

WEDNESDAY

June 20, 2001

WEATHER

Tonight:



TONIGHT TOMORROW
70°-72° 90°-95°

Chamber's taking orders for pictures

Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce is accepting orders for the group photo taken during at Big Spring Day in Austin.

The 8 x 10 photos feature the group of Big Spring citizens in attendance, along with Lt. Gov. Bill Ratliff, Sen. Robert Duncan and Rep. David Counts.

The photos are \$5 each. Orders will be taken through June 25. For more information, call Debbye ValVerde at the chamber, 263-7641.

WHAT'S UP...

TODAY

□ Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie, 7 p.m., Eagles Lodge, 704 West Third.

THURSDAY

□ Gideons International, Big Spring Camp No. U42060, Herman's Restaurant, 7 a.m.

□ The Senior Citizens Center will host an Arts and Crafts session each Thursday from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Call Bobbie Leonard at the Senior Citizens Center for more information.

□ The Coffee Club will meet at Gale's Sweet Shoppe at 10 a.m.

□ Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room. Call Billy Smith.

□ Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association meets at 5:30 p.m. in the RSVP offices, 501 Runnels.

□ Rackley-Swords Chapter 379 Vietnam Vets of America, meet at 7 p.m., 124 Jonesboro Rd.

□ Masonic Lodge 1340 meets at 7:30 p.m., 2101 Lancaster.

FRIDAY

□ Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. at St. Mary's Episcopal Church. Bring a lunch.

□ The Greater Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room.

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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.

Natural gas leak caused explosion, investigators say

By **LINDY BARR**
Staff Writer

A natural gas leak from a pipe connecting to the kitchen stove led to an explosion that took the life of 75-year-old June Carothers of Big Spring early Monday, investigators said.

However, investigators believe Carothers had probably died in her sleep before the devastating explosion, which occurred about 3:18 in the morning at her 1405 Stadium St. residence. The position her body was discovered in indicated that she was in a sleeping state,

they said. "But, we are still waiting on an autopsy to determine if this is a fact or not," Big Spring Fire Marshal Carl Condray said during a press conference Tuesday. "What exactly happened to the stove and why it caused this explosion is unknown, but we know that the combination of gases and the stove caused the house to explode and burst into flames," said Condray. The explosion and subsequent fire also destroyed the adjacent home, occupied by Frances Fleckenstein, and damaged up to 18 area residences. Fleckenstein

escaped with only minor injuries.

"The plumbing inside her (Carothers') home had been tested for any malfunctions and the gas meter has been monitored regularly since the incident had occurred," said Condray.

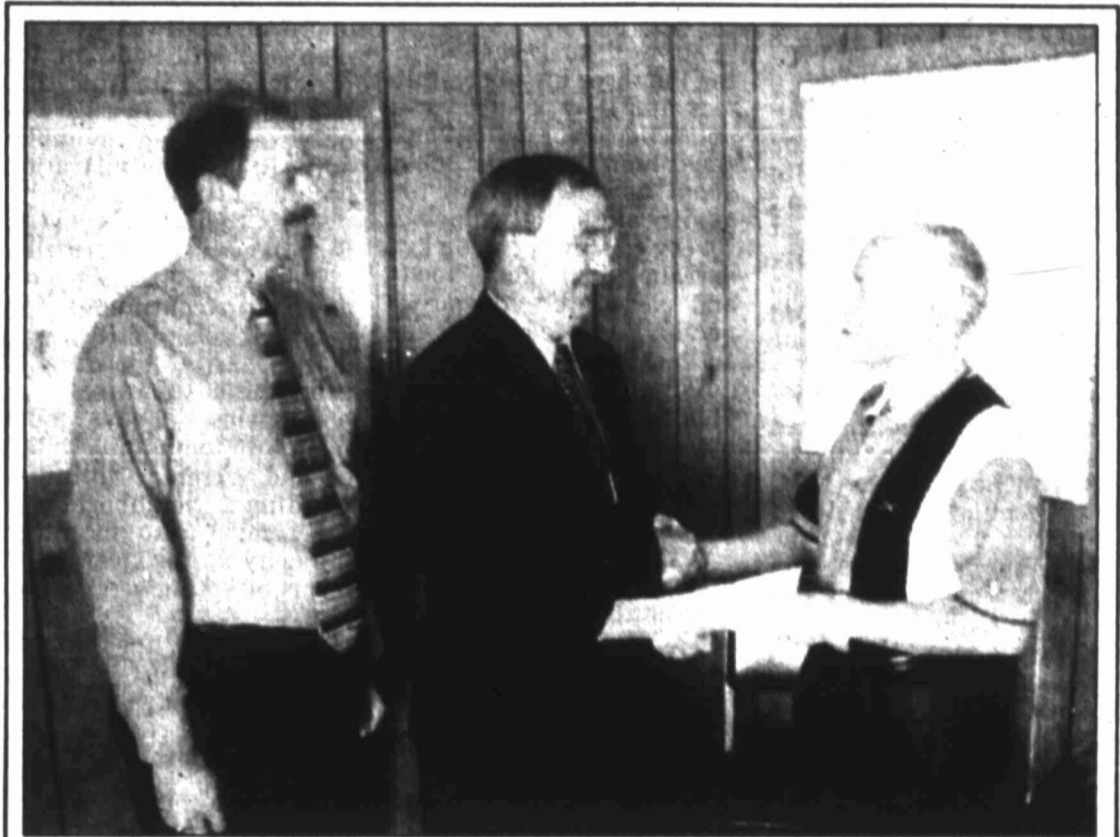
"Energas has been making regular checkups on many of the houses in the area to make sure that all the meters are working properly," said David Gates, vice president of technological services for Energas. "We have verified that all meters are working properly and it

See **GAS**, Page 2



Big Spring Fire Marshal Carl Condray explains that a natural gas leak led Monday morning's explosion at a local residence. One woman was killed and another received minor injuries.

HERALD photo/Lindy Barr



City manager Gary Fuqua, from left, and Mayor Russ McEwen accept a check from Charles Bell on behalf of the citizens of Big Spring. The funds — in excess of \$10,000 — will be used to install a fountain at Comanche Trail Park Lake. Installation will take place later in the summer.

Master Composter course to be offered Thursday through Saturday for small fee

HERALD Staff Report

Enhancing the landscape while improving the environment is the goal of the Master Composting course, which will conduct a three-day seminar here beginning Thursday.

The course is being offered by the Big Spring Regional Compost Facility,

Solid Waste Management Department, Texas Agricultural Extension Service and the Howard County Master Gardeners.

Under the direction of Larry Wilhelm, director of Earthworks in Grapevine, the course is modeled after the Master Gardner Program.

The course will be held

from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday and Friday and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday. It is necessary to attend all three sessions in order to graduate. Cost is \$14 and includes books, thermometers, worms, worm bins and a backyard composting bin.

See **COURSE**, Page 2

Big Spring ISD redistricting committee agrees on plan

By **LYNDEL MOODY**
Staff Writer

Redistricting advisory committee members agreed on a plan to redraw the boundaries of the Big Spring Independent School District's single member districts on Tuesday.

The committee will now take its recommendation to the BSISD board for trustee approval.

The approved plan con-

tains one change from the first draft submitted by Leslie Johnston of Johnston and Associates, a demographic and planning service.

The original plan called for a section that runs along Martin Luther King that includes the area of Scenic Mountain Medical Center and the Indian Hills neighborhood to be moved into District 1, represented by trustee Irene Bustamante.

Committee members had asked about the possibility of the section remaining in District 3, the precinct represented by Larry McLellan. A second plan was made to reflect the change.

"The area had more in common in social economic and ethnicity, plus taking the area out does improve the majority strength in District 1 without going over the deviation," said Judy Brown, attorney for

the law firm of Walsh, Anderson, Schulze and Aldrige, P.C.

The new plan will increase the minority voting population from 64.5 percent to 67.4 percent in District 1, the majority-minority precinct, according to figures from Johnston and Associates.

Brown was hired by the school district to help facilitate the redistricting.

By state law, precincts are

required to have roughly the same number in population so that each has equal voting representation.

The deviation of population in the largest, District 2, represented by Terry Wegman, compared to District 1 according to U.S. Census data, was enough to require the BSISD to redistrict.

Brown said the prison

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Forum

Group forms committees for parks, neighborhoods and entrances into city

By **BILL MCCLELLAN**
News Editor

Entrances, neighborhoods and Comanche Trail Park — those are the areas a group of citizens plans to concentrate on first in an effort to enhance the quality of life in Big Spring.

In the latest in a series of town hall forums, the group's members divided into three committees, elected a chairperson for each and pledged to meet again in September to set priorities and begin work.

"This is exciting. I know we can do some special things for our community," said Mayor Russ McEwen during Tuesday's meeting at Dora Roberts Civic Center.

Funding? Not now, said McEwen.

"We do not want to talk about money right now. I have found if we set a goal, we can find the money. We can find the resources to get it done," he said. "Right now, the idea is to decide what we want to do. We've got to start shooting bullets."

Those bullets may well start with clean up of the west entrance to the city, the immediate focus of one of the three committees.



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LUSK

Chaired by Kathy Lusk, members of the entrances committee quickly came up with a plan and had definite ideas.

"How about we complete one project then move on down to the next?" suggested committee member Mike Nieto, Big Spring area TXU manager. "If we decide on one place to start, and finish it, we can build on that."

Nieto's suggestion was to start with the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT) retaining wall on Business 20, which has fallen into disrepair over the years.

Other discussion included code enforcement, an appeal to owners to clean up their property, demolition of unsightly buildings, mowing and erecting some

See **FORUM**, Page 2



An accident that occurred at the intersection of Birdwell and FM 700 sent at least two people to Scenic Mountain Medical Center this morning. Details were unavailable at press time.

HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody

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Report: Instructors in deadly training exercise had live ammo

ARLINGTON (AP) — Although safeguards were in place to ensure that police in a training exercise were disarmed, all three instructors continued to carry loaded weapons before an officer's accidental shooting death, according to a published report.

An internal police memo obtained by the Arlington Morning News for Wednesday's editions showed that Officer Blane Shaw, one of the three trainers, accidentally shot fellow trainer Cpl. Joseph Cushman in the head with a live round from a Glock service pistol earlier this month.

Cushman had volunteered for an exercise on June 7 to demonstrate how a plastic safety helmet would deflect a fake bullet. Although Shaw said he thought he was fir-

ing a rubber bullet, live ammunition was in his gun, authorities said.

Officer Johnny Spruiel, the third trainer, also carried live rounds during the exercise at Ousley Junior High School, according to the memo.

"Our investigation has shown that comprehensive safety procedures were in place to ensure that none of the students were in the training environment with a loaded weapon," stated a June 15 memo sent to the Tarrant County medical examiner from the Arlington police sergeant in charge of the criminal investigation.

"However, all of the instructors were armed with fully functional and loaded handguns."

Following a meal break in the 10 trainees' instruction, Cushman had donned a training helmet, face shield and neck protector to show trainees that the simulated ammunition being used would not hurt them. Spruiel fired a fake Simunition round from a shotgun converted for training, but missed.

"Had Spruiel not missed with the 12-gauge round, (Officer) Shaw would not have proceeded with the handgun demonstration," stated the memo. "Because the demonstration failed, (Officer) Shaw decided to complete the demonstration by firing a handgun Simunition round at Officer Cushman."

"Officer's Shaw's statement is that he thought he had a Simunition-converted weapon in

his holster," the memo stated.

Training weapons have blue handles to identify them, according to the memo, but weapons converted to shoot only training rounds are also distinguishable.

Cushman, 27, was pronounced dead at John Peter Smith Hospital in Fort Worth about three hours after he was shot. The officer, who had been with the Arlington department 4 years, had been promoted to corporal only a day earlier.

Sgt. James Hawthorne, an Arlington police spokesman, confirmed that the memo was sent to the medical examiner but would not elaborate.

"We're in the process of wrapping up the criminal investigation," Hawthorne said Tuesday.

"We expect to forward that information from that investigation to the district attorney next week. I still can't speak to the specifics because it is still very much under investigation."

The tactical team training section of the department's Field Operations Manual prohibits live ammunition at training sessions, except at a firing range.

Policies were violated, according to the memo from Sgt. Mark Simpson, head of the department's homicide investigations. But he concurred with the medical examiner's earlier ruling that the shooting was accidental.

"There were a number of errors that led to this tragedy, but none of them rise to the level of criminal negligence," wrote Simpson

Bilingual education opponents launch initiative

DENVER (AP) — Opponents of bilingual education have launched a ballot initiative in Colorado seeking to end a practice that's already been struck down by voters in two other western states.

English for the Children of Colorado filed its initiative Tuesday, beginning a process that requires about 80,600 signatures of registered voters to put the measure on the 2002 ballot.

The proposal would

require that children not fluent in English be placed in a one-year English immersion program unless their parents specifically request bilingual education, which can take three years or more.

Proponents of bilingual programs argue students would struggle without lessons in their native languages.

Rita Montero, chairwoman of the Colorado group, said Hispanic stu-

dents who are kept in bilingual education suffer when they try to get into college or a job requiring English-language skills.

The group and some parents say Denver Public Schools is forcing children into bilingual programs, and keeping them there to meet the minimum requirement of 75 students per school to keep the program running.

"They violated my rights, my decision for my son to

be in English classes," Denver parent Lupe Martinez said. She said her English-speaking third-grade son reads at first-grade level because he was forced into Spanish classes.

Mark Stevens, spokesman for Denver Public Schools, said no parent is forced to put a child into the program.

Ron Unz, a California software businessman, sponsored successful campaigns in California and Arizona.

New York company town opts to accept gift-laden school building proposal

CORNING, N.Y. (AP) — Fiber-optics maker Corning Inc., eager to attract high-tech workers to its small-town headquarters, managed to persuade a fractured city to accept a \$60 million gift to revamp its school system.

The unusual bequest will cover the cost of converting the region's two existing high schools into middle schools and replacing them with one 2,000-student high school on the outskirts of town.

Thousands of voters were so unhappy with the corporate-backed school building proposal that they tried to vote it down in a referendum Tuesday, even if it meant losing out on the big employer's benevolence.

In the end, voters approved the plan by a margin of 58 percent to 42 percent, or 6,077 votes in favor to 4,383 against, according to unofficial returns provided by the school district. Fifty-two percent of an electorate of 20,123 cast ballots.

"I'm extremely pleased — it's a mandate from the

community," said school district Superintendent Donald Trombley. "We expect to bring the entire community together when we sit down to begin planning the actual construction."

Opponents said the plan would cause too much disruption and estimated that existing schools could be renovated, largely at state expense, for \$48 million. In addition, an old high school in a nearby town could be reopened for an extra \$10 million.

Critics had hoped Corning would be pushed to endorse a compromise if the \$76 million school district plan was defeated.

"I think it's a very bad thing for my hometown, but the public has spoken and that's the system," said Thomas O'Brien, a company lawyer who was a leading opponent of the plan.

The company maintained the alternative plan was unacceptable because it would swell property taxes, while the district's plan would keep taxes stable.

House chairman proposes \$6.5 billion in farm aid

WASHINGTON (AP) — Farmers would get \$6.5 billion in special assistance this year, \$1 billion more than the limit set by the White House, under legislation starting to move through Congress.

It would be the fourth multibillion-dollar bailout of the nation's farm economy in as many years.

The bill the House Agriculture Committee was to consider Wednesday would provide \$5.5 billion in payments to grain and cotton growers and an additional \$1 billion divided among producers of everything from prunes to wool to tobacco.

In a letter to the committee last week, White House budget director Mitch Daniels said he would recommend President Bush "not sign a bill providing more than \$5.5 billion in additional assistance" for this year's crops.

But the committee's Republican chairman, Larry Combest of Texas, says the White House budget office is "out of touch with the financial crisis farmers around the country are facing. Their recommendation is based on incomplete and unrealistic eco-

nomics data."

Rep. John Boehner, R-Ohio, is expected to offer an amendment that would cap this year's aid package to \$5.5 billion. But Mary Kay Thatcher, a lobbyist for the American Farm Bureau Federation, expressed confidence Tuesday that Boehner would lose.

"Things are worse in the country this year than last," she said.

Congress has provided \$25 billion in special payments to farmers over the past three years to supplement federal subsidy programs, and farm groups have asked for as much as \$10 billion more this year.

The first \$5.5 billion in this year's bill would sup-

plement the annual "market transition" payments that grain and cotton farmers receive under an existing program.

Growers of soybeans, sunflowers and other oilseeds would receive an additional \$500 million.

The bill also includes:

- \$220 million for the government to buy surplus fruits and vegetables, including apples, apricots, black-eyed peas, cherries, prunes, grapefruit, lentils, onions and potatoes.
- \$129 million for tobacco growers.
- \$57 million for peanut producers.
- \$44 million to suspend an assessment on this year's sugar crop.

—\$40 million to expand eligibility for crop subsidies, known as "loan deficiency payments," on grain and other crops.

Congress started passing the annual bailouts in 1998, after sluggish exports and bumper crops led to a collapse in prices for a wide array of commodities.

The Agriculture Department last month revised its estimate of net farm income for 2001 to \$42.4 billion, up \$1.1 billion from its January forecast, because of higher livestock prices. But farm groups say many producers can't survive financially without additional aid this year to supplement existing subsidy programs.

Convicted killer extradited to face murder charge

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Convicted murderer Sante Kimes has been returned to California to stand trial with her son for an alleged 1998 killing that could lead to the death penalty.

Kimes, 66, was extradited from a New York prison where she was serving a sentence of up to life for the murder of a Manhattan socialite.

Kimes gave up her extradition battle last week.

She and her son, Kenneth, face trial in Los Angeles in the 1998 murder of businessman David Kazdin.

Kazdin, 63, was found in a trash bin near Los Angeles International Airport. Police believe he was killed after he discovered the Kimeses had forged his name on a loan. They allegedly took \$200,000 from the account.

The Kimeses were convicted last year of murdering 82-year-old Irene Silverman, whose body was never found. The pair conspired to steal her \$7 million Manhattan townhouse and other possessions.

Kenneth Kimes was extradited to California in March.

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Setting up a home office doesn't have to be costly

Setting up a home office can be an expensive venture, whether you want to start a home-based business or have a special place to pay bills and keep financial records. But there are several cost-cutting tactics you can use.



DANA
TARTER

For example, you can start with the materials that you have on hand. If you have an extra table or folding table that is not being used, it will make a good temporary desk until you can afford to purchase a new one. Another alternative would be to stack bricks or cement blocks and planks of wood to make a desk or a bookshelf.

If you have a limited budget, you may want to shop at garage sales, flea markets, thrift stores and other secondhand places for bargains. Be creative and open minded about the potential use of furniture and other items when shopping. Salvage stores often carry used equipment and furniture that can be purchased at a rea-

sonable price. You may also want to shop at auctions or visit local businesses that are liquidating or remodeling (they may be buying new furniture and equipment to match their new look).

It also pays to ask friends or businesses who are moving if they are interested in selling any of their furniture or accessories.

Some people find it easier and most cost effective to sell what they have rather than moving it to a new location.

You may also want to make friends with the second-hand dealers in town. They can help you scout out the items you need to complete your home office and leave you more time to concentrate on other issues.

Another option is to shop online. In addition to the Web sites that allow people to buy and sell like an auction, there are also many companies that sell refurbished equipment and furnishings. In many cases, items bought from manufacturers or other companies will include a warranty.

Overall, the money that you save in office furnishings can be invested in your business, be used to pay other debts or be placed into a savings account for other needs.

Boost in veterans' education benefits OK'd

WASHINGTON (AP) — Half of the nation's college students were getting help from the GI Bill in the years after World War II. Now lawmakers are hoping to restore some of the popularity of that highly acclaimed program by raising the benefits.

The House unanimously passed legislation Tuesday that would raise education and vocational training benefits under the Montgomery GI Bill by 70 percent, the largest increase ever. When fully phased in, a veteran with three years of service would be eligible for up to \$39,600 in benefits, up from \$23,400 at present.

The maximum benefits under the bill would rise over the next three years from the current \$650 a month to \$1,100. For veterans with two years of service or Reservists who have served four years, the maximum benefit would rise from \$528 to \$894 over three years.

Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, said the legislation would put new life in a program that helped "create what we know as the modern middle class."

The bill passed 416-0 and now goes to the Senate where the Veterans' Affairs Committee is scheduled to hold hearings next week, according to the office of Sen. John D. Rockefeller, D-W.Va., the panel's chairman.

Report says VA benefit claims system is flawed

WASHINGTON (AP) — Four of every 10 claims for veterans' disability benefits are decided incorrectly, and a government training program designed to improve that record is two years behind schedule, congressional investigators say.

The training problems at the Veterans Benefits Administration could hamper efforts to reduce a backlog of pending claims and improve the system's accuracy, General Accounting Office investigators said.

Veterans groups said they're not surprised. "We had a sense that things were not going very well," said Joe Violante, a lobbyist for the Disabled American Veterans. "This

is not a recent problem. This has been going on for years."

Audits by the Department of Veterans Affairs found that 41 percent of the disability claims processed during 2000 were inaccurate. The audits did not specify whether the errors resulted in too much or too little compensation to veterans.

The Veterans Benefits Administration currently has more than 459,000 claims from veterans and their survivors waiting to be processed, according to research by the House Veterans Affairs Committee.

On average, it takes 205 days to process a claim — and up to three years if it is appealed.

Almost 21 million veterans have used the benefits program since the first GI Bill became law in 1944. That includes some 8 million from World War II, when the influx of veterans-turned-students led to rapid expansion of the nation's university facilities, and another 8 million from the Vietnam War era.

Smith said the program has contributed 450,000 engineers, 238,000 teachers, 91,000 scientists, 67,000 doctors and 22,000 dentists to

the nation's work force.

But while more than half of veterans participated in the program in the past, the number of people taking advantage of the benefit has declined in recent years, partly because the available benefits haven't kept pace with the rising costs of higher education.

Smith said that with the funding increase the number of veterans enrolled in the program should go from 266,000 today to about 375,000 in 10 years. But

some Democrats complained they weren't given a chance to offer a substitute that would have put substantially more money into education benefits.

Smith's bill would cost an estimated \$9 billion over 10 years. The ranking Democrat on the Veterans Affairs Committee, Rep. Lane Evans of Illinois, was blocked in his attempt to get a vote on a 10-year, \$24 billion bill. "I'm forced to conclude the leadership of this Congress is too timid and not willing to take that important step," he said.

Rep. Vic Snyder, D-Ark., said that after he left the Marines in 1969 he used the GI Bill to help finance two years of college and three years of medical school. He said that even with the proposed increase, the \$13,000 in available benefits for a year would still be \$3,000 short of meeting just the tuition fees at an average private college today.

Congress, he said, is missing an opportunity to help both military recruiters and the nation's colleges that benefit from the presence of veterans.

"It could have been so much better."

But the Bush administration, in a statement, said that while it strongly supported the program "because of its great importance to veterans and the nation," it must stay within the budget limits agreed to by the president and Congress.

After 37 years, case of slain Mississippi civil rights workers plods along

PHILADELPHIA, Miss. (AP) — During the heat of the civil rights movement, three young activists were shot to death and their bodies plowed into an earthen dam outside this central Mississippi town.

It was June 21, 1964, the start of the "Freedom Summer," and hundreds of volunteers were scouring the state registering blacks to vote.

The slayings of the three young activists, whose bodies were found 44 days later, focused the national spotlight on Mississippi and swelled support for the 1965 Voting Rights Act. In 1967, eight men were convicted in federal court of violating the slain men's civil rights, but no one was charged with their deaths.

It's been 37 years, and still no murder indictments have been issued in the deaths of James Earl Chaney, 21, Andrew Goodman, 20, and Michael Schwerner, 24.

Suspects and potential witnesses have died. Memories are fading. Younger generations have learned about the killings through the 1988 movie "Mississippi Burning," a fictional story based on the slayings that also renewed interest in prosecuting the men's killers for murder.

"We didn't start off in the best of shape because the people who knew the facts, who testified in the federal trial in the '60s, were all dead," Neshoba County's longtime district attorney, Ken Turner, said from his office just off Philadelphia's

main street. "I'm still hopeful, but in all candor, I'm not as optimistic as I was," he said. "That's not a signal of giving up."

"It's just being honest with you." Investigators have interviewed hundreds of people and sifted through more than 40,000 pages of documents and transcripts.

But one of the keys of successfully prosecuting the case will be finding witnesses still living to supplement testimony from those who testified in the 1967 federal conspiracy trial but have since died, Turner said.

Last month, Cecil Price, a former deputy sheriff convicted in the federal trial, died. State Attorney General Mike Moore wouldn't say

what role Price would have had in the prosecution, but he said Price's death "hurt a

whole lot." "This is a case we ought to try if we can," Moore says.

"The 'if' is a big 'if.' We're not going to do it if we don't have a solid case."

Jury convicts man for tossing dog into road

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) — Sara McBurnett says she doesn't believe in closure, but she breathed a sigh of relief when a man was convicted of tossing her small dog to its death on a busy highway.

"It doesn't bring Leo back, of course, but at least Leo had his day," McBurnett said after the verdict Tuesday. "One cruel person has been (held) accountable for their cruelty."

A jury convicted Andrew Burnett, 27, on felony animal cruelty charges for killing the white bichon frise last year in a fit of road rage. He faces up to three years in prison for the attack.

The defendant sat motionless as the verdict was read, pausing only to wink and say "I love you" to his fiancée, seated in the front row.

Burnett, who never took the stand, is scheduled to be sentenced July 13.

McBurnett and other witnesses testified that after a minor traffic accident in February 2000, Burnett yelled at her, reached through her open car window, grabbed the dog and hurled it into oncoming traffic. The 10-year-old pet was struck seconds later.

"It wasn't just a dog to me," she said. "For me it was my child. He killed my baby right in front of me."

Burnett's attorney, Marc Garcia, said his client instinctively snatched the dog from the car after it bit

him. He said the court of public opinion worked against his client.

"The deck was so stacked against him in this case from day one," Garcia said.

Prosecutor Troy Benson said Burnett was "the only person in the whole world" who would think what he did to Leo was reasonable.

"No ordinary person would have done this," he said.

Authorities released a sketch of a suspect in the case in March 2000, but the investigation stalled after McBurnett failed to pick

Burnett out of two photo lineups.

Police said an anonymous e-mail tipped them to Burnett. He had been jailed since Jan. 4 on charges connected to the disappearance of a repair van from his employer, Pacific Bell. The van was filled with \$68,000 worth of equipment. He also faces four charges of perjury for allegedly lying to authorities to get out of speeding tickets.

Dog lovers and others had donated \$120,000 in reward money for help in finding Leo's killer.



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IN BRIEF

Black Gold touney set for July 13-15

The Big Spring Black Golf Circuit Tennis Tournament has been scheduled for July 13-15 at the Figure 7 Tennis Center in Comanche Trail Park. Play will be conducted in boys and girls singles, doubles and mixed doubles in five age divisions. Fees will be \$15 for one event, \$20 for two and \$25 for three. Entries must be received no later than July 6. For more information, call Wendy Justiss at 338-5485.

YMCA swim team seeks competitors

The Big Spring YMCA Swim Team is currently competing in long course meets. Practice sessions are held Monday through Thursday mornings. To be eligible to compete, youngsters must be able to complete a lap of the YMCA pool. For more information, call the YMCA at 267-8234.

Annual Coahoma ragball tournament

There will be a ragball tournament Friday and Saturday, July 6-7, at the Coahoma Little League park. For more information contact Rocky New at 394-4041.

Senior Class to hold ragball tournament

There will be a ragball tournament sponsored by the Big Spring High School senior class, on Friday and Saturday, July 13-14. The entry fee is \$100 per team. For more information contact Brittany Bryant at 267-1011.

ACS still offering Texas Golf Pass

The American Cancer Society is again offering the Texas Golf Pass that entitles holders to more than 680 rounds of golf at 289 courses throughout the state. The passes are \$35 each and proceeds from the program benefit the Cancer Society's research, education programs and patient services efforts. Both the Big Spring Country Club and Comanche Trail Golf Course are participating in the program and order forms are available at the two courses. For more information, call 1-800-ACS-2345 or check the society's web site at www.acs-tx.org.

Finley exercises right to become free agent

DALLAS (AP) — Dallas Mavericks All-Star forward Michael Finley said Tuesday he has decided to exercise the option in his contract to become a free agent on July 1. "We fully expected Michael to exercise the option to terminate his contract," Mavericks head coach and general manager Don Nelson said in a statement. "This is an ordinary procedure, as many players opt out of their contract."

ON THE AIR

Radio

BASEBALL
7:10 p.m.—Anaheim at Texas Rangers, KBST-AM 1490.

Television

BASEBALL
6 p.m.—Chicago Cubs at St. Louis Cardinals or other game, ESPN, Ch. 30.
7:30 p.m.—Anaheim Angels at Texas Rangers, FXS, Ch 29

Late rally gives Rangers 7-5 win over Anaheim

ARLINGTON (AP) — Rob Bell still hasn't won a game since last September, but the new Texas starter has plenty to be excited about. "That's the first time I've left a game in the last two years and the team has come back from a deficit," Bell said. "I couldn't thank the Reds more for putting me where I am."

Bell, acquired from Cincinnati in a trade for Ruben Mateo last week, got a no-decision in his AL debut after allowing five runs and seven hits in 4 2-3 innings against Anaheim. The Rangers rallied for a 7-5 victory Tuesday night.

Ivan Rodriguez hit a solo homer and an RBI single in a five-run sixth inning. The catcher, a virtual lock to make a record-tying 10th straight All-Star Game start, also homered in the eighth for the Rangers.

After leading off the sixth with a homer to make it 5-2, Rodriguez came up again with two outs, the bases loaded and the game tied. He beat out an infield chopper, allowing Ricky Ledee to score, and pumped his fists. "I'm a hard player and love to win," Rodriguez said. "I know we are in last place, but I come to win. I was excited I had put my

team ahead."

Adam Kennedy, the second batter Bell faced, hit a two-run homer after David Eckstein walked. The Angels led 3-0 after Tim Salmon, just 3-for-50 (.060) with runners in scoring position, singled for his first RBI since June 5.

The 24-year-old Bell, 0-5 with the Reds this season, threw 34 pitches in the first inning when he walked two and gave up three hits. "It was a nervous energy out there for me," Bell said. "It's not like I had the shakes or something. I felt I pitched good after that. I promise things will get bet-

ter."

Rodriguez said Bell calmed down as the game progressed.

The Angels didn't score after the first until Garret Anderson's two-run homer in the fifth made it 5-1. Bell came out after walking the next batter.

"Bell's got a good arm, a good fastball. He threw much better after the first," Rangers manager Jerry Narron said. "We just want him to come in and get his feet on the ground and be part of our future. He's going to get every opportunity here."

After his 381-foot homer to start the sixth, Rodriguez

put the Rangers ahead on a high-chopper that barely went over the pitcher's mound 60 feet away.

"He led off with something soft to Pudge, then it seemed like everything got hit and everything found a hole," Angels manager Mike Scioscia said. "Then everything just snowballed."

After Rodriguez homered, the Rangers loaded the bases before Ledee hit a two-run single. Mike Lamb, the No. 9 hitter, added an RBI single to tie it.

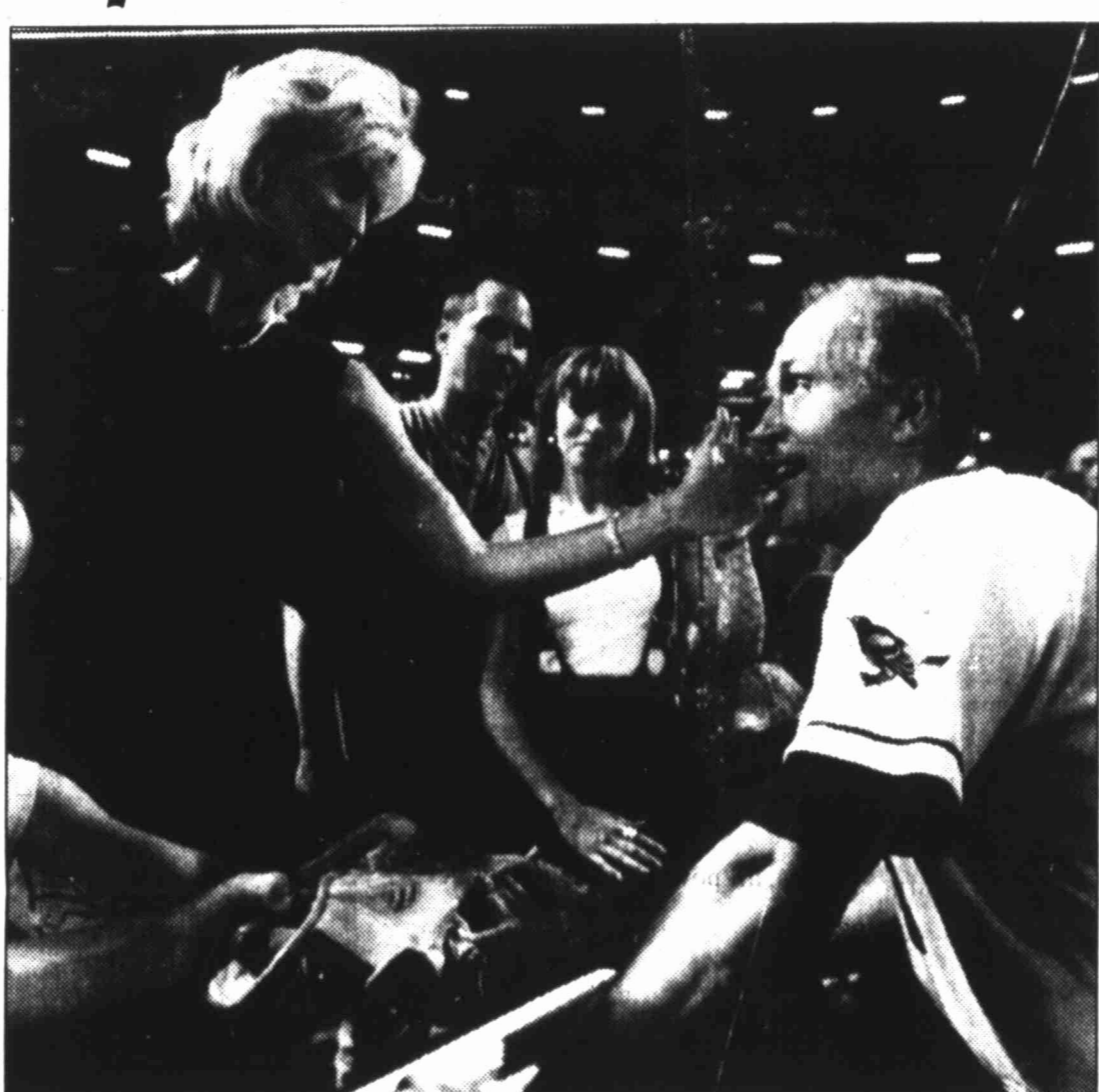
The outburst gave reliever Juan Moreno (1-0), his first major league victory.

Ripken plans retirement

BALTIMORE (AP) — Having accomplished everything he set out to do in the game he's always loved, Cal Ripken is ready to try something new.

Eager to spend more time with his children and teach baseball to a new generation, Ripken said Tuesday he will end his 21-year career at the end of this season.

"I don't see this as an ending so much. I'm not stopping something. I'm just moving on," said Ripken, who has played his entire career with the Baltimore Orioles. "The reality is that players can't play forever."



Cal Ripken Jr., receives congratulations from his wife after breaking Lou Gehrig's record for most consecutive games in September of 1995. Ripken has announced that he will retire at the end of the current major league season

During his lengthy and productive career, Ripken earned a World Series ring, two MVP trophies and the reputation as the most durable player in baseball history.

The announcement came on the 50th anniversary of the birth of the Iron Horse, Lou Gehrig of the New York Yankees, whose seemingly unbreakable record of playing in 2,130 straight games was shattered by the man who became known as the Iron Man.

The timing was ironic, but perhaps not entirely coincidental.

more time with this family. "I'm as healthy now as at any time," he said. "The last couple of years I've been noticing that I miss being away from home. I miss my kids' activities and it seems like the passion ... I was getting into other things."

In his hometown of Aberdeen, Ripken has financed a complex that includes a 5,500-seat minor league stadium, a baseball academy, dormitories, dining halls and six baseball fields modeled after past and present major league stadiums.

"I have a big interest in teaching baseball," Ripken said. "Baseball's in my blood. I see this as a beginning, an opportunity."

When the time comes for

Ripken to tip his cap one final time, he will do so with the knowledge that he got the most out of his talent.

Ripken recalled hearing some players talk about their regrets. Some wished they took better care of themselves, others said they wanted to play more and a few lamented not taking the game more seriously.

"I didn't want to be in position at the end of my career and regret not going about it a certain way," Ripken said. "So when I look back, I don't have those regrets. I accomplished what my skills, ability and determination allowed me to."

Ripken, 40, has always played the national past-

time with a certain child-like exuberance. But this season, reduced to a part-time player on a team geared toward youth, his approach became more businesslike.

"The one thing I noticed missing this year is that little boy," Hendricks said. "There's always been a little boy in Cal. This year, he's not having much fun. ... That's the part I miss in Cal this year."

Ripken holds the major league record for consecutive games, playing in 2,632 from May 30, 1982, to Sept. 20, 1998, when he voluntarily ended the streak. At the time, Ripken said he chose to sit down because he feared his Iron Man run was a distraction to the Orioles.

National League's 30-30 club: Bonds and Gonzalez

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

Three weeks before the All-Star game, the National League already has a 30-30 club — Barry Bonds and Luis Gonzalez.

Bonds matched the major league record for home runs before the All-Star break with No. 37, while Gonzalez homered twice to reach the 30 mark Tuesday night.

Gonzalez also doubled and drove in six runs as the Arizona Diamondbacks beat the Los Angeles Dodgers 9-2. He leads the league in hitting at .361 and has 68 RBIs.

"Obviously, I just want to keep doing what I'm doing," he said. "The homers are nice, but my batting average is up there, so I'm becoming a better hitter."

Bonds tied the record set by Reggie Jackson in 1969 and equaled by Mark McGwire in 1998.

After connecting in San Francisco's 4-3, 15-inning loss at San Diego, Bonds still has 18 games to break the mark.

In other NL games, Milwaukee beat Cincinnati 10-8, St. Louis

stopped Chicago 3-2, Pittsburgh defeated Philadelphia 8-5, Florida beat Atlanta 12-2, Houston downed Colorado 6-4 and New York defeated Montreal 4-1.

In American League games, it was Boston 5, Tampa Bay 4; Detroit 7, New York 1; Baltimore 5, Toronto 1; Minnesota 10, Cleveland 9 in 12 innings; Seattle 8, Oakland 7; Texas 7, Anaheim 5; and Chicago 5, Kansas City 3.

Bonds did a little bit of lobbying to make sure his solo shot in the fifth inning counted.

Bonds' high drive to right-center field hit off a sign that hangs barely beyond the fence, and the ball bounced back on the field.

Second-base umpire Paul Emmel didn't immediately rule it was a home run. But Bonds, who was standing on second base, signaled that it was gone.

The umpires huddled for a moment before Emmel sent Bonds home.

Giants relief ace Robb Nen blew the save, giving up three runs in the ninth, with Mark Kotsay hitting a

two-run single with two outs to tie it.

San Diego got a lot of help in the 15th to stop the Giants' six-game winning streak.

Diamondbacks 9, Dodgers 2

Randy Johnson won his fourth straight decision as Arizona beat Los Angeles at Dodger Stadium.

Gonzalez hit a two-run homer in the fifth off Darren Dreifort and added a three-run shot against Jesse Orosco in the eighth. Gonzalez also hit an RBI double.

Brewers 10, Reds 8

Ken Griffey Jr. hit his first home run of the season, yet it was not enough to prevent Cincinnati from losing its eighth straight game.

Griffey has missed most of the season because of a hamstring problem. The Reds lost their ninth in a row at Cinergy Field.

Jeromy Burnitz, Jose Hernandez and Richie Sexson homered for Milwaukee to support winner Ben

Sheets.

Cardinals 3, Cubs 2

Fernando Vina drove in the go-ahead run with a drag bunt in the seventh inning as St. Louis beat Chicago for the 13th straight time at Busch Stadium.

The Cardinals have won five in a row overall. Winner Matt Morris singled to help set up Vina's tiebreaking single.

Vina has 22 RBIs this season, with 10 coming in eight games against the Cubs.

Pirates 8, Phillies 5

Jason Kendall, playing a day after getting a cortisone shot in his injured left thumb, got three hits and drove in three runs to lead Pittsburgh at PNC Park.

The Pirates had a season-high 17 hits. Derek Bell hit a two-run homer as Pittsburgh won its fourth in a row.

Philadelphia lost for the eighth time in 11 games.

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Utility trailer manufacturer needs welders & painters. Call 267-6347.

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Position with established and growing company. Good benefits. Accounting and computer experience preferred. Send resumes to: P.O. Box 2158, Big Spring, TX 79721
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 - 1995 Buick Century 4-DR. - White, automatic, air, 85,000 miles. **\$5,995**
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 - 1998 Ford Windstar GL - White w/7 passenger cloth, dual air & heat, one owner w/66,000 miles. **\$11,995**
 - 1996 Honda Passport LS - Gray all power, one owner w/50,000 miles. **\$12,995**
 - 1993 Ford Explorer XLT 4X4 - Red/silver, extra clean w/83,000 miles. **\$8,995**
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- *** TRUCKS ***
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 - 2000 Ford Ranger Supercab XLT - Green, V-6, automatic, all power, 29,000 miles. **\$15,995**
 - 1999 Ford Ranger Supercab XLT - Red, V-6, automatic, all power, local one owner w/27,000 miles. **\$12,995**
 - 1998 Ford F150 Flareside Supercab XLT - White, 4.6 V-8, all power, local one owner w/62,000 miles, Fiberglass teneau cover. **\$17,995**
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- 2000 Ford Contour GL - White, all power, program car w/23,000 miles. **\$12,995**
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 - 1999 Ford Taurus LX - Red, cloth, all power, one owner w/22,000 miles. **\$13,995**
 - 1999 Mercury Sable GS- White w/cloth, all power, one owner w/19,000 miles. **\$13,995**
 - 1999 Lincoln Town Car Signature Series - White w/leather, all power, locally owned w/48,000 miles. **\$21,995**
 - 1999 Ford Contour SE - White, 24 valve V-6, all power, one owner w/21,000 miles. **\$10,995**
 - 1998 Buick Century Custom - White, all power, local one owner w/59,000 miles. **\$10,995**
 - 1998 Ford Taurus GL - Blue w/cloth, all power, local one owner w/27,000 miles. **\$10,995**
 - 1998 Ford Escort ZX2 - Green, all power, local one owner w/45,000 miles. **\$8,995**
 - 1998 Buick Regal L.S. - Blue, all power, local one owner w/44,000 miles. **\$12,995**
 - 1997 Dodge Intrepid - White, all power, local one owner w/43,000 miles. **\$8,995**
 - 1996 Mercury Cougar L.S. - Red, all power, local one owner w/42,000 miles. **\$8,995**

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Thursday, June 21.
If you feel as if this year will be extraordinary, you're right!

HOROSCOPE

Tonight: Don't worry about a change of plans.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
** Career demands commitment in the next few months.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
** Today's solar eclipse functions as a red flag on spending for the next few months.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
** You're in an all-or-nothing mood. Careful!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
** Start planning a vacation or special retreat. You might want to open your mind to different possibilities.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
** Conversations energize you and others. Trust that what someone says is the truth as he knows it.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
** You could definitely feel less than your sunny self. Sometimes even the Lion needs to pout here and there.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
** You will get what you want, though it might take as long as a year.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
** Dealings with partners and associates could transform your perspective over the next few months.

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THE STATE OF TEXAS
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TO Rolando Espinoza Gonzalez

Daughter's homecoming proves troublesome

Dear Ann Landers: Six months ago, my 21-year-old daughter, "Jessica," and her infant son came to live with me and my second husband.

live like this any longer and gave her a list of house rules. She ignores them. I told her to get counseling, but she refuses.

or an engagement ring. When "Tom" first asked me to marry him, he told me he couldn't afford a ring.

Miami Joe
Dear Joe: Those photos are a part of Julia's history, and you have no right to ask her to throw them out.



ANN LANDERS

Dear Ann Landers: Six months ago, my 21-year-old daughter, "Jessica," and her infant son came to live with me and my second husband. Jessica was home only two days before we had our first major blow-up.

Believe it or not, Jessica is a wonderful mother and takes excellent care of her son. I can't bring myself to throw them out on the street, although my friends say she deserves it.

Should I give up, keep hinting or just buy the ring myself? I'm tired of being - Ringless in Waco, Texas.

Dear Mad: It IS extremely rude to carry on a conversation in a foreign language in the presence of one who does not speak that language.

I supply all the food, as well as formula and diapers for the baby. She lives rent-free because she doesn't have a job yet, although she is looking.

A good therapist can help you decide the best way to deal with your daughter without losing your sanity. Dear Ann Landers: I have been married for 17 years, and my husband has never bought me a wedding ring

When planning a wedding, who pays for what? Who stands where? "The Ann Landers Guide for Brides" has all the answers.

That first kiss, that first embrace... Remember all those things that brought you and your loved one together?

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JUN 20 2001

WEDNESDAY												JUNE 20											
Channel	Time	Program	Channel	Time	Program	Channel	Time	Program	Channel	Time	Program	Channel	Time	Program	Channel	Time	Program						
KMID (2)	6:30	News (CC)	KPEJ (3)	6:30	Cosby (CC)	KERA (5)	6:30	Wishbone	FAM (6)	6:30	Step by Step	KOSA (7)	6:30	News Ent. Tonight	WFAA (8)	6:30	News (CC)						
	7:00	Don't-Jack		7:00	Teenapezoza		7:00	Who's Dancin' Now? (CC)		7:00	Movie: Till Dad Do Us		7:00	Ladies Man		7:00	Don't-Jack						
	8:00	Draw Carey Spin City (CC)		8:00	Arrest & Trial Nanny (CC)		8:00	Early Edition (CC) (DVS)		8:00	700 Club (CC)		8:00	News (CC) (35) Late		8:00	News (CC) (37) Late						
	9:00	News (CC) Nightline		9:00	Blind Date Jerry Springer (CC)		9:00	American High (CC)		9:00	700 Club (CC)		9:00	News (CC) (35) Late		9:00	News (CC) (37) Late						
	10:00	Politically Inc. Cheers		10:00	Arrest & Trial Nanny (CC)		10:00	Early Edition (CC) (DVS)		10:00	700 Club (CC)		10:00	News (CC) (35) Late		10:00	News (CC) (37) Late						
	11:00	Politically Inc. Cheers		11:00	Arrest & Trial Nanny (CC)		11:00	Early Edition (CC) (DVS)		11:00	700 Club (CC)		11:00	News (CC) (35) Late		11:00	News (CC) (37) Late						
	12:00	Politically Inc. Cheers		12:00	Arrest & Trial Nanny (CC)		12:00	Early Edition (CC) (DVS)		12:00	700 Club (CC)		12:00	News (CC) (35) Late		12:00	News (CC) (37) Late						

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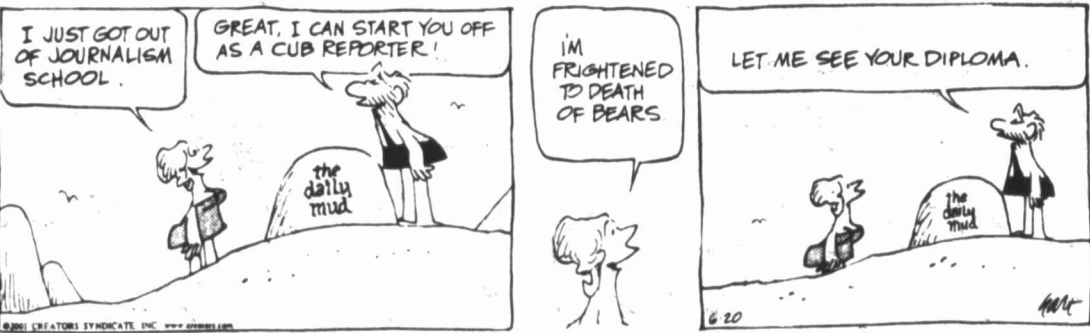
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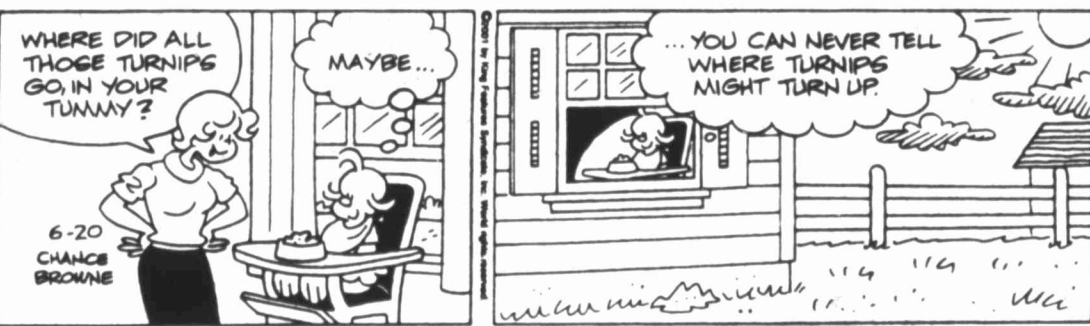
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BETLE BAILY



THIS DATE IN HISTORY

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

Today is Wednesday, June 20, the 171st day of 2001. There are 194 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 20, 1782, Congress approved the Great Seal of the United States.

On this date:

In 1756, in India, a group of British soldiers was imprisoned in a suffocating cell that gained notoriety as the "Black Hole of Calcutta"; most died.

In 1837, Queen Victoria ascended the British throne following the death of her uncle, King William IV.

In 1863, West Virginia became the 35th state.

In 1893, a jury in New Bedford, Mass., found Lizzie Borden innocent of the ax murders of her father and stepmother.

In 1898, during the

Spanish-American War, the U.S. cruiser Charleston captured the Spanish-ruled island of Guam.

In 1943, race-related rioting erupted in Detroit; federal troops were sent in two days later to quell the violence that resulted in more than 30 deaths.

In 1947, Benjamin "Bugsy" Siegel was shot dead at the Beverly Hills, Calif., mansion of his girlfriend, Virginia Hill, apparently at the order of mob associates.

In 1963, the United States and Soviet Union signed an agreement to set up a "hot line" between the two superpowers.

In 1967, boxer Muhammad Ali was convicted in Houston of violating Selective Service laws by refusing to be drafted. (Ali's conviction was ultimately overturned by the Supreme Court.)

In 1979, ABC News correspondent Bill Stewart was shot to death in Managua, Nicaragua, by a member of

Somoza's national guard.

Ten years ago, Boris Yeltsin, the newly elected president of the Russian republic, was welcomed to the White House by President Bush. German lawmakers voted to move the seat of the national government back to Berlin.

Today's Birthdays: Country musician Chet Atkins is 77. Actress Olympia Dukakis is 70. Actor Martin Landau is 70. Actor James Tolkan is 70. Actor Danny Aiello is 68. Rhythm-and-blues singer Billy Guy is 65. Actor John Mahoney is 61. Movie director Stephen Frears is 60.

Answer to previous puzzle

EMIR	JOSE	RIADOM
LADE	OAMU	EVAFIDE
SYLVESTER	ESTER	SOFIA
ABE	RHEA	HELFER
SERIOUS	HOWDY	
ADA	JOINED	IN
BIBLE	CUPS	DUNE
LSU	SPIRITS	CRO
VEGA	ATOM	OAKEN
DESIGNER	CM	
BREED	SLEDDOG	
DOUBTS	SOAR	ERAT
ANNAS	JPUSSYCAT	
TENSE	ROSS	ERTE
ASVET	STAY	RYES

Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS
- 1 Delhi dress
 - 5 Dentist's directive
 - 10 Molecule component
 - 14 Delightful place
 - 15 Toughen
 - 16 Carryall
 - 17 Elton John tour offering
 - 19 Lay eyes on
 - 20 On the train
 - 21 Withdraws, politically
 - 23 Tennis do-over
 - 24 Prefer charges
 - 26 Mark with a branding iron
 - 27 Mimics
 - 30 '80s TV E.T.
 - 33 Kal Kan rival
 - 36 Spoken pauses
 - 37 Sadat of Egypt
 - 39 Slugger Roger
 - 41 Lettuce type
 - 42 Actress Witherspoon
 - 43 Gay (WWII plane)
 - 44 Olympics cheer
 - 45 Prefix for while
 - 46 Short snooze
 - 47 Unsymmetrical
 - 51 Carson preceder
 - 53 Palmas
 - 54 Stubborn mule
 - 57 New York Indians
 - 60 Carpenter, at times

- DOWN
- 1 Flower part
 - 2 Southwest building material
 - 3 Transfer, as a housoplant
 - 4 Ancient Peruvian
 - 5 Pitcher's prep
 - 6 Comic Fox
 - 63 Farm-country plane
 - 66 Hint
 - 67 Casablanca actor
 - 68 Singer Home
 - 69 Swiss peaks
 - 70 Organic compound
 - 71 Piccadilly Circus statue
 - 18 Roughly
 - 22 Actor Romero
 - 25 First-aid item
 - 27 Roll of stamps
 - 28 Peeved
 - 29 Attack vigorously
 - 31 Aberdeen miss
 - 32 Worry
 - 33 "I'll say!"

CO-OPS by Shirley Soloway
Edited by Stanley Newman

6 Business abbr.	34 Actress Turner
7 Expected	35 Supported, in a way
8 Acts human?	38 Require
9 Makeup exam	40 Dieter's lunch choice
10 Far from land	48 Divine revelation
11 First-rate	49 "Don't get your ___ up!"
12 Slounn speaker	50 Jacob's twin
13 Subway Series team	52 Assistants
18 Roughly	54 Modly
22 Actor Romero	55 "___ evil, hear ___"
25 First-aid item	56 Wall hanging
27 Roll of stamps	57 Killer whale
28 Peeved	58 Singer Carter
29 Attack vigorously	59 Broadway signs
31 Aberdeen miss	61 Emerald (Ireland)
32 Worry	64 Food morsel
33 "I'll say!"	65 Post- opposite

A

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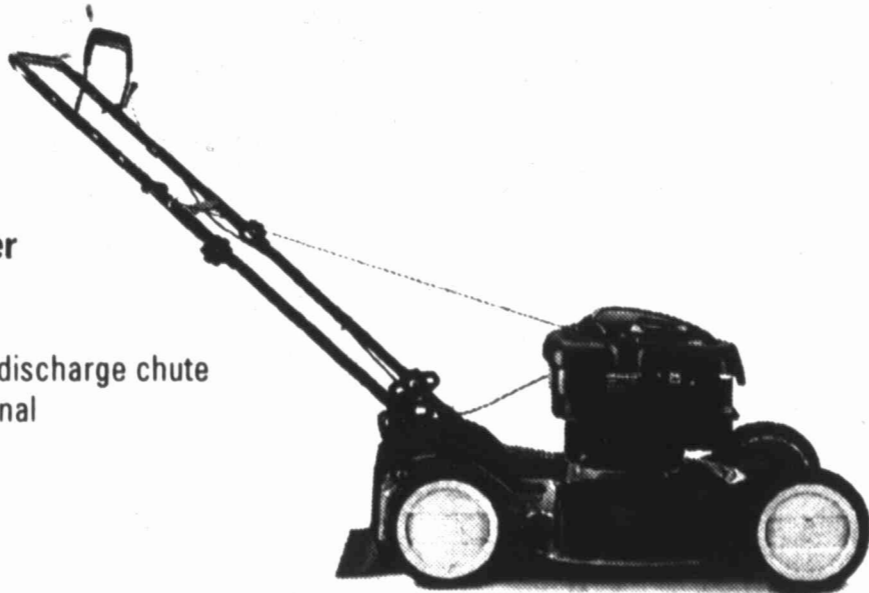
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