Be sure to stop by to visit and purchase treats. Proceeds will go for a new church marquee.

First Assembly of God

It is interesting that in a time when we are busy suppressing public prayer in the courts of this land the news media presented a two hour program on a major network during prime time entitled "The Search for Jesus the man."

The congregation of First Assembly located at Fourth and Lancaster, invited the public to hear Pastor Havener's special message, "The Search for Jesus." This sermon will be delivered in the evening service at 6 and will be taken from Mark 15:39.

The morning service at 10:40 will be a great patriotic rally with the Royal Rangers presenting the colors, and everyone wearing red, white and blue. Pastor Havener will be speaking on the subject, "Is time running out for America?"

There will be special music in both services.

First Assembly is a family church with ministry to all ages. You are invited to join them for this outstanding day of worship.

First United Methodist Church

"American Character In The Test of Time" (Joshua 1:1-9) is Dr. Ed Williamson's message this Sunday at the First United Methodist Church, 400 Scurry. This message is about how believers in Jesus Christ live in the America of the year 2000 and beyond. Worship is at 8:30 and 10:50 a.m. Our home page is <http://www.xroadstx.com/dove>.

All youth meet on Sunday afternoon at 5 p.m. during the summer. Call the church for a complete list of summer activities planned for the youth this summer. Children also have a great time in our Sunday School at 9:40 a.m. every Sunday morning.

"Sonzone Discovery Center" A Place To Find God's Plan For You, is the theme of this year's Vacation Bible School scheduled for July 10 through July 14. Craft needs include 18 inches aluminum foil or plastic wrap boxes, aluminum pie tins, Pringles or potato chip canisters with lids and paper towel cardboard tubes. Also needed are cookies to feed 100 children each day. Drop off your craft items and cookies in Garrett Hall and mark that they are for Vacation Bible School.

Single Adults have a class all their own, taught by Jackie Henry, on Sunday mornings at 9:40, and if you are a single adult you are invited to come and visit us!

We also have a class for

adults with special needs and talents, The Kingdom Class, taught by Shelley Smith.

The First United Methodist Church has several Sunday School classes for adults, youth and children. There is a Wednesday noon Bible study class and meal each week in Garrett Hall and everyone is invited to attend.

For more information call the church office at 267-6394.

First Church of God

First Church of God at 2000 main St. with pastor Darrell Hendrickson will have an Independence Day celebration during Sunday Worship. Carry-in dinner follows worship with activities afterwards.

Sunday school begins at 9:30 a.m. with worship service at 10:45 a.m. Sunday evening service starts at 6:30.

First Church of God has a Tuesday morning prayer meeting at 8 a.m. and a Wednesday evening Bible study.

A nursery attendant is on duty.

Victory Baptist Church

Celebrate Jesus with the Victory Baptist Church family this Sunday morning. Praise and worship begins at 11 followed by a message from God's Word. Pastor Jeff Janca will be preaching from the book of Nehemiah. Come join us as we lift our hands and our hearts up to the Lord.

Need a mid-week pick me up? Then come on and join us for our Wednesday evening service at 6:30. We sing His praises, read from His Word, and pray, interceding for others.

Do you have a prayer request? Do you need a free New Testament? Would you like to learn more about Victory Baptist Church? Are you looking for a good Bible study?

Then call Victory Baptist at 264-0734 and leave your name and number. We will be glad to assist you. Victory Baptist Church is located at the corner of East 11th Place and East F.M. 700.

First Christian

Dr. Jimmy Watson, pastor of First Christian Church, will preach the sermon, "Christmas in July: A Model of Generosity" based on 2 Corinthians 8:7-15.

JYF campers will leave immediately after church to go to the Lake Brownwood Christian Retreat Center, escorted by Dr. Watson.

Jeff Moss, the Youth Director will be the sponsor for the JYF campers for the week.

Therefore, there will be no Youth meeting this Sunday and no Disciples Roundtable meeting on Monday at noon. We will continue both the Youth meetings and Disciples Roundtable meetings next week.

First Presbyterian

The Rev. Diane Brown will speak on the topic, "Of Feet and Food" on Sunday, July 2. The scripture for this Sunday is taken from II Samuel 9:1-13. Worship service begins at 11 a.m.

Sunday School begins at 9:45 a.m. Sunday School for the summer months is a family-oriented class.

Take Ten refreshment and visiting time is at 10:30 a.m. in the parlor. A nursery is provided for small children. Everyone is invited and welcome to attend.

Compassion: necessary equipment for Christians

Can you believe that Independence Day is coming up in just four days? As we get the party goods prepared, maybe it's time to reflect about what we are celebrating.

Freedom is the most obvious and stirring. We have been raised on the heroic stories, mystique, and even some myths of our founding fathers quest for freedom. Yet freedom is an elusive word, with different meanings for different people. Thomas Jefferson, architect of the Declaration of Independence, kept household slaves. One man's freedom is often another man's bondage. Freedom easily becomes license.

Obviously, there is more that holds freedom together than the presumed right to do as I want to and to hell with the rest of you. Most of our ancestors came to these shores seeking freedom from want and oppression not only for themselves but also for their neighbors. There is a good amount of altruistic spirit in the history of our country, but can we still find that same spirit today?

I am proposing that compassion is the "glue" that holds that nation together and preserves liberty. When you strip

away all the layers of political systems, military defenses and conventions of society — compassion is the reason that our democratic system doesn't collapse. This is the key element. It prevents liberty from becoming license and provides the ingredient that keeps it good.

The pagan world looked upon compassion as a sign of weakness. Christians, too, have at times seen it as something for the "saints" of the day, but not the average person. St. Augustine writes, "a ruler should not humble himself too much, lest government come to be despised."

How different is our Lord Jesus Christ! His own life and ministry were the very epitome of compassion. When He saw the multitudes, Christ saw them as sheep that were scattered and needing a shepherd, as hungry and needing bread, as sick in need of healing in body and soul, as living fearful-

ly under the shroud of death.

He could "sympathize with our weakness." Because of His compassion, we experience the most incredibly mysterious wonder of God's love. We cannot understand, nor fully appreciate the ultimate sacrifice. He paid for our sins and for sins of all the world.

Compassion is the one word that characterized Jesus' whole mission and ministry. Christ has set us free with the most incredible freedom we will ever know and have. We stand righteous and holy before God in heaven, by the grace of God, though faith, because of Jesus' sacrifice.

Well, how does this play out in our lives today in Big Spring, Texas? Just as Jesus had great compassion with us, so we imitate our Lord and extend outrageous compassion to those who come across our path. We find ourselves filled with compassion for one another because of the compassion that Christ has filled us with.

Compassion is not a Christian luxury. It is not optional equipment, but a Christian necessity. Our compassion is there for all the needy around us, whatever their necessity.



STEVE STUTZ

Christian group aims to bring races together

RIDGELAND, Miss. (AP) — Once the choir finished the hymn, the pastor eased behind the pulpit to point out visitors at Berean Seventh Day Adventist Church.

There was no need to do so. It was hard to miss the three white faces in the all-black congregation in Jackson.

Several miles away, at Highlands Presbyterian Church in Ridgeland, the scene was strikingly different.

Blacks and whites, from school-age youngsters to senior citizens, were standing huddled in a circle, heads bowed and eyes closed. The early morning prayer service was just ending, and Andy Beard, a young, white man reached out his hand to introduce himself to

Christ has this way of touching sensitive spots. One of those is our attitude toward the people around us.

In the Gospels, He is lecturing us about our insensitivity to our neighbor, whatever his class, color or circumstance. It shows itself in our dealings with those we know won't do us good in return, but who in fact may return evil for good.

It means to think kindly of others, to wish them well. It means to care for those who couldn't care less. It means to pray for those who may bite the hand that feeds them, to speak well of them, to do them good. This is the real test of Christian compassion.

Compassion is the glue that holds freedom together in a country like ours. It keeps freedom from becoming license, from going sour and becoming anarchy and heartlessly self-serving. We should never see the freedom we enjoy in any other light. Have a safe and happy holiday!

Steve Stutz is the pastor at St. Paul Lutheran Church.

Extension club's end reflects growing trend

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Fifty years of memories will be on the agenda when the Half Century Homemakers Club gathers for the last time.

Current and former members will look at photos chronicling the club's history. They'll display minutes of meetings past. They'll provide a short program for visitors.

Then the last Cooperative Extension Service club in Grant County will disband at its July 8 meeting in Revillo.

Membership has dwindled from more than 20 in the early years to eight as more women have entered the work force, said Secretary Delores Street, who joined the club when it formed in 1950.

"The whole situation has

changed," Street said. "When the clubs were formed, most of the young women were homemakers who weren't working out of the home. Now, almost every young married woman is working someplace."

In the middle of the century, Grant County had more than 20 of the clubs, said Val Braun, the county's Extension educator. Even as recently as a decade ago, there were 14, Braun said.

Originally, the Extension Service provided lessons on topics such as cooking, sewing and crafts, Street said. Two or three members from each club would attend the seminars and return to share what they had

See TREND, Page 7A

SLICE of life!

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Country's teen singing sensation LeAnn Rimes is doubly blue. The "How Do I Live" singer had to cancel a 30-date concert tour, and her parents are squabbling in court over who gets how much of her millions.

Rimes' tour was supposed to start July 13 in Mount Pleasant, Mich., but her doctor diagnosed a strained right vocal cord and ordered 60 to 90 days of vocal rest and therapy. Meanwhile, in Dallas, Rimes' dad, Wilbur, is striking back at her mom, Belinda.

Belinda sued her ex-husband on her daughter's behalf in May, saying he and a former manager, Lyle Walker, defrauded the singer out of millions of dollars with an unfair and fraudulent contract.

Wilbur filed a petition Monday saying he and she split most of the management and producer fees he received from their daughter's career, and he has check stubs to prove it, his lawyer said.

NEW YORK (AP) — Actress Ellen Barkin was to wed billionaire Ronald Perelman in a Manhattan temple Wednesday night, the Daily News of New York reported.

Barkin, 46, has been wearing the 57-year-old Revlon boss' mammoth, canary-yellow diamond engagement ring for more than a year.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

BIG SPRING CHAPTER NO. 67, Order of the Eastern Star will meet on Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in the Masonic Lodge.

AUDITIONS FOR TALENT TO participate in a dinner theater production are planned July 10 at 7 p.m. at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce.

The auditions are for a production planned Sept. 1-2 at Dora Roberts Community Center. Call the chamber at 263-7641 for more information.

THE LAST WORD

All the things I really like to do are either immoral, illegal or fattening. Alexander Woolcott

To get things done, a committee should consist of no more than three people, two of whom are absent. Robert Copeland

Learn a new language and get a new soul. Czech proverb

Preacher wears belief on his arm

WACO (AP) — "Satan sucks." Those words tattooed on his right arm sum up Eugene Smith's sometimes blunt approach to ministry and his street background.

"Somebody's got to reach down for them. In order for me to reach them, I have to live around them."

Eugene Smith
street preacher

"In Los Angeles, I worked with a lot of bikers, street guys. It was just a way to make a statement to them," Smith said. "It kind of helped me break down certain barriers they had toward preachers and Christians and people in the church."

With braided hair and messages branded onto his arms, the 53-year-old doesn't look like a reverend. He spent years of his life addicted to heroin.

But that also gives him a unique vantage point to deal with drug addicts and the chronically homeless.

"I'm standing on my faith and what changed me was the Lord Jesus Christ. I try to impart that to other people," Smith said. "Who better can understand people out there than people who've been out there with them?"

Smith, who preached at Church Under the Bridge a recent Sunday and supervised a brick-cleaning project through Mission Waco, takes homeless men and women into a house he and his wife, Mary, rent just off the traffic circle in a ministry called Set Free Outreach.

On Friday evenings, he has a worship service and meal at Mission Waco's Alpha Quest building.

"Having been there himself, he understands the issues. He's gone through the hard stuff," said Mission Waco director Jimmy Dorrell. "In a sense, he understands the street people and relates to them in a way I can't relate to them."

Dorrell stressed too that it was encouraging to see someone who came off the street with a passion for those still in that lifestyle.

What Smith is offering others actually worked for him.

"It was my way out. I tried everything society offered (including aid and treatment programs), and it never got me to where I was totally free," Smith said. "I always fell back."

He doesn't like the word rehabilitation for this process. "You don't need to be rehabilitated. You need a brand new life," he

Smith said he grew up in the streets of Detroit. He quit school at age 15 and was drafted into Vietnam at 19, returning to the United States addicted to heroin.

Once back, he was in and out of prison from 1970 until 1979. "I went from the jungles of Vietnam to the prisons of Jackson, Michigan," Smith said.

Smith said his family "loved me, but they couldn't stand me."

He was on the streets from 1979 to 1984. "Any money I got I fed my addiction and not my responsibilities," Smith said.

But by 1984, he was tired, sick of hustling for drugs and unsure why he was still alive. He had been shot. He had been stabbed. He'd been to Vietnam and back. He'd overdosed.

"I wasn't dead, so there must be a purpose in my life," Smith said he figured.

A prostitute had handed him a card for a mission in Santa Monica, Calif., that was similar to the program he runs now. He used the last of his drugs and came in on a Monday. On Wednesday he went to the altar, giving his life to the Lord.

"What else could there be for me to lose?" Smith said.

Smith said he believes he is now called to show others how Christ transformed his life, particularly those who are on drugs or in the streets like he was.

To him, that means far more than part-time or even a 40-hour-a-week ministry.

"Somebody's got to reach down for them. In order for me to reach them, I have to live around them," Smith said. "If Smith's appearance is laid back, the policies at Set Free ministries are not."

No one is to leave the home without permission from the Smiths or staff members who

have come through the program. During the first 30 days of a person's stay, all communication with people outside the ministry must be verified and cleared by staff, according to a list of policies.

"My ministry is run with conditions," Smith said. "Jesus said follow me and you'll be blessed, but he also had conditions."

Smith said his ministry will take no government grants for fear that may put conditions or stipulations on his ministry. They do subsist in part off donations, but Mary Smith said the ministry makes a point of not asking for money.

"Jesus wasn't a beggar. He said do this and I'll make a way, and that's what we do," Smith said.

Those in the house are provided with meals. They attend Bible studies twice a day, work with scripture, help with daily upkeep and go to Church Under the Bridge on Sundays.

Smith lives upstairs, interacting with the residents of the house daily.

"I know how to get nose to nose with them. I love Jesus, but Jesus wasn't a wimp either. ... He stood his ground with people. He put them in their place too," Smith said.

Quince Gilbert, a resident in the house who was promoted to overseer on Sunday, described Smith as a father willing to discipline.

"You're going to get it if you need it," Gilbert said. "That's been a blessing because a lot of us have a lot of areas we need to improve in. He teaches us it's not wrong to get angry but it is to stay angry."

Gilbert, 49, came to the house about two months ago.

He was leaving a doctor's appointment at the VA when a man who had come through the house called to him and asked if he had anywhere to go. He said no, and the man called out Smith's phone number.

A cocaine user who had been out on the streets, Gilbert came into the house and has stayed.

"I was tired and had no place to go. I was already all the way down. There was no place to go but up," Gilbert said. "It saved my life. ... I've had more satisfaction in this month and a half than I have in my entire life."

GROUP

Continued from Page 6A

learned. That was more practical than all the members — there were more than 200 countywide at one time — going to county seat Milbank en masse.

"They served a very valid educational purpose," Braun said. Several factors contributed to the clubs' demise. Because of the demands of their jobs and families, fewer women are involved in service groups these days, officials with the club's state organization say.

"The state of our whole society is that young people just aren't joining things," said Margaret Suhr, president of the state organization from 1997 to 1999. "They're just too worn out, really, to do one more thing."

Also, the national organization recently enacted major dues increases and changed the group's name from the South Dakota Association for Family and Community Education to the South Dakota Community and Family Extension Leaders. The name change and higher dues symbolized a new bureaucratic focus that did not sit well locally, Suhr said.

"We just couldn't conform to that, and we lost a lot of members."

Clubs across the state felt the same way, she said, and in

TREND

Continued from Page 6A

September, the state organization severed ties to the national group. Several more states have done so, too.

Compounding the problem has been reduced funding in recent years that led to cutbacks in county-level programs, said Phyllis Roggenbuck, president and 15-year member of the Half Century Homemakers.

"Now we just do our own thing," she said. The group may invite a foreign exchange student to speak during the monthly meetings, for instance, or have a nurse provide health information.


But the groups were once part of the backbone of the state, said Suhr, who said she is crestfallen about the loss of members. The 1,200 members today compare with nearly 19,000 members in 1,340 clubs in 1958. Earlier in the century, membership in the state reached 36,000.

"It just breaks my heart because this has been such a grand organization throughout South Dakota," Suhr said.

Larry Tidemann says the social dimension was key to the clubs' early popularity.

"It became an outreach for the rural housewife who didn't necessarily have the opportunities to see some of the things that the city dwellers did," said Tidemann.

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Randy Cotton
Pastor

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RELIGION BRIEFS

DALLAS (AP) — The Southern Baptist Convention's largest state unit may sever ties with the denomination — a move that would dramatically drain membership and financial support.

The Baptist General Convention of Texas is discussing a break with the national body, which this month rewrote its official statement of faith to disallow female pastors and two years ago called for a wife to "submit graciously to the servant leadership of her husband."

"The truth is that, for some time now, a true Baptist could not support some of the agencies in SBC life," the Rev. Clyde Glazener, president of the Texas convention and pastor at Gambrell Street Baptist Church in Fort Worth, told The Dallas Morning News.

"We're not interested in siphoning off a lot of funds from Texas to fund a Jerry Falwell-clone church."

One proposal under discussion for the Oct. 29-30 meeting of the Texas convention would cut off funds to the national denomination. Texas provides 14 percent of the denominational budget.

Another proposal would allow congregations outside the state to join the Texas convention, in effect creating a rival national denomination.

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Worshipers wearing a rainbow of saris, robes and yarmulkes filed into a hall at Carnegie Mellon University, clapping and singing in praise of the world's religions.

As drums beat, the 225 participants from six continents not only celebrated their own faith, but reached out to other believers in the signing

of the United Religions Initiative Charter calling for religious cooperation. It includes prohibitions on aggressive recruitment.

Religious representatives from more than a dozen faiths said they were trying to establish a global group that could speak for the religions of the world — a faith-based United Nations.

Worldwide, the group has formed 75 "cooperation circles," interfaith groups that meet to discuss religious issues.

MAYFIELD, Ky. (AP) — A spontaneous religious revival in western Kentucky is in its eighth week and is prompting some comparisons to Pentecostal revivals in Toronto and Pensacola, Fla., which started in the mid-1990s and are still going.

It's also drawing comparisons to Kentucky's large-scale camp meetings of the 19th century.

Organizers said crowds averaged 1,000 a night as worshippers of all ages from the western tip of Kentucky and nearby states were flocking to a gym-auditorium owned by Trace Creek Baptist Church amid country roads and tobacco fields.


The revival in Graves County, population 35,000, started spontaneously at two small neighboring churches.

A husband-and-wife music ministry team, Gerald and Cindy Simmons of Gulfport, Miss., appeared Sunday morning, May 7, at Sedalia Baptist Church and that evening at Enon Baptist Church.

"God just showed up," Sedalia pastor Tim Allred said.

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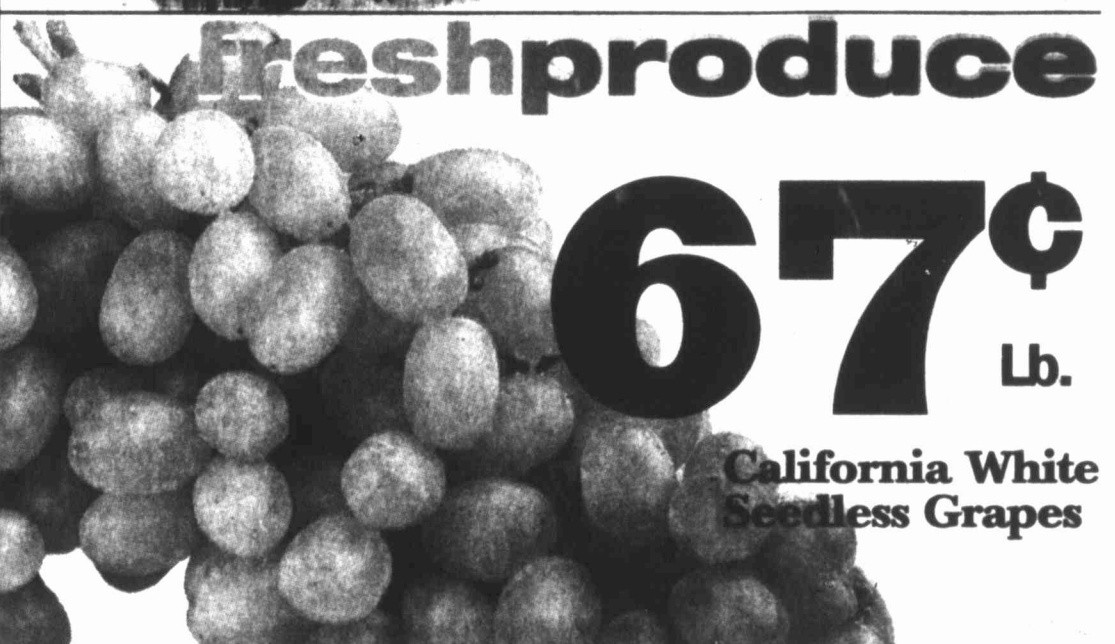
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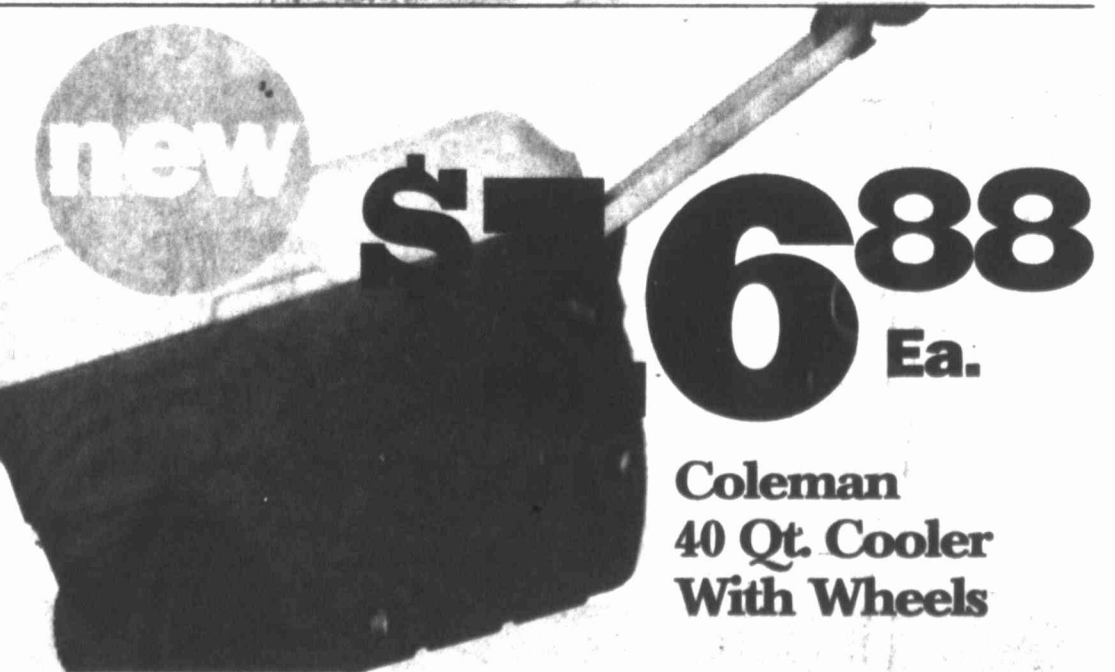
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YMCA set running, v
The Big YMCA will Independence Run and W Trail Park a Entry fees with no cha and under. There are 35 & Under, and Under. will compete run. For more Angie Diaz a

Ragball to slated in C
A ragball fitting the Girls Softbal been sched Saturday a Softball Com Entry fees son. Each te anted 10 gar begins at 5 p. For more Rocky New Laura Martin

BSHS Volle scheduled
Rose Mag again conduc High School slated for Jul Camp sessi grades 6-8 wi to 1 p.m. Ju those in grade sessions from a.m. on July 2 Those in g attend sessio 10 p.m. July July 24-25. Fees are \$60 \$85 for grades for grades 9-12 For more in 267-4047 or 264

JRRC Summ tournament
The Do Rehabilitation scheduled Su its 12th annu ment, for July Spring Countr Practice ro played Saturda the four-persona nament beginn gun starts at p.m. Sunday. Fees will be and the deadlin tion is July 3. For more in 267-5354.

Texas Tech a special Cow
Members of Tech Ex-Stude are currently s interested in a Tech Alumni Stadium on Ju The Dallas C playing the Steelers in a p at 7 p.m. Tickets are for lower-level ing. For more in Roxie McDanie 267-5846.

Forsan reuni seeking team
Organizers Aug. 5 all-cla Forsan High S rently seeking of the 1966 an basketball team the state to Austin. Anyone havi one or both of asked to call 267-6957.

ON TH

Television
WNBA
8 p.m. — Utah Sacramento Mon 40.
BOXING
8 p.m. — Supe Ray Oliveira (38- (16-9), ESPN2, C
BASEBALL
6:05 p.m. — At New York Mets, T 7:30 p.m. — S at Texas Rangers

IN BRIEF

YMCA sets annual July 4 running, walking events

The Big Spring Family YMCA will hold its annual Independence Day 5K Fun Run and Walk at Comanche Trail Park at 8 a.m. Tuesday. Entry fees are \$5 per person, with no charge for children 12 and under. There are three age groups: 35 & Under, 36 & Over and 12 and Under. The latter group will compete in a one-mile fun run. For more information, call Angie Diaz at 267-8234.

Ragball tournament slated in Coahoma

A ragball tournament benefiting the Coahoma United Girls Softball Association has been scheduled for Friday and Saturday at the Coahoma Softball Complex. Entry fees are \$10 per person. Each team will be guaranteed 10 games. Registration begins at 5 p.m. Friday. For more information, call Rocky New at 394-4041 or Laura Martin at 267-8660.

BSHS Volleyball Camp scheduled for July 20-25

Rose Magers-Powell will again conduct the Big Spring High School Volleyball Camp, slated for July 20-25. Camp sessions for girls in grades 6-8 will be from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. July 20-22, while those in grades 3-5 will attend sessions from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on July 24-25. Those in grades 9-12 will attend sessions from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. July 20-22 and again July 24-25. Fees are \$60 for grades 3-5, \$85 for grades 6-8 and \$125 for grades 9-12. For more information, call 267-4047 or 264-3662.

JRRC Summerfest 2000 tournament is July 30-31

The Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center has scheduled Summerfest 2000, its 12th annual golf tournament, for July 30-31 at the Big Spring Country Club. Practice rounds will be played Saturday, July 29, with the four-person lowball tournament beginning with shotgun starts at 7:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. Sunday. Fees will be \$135 per player and the deadline for registration is July 3. For more information, call 267-5354.

Texas Tech alumni plan special Cowboys event

Members of the local Texas Tech Ex-Students Association are currently seeking persons interested in attending Texas Tech Alumni Night at Texas Stadium on July 30. The Dallas Cowboys will be playing the Pittsburgh Steelers in a preseason game at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$37 per person for lower-level end zone seating. For more information, call Roxie McDaniel at 263-9668 or 267-5846.

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.

ON THE AIR

Television

WNBA
8 p.m. — Utah Starzz at Sacramento Monarchs, LIFE, Ch. 40.
BOXING
8 p.m. — Super lightweights, Ray Oliveira (38-7) vs. Isaac Cruz (16-9), ESPN2, Ch. 125.
BASEBALL
6:05 p.m. — Atlanta Braves at New York Mets, TBS, Ch. 11.
7:30 p.m. — Seattle Mariners at Texas Rangers, FSN, Ch. 29.

Howard signs Benton as new Lady Hawks assistant coach

By JOHN HASSELMEIER
Sports Editor

It's not every coach who can say that their prior place of employment was the Volkswagen Motor Company, but Tonya Benton can.

Benton was recently hired to assist in the Howard College women's basketball program, but prior to showing up in Big Spring, she was touring the country in the name of that automobile manufacturer.

A native of the Waco area, Benton graduated from Robinson High School in 1993. She was a star performer for some pretty accomplished Rockette girls basketball teams.

"My junior year, we were one game

away from going to the state tournament," Benton said. "We lost to a team that we had beaten twice earlier that year (McGregor). My senior year, we lost in area to (eventual state champion) Groesbeck."

She then continued her basketball career at Cisco Junior College, when she first arrived in Cisco, she had no idea wanted to do, but in her second year, she decided that coaching was the way to go.

"The coaches that I've had have been very influential," Benton said. "I had a really good coach (Jerry Dulany) at Robinson. She was a big role model. I always looked up to her. Then, when I played at Cisco, coach (Ronnie) Hearne was a great coach and I saw the other side of it. I just kinda wanted to be that kind of role model for somebody else."

Benton continued playing after her junior college days at Baylor University, but that ended during her second year as a Lady Bear when she went down with an anterior cruciate ligament injury.

"I was running after a loose ball and it snapped," Benton said. "It was the worst pain I've ever felt - ever."

Her playing days ended, she continued her education and graduated from Baylor in December of last year with a degree in physical education with a health minor.

During the time she was at Baylor, she coached the junior varsity girls at Waco Reicher High School.

When she graduated, she very much wanted to coach, but finding a coaching job that time of year is not an easy thing to do, so she went to work for Volkswagen.

"I worked auto shows," Benton said. "I traveled all over the country. Basically, I was a product specialist and had to know about all the cars. For each auto show, we'd each set up our own exhibit and all of us would just kind of hang out and answer questions. It was really fun."

Then, one day, a friend of hers who is an assistant coach at Texas Christian

University (Larry Tidwell) told her that Howard College had an opening. Before that time, she had planned to work as a graduate assistant at Abilene Christian University.

When she told her friends that she was coming to Big Spring, her friends gave her a rough time. However, she did point out that she's taken to the town a little better than she thought she would.

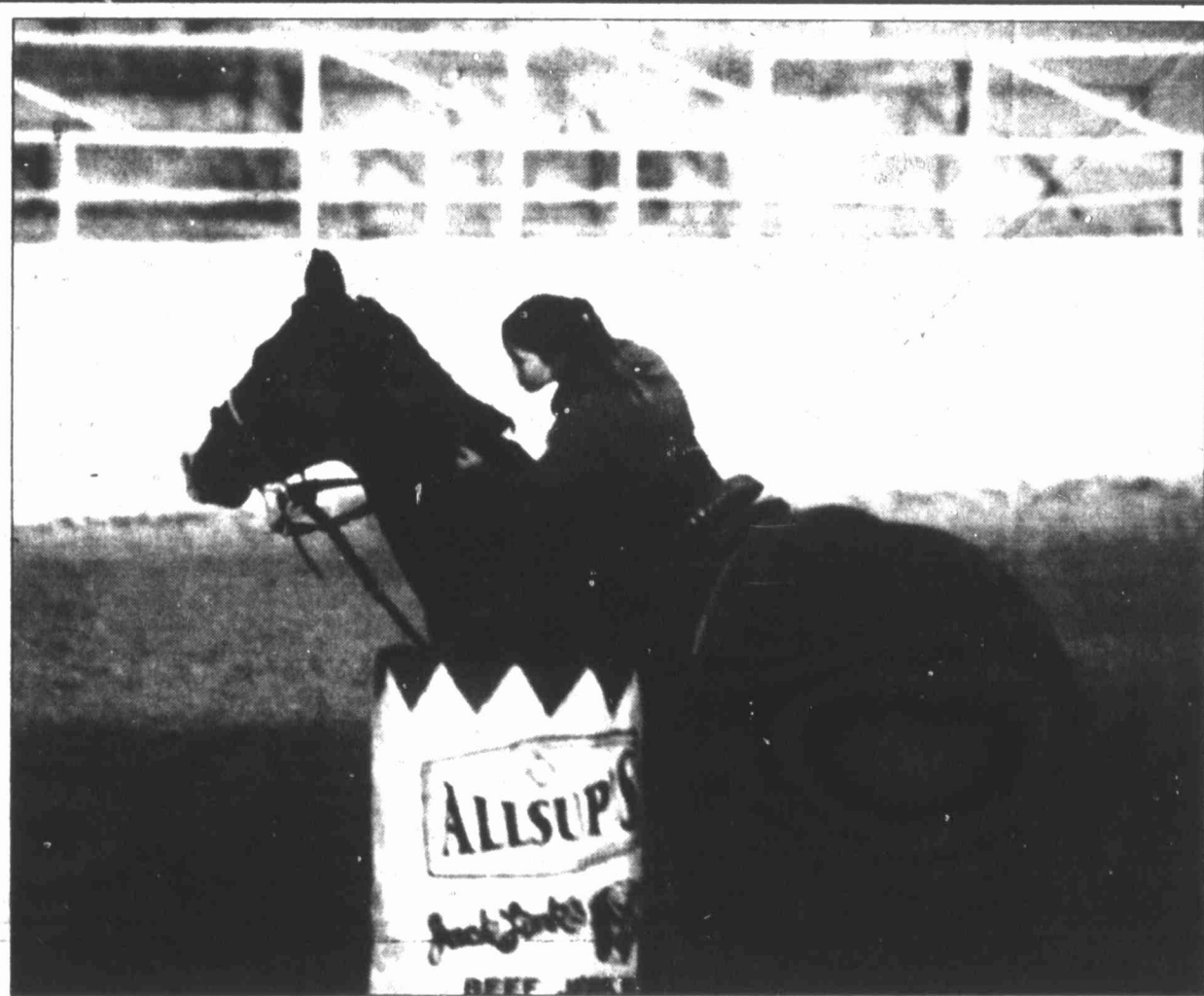
"When I got here, I was pleasantly surprised," Benton said. "It's a great campus and great basketball facility and has a great atmosphere."

The scope of her job will involve more than coaching. It will also involve recruiting, teaching some classes in physical education.

"I'll basically do everything from recruiting to scouting, on-floor coaching, academics, breaking down film," Benton said. "Recruiting is probably the biggest thing. Basically, next month, I'll start really recruiting. I'll be on the road a lot."



BENTON



HERALD photo/Bill McClellan
Jessie Kirkes of Carlsbad, N. M., is shown competing in the 8 and Under Division of the barrels competition on the first night of High Plains Junior Rodeo Thursday. She turned in a time of 19.032, the second-best in the event, but did turn in the top time for goat tying in her division.

New Mexico girl leading four events in first round

By JOHN HASSELMEIER
Sports Editor

Kimberly Howard had an enjoyable first day at the High Plains Junior Rodeo, which wrapped up early Friday morning.

Howard, of Elida, New Mexico, turned in the best time on four events in the 13-15 Division. That included the Breakaway (4.096), Goat-Tying (8.163), Ribbons (9.007) and Barrels (17.02).

Her times in those events are the best of the division in each category. There are two more days of competition in the event, which starts again tonight at 7 p.m. It will finish Saturday starting at 6 p.m. Different groups of competitors will be competing on each of the next two days, with the top times earning prize money depending upon the number of entries in each event.

This year's rodeo was dedicated to Hank Thompson, a champion of junior rodeo.

Not only did Howard have a good day, but New Mexico competitors fared the best in most of the events. Of 34 events, the out-of-state competitors snagged the best time in 20 of them.

Howard wasn't the only competitor from Elida to turn in the best time in more than one event.

Kodi Armitage was tops in Breakaway (5.097), the Barrels (17.466) and Poles (22.192) competitions in the 9-12 Divisions.

Tell Good of Kenna also turned in the best time in three events. These included the Breakaway (3.720), Ribbons (9.576) and Steer Breakaway (16.622) in the 9-12 Divisions.

Texan Tanner Packard of White Deer had the best time in two events. These were the Barrels (17.566) and the Breakaway (8.115) in the Eight and Under Division.

Another Texan, Monty Wood of Silverton, had the top time in 13-15 Division of Ribbons at 9.177. He also joined forces with Jill Cooper for the top time in Team Roping at 10.826.

As for other competitors from New Mexico, the list of top times included Shelby Kirkes of Carlsbad (Poles, 8 & Under Division, 24.776), Logan Screws of St. Vrain (Calf Touching, 9-12 Division, 6.232) and Ashley Sultemeier of Melrose (Barrels, 16-19 Division, 17.516).

There was also Cigi Alen of Lovington (Ribbons, 16-19, 13.195), Kassandra Clark of Elida (Goat-Tying, 9-11, 9.481), Amy Davis of Hobbs (Poles, 16-19, 21.403), Natalie Hogue of Eunice (Goat-Tying, 16-19, 11.022) and Jesse

See RODEO, page 3B

Rangers take down Oakland for second consecutive night

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — The Texas Rangers are heading home with some momentum after two straight wins in Oakland. The Athletics are relieved to be hitting the road, where they've played their best baseball this season.

Esteban Loaiza gave up one run in 7 1-3 innings and Rusty Greer hit a two-run homer Thursday as Texas defeated Oakland 3-1 to become the first team to win a series from the A's since mid-May.

The loss knocked the A's out of first place in the AL West. Texas remains in last place in the division, nine games behind Seattle. The Rangers play host to the Mariners in a three-game series starting Friday.

"Every win for us from here on in is big, in that we're in last place and we've got three teams to overcome," Greer said. "Two wins here is a good start."

The A's, who went 6-3 on a homestand that ended Thursday, headed to Anaheim to start a six-game road trip that will include three games at Texas next week. Oakland is a major league-best 24-12 on the road compared to 21-20 at home.

"Maybe going on the road is coming at the right time," A's manager Art Howe said. "We play great on the road."

Loaiza made the start after a brief stint in the bullpen, earning his first major league save on Sunday. The schedule allowed the Rangers to use a four-man rotation, so he missed a start.

Loaiza (5-5) gave up his only run when Jason Giambi homered in the eighth, his 22nd homer of the season.

Mike Venafro and Jeff Zimmerman got the last two outs in the eighth, and John Wetteland pitched the ninth for his 20th save.

Loaiza worked out of his toughest jam in the sixth when Giambi, Ben Grieve and Matt Stairs opened the inning with singles to load the bases.

But John Jaha flied to right, and Dave Martinez's one-hop throw to the plate easily beat Giambi for a double play. Loaiza then got Eric Chavez to fly out to end the inning.

"I was just trying to get a

ground ball and get out of the inning, but I got the fly ball for the double play," Loaiza said.

It was the first time since May 19-20 the A's lost consecutive games. Oakland won its previous eight series.

The loss, coupled with Seattle's 7-2 win over Anaheim, knocked the A's out of the division lead for the first time in two weeks. The Mariners lead Oakland by a half-game.

Texas manager Johnny Oates said the consecutive wins at Oakland are a good sign, but nothing to get too excited about.

"We didn't get this far behind in a couple of weeks, and we're not going to make it up in a couple of weeks," he said.

Gil Heredia (9-6) lost his second consecutive start, allowing three runs on nine hits while pitching his first complete game of the season and the third of his career. Heredia has struggled at home this season, going 2-5 at the Oakland Coliseum as compared to a 7-1 mark on the road.

"Heredia throws a complete game, gives up three runs. Ninety-five percent of the time, he gets the win," Howe said. "Today was the other 5 percent."

Heredia, who lasted only 5 1-3 innings in his previous start, did not allow a run after the third inning.

"I pitched nine innings and it was nice to do that after my last outing. I had no idea I'd go nine after the first inning," Heredia said. "I was hoping it was one of those days I could hold them and we'd come back and score runs."

Notes: Terrence Long's third-inning single extended his hitting streak to 17 games, tying the Oakland rookie record set by Mike Edwards in 1978 and matched by Luis Polonia in 1987. Greer, who had his club-record streak of nine straight multi-hit games snapped Wednesday night, went 2-for-4. After allowing seven home runs in his first 14 starts, Heredia has allowed a homer in each of his last two starts. The Rangers failed to get at least 10 hits for the first time in five games. They had nine hits Thursday.

Upsets, ugliness and allegations make Wimbledon an unhappy place

WIMBLEDON, England (AP) — The day began with an ominous medical report regarding Pete Sampras and ended with a nasty spill by Andre Agassi that left him angry.

In between there was an ugly scene involving a player's father, a claim of racism in women's tennis and more upsets, leaving just 14 seeded players after two rounds, the fewest in more than 20 years.

Wimbledon was an unhappy place Thursday.

The final match on Centre Court between Agassi and Todd Martin was suspended in the fourth set until Friday because of rain. The second-seeded Agassi led 6-4, 2-6, 7-6 (3), 0-1.

Playing reluctantly in the rain, Agassi slipped on the wet grass and fell awkwardly, and tournament referee Alan Mills stopped the match before the next point. As Agassi left the court, he shouted angrily at Mills.

"What are you doing out here right now if you wait until I fall?" he said. "It's not right."

The ailment in Sampras' sore left leg was diagnosed as acute tendinitis, and he planned to play his third-round match Friday against fellow American Justin Gimelstob. Whether Sampras can make it through five more matches to a seventh Wimbledon title is problematic.

American Alexandra Stevenson, a surprise semifinalist last year in her first Grand Slam tournament, lost to Patricia Wartusch 7-6 (6), 6-3. Before departing, Stevenson provided specifics to back up her earlier claim of racism on the tour.

The 19-year-old Californian said French player Amelie Cochetoux used a vulgarly while calling her a "black girl" during a match in Strasbourg. Stevenson said her mother had a confrontation with another French player the next day.

Cochetoux denied calling Stevenson names.

"I didn't say anything to her," Cochetoux said in French. "This is all pure invention. To tell you the truth, I hardly speak a word of English."

Stevenson's mother is white. Her father was identified for the first time during last year's Wimbledon as Hall of Fame basketball player Julius Erving, who is black.

"I kind of made a big splash last year," she said. "I don't think a lot of girls appreciated it. They have to grow up."

Stevenson said some players are nice to her, and she specifically mentioned Frenchwoman Mary Pierce. But over all, she said, her first year on the WTA Tour was hard.

"I learned a lot and I got stronger, but I wouldn't wish it on my worst enemy," she said.

Another young girl having difficulties is unseeded Jelena Dokic, 17, a quarter-finalist last year. She advanced by beating Gala Leon Garcia 7-6 (5), 6-1, but her father, Damir, was briefly detained by

police after a loud argument in which he smashed a reporter's cell phone to the ground.

Dokic, speaking with British television on a balcony overlooking the outer courts, drew a crowd of several dozen as he behaved belligerently and gestured obscenely, several witnesses said. They described him as drunk.

"In my opinion, he was unconscious," said Igor Rajkovic, a photographer for the Zagreb newspaper Vjesnik.

Damir Dokic wasn't charged. He left the grounds with his daughter and the rest of the family escorted by police.

Upsets left only seven seeded men, the fewest after two rounds since 1972, and seven seeded women, the fewest since 1976.

Defending champion Lindsay Davenport, seeded second, overcame a 0-3, 15-40 deficit in the final set to beat Elena Likhovtseva 3-6, 6-3, 6-3. But French Open champion Pierce, seeded third, bowed to Magui Serna 7-6 (5), 7-6

JUN 30 2000

SPORTS EXTRA

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL Major League Baseball MLB—Overturned the three-game suspensions of Los Angeles Dodgers RHP Terry Adams, RHP Darren Dreifort, RHP Eric Gagne, LHP Ovan Masaka, RHP Alan Mills, RHP Antonio Osuna, RHP Chan Ho Park, C Todd Hundley, 1B Eric Karros, Of Genevieve Berroa and OF Shawn Green, the eight-game suspension of Glenn Hoffman, coach, and reduced the four-game suspension of RHP Mike Fetters to one game.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

BALTIMORE ORIOLES—Optimised RHP Gabe Molina to Rochester of the International League. NEW YORK YANKEES—Traded Of Ricky Ledee and two players to be named to Cleveland for Of David Justice. Placed LHP Allen Watson on the 15-day disabled list. Re-called RHP Craig Dingman and purchased the contract of LHP Randy Choate from Columbus of the International League. Transferred Of Roberto Kelly from the 15 to the 60-day DL.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS—Placed 1B Ernie Barreto on the 15-day disabled list. Re-called Of Jason Conti from Tucson of the Pacific Coast League. ATLANTA BRAVES—Activated SS Rafael Furcal from the 15-day disabled list. Optimised INF Mark De Rosa to Richmond of the International League. CINCINNATI REDS—Optimised RHP Scott Winchester to Louisville of the International League. Activated RHP Pete Harnisch from the 15-day disabled list.

BASKETBALL

National Basketball Association

PHILADELPHIA 76ERS—Exercised their option on G Aaron McKee.

FOOTBALL

National Football League

ATLANTA FALCONS—Signed LB Jon Hesse. GREEN BAY PACKERS—Signed RB Ronnell Mealy and DL Tim Brauchamp.

HOUSTON

Named Tony Stiglich vice president of communications.

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

LB Chad Cascardi. Agreed to terms with RB Patrick Pass.

HOCKEY

National Hockey League

ANAHEIM MIGHTY DUCKS—Named Guy Chouin assistant coach.

COLUMBIA BLUE JACKETS

Signed D Lyle Odelein.

LOS ANGELES KINGS

Re-signed LW Craig Johnson to a multi-year contract.

NEW YORK RANGERS

Signed C Braden Holtby.

TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS

Announced the retirement of LW Wendel Clark.

AL LEADERS

BATTING—Garciparra, Boston, .390. Erstad, Anaheim, .373. Rodriguez, Texas, .365. Cedeño, Cincinnati, .361. Martinez, Seattle, .354. Mize, Kansas City, .347. Jagúe, Oakland, .342. RIVERA—Rodriguez, Seattle, .75. Cedeño, Toronto, .66. Mondesi, Toronto, .61. Jagúe, Oakland, .60. Durham, Chicago, .59. Damon, Kansas City, .58. Glauz, Anaheim, .57. Erstad, Anaheim, .57.

RB

Erstad, Seattle, .79. Jagúe, Oakland, .75. Bellwills, New York, .74. Mize, Kansas City, .73. Cedeño, Toronto, .72. Rodriguez, Seattle, .70. Cerveretti, Boston, .68.

HITS

Erstad, Anaheim, 126. Rodriguez, Texas, 107. Cedeño, Cincinnati, 104. Mize, Kansas City, 103. Rodriguez, Seattle, 98. Lawton, Minnesota, 97. Bellwills, New York, 93.

DOUBLES

Olerud, Seattle, 26. Lawton, Minnesota, 24. Dye, Kansas City, 23. Mize, Kansas City, 23. Rodriguez, Texas, 23. Segui, Texas, 23. DeShields, Baltimore, 23.

TRIPLES

Casman, Minnesota, 8. Detroit, 8. Durham, Chicago, 8. Anderson, Anaheim, 5. Nixon, Boston, 5. Are tied with 4.

HOME RUNS

Cedeño, Toronto, 27. Glauz, Anaheim, 23. Cerveretti, Boston, 23. Thome, Cleveland, 23. Rodriguez, Texas, 23. Jagúe, Oakland, 22. Martinez, Seattle, 22.

STOLEN BASES

Damon, Kansas City, 21. Mondesi, Toronto, 21. DeShields, Baltimore, 21. Kalkreuth, Cleveland, 21. Lawton, Minnesota, 16. McLemore, Seattle, 16. Jeter, New York, 15.

PITCHING

(10 Decisions)—Dwight Gooden, 10.2. 867. 3.43. Edwicks, Chicago, 10.2. 833. 3.91. Hudson, Oakland, 9.2. 818. 4.30. Milton, Minnesota, 8.2. 800. 4.81. Baldwin, Chicago, 10.3. 769. 3.88. Sele, Seattle, 9.3. 750. 4.42. P.Martinez, Boston, 9.3. 750. 4.44.

STRIKEOUTS

P.Martinez, Boston, 140. Cfanley, Cleveland, 103. Nunez, Detroit, 97. Mussina, Baltimore, 97. Dwilts, Toronto, 94. Burba, Cleveland, 93. Colon, Cleveland, 92.

SAVES

TBJones, Detroit, 20. Wetteland, Texas, 20. Jonathonson, Oakland, 19. Percival, Anaheim, 19. Koch, Toronto, 17. D Lowe, Boston, 17. Rivera, New York, 17.

NL LEADERS

BATTING—Hilton, Colorado, .382. Vidro, Montreal, .370. Viguerra, Montreal, .369. Piazza, New York, .363. Castillo, Florida, .357. Kent, San Francisco, .352. Cinillo, Colorado, .348.

RUNS

Hilton, Colorado, 79. Edmonds, St. Louis, 72. Bonds, San Francisco, 68. Bigbee, Houston, 67. Ajacay, Atlanta, 62. Goff, Houston, 61. Kent, San Francisco, 61.

RB

Kent, San Francisco, 76. Hilton, Colorado, 68. Viguerra, Montreal, 67. Gies, Pittsburgh, 67. Sosa, Chicago, 67. Sheffield, Los Angeles, 66. Piazza, New York, 65. Harris, Los Angeles, 65.

HITS

Viguerra, Montreal, 104. Viguerra, Montreal, 103. Kent, San Francisco, 102. Owens, San Diego, 100. Hilton, Colorado, 99. Cowling, Chicago, 99. Aljones, Atlanta, 98.

DOUBLES

Cinillo, Colorado, 27. Vidro, Montreal, 26. EYoung, Chicago, 26. Kent, San Francisco, 26. Green, Los Angeles, 25. Helton, Colorado, 24. Alfonso, New York, 24.

TRIPLES

Viguerra, Montreal, 7. Gooden, Womack, Arizona, 7. Gooden, Colorado, 7. M Perez, Colorado, 6. Shumpett, Colorado, 6. Walker, Colorado, 6. Roese, Cincinnati, 5. Lansing, Colorado, 5. AMartin, San Diego, 5.

HOME RUNS

Bonds, San Francisco, 28. McGwire, St. Louis, 28. Griffey Jr., Cincinnati, 26. Sheffield, Los Angeles, 25. Karros, Los Angeles, 23. Viguerra, Montreal, 22. Edmonds, St. Louis, 22. Sfrley, Arizona, 22.

STOLEN BASES

Gooden, Colorado, 35. Castillo, Florida, 33. EYoung, Chicago, 29. Atlanta, 21. Owens, San Diego, 19. Reese,

MAJOR LEAGUE STANDINGS

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Mariners take over first

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Seattle Mariners are having a good month, good enough to land them back in first place in the AL West. Seattle's 7-2 victory over the Anaheim Angels on Thursday, combined with Oakland's 3-1 loss to Texas, left the Mariners a half-game ahead of the Athletics.

Extending a club-record streak by winning their eighth series in a row, the Mariners grabbed sole possession of the division lead for the first time since June 2. Seattle finished its best-ever 10-game homestand 8-2 to push its June record to 19-7. "I've always liked our chances from Day 1," outfielder Stan Javier said. "This team does a lot of good things. It doesn't make mistakes."

John Olerud hit two home runs and had three RBIs, while Javier and Robert Machado added homers for the Mariners. "We're playing pretty good baseball," said Olerud, who played on two World Series championship teams in Toronto. "We're getting real solid defense and we're getting some great pitching."

In other American League games, it was Toronto 12, Tampa Bay 3; Minnesota 10, Chicago 1; New York 8, Detroit 0; Boston 12, Baltimore 4; and Kansas City 6, Cleveland 0. In the National League, it was St. Louis 12, Cincinnati 3; Milwaukee 8, Philadelphia 6; Colorado 11, San Francisco 4; Pittsburgh 5, Chicago 4 in 10 innings; Atlanta 6, New York 4; San Diego 5, Los Angeles 4; and Arizona 7, Houston 1.

The Mariners have been in first place 60 of 87 days this season. Their record in Safeco Field is 28-12, the best home mark in the AL. Olerud's second homer and seventh of the season, a two-run shot off Kent Bottenfield (4-7), broke a 2-2 tie in the sixth. It came after Bottenfield hit Edgar Martinez with a pitch, his second hit batter of the game. Javier put the game out of reach with a two-run homer off Mark Petkovek in the seventh. Jose Paniagua (1-0) replaced Seattle starter Gil Meche in the sixth and gave up an RBI groundout to Troy Glaus to tie the score. He then walked two,

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Sosa unsure if coming or going

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Sammy Sosa is so confused right now, he doesn't know if he's coming or going. All he knows is he isn't going to New York.

Where he goes next — to Toronto, to Cleveland, maybe even back to Chicago — even Sosa doesn't dare to guess.

Sosa was as perplexed as anyone upon learning his long-rumored trade fell through Thursday when the Yankees traded for David Justice. The Yankees refused the Cubs' demand for a package of top prospects for Sosa, whose production the last two seasons rivals the top power hitters in baseball history.

Now, instead of heading back to the AL and a pennant race, Sosa is off to ... Milwaukee, of all places, and a weekend series he probably didn't anticipate playing a few days ago.

"Right now, my main concern maybe is if somebody else is going to come through," Sosa said after homering in the Cubs' 5-4, 10-inning loss to Pittsburgh. "But this is not up to me. I've got to keep playing and keep relaxing. If something happens, I've got to leave."

For the first time since June 18, Sosa left the park. His 448-foot home run into the center-field seats off Josias Manzanillo gave the Cubs a 4-2 lead in the eighth. It was his first homer in nine games.

But in a fitting finish to what so far has been a lost season for the Cubs, the Pirates' Jason Kendall hit a two-run homer in the eighth and a game-winning RBI single in the 10th.

It was the slumping Cubs' eighth loss in 10 games. Manager Don Baylor blames the collapse partly on the distractions caused by the trade rumors, which he planned to address during a team meeting Friday.

"Every single day, guys are talking about who's going where," Baylor said. "I'd like to get all of that behind us and start thinking about baseball."

Sosa and Baylor don't often agree, but they do now. "If something is going to happen, let it happen, but if it's not going to happen, let me know so I can go out and play my game," Sosa said.

Still, with the Cubs going nowhere, and Sosa entering the final year of his contract in 2001, the Cubs feel the pressure to do something with Sosa, with a trade being the most obvious option.

"I think ultimately Sammy will be traded," said Tom Reich, Sosa's agent. "This one got real close. But there was a difference of opinion on the players. But I think ultimately there is a deal to make."

Reich and Sosa were prepared to talk contract with the Yankees.

"We were ready to go, and Sammy was ready to go, but there was no trade," Reich said. "They got a guy (Justice) at a lesser cost, but he's a formidable guy."

Neither Sosa nor Reich is saying how much Sosa wants in his next contract, but \$15 million a year seems a likely starting point. Sosa is making \$11 million this season.

For the first time in weeks, Sosa raised the possibility of staying with the Cubs.

"If I stay here, they probably are going to go out there and get some good players. They can probably put a winning team out there," he said. "But we don't know what's going to happen."

RODEO

Continued from page 1B

Kirkles of Carlsbad (Goat-Tying, 8 and Under, 11.039).

As for the other first-day leaders, that list includes Jonathan Dorman of Lubbock (Bullriding, 16-19, 60), Tyler Hargrave of Happy (Chute Dogging, 3.353), Ashley Hill of Colorado City (Poles, 13-15, 22.134), Jeffery Seaton of Lazbuddie (Tie-Down, 16-19, 10.199), Brett Squyres of Plains, (Ribbons, 16-19, 6.66), Stetson Vest of Childress (Ribbons, 13-15, 8.228) and Bobby Wood of Monahans (Saddle/Bareback, 13-19, 63).

There was also some team roping competition. The tandem of Vin Fisher and Rodey Wilson had the top time in the 16-19 Division with a time of 12.109.

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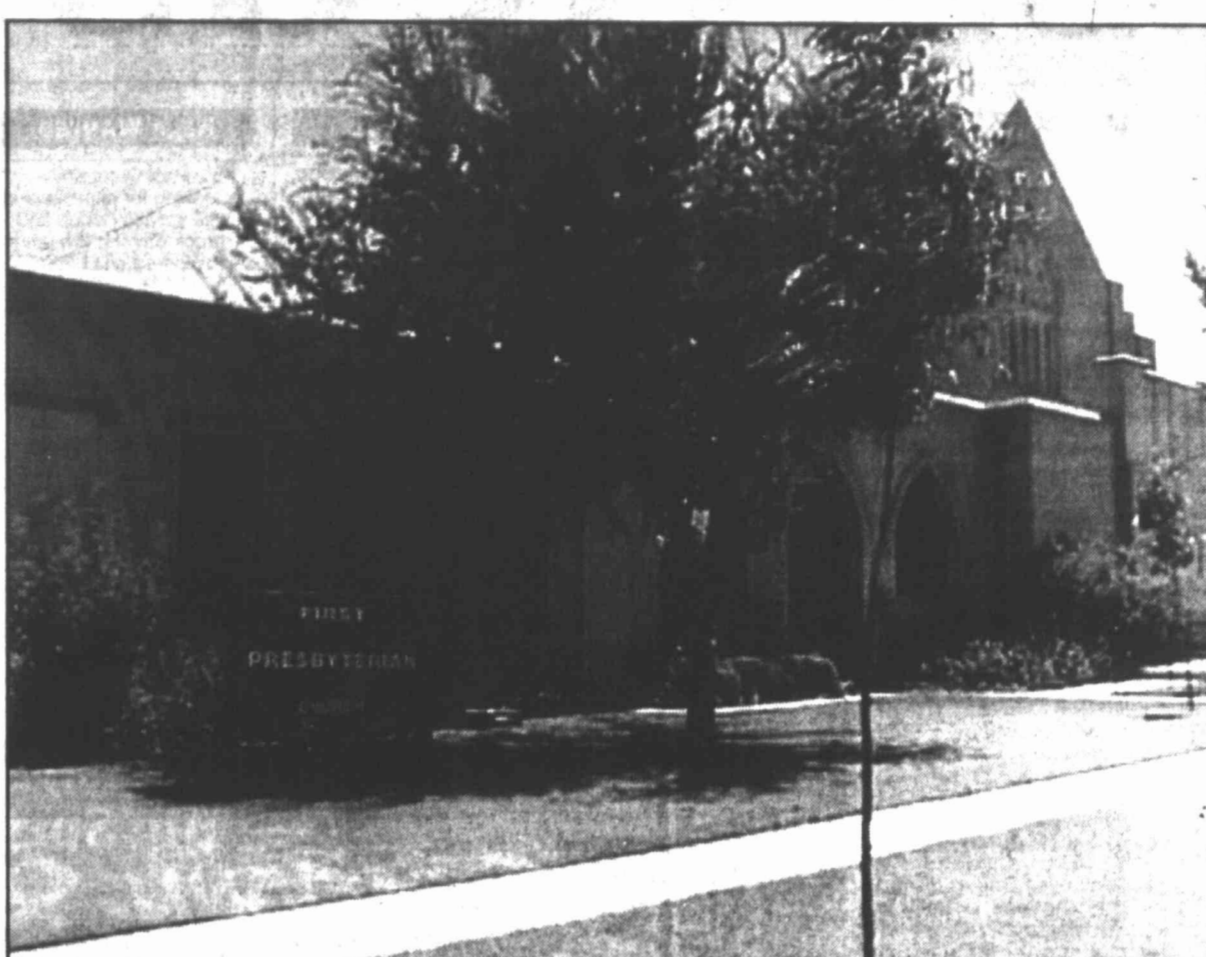
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JUNE 30 2000

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AUTOS FOR SALE

1994 Mercury Grand Marquis. 88K Extra clean. First \$5,950. Call 394-4359

1995 Jeep Grand Cherokee Laredo 6 cylinder, 2 wheel drive, extra clean, runs good. \$11,000. Call 263-4772

Individual must sell 1994 ArrowStar 4x4, extra clean condition @ wholesale price. \$4,995. Call 263-1281 or 263-2808

PICKUPS

'82 Ford F-150, tool box, headache rack, good tires, rebuilt motor. A/C. \$2,000. Negotiable. Call 263-6085

For Sale: '98 Green Ford Ranger 5 speed, 4 cylindr, 23,000 miles. \$10,500. Great condition. 263-3870

For Sale: 1984 Chevy Blazer 4x4, runs good. New tires. \$1,800. Call 267-8663 leave message.

All 2000 Model Ford Explorers \$2000 off MSRP

BOB BROCK FORD
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BOATS

83 BASSTRACKER, 17ft., 80 HP Mercury motor, depth finder, trolling motor. \$2,000. 263-7303

PERSONAL

NEED CASH NOW OPEN E-Z CASH of Big Spring Checking Acct. Required. 263-4315

Did you miss your Herald?
Call 263-7335 & ask for Circulation.

BUSINESS OPPT.

International Company seeks PC users. \$25-\$75K potential. 888-827-9733. www.road4success.com

DRIVING SCHOOL

STUDENT DRIVERS WANTED
Sign up now for Classes starting July 10th. Sign up Thur & Fri. July 6 & 7th 5:00-7:00pm. Mon. July 10th 8am-10am. For more information, call us @ The Big Spring Mall 268-1023 or 270-4610. Lic # 1200

HELP WANTED

DENTAL BILLER WITH US
\$15-\$45/hr Dental Billing software company needs people to process medical claims from home. Training provided. Must own computer. 1-800-797-7511 ext.303

Auto Glass Techs
Cascade Auto Glass with 48 locations in 16 states is rapidly expanding. We are currently seeking a dependable person to train in auto glass installation. Training includes 12 weeks out of state. No experience necessary. Must have good driving record. Guaranteed 40 hours pay through winter. Installations will work a 5 day work week. (Mon-Fri.) and occasional Sat. Training should be expected during spring and summer months. There is a probationary period where new hires are assessed on ability and quality of work. Installers are provided with new vans & mobile phones. Health, Vision, Dental & 401K plan available. Opportunity for advancement. Call 1-888-745-0762. Attn: Cliff Nelson

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STEAM CLEAN RESTAURANT EQUIPMENT NOW HIRING MALE/FEMALE WILL TRAIN. NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED. MUST HAVE CLEAN, VALID DRIVERS LICENSE. REQUIRES OUT OF TOWN TRAVEL DRUGTEST REQUIRED. CALL FOR INFORMATION @ (915) 267-5449. 1711 SNYDER HWY
CDL driver needed. Must have good driving record. We offer full benefit pkg. competitive wages. Come by:
100 Sth. St. Peters Stanton, Texas 7-6pm M-F
Charge LVN opening. \$750 sign-on bonus. \$9.25/hr plus uniform and mileage allowances. 12 hour work shifts (7 AM-7PM) with every other weekend off. Graduated vacation allowance and double time for holidays. Come by Loraine Manor, 402 Campbell Ave. in Loraine for an application and interview.
Domino's Pizza Drivers full/part time. Great job for semi-retired or individual who needs additional income. NO CALLS. Apply at store. 2202 Gregg, Big Spring, TX

Dr. Pepper/Pepsi
3611 N. Hwy 87 Big Spring, Texas EEO/AA Employer 263-4186
*****CX*****
TRANSPORTATION Major carrier has immediate openings at its Big Spring Terminal for experienced truck drivers. CX offers: sign on bonus \$200.00, group health insurance, retirement plan, paid vacation, paid company holidays, home most nights. CX requirements: 23 yrs. old, 2 yrs., verifiable road experience, CDL Class A License w/Hazmat & Tanker Endorsements, good driving record, must pass DOT physical & drug screen.
Applicants can apply at I-20 & Midway Rd Big Spring or call 1-800-729-4645

Office Nurse Ideal candidate will be a LVN with 3 to 5 years clinical experience.
Salary is commensurate to experience and a full benefit package is available. Only qualified applicants need apply to the Personnel Office of Covenant Malone & Hogan Clinic, 1501 West 11th Place, Big Spring, Texas 79720 or fax resume to 915-267-1137.

Earn up to \$500 per week assembling products at home. No experience. INFO 1-504-646-1700 DENT. TX-2174
Entry level or experienced full-time soft drink route person needed. Requirements include being 18 or older, completion of high school or GED, good driving record, capability to perform physically demanding labor, ability to meet people and communicate effectively, and a willingness to work till the job is done. Applicants with Class A-CDL and route sales or commercial driving experience preferred, but the company is willing to train the right person.
Call 393-5217 for appointment 25 Years Experience

HELP WANTED

"COME GROW WITH US"
Texaco Star Stops are now taking applications for full and part time help. Apply at 2501 S. Gregg, 800 E. I-20, 400 S. Gregg & 4806 W. Hwy 80, between 8am & 2pm M/F. We are a drug free work force.

Covenant Malone and Hogan clinic has an immediate opening for the following positions:
Billing/Collection Specialist. Minimum qualifications include typing speed of 40 words per minute, 10 key by touch. Ideal candidate will have previous medical office experience including electronic billing.
Office Nurse Ideal candidate will be a LVN with 3 to 5 years clinical experience.

Head Maintenance Person needed w/AC Certification & Plumbing experience. Make Ready experience also helpful. Apply in person to Barcelona Apts, 538 Westover.

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HELP WANTED

West Texas Centers for MHMR Now hiring full-time and part-time Direct Care Staff in Big Spring. High School Diploma/GED required. Salary \$6.47 per hour (\$13,464 annually for full-time), excellent benefits. Part time salary \$6.47 per hour. Applications may be obtained at 409 Turners or by calling JOBLINE 800-687-2769. EOE

The City of Big Spring will be testing for the position of certified and non-certified police officer @ 8:30 a.m. on Thursday July 13, 2000 at the Police Training Center on 307 E. 4th. Applications will be accepted through 1:00 p.m. on Monday July 10, 2000. For further information contact City Hall Personnel at 310 Nolan, Big Spring, TX 79720 or call 915-264-2346. The City of Big Spring is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Opening for LVN vacation, sick, holidays, retirement, health ins. Contact Elia Gonzalez D.O.N. Valley Fair Lodge Colorado City, TX 915-728-2634.

Pool Company is looking for experienced well service hands and truck drivers. Please apply in person at 2900 N. Hwy 87 between 7:00am-8:00am or 4:00pm - 6:00pm. EOE
Under New Management Team Now hiring dependable, friendly, energetic employees. All shifts, flexible hours. Wait staff & cook positions available. Medical insurance, advancement opportunities, paid vacation. Apply in person M-F 8-5. EOE
Dennys Restaurant 1710 E. 3rd. Big Spring, Texas

HELP WANTED

TEXAS BOLL WEEVIL ERADICATION FOUNDATION, INC. Currently accepting applications for trapper positions in Stanton to work in an outdoor environment. All positions require a valid driver's license/insurance by TBWEEF fleet policy required. Obtain application at 708 N. Lamesa Hwy, Stanton. Positions available immediately. EOE

The City of Big Spring is accepting applications for meter reader in the Water Department and maintenance repairman. Applications will be accepted until July 3, 2000, also; applications are also being accepted for welder in the sanitation department until July 5, 2000. For further information contact City Hall Personnel at 310 Nolan, Big Spring, TX 79720 or call 915-264-2346. The City of Big Spring is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

HELP WANTED

LVN's/RN's Needed. Excellent starting pay, qly bonuses. Extra shift bonuses & 2 weeks paid vacation after 1 year. Apply in person @ Mountain View Lodge 2009 Virginia

Key Energy Service Co. Stanton TX is seeking experienced Truck Drivers. Also need mechanic. Clean Class A CDL drivers license preferred, but will train qualified applicants. Benefits included. Call for more info. 8-5 M-F 915-756-2675.
Klondike I.S.D. is accepting teaching applications for the following:
Girls Basketball Elementary Teacher with ESL Endorsement Send resumes to: Jack Gaskins, Superintendent 806-462-7334 Klondike I.S.D. 2911 County Rd. H Lamesa, TX 79331 Phone : 806-462-7334

HELP WANTED

Evening dishwasher needed. M.S. Apply @ Red Mesa Grill 2401 Gregg.

Full time positions available for the RNs at Martin County Hospital. Salary DOE, paid health and dental insurance, PTO benefits. Apply in person in 610 N. Peter in Stanton, Texas. EOE

HELP WANTED

Secretarial/General Office position available August 1st. Computer skills required. Apply at Home Real Estate, 110 W. Marcy Dr. No Phone Calls.

Super S Foods a Texas family owned & operated chain of supermarkets located in Central and South Texas has immediate openings for Store Managers, Assistant Store Managers, Market Managers and Meat Cutters. Retail experience required. Must be willing to relocate. Call Mary Lou Crawford at 1-800-279-1149 or fax resumes to 210-341-6326.

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The Big Spring Herald has the following routes open. If you are interested in a supplemental income please contact the Big Spring Herald Circulation Department
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Route 314 Lancaster, Alysford, Douglas, W 3rd, W 4th, Valley Meadow
Route 306 Ann, Willa, Lorilla, Harding, Mesquite, Mobile, Utah, Etc.
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Route 128 All or parts of E. 12th, E. 13th, E. 14th, and E. 15th.
All applicants must have the following: A reliable car, liability insurance, a good contact telephone number, and a current Texas Drivers License.
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Big Spring Herald Friday, June 30, 2000

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42
8-2. P must baby, clothe

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of Tod Family items trailer

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7.9's BASIC FURNITURE
Living room, bedroom
suits, dining room sets,
at unbelievable low
prices. Located in old
Wheat's building. Come
see us today.
115 E. 2nd 263-4563.

WELDING SUPPLIES

AIRGAS-SOUTHWEST MILLER/VECTOR SALE!
LOWEST PRICES OF THE YEAR! on all Miller & Victor welding and cutting equipment. Discount on selected items throughout the store. 605 E. 2nd St. AIRGAS - YOUR WELDING SUPPLY IN BIG SPRING.

MISCELLANEOUS

For Sale: Nordic Trac Pro, Singer Athena Sewing Machine w/ig cabinet, overhead projector, & tennis ball machine. Call 264-0625 after 6pm.

WEDDING CAKES!!
Arches, silk bouquets, catering. Order now to reserve your date.
The Grishams
267-8191

PORTABLE BUILDINGS

SIERRA MERCANTILE
For all your building needs.
Portable
On sight - Carpets
1-20 East • 263-1460

ACREAGE FOR SALE

For rent 1 or 2 bedroom
houses. Appliances
furnished. Call 263-4410.

Must Sell! 40 acres of land
south of town Great view.
Call 267-8663 lv.
message. \$22,500.

Land & 3300 sq. ft. building
for sale. Located at 1805
W. 3rd. Needs repair.
\$7,500 cash or \$9,500
terms. Call Westex Auto
263-5000.

Steel buildings, new, must
sell!
30x40x12 was \$10,200
now \$6,999
40x60x12 was \$16,400
now \$10,971
50x100x16 was \$57,590
now \$19,990
60x200x16 was \$58,760
now \$39,990
1-800-406-5126

BUILDINGS FOR RENT

For lease: Beauty Shop
with 4 stations and
equipment. Good location.
Call Westex Auto Parts
263-5000.

For lease, small building
on Snyder Hwy. with
overhead door. \$250/mo
+ \$100/dep. Call Westex
Auto Parts, 263-5000

Former Body Shop for
lease. Has overhead
doors. \$300/mo. plus
deposit. call Westex Auto,
263-5000

Former Body Shop for
lease. Has overhead
doors. \$300/mo. plus
deposit. call Westex Auto,
263-5000

Lg. building with office for
lease. Over head door,
approx. 2 acres
fenced yard,
Snyder Hwy.
Call Westex Auto
263-5000

Office Suite "B" for Lease: Spacious & Nice - each suite has restroom - coffee bar with refrigerator & sink. Gas & water paid, Gary Bldg. 1512 Scurry. Call 806-794-7064.

HOUSES FOR SALE

\$1,000 TOTAL MOVE IN COST
On each of these just
completed new homes to
qualified buyers - 3
Bedroom, 2 bath, 2 car
garages. 2306 & 2308 S.
Monticello. Purchase
price \$59,900. Call now
520-4663

3 bdr, 1 bth, brick C/H/A, 2
car, fenced bk. 3204
Drexel. \$49,500. Call
Rocky Owner/Agent.
915-942-8808.

602 E. 17th. Street
\$300 dn. \$295/Mo.
3 Bedrooms, 2 baths,
Central Heat and Air,
Newly decorated. First
payment due Sept. 1. Must
have good credit.
915-677-0094

807 CULP, COAHOMA
\$300 dn., \$245/Mo.
2 Bedroom, Garage,
Central Heat, Utility
Room. First payment due
Sept. 1. Must
have good credit.
915-677-0094

Beautiful stone home in
Edwards Heights,
Spacious 3 bedroom, 2
new baths, 2 car garage,
new carpet & paint. 609
west. 17th. 264-0400.

By Owner
Brick 3 bdr. 2 bth. double
carport, 24x24 shop,
corner lot, shade trees.
\$52,500. 916 Baylor.
263-6315 or 915-699-1211

FOR SALE BY OWNER: 3
bdr, 2 bath, 1900 sq. ft.,
4554 Kelly St. \$100,000.
Owner financing consider
264-6249 for appointment.

For Sale By Owner: 3 bdr
2 bth 2 car garage,
carport, fireplace, & more.
505 Highland Drive, call
Tom @ 263-3916, office
263-2300.

For sale by owner, 3BR, 2
bath, brick home. Carport,
tile fence, water well
w/sprinkler system. Nice
Coahoma neighborhood.
Call 394-4646.

FSBO 3/2 car detached
garage, built 1929 on 2 1/2
lots. \$75K. 509 Dallas.
Call 264-0269 lv.
message.

Near Ackerly on
pavement nice
3-bedroom brick home
with abundant water on
two acres, \$75,000. Call
915-263-3903 or 915-267-
6028.

HOUSES FOR SALE

Real nice older home for
sale. 2 bdr. brick, must
see to appreciate. Call
267-4135.

To Settle Estate. 1510
Runnels, 2 bdr, 1 bath.
Call 267-8047 or
915-728-2848.

Will buy 1, 2, or 3 bdr. low
cost home. Will remodel
for low cost. Moren at
267-7390.

MOBILE HOMES

Awesome 32 wide under \$50,000. Call now
800-698-8003 (Se habla
espanol)

Check it out!!!
www.PalmHarbor.com
(se habla espanol).

CUTE 2X2 front kitchen.
653-7800/800-698-8003.

Gotta see the "Q" over
50 cabinets and drawers
in the kitchen, 4 bed, 2
ba., tile floor, plush carpet.
Call for appt.
800-698-8003 or
www.PalmHarbor.com

Help! One 1999 18 wide
left, Bells and Whistles
included. Easy terms.
Priced to sell. Call
653-7800 or 800-698-8003
for appointment.

RED TAG SALE ALL HOMES DISCOUNTED BIG!!! Call now
(800)-698-8003.

Save Thousands!!! Invest
in an EnergyStar
compliant home at Palm
Harbor Homes San
Angelo. Call 653-7800 or
1-800-698-8003 (Se habla
espanol)

We Need Your Trade In - any condition considered! Call
800-698-8003 (Se habla
espanol)

Wife left ugly husband! 3
bdr/2 ba. Ready for
move in. **WIFE NOT
INCLUDED!** Call Now
1-800-698-8003

LAKE PROPERTY

For Sale
Water front 2 bdr. on Lake
Colorado City. Call
915-550-4242.

FURNISHED APTS.

1 bdr furn. apt. \$200/mn.
you pay bills. 908 W. 4th.
Restaurant next door. Call
263-7648 or 263-3855

2004 Johnson duplex one
side completely furnished,
other semi-furnished.
\$175/mn. \$100/dep. Call
915-728-2848

Apartments. Unfurnished
houses. Mobile Home.
References required. Call
263-6944, 263-2341.

Furnished efficiency,
utilities paid. \$225/mo.
\$100/dep. 267-8876 days.
267-5857

FURNISHED HOUSES

215 Mesquite
Extra clean furnished 1
BR house.
\$225/mo. \$100/dep. Sory.
no pets.
263-4922

UNFURNISHED APTS.

Super spacious pleasant 1
bdr. washer/dryer conn.,
Central refrigerated air,
optional covered
parking/furnishings.
\$225/mn. No pets,
non-smoker, lease &
references. McDonald
Realty, 263-7616.

UNFURNISHED HOUSES

1 extra large bedr. 1 bath
apt. stove & frig. w/d
conn., carport, cable pd.
No Pets. \$250/mn. +
\$150/dep. 267-2177

2 bdr 1 bath duplex 1501
Lincoln-A. Call 267-3841
or 270-7309.

2 bdr 1 bth Coahoma 608
S. 2nd. \$350/mn.
\$200/dep. Call 267-7178

2 bdr mobile 1410 rear
Harding \$265/mn.
\$150/dep. water paid. Call
267-6667

3 bdr. N. of Coahoma
CISD. \$250/dep \$500/mn.
Call 394-4363
918-254-5745.

3 Bdrm, stove & ref.
furnished, fenced back
yard. HUD OK. Bills paid.
1311 Mt. Vernon. Bill
Chrane. 263-4011.

914 E. 6th.
2 bdr 1 bth
267-3841 or
270-7309.

FOR RENT OR RENT TO OWN
4 bdr. 2 bath
2 bdr. 1 bath.
No Down
264-0510

FOR SALE
Fixer upper
Owner Finance
\$100-down, \$150-month.
Call 267-4572

House for rent at Lake
Colorado City. Call (915)
263-2510.

Nice 3 bdr. trailer,
furnished or partially
furnished. Also 1 bdr.
trailer. No Pets! Inquire at
1213 Harding

Sell/Rent
lg 3 bdr 1 bth.
2 - 2 bdr 1 bth. houses
commercial bldg on
E. 4th. St.
w/large lot.
Call 267-3905

TOO LATES

5 Family - 700
Craigmont 7-1 Sat.
Snapper riding mower,
Zenith 48" TV, patio table,
dishes, household items,
bedspreads, ski machine,
nice clothes, & much
more.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Saturday, July 1:
The coming year proves to be one of the most influential of your life. Expect many profound changes, but know that even if you think something is bad, only good will come as a result. If you are a man, you might realize your commitments and question your identity. Both sexes should make exercise their top priority in dealing with stress. If you are a woman, you see a man in your life differently. Also, you opt for career changes, or perhaps you'll initiate a career. Spring of 2001 unleashes a new 11-year lucky cycle, promising some special, well-deserved opportunities. If single, romance blossoms. You will have one or more choices; select a partner carefully. If attached, your relationship transforms. With careful guidance, you can create more of what you long for. **CANCER** is a soul mate.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
*** You're likely to say what you think. A closing-out of a domestic matter looms on the horizon. What you have been mulling over can happen. Your incisiveness and strong will could come off to loved ones as being harsh. Plunge into a physically demanding task. Tonight: Close to home.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
**** Consider a new car, computer or whatever you have wanted in order to make your life easier. Actively pursue what is on your mind. Invite a friend for a hard game of racquetball or tennis. Give up being merely a spectator in your life. Others respond to your vitality and enthusiasm. Tonight: Out and about.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
*** You make a larger financial commitment than you had originally planned. Slam on the brakes before you have a problem. Another manipulates you; he wants you to spend. Know that you don't have to. Carefully scrutinize the quality of any major purchase. Tonight: "Fun" doesn't necessarily mean "expensive."

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
**** Speak your mind; do what you want to do. Though you normally display sensitivity, your current pace and intense energy might add a blunt edge. Don't put your needs on the back burner any longer. Make yourself No. 1. Your charisma speaks. Tonight: Your wish is another's pleasure.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
* Assume a low profile, but do for you. Look at what has made you uncomfortable. Let go of frustration and irritation; discuss the issue that surrounds the feelings. Get away from your immediate surroundings, and you'll renew.

HOROSCOPE

Don't fear change. Tonight: You don't need to always be out there!

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
**** Act on decisions. Surround yourself with friends who have similar interests. Work together as a team and breed greater understanding. Clear any negativity with a special friend. You complete a project because of others' support. Accept an invitation. Tonight: Party into the wee hours.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
**** Manifest your devotion to another. Act on feelings rather than holding back. Seriously consider a professional change. Make waves; don't sit back. A boss might make an odd request. Accept responsibilities, but don't take on anything you don't want. Tonight: Others look to you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
**** Take off, even if you don't have formal plans. Explore a new area or join a dear friend at a midpoint. A change of scenery encourages a different mental posture. Schedule a longer vacation in the near future. Review recent events; come to new conclusions. Tonight: Try a new cuisine.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
**** You and your partner agree, even if the two of you spar on details. Intensity brings the two of you together. Carefully discuss an investment that involves both of you. Transform finances or an emotional bond. Strengthen the positives. Tonight: Don't shy away from that special person any longer.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
**** Listen while another speaks his mind. What was acceptable within a partnership isn't any longer. Though an ending appears on the horizon, it isn't a necessity. Demonstrate your willingness to transform a personal situation, and better things will become possible. Tonight: Don't stand on ceremony.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
**** Plunge into a project or hobby. Make important decisions; you will be on the way to making life changes. If you want to start a diet or exercise plan, now is the time. Mobilize high energy, and you can do anything. Another introduces you to a new pastime or place. Tonight: Don't go overboard.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
**** Are you bored with your love life? Make major changes now. Consider whether or not you're allowing another to get close. Be direct with someone you care about. If single, know that there are major changes coming. Visualize that perfect person. Tonight: Let the good times roll.

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THIS WEEKEND'S Garage Sales

* Look in Too Lates for more!! *

- 2303 Cindy Sat. 8-7 Furn., junior & adult clothes, wedding dress, books, carpet, household & misc.
- 4210 Theo. 3 Family. 8-2. Fri. & Sat. Everything must go. Good buys on baby, men & women's clothes, misc.
- 5613 E. Midway Rd. Furn, couches, range, household goods, good jeans and clothes. Fri 3-6, Sat 8-1.
- Friday-Sunday. Corner of Todd/Kyle. 8am-8pm. 3 Family Garage Sale: Baby items & lot of misc. Travel trailer
- Garage Sale: 1912 Cauble Rd. (off Rock house Rd.) Sat. Cast iron pots, Texaco Dye Cast tanks, Coke memorabilia & other collectibles, lots of misc. 8AM.
- Garage Sale: 211 Jefferson. Sat. 8-7 Furn., kids & adult clothing, toys, stove, misc.
- Garage Sale: 2700 Ann. Sat. 9-2. Microwave, bikes, toys, boys clothes, misc.
- Garage Sale: 3300 Cornell Ave. Fri. & Sat. 8-5pm. Everything from furniture to clothes
- Garage Sale, 628 State. Saturday, 8-7 Sunday Beanie Babies, clothes, tools, odds & ends, misc.
- Garage Sale: Fri. & Sat. 1013 & 1015 Sycamore. Lots of miscellaneous.
- Garage Sale Fri. & Sat. 8-5, 2406 Oasis Rd. Clothes and odds and ends.
- Garage Sale, Sat. 8-1. 3706 Boulder Drive. Baby crib, household items, and much more.
- Garage Sale Sat. Only. 610 Edwards 7-12 noon. Furniture, tools, Computer stuff, really GOOD stuff.
- Great Garage Sale: 1751 Purdue. Sat. 8am. Furn., lawn equipment, electric motors, and misc.
- 3 Family Garage Sale 1202 Johnson, Sat. 8-7 Lots of clothes, bunk bed, weight bench, misc.
- Huge Yard Sale: 7-1. 8:00 till 7 No early Birds. Furn. coil, toys & truck accessories. 4211 Bilger St.
- Markdown Sale-It's got to go! 2210 Main. Fri-Sat. 10-5. Dishes, clothes, cookware & lots of misc.
- Moving Sale: 509 Dallas. Sat. 8-2. Furn., clothing, infant-2t, mens & womens, baby items, kitchen items, ref., Armoire, Curio, sofa, tables, lots of misc.
- Multi Family Yard Sale: 2110 Warren. Fri. & Sat. 9-3. Baby bed, car seats, baby clothes - xlg., lot's of miscellaneous.
- Sale: 1303 Baylor. 8-7 Baby stuff, furn., lot's of clothes, tools, dishes, misc.
- Sat. 8-7 620 Birdwell Lane. Books, queen waterbed, clothes, misc.
- Saturday only: 4116 Muir. starts at 8am. Woman's fashions, students jeans, exercise equip., kitchen appliances, desk, mini-van seats, torch and gauges, numerous misc items.
- Yard Sale, 1508 Runnels. Sat. 7-7 Furn. antiques, appliances, yard tools, dishes, lot's of misc.
- Yard Sale, Sat. only. 8-5. 603 Steakley. Lots of baby items, refrigerator, clothes, misc. Also burritos.
- Yard Sale, 2718 Cindy Lane. Fri. June 30th and Sat. July 1st. 7:00 A.M.-Noon. TV, bike, clothes, misc.

SALE!! STATE HOSPITAL Surplus & Consignment
1st Wed. each month. BIG BARGAINS on electronics, vehicles, furn. & items from West Texas Centers. Upcoming Sales: June 7, July 5, Aug. 2. 263-0618

BOOSIE WEAVER REAL ESTATE
An independent broker
267-8840

LARGE 3/2/2 with nice fireplace a normal LR and screened in patio. 2806 Ann. Only \$80,000.

GREAT 3/2/2 on 120 fenced Acres. Forsan ISD. Ready to move into. It has fenced yards and a concrete storm cellar. \$150,000.

CLEAN 2 BR house with CHA and a very nice fenced yard \$29,000.

80 ACRES OF FARM LAND at Lee's Store Paved on 2 sides \$450/Acre.

BEAUTIFUL GARDEN COURTYARD

- Swimming Pool
- Private Patios
- Carports
- Appliances
- Most Utilities Paid
- Senior Citizens Discount
- 1 & 2 Bedroom Unfurnished PARKHILL TERRACE APARTMENTS
- 800 W. Marcy Drive 263-5555 263-5000

LOVELY NEIGHBORHOOD COMPLEX

- Swimming Pool
- Carports
- Most Utilities Paid
- Senior Citizen Discounts
- 1 & 2 Bedrooms & 1 or 2 Baths
- Unfurnished
- KENTWOOD APARTMENTS
- 1904 East 25th Street 267-5444 263-5000

Fireworks on the fourth are best enjoyed from distance

DEAR ABBY: Each year on the Fourth of July, thousands of adults and children are seriously injured by fireworks. Many burns and injuries affect eyesight, permanently damaging, and in some cases, blinding the victims. Because of this, the American Optometric Association has joined the Millennium Fireworks Safety Partners, a coalition of 35 national organizations, in urging people to avoid private fireworks and instead enjoy professional displays.

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), an estimated 20 percent to 25 percent of fireworks injuries are to the eyes. In a special study of fireworks-related injuries covering the period June 23 to July 23, 1999, CPSC reports that there were 6,300 emergency room-treated injuries, most involving fireworks, rockets and sparklers. Forty percent of the victims were under 15 years of age, and about 75 percent were males.

Sparklers are the second most frequent cause of fireworks injuries that result in trips to the emergency room. In addition to potential burns, a sparkler can literally "poke someone's eye out."

Please be careful this Fourth of July. Protect your precious eyesight by avoiding fireworks at home. Enjoy professional displays from a safe distance. — HARVEY P. HANLEN, PRESIDENT, AMERICAN OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION

DEAR DR. HANLEN: The statistics you quoted are alarming, and thank you for the warning. The loss of a finger, an eye or a life would turn a happy holiday into a tragedy. Readers, please celebrate the Fourth of July safely by attending professional fireworks displays and forgo setting off your own.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS, and getting along with peers and parents is "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$3.95 (\$4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

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HELP! HELP! HELP!

We are behind on our June Objectives!!

\$2000 DISCOUNT on every 2000 Model Ford-Lincoln-Mercury Nissan

PLUS

Any Factory Rebate or Special APR Available!!

\$1000 DISCOUNT on every 2001 Model Ford-Lincoln-Mercury Nissan

PLUS

Any Factory Rebate or Special APR Rates Available!!

WE WILL HIT OUR GOAL!!

Biggest Sale of the Year!
Sale Ends 7/4/00 - Hurry In!

\$4000 Discount on All Remaining New 99's
1-Crown Victoria

*All Discounts off MSRP. In addition to dealer discounts, factory rebates available on most units. Also available low interest rates. See Sales Consultant for details.

BOB BROCK FORD
Lincoln-Mercury-Nissan
500 W. 4th 267-7424

TOO LATES

FOR SALE BY OWNER on Dallas St. Owner Finance. 2 BR, 1 bath, den (or 3rd BR), CH/A, Lrg fenced Bkyd., storage bldg 263-6887 or 267-5128.

For sale: Almost new apt size portable washer & dryer (Runs 110 volt), Video cabinet drawers, \$5.00 ea. 267-5128 or 270-4682

For rent, small clean, rockhouse at 2201 Scurry! \$290/mo. \$150/dep. Call 263-2418.

Garage Sale. Stove, lamps, washer, dryer, lots of misc. Sat. & Sun. 7-6. 1216 Ridgemoor

For Sale: '93 Chevy Silverado 1/2 ton x-cab short bed. Loaded with dishes, household items, bedspreads, ski machine, nice clothes, & much more.

TOO LATES

1998 Heritage Classic, Old Boy. All accessories, drag pipes, high back rest. Leathers, helmets, 6300 mi. \$19,000 firm. 267-1345.

Another Huge Garage Sale, Sat. 8-7 3203 Duke. Furn., clothes, etc.

Yard Sale, Sat. 7-7 404 Dallas. Italian leather love seat & chair, bike, clothes, lots of misc.

Carriers Needed For the Big Spring Herald. Call: 263-7335 or come by 710 Scurry for an application.

BUY-SELL-TRADE
In the Big Spring Herald Classifieds
263-7331

PUBLIC NOTICE

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
The Big Spring Independent School District shall receive sealed bids until 2:30 p.m. July 13, 2000 for the following athletic areas:
Boys Baseball Supplies
Golf Supplies
Girls Softball Supplies
Boys Track Supplies
Girls Track Supplies

Specifications and bid documents may be secured from the school district's Business Office, 708 Eleventh Place Big Spring, Texas 79720-4610, phone number (915) 264-3640. Bids will be publicly open and read immediately following the deadline for receiving the bids in the Business Office of the Big Spring Independent School District. Bidders are invited to be present at the bid opening. Bids received after the opening date and time will be returned unopened. Bids will be presented for consideration to the Board of Trustees on August 10, 2000, at 5:15 p.m. at their regularly scheduled board meeting. The Big Spring Independent School District reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.
2791 June 23 & 30, 2000

JUN 30 2000

FRIDAY

JUNE 30

Table with 24 columns representing different TV channels (KMID, KPEJ, KERA, etc.) and rows listing various programs and their scheduled times.

HAGAR



BLONDIE



B.C.



FAMILY CIRCUS



DENNIS THE MENACE



GEECH



WIZARD OF ID



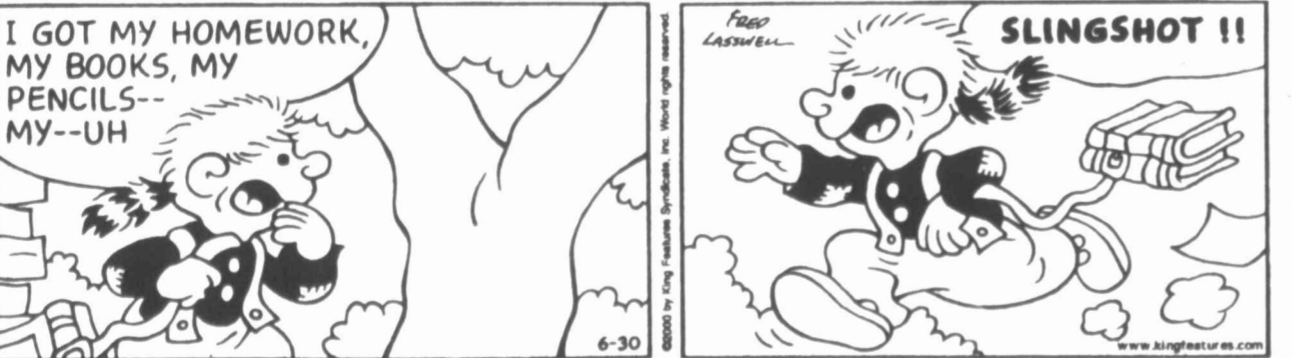
HI AND LOIS



GASOLINE ALLEY



SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILY



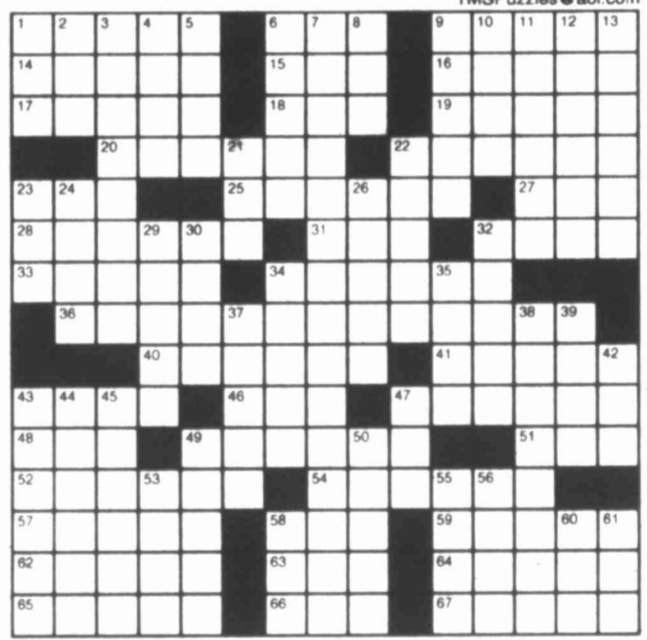
THIS DATE IN HISTORY

The ASSOCIATED PRESS Today is Friday, June 30, the 182nd day of 2000. There are 184 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On June 30, 1971, the 26th Amendment to the Constitution, lowering the minimum voting age to 18, was ratified as Ohio became the 38th state to approve it.

THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

- ACROSS 1 Photo book 6 Rear of the space shuttle 9 Terrible 14 Silly fowl 15 Paid athlete, for short 16 Demonstrated 17 Singer Merman 18 This moment 19 Cables 20 Admiration 22 Hindu fates 23 Tiny 25 Headgear fastener 27 Peer Gynt's mother 28 Tallyho! 31 90 deg. from vert. 32 Macbeth's dagger 33 Geau 34 Ribbed like leaves 36 Czech composer 40 Oozes forth 41 Like many baths 43 College cries 46 Actor Ayres 47 Weather-map line 48 Actress Meyers 49 Fan 51 Med. personnel 52 Art styles 54 Couple with sixteen arms? 57 Phony 58 Web address: abbr. 59 _bank 62 Elite social category 63 In the style of 64 Lead to seats 65 Argon and radon 66 NYC summer hrs. 67 Fills completely



By Edgar Fontaine Dighton, MA

Thursday's Puzzle Solved



- 4 Functions 5 Thaw 6 Snorer's peril 7 "Symphony in E Minor" by 36A 8 Drag behind 9 Egyptian dam 10 Prop sound 11 Czech director of "Amadeus" 12 Awkward state 13 Tenant 21 Questioning interjections 22 Russian ballet troupe 23 Hardin and Cobb 24 Hawkeye State 26 Bodies of water 29 References 30 Kentucky fort 32 Comic starter? 34 MTV play 35 Boozers 37 Zeros 38 Czech-born Clinton cabinet member 39 Actr. Edmund 42 Med. personnel 43 Hodgepodge 44 Ring within the iris 45 Czech-born tennis star 47 NYC subway line 49 Surpasses 50 Brilliance 53 Stratagem 55 Numbered musical piece 56 Tuscany city 58 Dubai et al. 60 _whiz! 61 Mos. and mos.

Advertisement for Big Spring Herald, including contact information, office hours, and a list of staff members.

Drug Act and the Meat Inspection Act became law. In 1921, President Harding appointed former President Taft chief justice of the United States. In 1934, Adolf Hitler began his "blood purge" of political and military leaders in Germany. In 1936, the novel "Gone with the Wind" by Margaret Mitchell was published in New York. In 1952, "The Guiding Light," a popular radio program, made its TV debut on CBS. In 1963, Pope Paul VI was crowned the 262nd head of the Roman Catholic Church. In 1971, a Soviet space mission ended in tragedy when three cosmonauts aboard Soyuz 11 were found dead inside their spacecraft after it returned to Earth. In 1985, 39 American hostages from a hijacked TWA jetliner in Beirut were freed after 17 days. In 1986, in a 5-4 decision, the Supreme Court ruled that states could outlaw homosexual acts between consenting adults. In 1994, the U.S. Figure Skating Association stripped Tonya Harding of the 1994 national championship and banned her for life because of the attack on rival Nancy Kerrigan. Ten years ago, African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela visited Oakland, Calif., a day after receiving a star-studded welcome in Los Angeles. Five years ago: In a stunning Kremlin purge, Russian President Boris Yeltsin fired three top security ministers for the botched handling of a bloody hostage-taking by Chechen rebels in southern Russia. President Clinton, speaking in Chicago, proposed an even tighter ban on armor-piercing handgun ammunition known as "cop-killer" bullets. Actor Gale Gordon died in Escondido, Calif., at age 89. One year ago: The Federal Reserve raised interest rates for the first time in two years, boosting the target for the funds rate a quarter-point to 5 percent. On the day the independent counsel law expired, Kenneth Starr wrapped up the Whitewater phase of his investigation as presidential friend Webster Hubbell pleaded guilty to a felony and a misdemeanor. Today's Birthdays: Singer Lena Horne is 83. Actor Tony Muser is 64. Actress Nancy Dussault is 64. Singer Glenn Shorrock (Little River Band) is 56. Jazz musician Stanley Clarke is 49. Rock musician Hal Lindes (Dire Straits) is 47. Actor-comedian David Alan Grier is 45.