

BIG SPRING HERALD

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

WEDNESDAY

June 26, 2002

WEATHER

Tonight:



PARTLY CLOUDY

TONIGHT 69°-70° TOMORROW 90°-95°

Junior rodeo opens Thursday at Rodeo Bowl

The annual Howard County 4-H Junior Rodeo, sanctioned by the High Plains Junior Rodeo Association, returns to the Big Spring Rodeo Bowl this weekend and promises to bring excitement to the young contestants and fans alike.

The rodeo is set to begin at 7:30 p.m. Thursday with subsequent performances at 7 p.m. Friday and 6 p.m. on Saturday.

Events include team roping, calf roping, barrels, bull riding, bareback, saddle bronc goat tying and pole bending.

The junior rodeo usually attracts 225 to 250 contestants ages 19 and younger, and includes contestants from West Texas and eastern New Mexico. Contestants will compete in three age categories: 9 to 12, 13 to 15 and 16 to 19.

The rodeo is sponsored by the Howard County 4-H club and all proceeds benefit the youth involved in 4-H's varied activities. The rodeo is the biggest fund-raiser for the 4H program.

Tickets are \$4 for adults and \$2 for students. Children 6 and under will be admitted free. Advance tickets are available at the Howard County Extension Office, but plenty of tickets will be available at the gate.

WHAT'S UP...

TODAY

□ Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie Ladies Auxiliary meets at 7 p.m. at the Eagles Lodge, 703 W. Third.

THURSDAY

□ Gideons International, Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at Herman's Restaurant at 7 a.m.

□ Senior Citizens Center art classes, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. for people 55 and over.

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Police may file perjury charges against woman who claimed abuse

By **ROGER CLINE**
 Staff Writer

A woman who told Big Spring Police her husband hit her in the face with a hammer is now claiming she lied.

"Basically it was a false report," said Big Spring Police Sgt. Roger Sweatt. "We're planning on writing



SWEATT

it up and filing on her for false report or for perjury."

The assault reportedly occurred June 15. According to police reports, the woman claimed her husband hit her in the head with an object believed to be a hammer, causing severe facial injuries.

"She is claiming that she wasn't struck with a hammer, basically it was an accidental-type thing, but she was mad at this guy and decided to file on him," Sweatt said. "That's what

she's claiming. There was numerous hours that went into this between the patrol officer and the detective working it and everything else, so we're going to look at filing on her."

Charges against the woman could range from felony aggravated perjury to misdemeanor perjury or filing a false report, Sweatt said.

"If we go aggravated perjury it will be a felony," he said. "If we go filing a false report or just perjury, it will

be a misdemeanor. We'll look at it and see which one we think is the best charge."

The police have solid evidence the woman contradicted herself, Sweatt said.

"We have notarized statements saying this is what happened, and then she came in and said, 'No, that's not what happened I lied,'" he said. "I'll probably just write it up and present it to the district attorney and see what he thinks. If he wants to take it, we'll present it

that way, and if he doesn't, then we may drop it down and go to the county attorney and see if he wants to pursue it as either a regular perjury or as filing a false report."

Those with information about this case can call the Big Spring Police Department at 264-2550.

Contact staff writer Roger Cline at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at johnmoseley@bigspringherald.com.

Piecing together Shattered Dreams

Victims Services thanks volunteers for popular alcohol abuse program

By **LYNDEL MOODY**
 Staff Writer

When a local agency wanted to thank volunteers for months of participation in a large project, they knew just where to start their stomach.

The four member staff of Victim Services treated participants who helped plan and carry out the "Shattered Dreams" program to a lunch Tuesday.

"It takes everyone being on the same page," said Linda Perez, coordinator of the project. "We can't do it without teamwork and the community."

Staff members took the opportunity to hand out certificates of appreciation to the volunteers for their hard work.

"Shattered Dreams" is a program developed by the Texas Alcohol Commission to teach area high school students the consequences of drinking and driving.

"The past two years we have been a wonderful response from the community, parents — schools coming together as we make a stand against teenage drinking and driving," said Shan Thomas, Victim Services executive director.

The two-day event

"It takes everyone being on the same page. We can't do it without teamwork and the community."



PEREZ

involves the coordination of a number various community entities including law enforcement and emergency response agencies, school districts, area businesses, students, parents and community volunteers.

The program begins as high school juniors and seniors led to a mock drunk driving accident where fellow classmates lay "dead" or "injured." The students follow the events from the arrival of the first law enforcement officers on the scene through the evacuation of the injured victims and the removal of the mangled cars.

During the rest of the day, a student is called out of the



Howard County Sheriff's Sgt. Cliff McCartney fills his plate during an appreciation luncheon for volunteers involved with the "Shattered Dreams" program.

classroom every 15 minutes to represent that a person dies in a drunk driving accident every quarter-hour.

The first day ends with the trial of the alleged drunk driver in front of a school assembly. The events are filmed and shown the second day in a community wide presentation.

Victim Services has coordinated the event for the past two years, first in 2001 at Big Spring High School and this year in a combined effort with Coahoma and Forsan High Schools.

Perez said that since the inception of the program in Howard County, the community has been very supportive and responsive.

"The first time we pre-

sented the project it was with a demo," Perez said. "We had the police, the sheriff's department, fire department, Big Spring High School. The community was invited to view the tape."

"I will never forget the (Big Spring Police) Chief (Lonnie Smith) stood up and

See **DREAMS**, Page 3A

Council looks at ways to clean up the city

By **ROGER CLINE**
 Staff Writer

Are you ready for a better-looking Big Spring?

The Big Spring City Council discussed ways to guide the community to that destination at its meeting Tuesday evening.

Topics of discussion ranged from stricter ordinances and enforcement against littering and illegal dumping to ordinances banning the practice of parking vehicles or keeping indoor furniture in the front yard.

During the discussion, the council members agreed that stricter penalties, including community service time, are needed to combat littering.

"I'm thrilled to death because we had absolute unanimity as far as litter is concerned and the fact that



McEWEN HORTON

we want our litter ordinances improved and also the litter ordinances that we have right now, we want them enforced," said Mayor Russ McEwen.

The council directed Municipal Judge Tim Green to crack down on littering.

"We indicated to the municipal judge that when they come before him, if he wants to fine them, that's fine, but we also want community service," McEwen

said. "We want people out picking up trash. If you are a litterer in our community, we want you to know that part of the penalty for littering is you're going to get to go out and pick up litter on Saturday morning, or Saturday morning and afternoon."

Judge Green said he would comply with the request, and added that he also plans to require that part of community service sentences for any offense include trash cleanup.

McEwen said that City Attorney Jean Shotts will be working on drafting tighter city ordinances against litter and eyesore property.

"I found it interesting that we were told tonight that if someone has a sofa in their front yard, we really don't have an ordinance that says

BEAUTIFYING BIG SPRING

Measures the council is considering:

- Stricter penalties for littering, to include community service trash cleanup.
- Banning front yard parking in areas with curb-and-gutter streets.
- Controlling eyesore properties containing sofas, high weeds or trash within sight of the street.
- Encouraging more community pride in keeping the city clean.

they can't do that," the mayor said. "I don't think that anybody thinks that that's the proper thing to have in someone's front yard. That's not your living room. We're looking at tightening up some ordi-

nances so that Code Enforcement can do a better job."

Front yard parking was also a major topic of concern at the meeting.

See **CLEAN**, Page 3A

Records show driver had lengthy history of traffic offenses

DALLAS (AP) — As authorities tried to determine why a bus loaded with youths on the way to a church camp swerved off Interstate 20 into a bridge support column, more information surfaced about the driver's record and the bus carrier's insurance needs.

Driver Ernest Sheldon Carter and four of his passengers were killed and at least 36 others from the Metro Church of Garland were injured Monday morning in the accident near Terrell, about 20 miles east

of the Dallas city limits. Three people were in critical condition Wednesday and nine others remained hospitalized.

The Dallas Morning News reported that Green's Transportation, contracted by the church for the trip, did not have the \$5 million in insurance required of interstate motor carriers.

Carter, 51, had at least eight citations since January 1999 for speeding, driving the wrong way and no insurance, according to the newspaper's Wednesday

editions.

Nonetheless, Green's was operating and Carter still had a valid commercial driver's license on Monday when his bus went off I-20 and into a concrete pillar, killing Carter and four passengers.

The impact about 9:20 a.m. ripped open the front of the bus where Carter sat and sheared away most of the bus's left side. Killed along with Carter were Michelle Chaney, 14; Michael Freeman, 12; Lindsay Kimmons, 16; and Amanda

Maxwell, 13.

The bus was less than an hour into a six-hour trip that was to take church youth and adult chaperones to a church camp at Louisiana Tech in Ruston, La.

The Dallas medical examiner's office ruled on Tuesday that no drugs or alcohol were detected in the body of Carter. An autopsy found no pre-existing medical condition.

Lisa Block, a spokeswoman for the Texas Department of Public

Safety, said the agency is looking at all possibilities, including fatigue.

"It's a really complicated investigation. It's like a puzzle we're trying to put together, and we're not speculating as to what may have caused it because there are so many different possibilities," Block said. "We haven't ruled out anything. Maybe there was fault in the bus, maybe there was something in the driver. It could be any number of things, and we don't want to speculate."

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HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody
Big Spring crime scene technician Wayne Jones, left, and Ricky Mitchem, co-owner of Mitchem and Son's Inc., fill their plates during an appreciation luncheon for volunteers involved with the "Shattered Dreams" program. The program, sponsored by Victim Services, is designed to teach teenagers the consequences of drinking and driving and requires the involvement of a number of community entities.

WHAT'S UP

Continued from Page 1A

- Coffee Club meets at 10 a.m. at Gale's Sweet Shoppe.
- Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room.
- Masonic Lodge 598 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 219 Main.

FRIDAY

- Signal Mt. Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at St. Mary's Episcopal Church. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281. Bring a lunch.
- AMBUCS meets at noon at the Brandin' Iron.
- ABC Club meets at noon at the Brandin' Iron.
- The Greater Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room.
- Spring City Senior Citizens Country and Western Dance will be 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. All area seniors are invited.

CLEAN

Continued from Page 1A

Councilwoman Stephanie Horton said that for some of her constituents with unpaved streets, the front lawn is the best parking place they have available.

McEwen suggested making a ban on front yard parking apply only to residences on curb-and-gutter streets and Horton agreed that that was an acceptable solution.

"He did that compromise to comply with what I was saying that it should be paved at least before you have to not park in the yard," she said. "I think that's a good deal not to park if you have curb and gutter. But if you still have a street that you need some friction to get up on the grass, no."

Horton continued to press for paving Big Spring's

unpaved streets.

"I still wish that we would look back into Jones Valley, look into the west side, over there on Lorilla Street and Willow Street, and see if we can do something with those streets, so that people won't have this problem," she said. "First we've got to take some pride, going in and doing something ourselves. We've got to take that pride, then we can sure enough start telling them don't park on the yard because you can park on the street."

The council asked Green to bring a progress report on community service trash cleanup to the next council meeting scheduled for July 9. The council also decided to discuss the front yard parking issue further at the next meeting.

In other business, the council:

- Rejected a bid for a decant basin transfer pump at the Water Treatment Plant. The total probable cost of the project was about \$376,000, while the city had only \$290,000 available for the project.
- Approved specifications and authorized bid advertising for an oil and gas lease at McMahon-Wrinkle Airpark. The measure passed by a 5-1 vote with Councilman Greg Biddison voting against. Biddison said he is against new oil drilling at the airpark because it would present an eyesore and interfere with the industrial park aspects of the facility.
- "Are we trying to develop an oil field out there or an industrial park?" he said.
- Took notice of an amendment to the Howard County Appraisal District's 2002 budget. The \$11,000 increase to buy a scanning system for filing at the district office would come from a projected budget excess and from the sale of county maps.
- Approved on first read-

ing of a resolution urging the Texas Legislature to amend Article 11, Section 11 of the Texas Constitution. The law says that city officials such as council members who declare they are running for another elected office automatically resign their old post. The requested amendment would exempt cities with a population of less than 50,000 from the law.

• Approved on first reading of a resolution authorizing a three year agreement with West, Davis and Co. for audit services.

• Approved on first reading of a resolution amending the city's representatives for the TexPool Local Government Investment Pool. The amendment will name Finance Director Peggy Walker and Assistant Finance Director Debbie Green, as well as McEwen, as city representatives to the pool. Walker and Green were appointed to their positions earlier this year following the retirement of longtime Finance Director Tom Ferguson.

Contact staff writer Roger Cline at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at johnmoseley@bigspringherald.com.

DREAMS

Continued from Page 1A

and said "let's do it," she continued.

Perez added all the entities were just as eager to pitch in their support and help, as well as parents and students.

"We had everybody give us a 110 percent working out there and getting the job done," she said.

Contact staff writer Lyndel Moody at 263-7331, ext. 234, or by e-mail at johnmoseley@bigspringherald.com.

Two killed in vehicle rollover

Special to the Herald

WESTBROOK — Two people were killed and a former Howard College cheerleader injured in a one-vehicle rollover on County Road 220 near here early Tuesday morning.

Dakota Dawson, 12, of Westbrook, and Ike Morrow, 25, of Alpine were pronounced dead at the scene by Colorado City Justice of the Peace Kay Richmond, around 4:50 a.m.

Also injured were Dawson's sister, 20-year-old Megan Brook Dawson of Westbrook and the driver of the 1996 Ford pickup, 22-year-old Russell Whitesides of Westbrook. Ms. Dawson was a student at Howard College from 2000-2002, and a cheerleader in the 2000-2001 school year.

According to Department of Public Safety Trooper Terry Snyder, the pickup overturned several times after failing to negotiate a curve. The vehicle came to rest upside down, landing on Dakota Dawson. Morrow was under the passenger side door, said Mitchell County Sheriff Patrick Toombs. The accident occurred between 2 a.m. and 3 a.m., Snyder said.

None of the occupants were wearing a seatbelt, Snyder added.

Ms. Dawson apparently ran barefoot two to four miles to a Chevron Oil Company office where she broke a window to get to a phone and call 911 for help. She was admitted to Mitchell County Hospital in Colorado City for observation and injuries to her feet.

Whitesides was released after being treated at the hospital.

Funeral service for Dakota Dawson will be held at 10 a.m. Friday in the First Baptist Church in Colorado City with Rev. Paul Smith and Rev. Bob Manning officiating. Burial will follow in the Westbrook Cemetery under the direction of Kiker-Seale Funeral Home.

In addition to his sister, Dakota Dawson is survived by his parents, Larry Don and Rane Dawson of Westbrook.

The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home.

Note: Bob Campbell, editor of the Colorado City Record, contributed to this story.

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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Fireworks: Let's abide by the law

It's almost the holiday season and everyone is making plans. A day in the park, Pops in the Park, parades, bands and a lot more. As usual, several fireworks stands are already operating on the outskirts of Big Spring. Despite the heat and dry weather, they seem to be doing a good business. We're pleased to see that, but we think some reminders are in order.

We're not opposed to using fireworks, but we are opposed to setting them off irresponsibly. If you plan on using fireworks during the holiday period, take precautions. Most obvious of these are the city ordinance against the setting off of fireworks and the county ban on skyrockets with sticks and missiles with fins.

First, make sure you comply with all laws and the county's temporary ban. To do otherwise teaches your children that it's not necessary to observe the law.

We hope that a sense of community pride and respect for the property and rights of others is enough to deter anyone from breaking the law. Remember, too, there is a fine of about \$500, plus confiscation of the fireworks for those who are caught.

Second, remember that while the popping of fireworks is permissible outside the city limits, the county is also under a burn ban. That means vegetation is extremely dry and the conditions are high for fires to start and spread quickly. So use caution.

Third, gain permission from the landowner if you ignite fireworks out in the county. Some owners won't mind, but others will. Make sure you know the area well and don't set off fireworks near structures or high grass. Have a bucket of water nearby for safety's sake, and bag up your trash before you leave.

Fourth, never pick up a firework that fails to ignite without first splashing water over it or smothering it with dirt. The most common injury associated with fireworks occurs when someone thought a firecracker was out and picked it up.

Fifth, never shoot off fireworks alone, and, for obvious reasons, never allow children to shoot off fireworks unsupervised.

Fireworks can be dangerous and some are very powerful. If used in the wrong way, there can be lifelong consequences.

Have a great holiday season over the next few days, but please, be smart — for you and yours, and for all of us.

LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor. Please:

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

The porch is a very important room

FISHTRAP HOLLOW, Miss. — I was trolling for columns in Florida when I first saw Cross Creek, fabled home of writer Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings.

There was the orange grove, or remnants of it, the fruit that drew Marjorie to Florida. There was the little board-and-batten house itself, actually two humble dwellings cobbled together to make a home.

It had a screened porch to die for. I came back to Mississippi and added one just like it across the front of my shabby old cabin. That was years ago, and I've never regretted it.

A house needs a porch like a face needs a nose. A porch should be used, and not for decorative purposes only.

A good porch is worth more than any room in the house, except the kitchen.

Marjorie Rawlings' porch had a table where she

wrote her remarkable and ageless stories. As a result, you can almost hear the frogs and other swamp critters in her prose.

When she grew exhausted, there was a twin bed on which to flop. I think she owed her literary success to that strategic pairing of porch furniture.

I don't work on my porch, don't want to taint it. The porch is where I come when the day is done, whether the work is done or not.

My porch is often a stage, and entertainment unfolds. Jack Simms, retired Associated Press veteran, recently regaled me with war stories into the night. Joe Cumming, back in the spring, on this very porch became a credible Henry Higgins. That same night, Eddie Thomas played and sang the blues; every cent I'd ever spent on this porch and place was repaid.

A porch is no better than the people who spend time on it.

There's porch entertainment, and then there's the eating.

I have an old table on the porch that comfortably, and

often, seats 10. At various times it has held Edwin Gray's cawfish, Jeanette Latiolais' gumbo, L.O. Bishop's barbecue, and potato salad from a dozen different kitchens. It's a workhorse.

I don't condone expensive new houses that have no porches. Where do their inhabitants gather to shell butter beans, make ice cream, swap jokes, watch the lightning bugs, worry about things that can't be helped? And where did they roost this spring to listen to the intoxicating cicadas, which won't come back for 13 years?

Last night was still. A quick and inconsequential rain left the road a trail of steam. The only sound was sunflowers growing.

I sat on the porch and heard the radio news, much more user-friendly than the TV variety. You don't have to consider the new hairdos of the announcers, for one thing. The visual teasing of stories is absent.

There are no trailers jutting by at the bottom of the screen to confuse you with Montana headlines when the featured story is set in Maine. Just the facts, ma'am.

After the news I watched for the lightning bug show, which evidently comes around with less frequency than even the cicada festival. One night long ago a million lightning bugs lit up the hay field, and I've never gotten over it. That show was a megawatt miracle, not just the normal complement of a dozen bugs or so flitting about the yard.

Next thing I knew an hour had passed on the porch, then two. But the time wasn't wasted. I had solved another of life's mysteries. I now know the reason that modern construction so often ignores the usable, practical porch in favor of small concrete slabs, decorative indentations or modern decks.

If everyone had an old-fashioned porch, not much would get done in this country of ours. Progress would come to a halt. Industry and commerce would suffer. A good porch drains ambition from a body, wrings it dry. The oil of aiming-to-drops onto the porch floor, a pool of philosophical goo that can't be cashed at any bank.

Long periods of cushioned contemplation are not on the road to success.



RHETA GRIMSLEY JOHNSON



Grand introduction to summer

I've been to the Cherokee Rose before. It's a bed and breakfast just outside Rusk. I stayed in the Chicken Room on my first visit there. It's big and roomy and has all kinds of chicken images on cups, posters, towels, bedspreads and dishes.

Pictures of chickens hang on the wall. You can almost hear those chickens clucking.

The second time I stayed there was at the beginning of summer. This time I was with my wife and our grandson Jackson, who had just finished fifth grade the day before. Now the Cherokee Rose is in the country and Jackson is a city boy who lives in Dallas. I promised him we would do all kinds of country stuff on this trip. We did.

When we arrived at the Cherokee Rose, owner Suzann McCarty showed us

to the Texas suite. Everything in it is Texan. The bedspread in the big bedroom has red, white and blue shapes of the state quilted into it. The shower curtain in the bathroom is a Texas Flag. Antique country paraphernalia hangs on the walls along with various saying and expressions about cowboys and the west.

When we got all settled in, Suzann and her helper, Ronnie McElroy, took us to the garden. Jackson picked a respectable sized pan of peppers, squash and cucumbers. The big prize was a fresh strawberry which he said was the best he had ever eaten. Next we looked at a bluebird nest with some brand new baby birds in it. Ronnie had been watching the nest for a few days and the eggs had just hatched.

The Cherokee Rose has a pond with catfish, bass and turtles in it. Jackson got to throw catfish feed in the water and see the fish come up and get it. The water swished around as the catfish, some weighing as much as 15 pounds, came up and sucked up that food

like a vacuum cleaner would. The turtles had better manners, taking just one morsel at a time. The place has a hen house where a rooster named Henry takes care of his flock of hens. Jackson gathered eggs and fed the chickens, letting them eat out of his hands.

That evening we went into town for supper, then walked across the longest footbridge in the world, a Rusk landmark. The footbridge was built over an area that flooded often. It carried foot traffic between Rusk and New Birmingham, now a ghost town.

The next morning we rode the steam train from Rusk to Palestine. That's always an adventure. The train passes through some of the most awesome scenery in East Texas.

Back at the Cherokee Rose that night we sat in rocking chairs on the wide porch and in between our conversations listened to frogs, coyotes and owls. Jackson is 11 years old and did things he had never done before. That's a great way to start a summer.



TUMBLEWEED SMITH



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• **BILL CROOKER** — Home: 263-2566.
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Web si

WASHINGTON (C) fraud education gr federal authoritie Internet credit ca opened a Web sit Americans check card numbers are thieves.

The database of card numbers, available on the Web was created over weeks and has already nearly 100,000 card numbers, the group said.

The group, Card, the information from rooms where thie checking wether numbers are still have been deactiva

The group alert Service to the sche over its database t It then decided to site so Americans numbers and po

Transp

WASHINGTON deadline for shutt Amtrak arrived trains still runn administration off lawmakers trying the railroad's fis lems.

Amtrak an Tuesday it would ning at least th beginning of Independence Day weekend, but wou severe fiscal crunch July 4.

Transportation Norman Y. Mine while, said a solt "very, very close." tration sources, sp condition of an said the discuss tered on offering loan guarantees to railroad to borrow

Amtrak Preside Gunh has said th ger railroad needs lion to keep through Sept. 30, the current fiscal

Amtrak trains ca 60,000 riders a d 35,000 of them Northeast Corri Amtrak shutdown impact not only

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SARA LEE HOT
2-PK - 11-OZ.
DECKER CHOP
12-OZ. PKG.
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Web site lets credit card holders check to see if numbers stolen

WASHINGTON (AP) — An anti-fraud education group that tipped federal authorities to a major Internet credit card scheme has opened a Web site that will let Americans check to see if their card numbers are in the hands of thieves.

The database of stolen credit card numbers, which became available on the Web late Tuesday, was created over the last seven weeks and has already identified nearly 100,000 credit card numbers, the group said.

The group, CardCops, collected the information from Internet chat rooms where thieves have been checking whether stolen card numbers are still good to use or have been deactivated.

The group alerted the Secret Service to the scheme and turned over its database to investigators. It then decided to create the Web site so Americans can check their numbers and possibly prevent

fraudulent charges.

"We're creating a situation where Joe Consumer can check his card on the Internet to see if it's been possibly abused," said Dan Clements, founder of CardCops.

Cardholders can check their numbers by going to <http://www.Cardcops.com> and typing in the number. If it comes back positive, cardholders should alert their financial institution.

CardCops say they have secured the database, and as an extra precaution it is asking cardholders who check their numbers not to enter the expiration date that is ordinarily required to complete a purchase.

Secret Service Special Agent Donald Masters of the Los Angeles High Tech Crimes Task Force said his team is in the preliminary stages of investigating the most active Internet card thieves discovered in the database provided

Cardholders can check their numbers by going to <http://www.Cardcops.com> and typing in the number. If it comes back positive, cardholders should alert their financial institution.

by CardCops.

He would not discuss the investigation's progress or other details, but Masters praised Clements for alerting authorities.

"We need the general public to be aware of this kind of stuff," Masters said.

Many card numbers are stolen by hackers who break into databases of Web commerce sites. Another method is for con artists to trick unsuspecting computer

users into providing card numbers.

The goal of the new Web site is to cut down the time between the theft of a card number and the cardholder's discovery of fraudulent charges made by the thieves, possibly saving money for consumers and companies.

"Consumers usually get their statements two months or three months after it's compromised," Clement said. "During that 60 to 90 days, that card has floated around the Internet. They're the ones who are out on a limb."

Clements said the thieves use Internet chat rooms — which are separate from the World Wide Web and largely unregulated — to verify that the cards are valid.

This is done by posting the number and expiration date into the public room, where an automated program charges a small amount to the card to see if it is a valid card. The program is built and

maintained by fellow thieves.

The small amount charged is not likely to tip off cardholders, Clements said, and the charge comes from an unrelated merchant who is not privy to the scam.

Clements has been monitoring several of these rooms, which scroll constantly with new card numbers, and recording card numbers entered by the thieves. To help authorities, Clements also collects the Internet address of the thief who submitted the card.

CardCops offers information and tools to protect electronic commerce companies from credit card fraud. It has more than 1,000 paying members, mostly small and medium-size merchants.

Stolen credit card numbers and identity theft affect up to 700,000 Americans each year, the Justice Department says. In 2000, credit card companies Visa and Mastercard reported that fraud losses topped \$1 billion.

Transportation secretary says solution to help Amtrak 'very close'

WASHINGTON (AP) — The original Wednesday deadline for shutting down Amtrak arrived with the trains still running and administration officials and lawmakers trying to solve the railroad's fiscal problems.

Amtrak announced Tuesday it would keep running at least through the beginning of the Independence Day holiday weekend, but would face a severe fiscal crunch around July 4.

Transportation Secretary Norman Y. Mineta, meanwhile, said a solution was "very, very close." Administration sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the discussions centered on offering Amtrak loan guarantees to allow the railroad to borrow money.

Amtrak President David Gunn has said the passenger railroad needs \$200 million to keep operating through Sept. 30, the end of the current fiscal year.

Amtrak trains carry about 60,000 riders a day, about 35,000 of them in the Northeast Corridor. An Amtrak shutdown would impact not only its riders

but also several commuter lines, which either run on Amtrak-owned tracks and tunnels or are operated by Amtrak.

Pete Sklannik, chief operating officer of Virginia Railway Express, said Gunn advised the commuter agencies to make contingency plans that could take effect July 12.

"If I had \$200 million, I'd loan it to Amtrak right now," Sklannik said. "The riding public is going to be caught in the middle of all this, and it's just not right."

Lawmakers of both parties, meanwhile, are trying to include \$205 million for Amtrak in a supplemental spending bill now being negotiated by the Senate, House and Bush administration.

"Amtrak has a vital homeland security role," said Sen. Robert Byrd, D-W.Va., the Senate Appropriations Committee chairman. "The railroad is a viable alternative to highways and airways. To allow Amtrak to close its doors now, when the terrorist threats and attack warnings come almost daily, would be irresponsible."

Key senators and House members — both Republicans and Democrats — have signed letters in support of the money. Fifty senators — half the chamber — signed one letter, according to Sen. Ernest Hollings, D-S.C., the Senate Commerce Committee chairman.

In a separate letter, House

Transportation Committee Chairman Don Young, R-Alaska, said: "I'm willing to consider a direct appropriation under certain conditions."

Amtrak Vice Chairman Michael Dukakis said an easier solution would be for the Federal Railroad Administration, part of the

Transportation Department, to sign off on Amtrak's request for a loan guarantee.

Gunn said Mineta proposed a loan guarantee to help Amtrak get about \$100 million half the amount it says it needs — along with a series of "self-help-type actions" Amtrak could take

to make up the remainder.

One of many options broached by Mineta, Gunn said, was to mortgage Chicago's Union Station, which Amtrak owns. Gunn said Amtrak officials reviewed that suggestion and others but quickly ruled them out as impractical or not helpful.

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History buffs will enjoy what's new at the Library

One of my favorite Texas regions is the Big Bend. The Library has received "The Big Bend: A History of the Last Frontier" by Ron C. Tyler (976.493 TYL R).



HOLLIS MCCRIGHT

It is thoroughly researched and very well written. There are chapters on the natural environment, the Indian cultures, and both the Spanish and the Anglo approach to the area.

Another particular interest of mine is the military history of Texas. In Rod Timanus' book "An Illustrated History of Texas Forts" (355.7097 TIM R) you will read about the various periods of fort building. Just think, for your summer vacation you could visit all the forts!

From the sleek cheetah and the lion to the hyena and jackal, large carnivores reign supreme in Africa. In "African Predators" (599.7096 MIL G) Martin Harvey's award winning photographs coupled with prose by Gus Mills lead you on a journey into the wilds of Africa.

Did you know that for the brown hyena, ostrich eggs are a particular delicacy while an aardwolf can consume up to 250,000 termites in a night?

Silly me, I just thought they ate meat. This is a terrific book, check it out.

Have you ever thought about Herod who sentenced Jesus to the cross? The Library has just received a biography of him, "Herod: King of the Jews and Friend of the Romans" (933.0509 RIC P) by Peter Richardson. Given Herod's prominence in Christian accounts, Richardson's detailed historical analysis is sure to generate considerable interest.

He writes of the complex character that has often been merely demonized, and is very helpful in appreciating Herod's "piety" toward both Judaism and Rome.

While Richardson's portrait of Herod is not always flattering, it is a compelling portrayal of a skilled politician who was remarkably adept at making a place for himself and his people in a dangerous world.

Are you a crafty person? Several new craft books have arrived. "Fantastic Gel Candles" (745.593 MIL M) by Marcianne Miller will give you a jumpstart on Christmas gifts.

Or why not trying your hand in making jewelry? "Wire Jewelry in an Afternoon" (745.594 BAS M) has easy to follow instruction and projects that can be easily completed in a single afternoon.

Teachers, when you are doing units on different time periods, check out

"More Costumes for the Stage" by Sheila Jackson. It is full of easy to fashion costumes for pilgrims, medieval times, and animal and bird heads (don't you just love papier mache?)

As a history major, I am incurably nosy about how people lived in any time period. "Bridal Fashions: Victorian Era" (392.5028 FEL D) by Hobby House Press is absolutely fascinating.

It is full of illustrations of fashions worn in the late 1800's and early 1900's. Corset covers, chemises, petticoats, nightgowns all are shown in some detail.

**For Your Information
Howard County
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hmcright@hotmail.com**

Wedding dresses, tea gowns, morning gowns are also shown. I can remember my granny telling me that for "pin" money, she made collars and shirtwaists, which in modern terms, is a blouse.

This is a great historical aid in teaching about different time periods.

When the soldiers came home from Viet Nam, they were not the only ones to feel the wrath and confusion of the public sentiment.

The nurses came home to emptiness that until now, and this book, has never been revealed.

Ms. Van Devanter, in "Home Before Morning: The Story of an Army Nurse in Vietnam" (959.7043 DEV L) opens her heart and soul to the brutal reality of how nurses functioned in the Viet Nam War.

It is a deep and painful experience, and these nurses placed others first in all situations, both emotionally and physically.

While much has been said about the men who fought in Viet Nam, until this book, little was acknowledged about the sacrifice these nurses made for their country.

It is disturbing to see how this population was overlooked and under-supported upon their return to civilian life after the war.

Howard County is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday to Friday and from 10 until 5 on Saturday.

Summer Reading Program is going on! Activities are from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

The Library is located at 500 Main St. Our phone number is 264-2260.

The Website is www.howard-county.lib.tx.us; our email address is howardcounty@hotmail.com.

Hollis McCright is the Library Director for the Howard County Library.

Woman came to retire, instead builds acclaimed arts complex

NAPLES, Fla. (AP) — When Myra Janco Daniels was 8 years old she bought her first painting — a small piece by American landscape artist Andrew Wyeth — with \$50 she borrowed from her grandmother.

The experience prompted a lifelong love affair with the arts and taught her a lesson in economics.

She had to pay her grandmother back.

"I think the arts have always been in my blood," says Daniels, who came to sleepy Southwest Florida in the 1980s from Chicago to retire from the hectic pace of the advertising business.

She found a small community with no live music, no museum, no theater or dance. "I was depressed, slightly," she says.

She went to work, eventually inspiring 189,000 people to contribute to her dream — an arts complex with an acclaimed Philharmonic center and museum.

"A community without the arts is a community without soul," she says.

Daniels is chairman and CEO of the Naples Philharmonic Center for the Arts, a \$100 million business she built.

And she hasn't stopped yet.

The Philharmonic hall opened in 1989 with a budget near \$2 million — a figure that has soared to more than 10 times that amount. The orchestra is under the world-class batons of pops conductor Erich Kunzel and classical conductor Christopher Seaman, both of whom Daniels enticed to come to Naples.

Two years ago, a \$10 million glass-domed Museum of Art was added to the complex, which stands today at more than eight acres. The first year it drew 100,000 visitors.

Connecting the two buildings is a set of impressive 16-foot tall portal gates by noted sculptor and architect Albert Paley. His works include gates at the Marriott Hotel in Washington, sculptures at the San Francisco courthouse and a bronze wall relief at the Gannett building in Washington.

Daniels, who sidesteps questions about her age by saying it's just a number, also bought a building which she plans to turn into a school for the arts to round out the venue.

"I've been a CEO of several companies and I've never met a person so dynamic," says Bill Schoen, CEO of Health Management Associates and a board member of the philharmonic. "Today the Phil has over \$100 million of assets and Myra is the chief reason. She is tenacious and well-educated, has tremendous energy and is a visionary who can carry projects to completion."

"People do not have to travel outside Naples for Broadway shows, classical or pops music, ballet or opera, or to visit a museum," Schoen says, adding that there are about 250 shows a year.

To make it all happen, Daniels called on art lovers and cultural foundations and painted the need to rich and poor alike. She brought in donations from

*"A community without the arts is a community without soul."
Myra Janco Daniels.*

\$1 from a boy to millions of dollars.

She sold everything in the building.

An elderly couple wanted to own a big pipe that they could drive by and see. The complex has modern Gothic spires with sculpted gardens that sit between buildings.

"We named everything except the urinals," Daniels says.

Seats in the Philharmonic have medallions with names on them.

The hall has a spacious lobby for entertaining and green marble everywhere. The auditorium has four art galleries to merge visual and performing arts. There is a lecture hall for chamber music or a reading, and the stage in the main hall is for theater or concerts.

Programs have run the gamut from serious Russian classical music to country star Crystal Gayle, a Shakespeare series and book reviews.

Performances have drawn more than 500,000 people. About 55,850 children have come for the children's programs.

"Most people have a museum or an orchestra or a dance company or a performing arts center. We put it all together," Daniels says.

This year she started a youth orchestra for young people ages 9 to 17, and there is a youth chorale with 110 voices.

The museum was built with \$10.3 million collected in six weeks.

"I called on people who love the arts and said, 'We can do this. If everybody does something, we can have it.'"

Today, she has a star-studded 42-member board, a \$27 million budget and a rich life. She credits the generous community of Naples, where many former CEOs and heads of blue chip companies own a second or third home.

"I am just a baton twirler," she says. "This community made it happen. We are an example of making something from nothing."

Daniels was blessed with a talented family. Her mother sang opera, her father played violin, her

chamber orchestra.

"This chamber orchestra is now a full-fledged symphony," she says.

The most interesting gift came as Daniels was getting started.

A woman had parked her bike and came in to support the idea as "the best thing we ever had."

She promised \$10 from every Social Security check, and did it until she died.

Francis Pew Hayes from the Sun Oil Pews promised \$25. "When I got it, it was \$25,000," Daniels says.

Retirement is often a 12-hour day and sometimes 16 hours. But Daniels wouldn't have it any other way.

"What better way to spend retirement," she says, "than a 7:30 a.m. meeting, a 12:30 p.m. lunch, a 7 p.m. lecture or show and an opportunity afterward to meet the artists and exchange views."

In Next Week's American Profile...



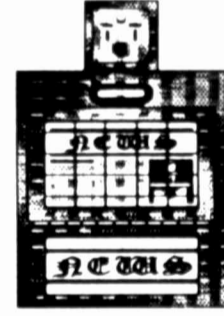
A recipe for fireworks

When fireworks fly in the Zambelli family, it's a good thing. They are known as America's First Family of Fireworks and their creations have been celebrated everywhere from the White House to Mount Rushmore. Plus, fruit slushes and let the games begin.

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JUN 26 2002

University of Texas putting Gutenberg Bible in digital format

AUSTIN (AP) — Johann Gutenberg, welcome to the Internet age.

One of the few existing copies of the Gutenberg Bible, the book that revolutionized printing in Western civilization, is going digital this week at the University of Texas.

By creating a digital copy to be made available on disc and the Internet, officials say it will be easier for scholars to conduct research and even for the general public to browse the pages of one of the world's most valuable books.

"I hope there will be some really substantive scholarship to come out of this," said Richard Oram, head librarian at the university's Harry Ransom Center, one of the world's top cultural archives.

Gutenberg printed his famous

Bibles in Mainz, Germany, in the 1450s, using what was then a revolutionary printing press. It was the first major Western book printed from movable type. According to the Ransom Center, only about 200 were produced and only 48 copies exist today. The center acquired its two-volume copy in 1978.

The Texas Gutenberg isn't the first to go digital. It has already been done in Britain and Japan and the Library of Congress is working on a similar effort.

But scholars say the Texas effort is important because the university's copy provides valuable information the others do not.

For example, the Texas copy was one of the most-used copies still in

"To study it at your own leisure at your computer desk, you can go to a whole new depth of research like never before without traveling all over the world,"
Dr. Paul Needham, Princeton University Scheide Library.

existence, said Dr. Paul Needham of Princeton University's Scheide Library.

The Texas Gutenberg bears a Jesuit stamp and was used in monasteries in southern Germany as late as the 1760s. It was marked up by monks who scratched out some passages and corrected others. Other markings indicate which sections were to be read aloud or reserved for church services.

"It really is a remarkable copy," Needham said. Putting it in digital

format will be invaluable to researchers who want to compare it to other copies around the world.

"To study it at your own leisure at your computer desk, you can go to a whole new depth of research like never before without traveling all over the world," Needham said.

Because the book is so valuable, the Ransom Center keeps it locked away. An armed guard is on hand whenever it is unlocked for scholars, which has happened only twice in the last 12 years. Both times it was for Needham and for just a few hours, Oram said.

"It's not something you want to handle more than you have to," he said.

Ransom Center staff were sched-

uled to begin transferring the 1,200 pages to digital format on Wednesday, with each page taking about seven seconds to scan. Image Retrieval Inc., of Carrollton is providing the technology for free, Oram said.

The first digital copies will be available on disk or CD-ROM within the next six months, Oram said, with Internet access available later.

Similar digital efforts have been very successful. Officials at the British Library said earlier this year that the Web site featuring the library's two copies of the Gutenberg Bible received 1 million hits in its first six months.

Ransom Center Director Thomas Staley expects similar success.

"We're going to get more people reading the Bible than you can believe," Staley said.

Aristotle anyone? At least in public, Americans endorse books both good and great

NEW YORK (AP) — President Bush is reportedly studying Aristotle.

Book clubs proliferate in the media.

A self-published, 1,200-page science text sells and sells.

Are Americans reading more, or do they just want you to think they are?

"I'd be happy if it were either," says Richard Russo, author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning "Empire Falls," a novel selected by USA Today's book club.

"If people aspire to read and see something missing in their lives and conclude reading might be part of it, that would be good."

Sales have been flat in recent years, but praise of books both good and great is on the rise.

Since TV host Oprah Winfrey announced she was cutting back on her picks, at least four new clubs have been formed, with literary novels such as "Empire Falls" among the beneficiaries.

The "Today" show opened its book club

Thursday, asking a famous author to recommend the work of a first-time fiction writer.

John Grisham, creator of such blockbusters as "The Firm" and "The Client" emerged from a door-sized book cover and selected Stephen Carter's best-selling legal thriller, "The Emperor of Ocean Park."

Carter's publisher, Alfred A. Knopf, has reprinted an additional 250,000 copies, but even Grisham seemed to question how many could get through it.

He warned that the book is long and "at times a bit complicated."

"I tell people all the time I'm a famous writer in a country where people don't read," Grisham told interviewer Katie Couric.

"It's not a book culture. It's a movie culture. It's a TV culture. It's a sports culture."

Carter's novel is 657 pages, barely half the size of another best seller, Stephen Wolfram's "A New Kind of Science."

Thanks to word of

"I tell people all the time I'm a famous writer in a country where people don't read. It's not a book culture. It's a movie culture. It's a TV culture. It's a sports culture."
— John Grisham, author of The Firm and The Client

mouth and media attention, Wolfram's self-published book quickly sold out a first printing of 50,000 and has spent weeks in the top 10 of Amazon.com.

Wolfram's premise is both accessible and appealing: simple rules, not complex equations, are the key to profound scientific mysteries.

But with a recent survey saying only 22 percent of Americans can even define a molecule, "A New Kind of Science" may follow Stephen Hawking's "A Brief History of Time" as a book easier owned than read.

"Wolfram's gotten a lot of press and there are people who think, 'Wow, that's amazing! I'd like to

learn more about it.' But confronted with a 1,200-page tome, they never get into it," says Sharon Dunwoody, a professor of journalism at the University of Wisconsin-Madison who specializes in public knowledge of science.

Reading occupies an uncertain place in American culture, which has simultaneously celebrated and suspected the thinker. The United States was conceived by Thomas Jefferson, John Adams and other intellectuals, but the true folk heroes tend to be generals, cowboys and gangsters.

At the same time, millions have subscribed to the Book-of-the-Month Club and joined reading

groups.

The desire to at least appear well-read has led CliffNotes and other publishers to expand summaries of great literature from the student market to adults.

"I get the feeling there are so many book clubs and people have less and less time. They need a little help," says Justin Kestler, executive editor of SparkNotes, which has published guides to "The Kitchen God's Wife," "Beloved" and other novels.

The most surprising convert to the ranks of the highbrow is Bush, who has evolved from calling the Greeks "Grecians" to reading the Greeks himself.

An official recently told reporters that Bush's influences included Aristotle's "Nicomachean Ethics," along with Alexis de Tocqueville, Adam Smith and Cicero.

Voters don't care much for intellectuals: The erudite Adlai Stevenson was a two-time loser to Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower for the presidency.

But a man's man with brains is something else.

John Kennedy's rise to the presidency was aided by two feats: one of physical heroism — surviving a Japanese torpedo attack during World War II; and one achievement in letters — his Pulitzer Prize-winning "Profiles in Courage."

"I'm not sure bookish people make good presidents, but they like to appear that way," says Richard Reeves, a syndicated columnist and presidential biographer.

"I once asked Gerald Ford what books he read and he told me he was too busy. He presented that as being a real man: Real men don't read books. But after I published that (in New York magazine) he was seen carrying books around and they started putting out a list of books he was reading."

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POPS IN THE PARK

Wednesday, July 3

Comanche Trail Amphitheater

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SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

- 4 p.m. Gates open at Amphitheater
- 5 p.m. Food, novelty booths open
- 6:30 p.m. Musical review begins
- 8:30 p.m. Parade of Flags grand entry, Symphony, Chorus begin
- 9:15 p.m. Special Sept. 11 presentation
- 9:30 p.m. Fireworks display begins

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IN B

Annual Youth Rodeo begins tomorrow

The annual Youth Rodeo get under way evening in the County Rodeo rodeo is scheduled through June 28. The rodeo is to get started at 7 p.m. The open to all Junior Association who are 8 to age.

Down & Dirty scheduled for

The Down Softball Tournament scheduled to June 28-30 at Walker Field. The top three will receive a top three individual T-shirts. I an MVP and will be named all-tourney team. The tournament played under rules using 47. A three home will be used. The entry fee event is \$115. Deadline to p.m. Thursday. For more info call Michael Martinez at Raul Ochoa at

Local seniors for all-star game

The promotion 2002 All American ball game are add a new area athletes. High school that graduate from Big Klondike, Grady that will participate with contact Tommy (915) 816-6336

Ragball tournament set for July

Booths are at the 10th Annual Tournament, by the Coahoma Girls Association. For more info call Laura Ma 8660, Candy 394-4034 or Ne 399-4443.

Wynn benefit scramble set

A four-man with proceeds the Matt Wynn Coahoma will July 13 at Trails Golf Co. fees are set team. A 2002 Ford pickup will be for a hole-in-one. For more info call Denise Co 5984.

USSSA qualified for

The Perm USSSA will the A-1 La Qualifier Tournament. Williams Co Midland on J USSSA reg required. To (915) 699-5559.

Caprock League hold open

The Caprock League will its first M Basketball T on June 28 th 80 at Mont School in Lub. The tournament will be played game minimum is open to all graduates. E \$175 per team. For more contact Karen (806) 793-683 Avery at (806

IN BRIEF

Annual Youth Rodeo begins tomorrow

The annual Big Spring Youth Rodeo is slated to get under way Thursday evening in the Howard County Rodeo Bowl. The rodeo is scheduled to run through June 29.

The rodeo is scheduled to get started each night at 7 p.m. The event is open to all High Plains Junior Rodeo Association members who are 8 to 19 years of age.

Down & Dirty tourney scheduled for June 28

The Down and Dirty Softball Tournament is scheduled to take place June 28-30 at Tommy Walker Field in Stanton.

The top three teams will receive awards. The top three individuals will get T-shirts. In addition, an MVP and Gold Glove will be named as will an all-tourney team.

The tournament will be played under USSSA rules using .47 core balls. A three home run rule will be used.

The entry fee for the event is \$115 per team. Deadline to enter is 7 p.m. Thursday.

For more information, call Michael Paul Martinez at 756-2603 or Raul Ochoa at 889-6994.

Local seniors sought for all-star game

The promoters of the 2002 All Americas basketball game are looking to add a few Crossroads area athletes to the roster. High school seniors that graduated in May from Big Spring, Klondike, Sands or Grady that would like to participate should contact Tommy Wells at (915) 816-6336 or 263-7331.

Ragball tourney is set for July 5-6

Booths are available for the 10th Annual Ragball Tournament, sponsored by the Coahoma United Girls Softball Association.

For more information call Laura Martin at 267-8660, Candy Parrish at 394-4034 or Neasa Iden at 399-4443.

Wynn benefit scramble set July 13

A four-man scramble with proceeds to benefit the Matt Wynn family of Coahoma will be held July 13 at Comanche Trails Golf Course. Entry fees are set at \$200 per team.

A 2002 Ford supercab pickup will be presented for a hole-in-one.

For more information, call Denise Coates at 393-5584.

USSSA qualifier slated for Midland

The Permian Basin USSSA will be hosting the A-1 Last Chance Qualifier Softball Tournament at the Bill Williams Complex in Midland on July 13-14.

USSSA registration is required. To enter call (915) 699-5559.

Caprock league to hold open tourney

The Caprock Summer League will be holding its first Men's Open Basketball Tournament on June 28 through June 30 at Monterey High School in Lubbock.

The tournament, which will be played under a 3-game minimum format, is open to all high school graduates. Entry fee is \$175 per team.

For more information contact Karen Moeller at (806) 793-6836 or Jerry Avery at (806) 795-8719.

Troubles lurking for Athens Olympic games

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Even as they boast of progress and new-found focus, familiar troubles lurk for Athens Olympic organizers.

That's the message being carried by the game's international inspector, whose concerns somewhat cloud the rosy picture promoted by local planners of the 2004 Games.

Such out-of-sync perspectives could reopen tensions between Athens officials and the International Olympic Committee during a two-day inspection visit.

The Greek government and 2004 bosses are eager to concentrate on their recent successes, including work on many Olympic sites and transportation links after years of

worrisome inaction.

But the IOC team, led by Swiss member Denis Oswald, also is expected to probe some of the weak points with just over two years before the opening ceremony.

The former international airport site remains a chief worry, Oswald said, while work is "several months" behind schedule on the highly specialized canoe and kayak courses and plans to use an old hangar for basketball is "technically much more difficult than expected."

Work contracts, meanwhile, remain unsigned for some of the other sports at the former Hellenikon airfield: softball, base-

ball and field hockey.

Even current blueprints could be thrown into question by a legal dispute over whether to give private pilots continued use of a runway at the old airfield.

"That is certainly an area where there are risks and there are some difficulties, and we'll certainly spend quite a lot of time discussing that," Oswald said.

The government has recently displayed a more aggressive posture to try to break Olympic-related delays. Last week, the governing Socialists pushed through emergency legislation giving it wider powers to resist citizen complaints.

The immediate impact should be

felt along the Olympic marathon route, where some groups oppose widening the roadways near the start. But it apparently gives officials more clout to push aside critics of other projects for the games.

One opposition lawmaker, Manolis Kefaloyiannis, said the measures "constitute an admission of the government's inability to carry out the work on time."

Another long-running IOC concern is a severe shortage of hotel rooms for spectators and tourists hoping to be in Greece.

About 90 percent of Athens' 21,000 top hotel rooms have been reserved for the "Olympic Family," which includes IOC officials and sponsors.

Rockets now free to draft Yao Ming

NEW YORK (AP) — Yao Ming received final clearance Wednesday from the Chinese Basketball Federation to play in the NBA, and the Houston Rockets announced that they would select the 7-foot-5 center with the No. 1 pick in the draft.

"I received a letter early this morning from Chinese Basketball Association chief executive Xin Lancheng confirming that all of his concerns have been addressed," Rockets attorney Michael Goldberg said. "We are looking forward to drafting Yao with the first overall selection in the NBA draft."

The announcement by the Rockets removed some of the uncertainty that had sprung up as the hours counted down toward Wednesday night's draft.

With all the other NBA teams now certain that Yao would go first, the focus switched to trade talk among teams looking to retool their rosters and move up in the first round.

The Cavaliers and Clippers were the teams involved in the most persistent trade rumor, with Cleveland considering sending NBA assists leader Andre Miller, along with the sixth overall pick, to Los Angeles for the eighth and 12th picks, along with a player.

Phoenix also was trying to trade up to move into Cleveland's spot, as was New York. The Clippers, Suns and Knicks all covet 19-year-old Brazilian forward "Nene" Hilario.

Yao already had reached agreement with his Chinese league team, the Shanghai Sharks, on a compensation package that would free him to jump to the NBA. But Yao also needed clearance from his national federation and could not receive a clearance letter from FIBA, the sport's international governing body, without the consent of the Chinese Basketball Association.

Broughton's horse third at Ruidoso

G.C. Broughton, Jr. came within a whisper of winning at Ruidoso Downs last week. The Big Spring horse owner saw Fortune Flyer, a 3-year-old gelding, finish third in the prestigious \$57,780 Bayer Legend New Mexico Challenge G3 on July 18.

Fortune Flyer, ridden by Bobbie Don Harmon, covered the 400-yard track in a time of 19.8 seconds and finished behind only Royal Baby Sister and Its Called Splash in the standings. Cartel Charley was fourth overall.

Fortune Flyer, a brown American Quarter Horse, is trained by Timothy W. Cross.



The Cardinals captured the 2002 National League city championship earlier this month with a win over the Coahoma Reds. Members of the team included (front row, left to right) Johnny Gonzales, Sage Gibson, Loyd Morgan, Spencer Briggs, Ray Gutierrez, Reagan Rotan, (middle row) Cade Hollandsworth, James Marlow, Hadden Phillips, Blaze Carrol, Matt Ritchey, Suraj Patel, (back row) coaches Alan Hollandsworth, Randy Phillips and Mike Ritchey.

Entire state joins in celebrating the Longhorns' national baseball title

AUSTIN (AP) — Even Aggies celebrated this Longhorns national championship.

About 5,200 fans turned out Tuesday night at Disch-Falk Field to celebrate the University of Texas' NCAA College World Series title, the fifth in school history and first since 1983.

About 1,000 had turned out in Sunday's afternoon heat to welcome the team home from its 12-6 title-clinching victory over South Carolina, but this title was worth celebrating twice.

"I think they'll do it again," said fan Laurie Stoneham, who traveled to Omaha, Neb., for the Longhorns' last two games of the College World Series. She was head-to-toe Texas, with a Longhorns hat, a national title T-shirt and burnt-orange socks. "I had a feeling from the very beginning they would be this good."

Even Gov. Rick Perry, a Texas A&M graduate and former Aggie yell leader, addressed the crowd with a vigorous "Hook'em Horns!" salute.

Decked out in a burnt-orange shirt

that belied his Aggie background, Perry praised the team as a "new set of heroes" for the state. He also presented coach Augie Garrido, a transplant from California, a declaration making him an "official" Texan.

"You get all the bragging rights and privileges that go with that," Perry said.

The hour-long ceremony started with a replay of the radio broadcast of the final outs of the national title game over the public address system.

The team also received congratulatory messages from President Bush and New York Yankees pitcher Roger Clemens, the ace of the 1983 national championship team.

Rep. Rick Green, R-Dripping Springs, presented the team with three state flags that flew over the state Capitol on Saturday during the championship game.

After sunset, the school lighted the UT Tower in orange with the building's interior lights forming a giant "1" to serve notice of the national title.

"They definitely deserve this," said

fan Gilbert Martinez, who graduated UT law school in 1991 and brought his five children to the stadium. "We should have won it in football, too."

The crowd cheered the team with a standing ovation during player introductions and a dugout curtain call for former Texas coach Cliff Gustafson, who retired after the 1995 season with 1,427 wins, the most in Division I baseball history. Garrido is a very close second with 1,380 and gaining fast.

The biggest cheers were for Garrido, whose first few years in Austin were a struggle to win over fans on the heels of Gustafson's departure. A 57-15 season with a Big 12 title and national championship seems to have healed any wounds.

"This team is a special team," said Garrido, who also won national titles with Cal St.-Fullerton in 1979, 1984 and 1995. "It gets down to one ingredient: it gets down to teamwork."

"It couldn't happen to a better group of guys," said senior outfielder Kalani Napoleon. "I want to say hook'em horns and God bless America!"



Herald photo/Tommy Wells

Big Spring Lady Steers' softball coach Dan Arista helps Cheryenne Galloway position her bat during batting drills at the Lady Steers Softball Camp Wednesday morning at the BSHS Softball Complex. The camp helped young girls improve their fundamental skills in softball.

Rangers rip Angels, claim 8th straight win

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Kevin Mench hit a three-run homer to cap Texas' biggest inning of the season as the Rangers beat the Anaheim Angels 11-5 on Tuesday night for their eighth straight win.

Mench's homer, a liner that just cleared the left-field fence, capped a fifth inning in which the Rangers scored eight runs on just three hits. Mench led off the inning with a walk.

The Rangers' winning streak is their longest since they won nine straight from July 18-27, 1999. The 11 runs matched a season high.

Rafael Palmeiro and rookie Ryan Ludwick added solo homers for Texas. After Scott Schoeneweis

(6-6) walked Mench to start the fifth, Todd Greene homered to tie it at 4-4. The two celebrated by taking off their helmets and bumping their bald heads together at the plate, but the Rangers were just getting started.

Texas loaded the bases on two walks and a single before Juan Gonzalez hit a sacrifice fly to break the tie. Schoeneweis left after his fourth walk of the inning, to Palmeiro.

Reliever Lou Pote gave up a bases-loaded walk to Herbert Perry and threw a wild pitch that allowed another run to score before Mench's seventh homer made it 10-4.

Ismael Valdes (5-6) See RANGERS, Page B2

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Olympians laud plan for Astrodome

HOUSTON (AP) — Houston Olympic officials announced a plan Tuesday to complete a total conversion of the historic Astrodome into an elite track and field facility five years before they hope to host the 2012 Olympics.

Former Olympians lauded the plan as a step into the future for track and field in the United States.

"It will put the competition on level ground," former Olympic sprinter Bill Collins said Tuesday after visiting the Astrodome. "You won't have to worry any more about a time being wind-aided or the instrument not being calibrated correctly."

As part of their package to be the host city for the 2012 Olympics, Houston officials already have pledged an \$87 million renovation project for the Astrodome if they are the host city for the Olympics. The facility would host track and field events.

Houston officials now have pledged to complete the stadium project for use in 2007 — much sooner than earlier planned — in time to host other events and work out any kinks in the new facility before the Olympic Games.

"It's going to be so great for fan appeal," Collins said. "No more sitting in the sun for long periods of time to see the events. It'll be weather-controlled. They could even have a halftime and provide entertainment."

Houston 2012 president Susan Bandy said the city would be ready to begin the process in November.

"If we are the host city for the United States in November, we'll spend the money on architectural design to have all plans ready to go in 2005," Bandy said. "If we're named to host the 2012 Olympics, we'll begin construction immediately and have the stadium ready in 2007 to begin hosting events."

Houston is competing with New York, Washington and San Francisco to be the

United States nominee to compete with international cities to host the Olympic Games in 2012.

The United States Olympic Committee will announce the U.S. city in November. The International Olympic Committee will name the host site in 2005.

Houston would attempt to host events such as the World Track and Field Championships and other events to smooth out operations of the new facility before the Olympics arrive.

"The IOC pushes you to have had events the year before the Olympics," Bandy said. "If we got the World Championships in 2009 that would not be the first event we could have here."

Houston is preparing for another visit from the United States Olympic Committee July 11-12, for an inspection before the USOC names its nominee in November.

The Astrodome, the first domed facility, would be totally gutted and restyled into a stadium specifically designed for track and field, including a 400-meter track and 70,000 seats.

It would be used for track and field events in the Olympics and would share the opening and closing ceremonies with nearby Reliant Stadium, the future home of the NFL Houston Texans.

John Chaplain, coach of the United States 2000 Olympic team, has seen the plans and likes the concept.

"This would be a major step forward," Chaplain said. "You're talking about a state of the art stadium that will go to the head of the class. I'm not opposed to multipurpose stadiums as long as we are part of the multi purposes."

Houston officials are hoping their plan to speed up conversion of the Astrodome, will help their selection.

"This would be the crown jewel of track and field facilities," former Olympian Leroy Burrell said.



Participants in the 2002 Big Spring Softball Camp show off the t-shirts they earned for improving their fundamental skills. Attending the camp, which was sponsored by BSHS softball coaches Dan Arista and Kenny Lowery, were (back row, left to right) Cheyenne Galloway, Alix Ortega, Desiree Yanez, (front row) Kaley Owens and MacKenzie Stone. The three-day camp concluded Wednesday morning at the Big Spring Softball Complex.

O'Neal: John McEnroe used steroids

NEW YORK (AP) — Tatum O'Neal says ex-husband John McEnroe took steroids while he was on the pro tennis tour, and used cocaine and marijuana — but only off the court.

O'Neal spoke about McEnroe on ABC's "20/20," which will be broadcast Friday, in response to his new autobiography, "You Cannot Be Serious."

McEnroe wrote in the book that they "were high" the first time they had sex.

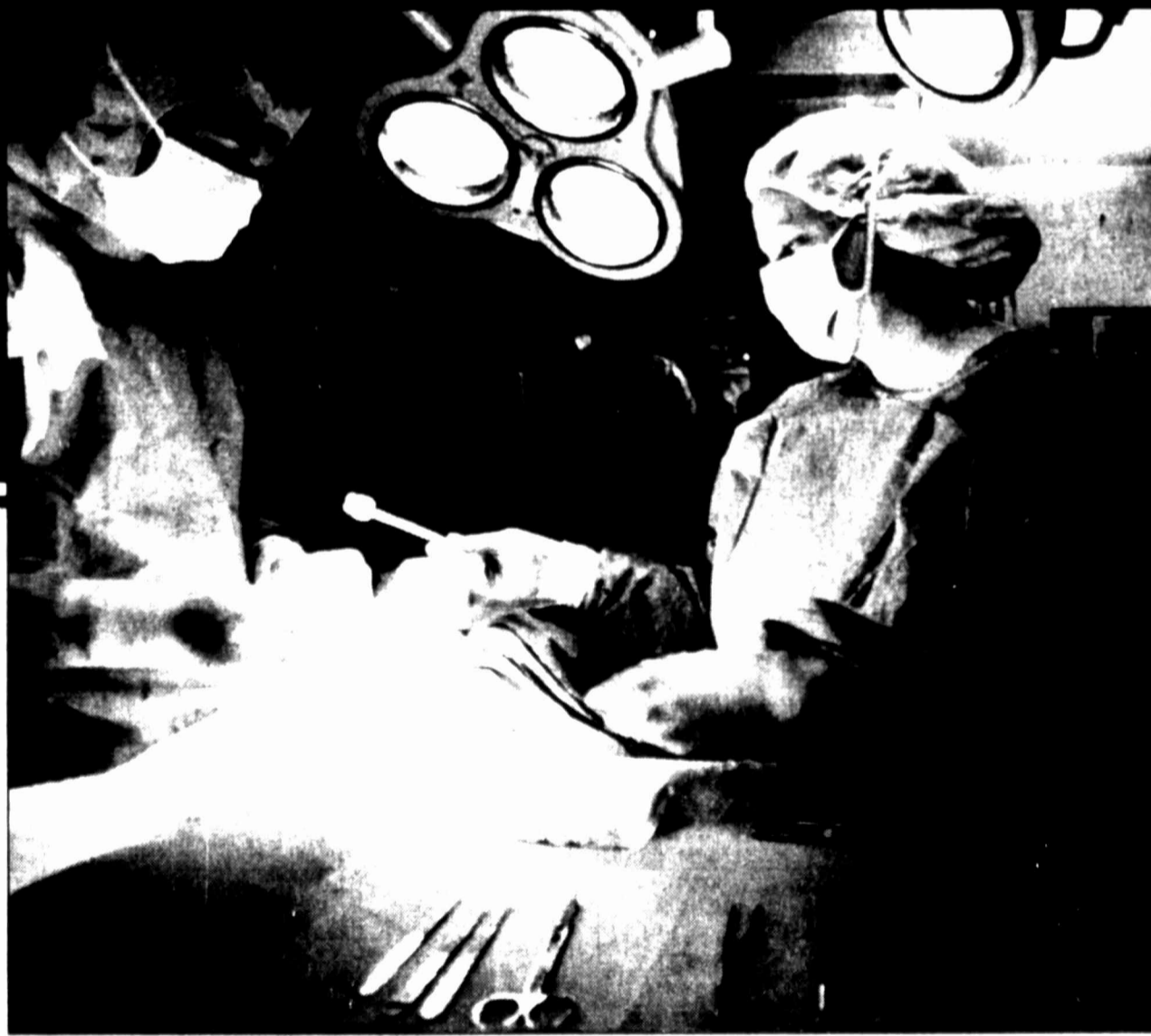
She said McEnroe used steroids "when he was coming back after Sean (their son) was born" in 1987. McEnroe won seven major championships during his career; his last Grand Slam tournament was in 1992.

McEnroe's agent, Gary Swain, declined to make him available, but read a statement from McEnroe that said:

"I am very disappointed in Tatum's statements. I had hoped that after all these years she would see things more accurately and that she would share my concern for the welfare of our children."

McEnroe and O'Neal divorced in 1992.

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Wings' goaltender calls it a career after Cup win

DETROIT (AP) — Dominik Hasek will miss the victories, the practices and his teammates. But one of hockey's top goaltenders understands all too well it's time to leave.

"I don't want to put goalie pads on again," said Hasek, less than two weeks after finally winning a Stanley Cup with the Detroit Red Wings.

Hasek spent only one season with the Red Wings, but it was enough to top off his

resume with a title that had eluded him for so long.

"Winning the Cup has been everything I could ever ask for," Hasek said. "After 21 years of playing professional hockey at the highest level, I do not feel that I have enough fire in me to compete at the level that I expect of myself."

Hasek's announcement follows that of coach Scotty Bowman, who retired the night the Red Wings won the Cup.

RANGERS

Continued from Page 1B pitched seven innings, allowing four runs on five hits, for just his second win in his last eight starts.

Schoeneweis gave up eight runs on four hits over 4 2-3 innings, with two strikeouts and five walks. He had allowed just five runs over 24 innings in three other starts against Texas this season.

Anaheim led 3-0 after Benji Molina's three-run double in the second. Adam

Kennedy was hit by a pitch after consecutive singles by Tim Salmon and Brad Fullmer to load the bases.

Kennedy had run-scoring singles in the third and eighth innings.

Palmeiro's homer to center, his 16th of the season and 463rd of his career, came in the bottom of the second. Ludwick hit his first career homer an inning later.

Alex Rodriguez added an RBI single in the sixth.

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WEDNESDAY

JUNE 26

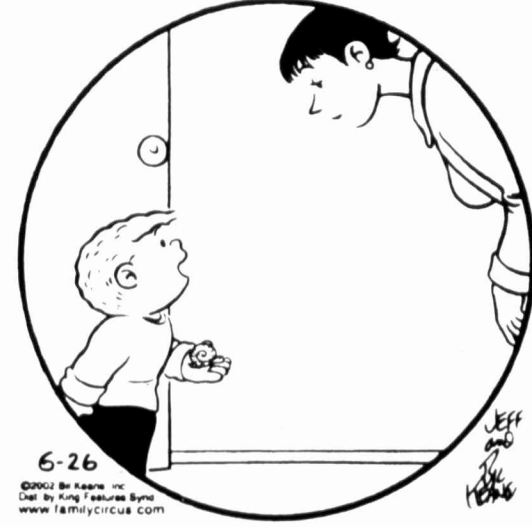
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6:30 PM	News Fortune	King of the Hill Raymond	Cyberchase Zoboombafoo	Home Videos Home Videos	News Ent Tonight	News (CC) Fortune	News (CC) Ent Tonight	Friends (CC) Home Imp.	El Juego de la Vida	Movie: Zenon: The Education of	Real TV (CC) Real TV (CC)	(15) Movie: Blower	Movie: Supernova	03 From God (CC)	Update With John Hagee	Law & Order (CC)	Fast Food	NBA Draft NBA Draft	Hoaxbusters
7:30 PM	My Wife Kids According-Jim	Malcolm Mid Grounded Life	American Family (CC)	Movie: Our Lips Are Sealed (CC)	60 Minutes II (CC)	My Wife Kids According Jim	West Wing (CC)	Movie: In the Line of Fire	Salome (SS)	Model Behavior	Zoey 101 (CC) Zoey 101 (CC)	Movie: Au-tumn in New York (CC) (45) Movie: Star Trek: Next Gener	Movie: Lift	Wire (CC)	Carrie Davis Dr. Massey	Biography (CC)	Alaskan Mummies	Lewis & Clark	Medical World
8:30 PM	Drew Carey My Adv	Bernie Mac American Idol	In Search-Ind	Whose Line? Whose Line? (CC)	State v. (CC)	Law & Order (CC)	Law & Order (CC)	Movie: Heartbreak Ridge	P. Impacto Noticias Univ	Movie: Surfers (9:55) Movie: Still Not Quite Human (CC) Jett Jackson	Star Trek: Mad TV (CC)	The Burning	Soul Food Resurrection	Sex and-City Ariss (CC)	Minute by Minute (CC)	Alaskan Mummies	Easter Island Mysteries	Junkyard Wars	
9:30 PM	State v. (CC)	Cops (CC) Blind Date	In Search-Ind	Whose Line? Whose Line? (CC)	State v. (CC)	Law & Order (CC)	Law & Order (CC)	Movie: Heartbreak Ridge	P. Impacto Noticias Univ	Movie: Surfers (9:55) Movie: Still Not Quite Human (CC) Jett Jackson	Star Trek: Mad TV (CC)	The Burning	Soul Food Resurrection	Sex and-City Ariss (CC)	Minute by Minute (CC)	Alaskan Mummies	Easter Island Mysteries	Junkyard Wars	
10:30 PM	News Nightline	Jerry Springer (CC)	News-Lehrer (CC)	700 Club (CC)	News (35) Late	News (CC) Nightline	News (35) Tonight	Heartbreak Ridge	P. Impacto Noticias Univ	Movie: Surfers (9:55) Movie: Still Not Quite Human (CC) Jett Jackson	Star Trek: Mad TV (CC)	The Burning	Soul Food Resurrection	Sex and-City Ariss (CC)	Minute by Minute (CC)	Alaskan Mummies	Easter Island Mysteries	Junkyard Wars	
11:30 PM	Politically Inc. Paid Program	Suddenly Spin City (CC)	Nature (CC) (DVS)	Who's Boss? Who's Boss? (CC)	Ent Tonight (37) Late Late	Politically Inc. (37) Late	Politically Inc. (37) Late	Heartbreak Ridge	P. Impacto Noticias Univ	Movie: Surfers (9:55) Movie: Still Not Quite Human (CC) Jett Jackson	Star Trek: Mad TV (CC)	The Burning	Soul Food Resurrection	Sex and-City Ariss (CC)	Minute by Minute (CC)	Alaskan Mummies	Easter Island Mysteries	Junkyard Wars	
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DENNIS THE MENACE



"BUT I THOUGHT YOU ALREADY TOLD ME FOR THE LAST TIME!"

FAMILY CIRCUS



"When you go to the store, would you buy some snail food?"

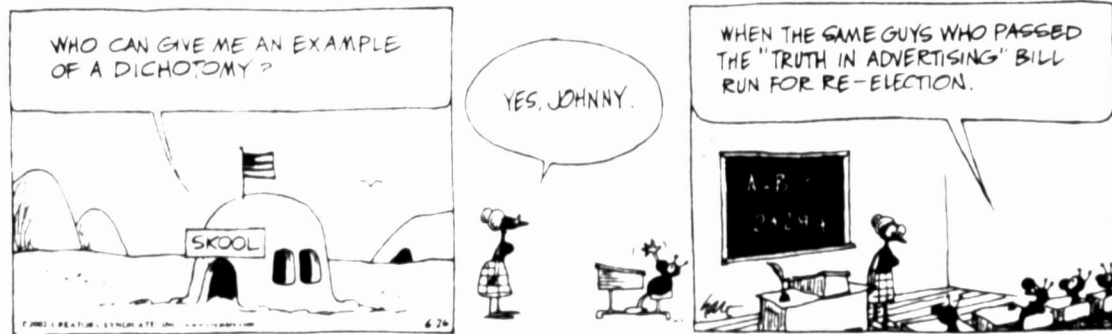
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HI AND LOIS



GASOLINE ALLEY



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILY



THIS DATE IN HISTORY

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

Today is Wednesday, June 26, the 177th day of 2002. There are 188 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 26, 1963, President Kennedy visited West Berlin, where he made his famous declaration: "Ich bin ein Berliner" (I am a Berliner).

In 1870, the first section of the Atlantic City, N.J., boardwalk was opened to the public.

In 1900, a commission that included Dr. Walter Reed began the fight against the deadly disease yellow fever.

In 1917, the first troops of the American Expeditionary Force arrived in France during World War I.

In 1925, Charlie Chaplin's classic comedy, "The Gold Rush," premiered at

Grauman's Egyptian Theatre in Hollywood.

In 1945, the charter of the United Nations was signed by 50 countries in San Francisco.

In 1948, the Berlin Airlift began in earnest after the Soviet Union cut off land and water routes to the isolated western sector of Berlin.

In 1959, President Eisenhower joined Britain's Queen Elizabeth II in ceremonies officially opening the St. Lawrence Seaway.

In 1968, U.S. Chief Justice Earl Warren announced his intention to resign.

In 1977, 42 people were killed when a fire sent toxic smoke pouring through the Maury County Jail in Columbia, Tenn.

In 1987, Supreme Court Justice Lewis F. Powell Jr. announced his retirement, leaving a vacancy that was filled by Anthony M. Kennedy.

Ten years ago, Navy Secretary H. Lawrence Garrett III resigned, accepting responsibility for a

"leadership failure" that resulted in the Tailhook sex-abuse scandal.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Eleanor Parker is 80. Jazz musician-film composer Dave Grusin is 68. Actor Josef Sommer is 68. Singer Billy Davis Junior (The Fifth Dimension) is 62. Singer Georgie Fame is 59. Actor Clive Francis is 56. Actor Robert Davi is 48. Singer-musician Mick Jones is 47. Actor Gedde Watanabe is 47. Rock singer Chris Isaak is 46. Rock singer Patty Smyth is 45. Singer Terri Nunn (Berlin) is 41. Actor Mark McKinney is 40.

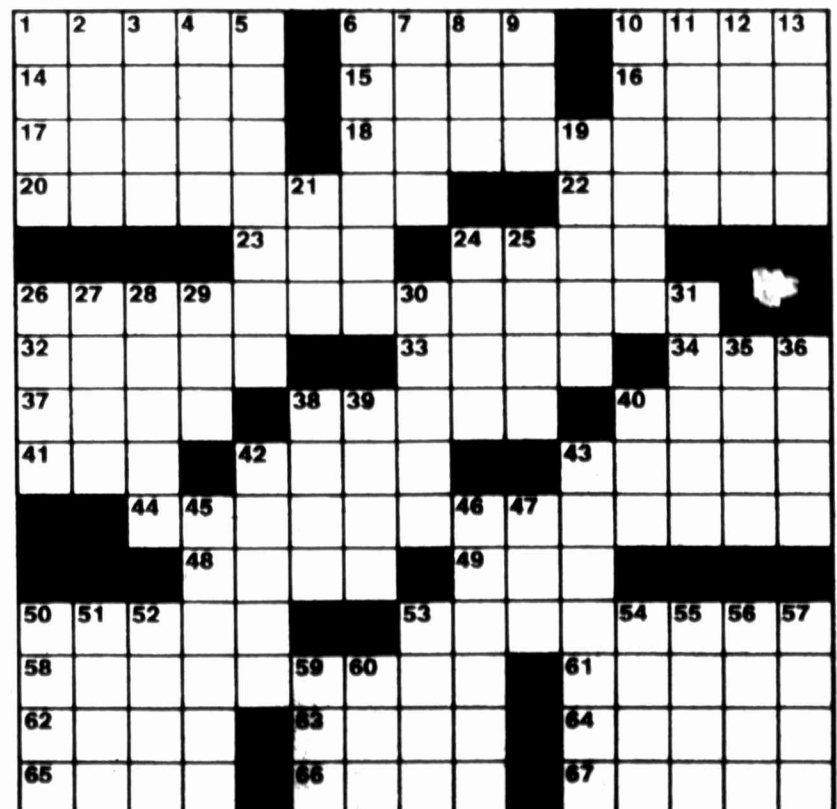
Answer to previous puzzle

TUNED	CHAOTIC
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YELLOWJACKET	
SAMURAI	SARALEE
PRALINE	RIDERS
APPENDS	SLATS

Newsday Crossword HIGH SCHOOL SCHEDULE by Fred Piscop

Edited by Stanley Newman

- ACROSS
- 1 Stinging remarks
- 6 Not quite dry
- 10 Lively dance
- 14 WWII sub
- 15 Author Wiesel
- 16 Movie lion
- 17 Perry's aide
- 18 2000 campaign catch phrase
- 20 Element #34
- 22 Suez Canal ship
- 23 Windows forerunner
- 24 Dog days mos.
- 26 Auxiliary language
- 32 Cousteau's bailiwick
- 33 Distinctive times
- 34 "That's good!"
- 37 1950s French president
- 38 Dan of Laugh-In
- 40 Stare at
- 41 Latish luncheon
- 42 Poet Teasdale
- 43 Laugh mockingly
- 44 Complicated stuff, so to speak
- 48 Regrets
- 49 Kramden laugh syllable
- 50 Sharon of Israel
- 53 Stereo accessory
- 58 Playground apparatus
- 61 Director Louis
- 62 Scandinavian city
- 63 Singer Cantrell
- 64 Put to rest
- 65 Noggin
- 66 Property claim
- 67 Has to have
- DOWN
- 1 Starts to flower
- 2 Busy as
- 3 Parker House, e.g.
- 4 Hay unit
- 5 Pinch-hit
- 6 Make less tense
- 7 Styptic stuff
- 8 Les (Broadway smash, for short)
- 9 Dispenser candy
- 10 Negligent
- 11 Airline to Israel
- 12 Spanish compass direction
- 13 Cowardly Lion player
- 19 Berra and Bear
- 21 Charged particle
- 24 India tourist mecca
- 25 Bator
- 26 A little, musically
- 27 Pictograph
- 28 Ward off
- 29 The Divorcee (Astaire/Rogers film)
- 30 Unfamiliar with
- 31 Uta of the stage
- 35 Brother of Billy Baldwin
- 36 Roll-call call
- 38 Croupier's tool
- 39 Mine finds
- 40 Bulling cheer
- 42 Racing shell
- 43 Relief pitcher
- 45 Coos Bay's state
- 46 Tribal doctor
- 47 Salary limit
- 50 Do on (hoodwink)
- 51 Crafty move
- 52 To Live and Die
- 53 Actress Daly
- 54 Chip's chum
- 55 Vogue competitor
- 56 Decked out
- 57 ESC, ALT, etc.
- 59 Pipe joint
- 60 Moo goo pan



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Especially for kids and their families
The Mini Page

By BETTY DEBNAM

All About Our National Symbol
The Bald Eagle



Eagles are diurnal (die-URN-ul). They hunt during the day and sleep during the night.

Our country has a very special bird as its national symbol.

The bald eagle is so powerful and so strong, and soars so high in the sky, that it is a symbol of freedom to many.

Types of eagles can be found on every continent except Antarctica. The bald eagle is one of two species found in North America (the other is the golden eagle). It is our very own bird. The bald eagle is found only in North America.



Both male and female bald eagles are brown and black until they are about 5 years old; then their head feathers turn white. They got their name from the word "bald," which meant "white" to early American settlers.

Eagle parts

Eyes are for ...

• seeing very well.
 An eagle's eyesight is possibly as much as eight times sharper than a human's with perfect vision. From way up high at about 1,000 feet, an eagle might see prey over a three-mile area.

Eagles have big eyes for their head size, but they are unable to move them more than a few degrees. An eagle must move its entire head to see a different view.

Feathers are for...

- insulation in all kinds of weather.
- protecting the skin.
- camouflage to make the eagle harder to see.

Bald eagles have as many as 7,000 feathers. They "molt," or gradually lose and grow new feathers once a year. When they lose one feather on one wing, they lose a matching one on the other. In this way they don't lose their balance.

Wings are for...

- gliding. The bald eagle's broad wings enable it to glide easily.
- spreading and silently floating down on prey.
- flying as fast as 30 miles per hour.

Toes and talons are for...

- grabbing, squeezing and piercing.
- holding onto food while eating and using them like a fork.

Bald eagles can lift only half their weight into the air. They don't weigh much, so they can't lift much.

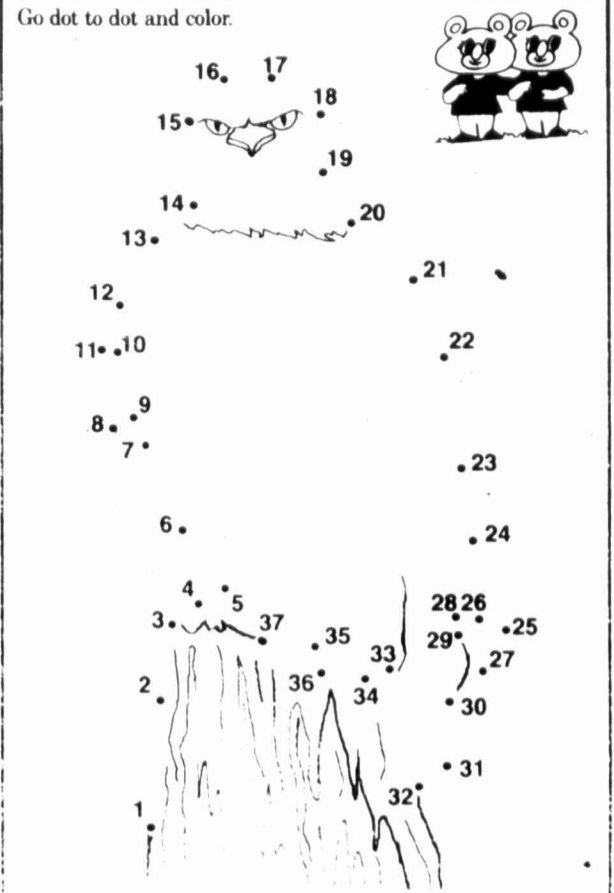
Beaks are for...

- crushing, cutting and tearing food and using like a knife.



The bald eagle was selected to be placed on the design of the Great Seal approved by Congress in 1782. The Great Seal is the official stamp, or mark, of the United States.

You can find the bald eagle in your pocket. It is on half dollars and some quarters.



Rookie Cookie's Recipe
Bang-Up Brownies

You'll need:

- 1/2 cup butter or margarine, softened
- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 3 eggs
- 3 ounces unsweetened chocolate, melted
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 3/4 cup semisweet chocolate chips
- 3/4 cup pecans, chopped

What to do:

- 1 In a medium bowl, mix butter or margarine and sugar until smooth and creamy.
- 2 Add eggs and melted chocolate. Mix well.
- 3 In a small bowl, combine flour, salt and baking powder. Mix well.
- 4 Add flour mixture to chocolate mixture. Mix well.
- 5 Stir in chocolate chips and pecans. Mix well.
- 6 Pour batter into a greased 8-by-8-inch baking pan.
- 7 Bake in a preheated 350-degree oven for 40 minutes or until done. When cool, cut into squares. Makes 16.

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Gus Goodsport's Report
Supersport: Maurice Greene

Height: 5-9 Birthdate: 7-23-74
 Weight: 175 Birthplace: Kansas City, Kan.

Maurice Greene is the fastest man in the world. He holds the world records in the 100 meters and 60 meters.

Maurice began racing in local city races around Kansas City when he was 8. In high school he played football, but switched to track after the football season.

After winning many local, state and national events, he began competing in international events. At the 2000 Olympics, he won gold medals in the 100-meter and the 4-by-100-meter races.

Maurice grew up the youngest of four children. He studied physical education at Park University in Missouri. His home is now in Granada Hills, Calif. He supports the United Negro College Fund and has a foundation that helps youth in Kansas City.

Meet Destiny's Child

In 1990, a music manager in Houston, Texas, named Matthew Knowles started an all-girls singing group. The band included his daughter, Beyonce, and several other 7- and 8-year-old girls. Today, the group, Destiny's Child, is one of the biggest in the world.

The members are Beyonce Knowles, 19, Michelle Williams, 20, and Kelly Rowland, 20. The group's name comes from a chapter in the Bible.

Beyonce and Kelly are from Houston and Michelle is from Rockford, Ill. Beyonce and Kelly were part of the group from the beginning, and Michelle joined a few years later.

Growing up, Beyonce and Kelly dreamed of being entertainers and Michelle dreamed of being a doctor.

MIGHTY FUNNY'S Mini Jokes

All the following jokes have something in common. Can you guess the common theme or category?

Jody: What do nearsighted lawyers wear?
Jim: Contract lenses!

Kelly: What kind of case would a lawyer have if he was injured at a pool?
Kevin: A bathing suit!

Marvin: When words break the law, what happens?
Marie: They get sentenced!

BALD EAGLES TRY 'N FIND

Words and names that remind us of eagles are hidden in the block below. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally. See if you can find: NATIONAL, SYMBOL, BIRD, EAGLE, FEATHERS, BEAK, SOAR, ALASKA, WHITE, BALD, BROWN, TALONS, FLY, NEST, AMERICA, FISH, WATER, PREY, LARGE, MATE.

ALWEYERPVQETIH
 BMAAAOASREHTAE
 DATGLTBROWNPF
 ETELLAAACIREMAQC
 BERESLLANOITANF
 NISHKOREHLFISHS
 IERDANSSYMBOLFI
 JTS DASLARGE BALD
 KUGTJRMQTEBEAKW

Mini Spy ...

Mini and Basset are observing a bald eagle on their hike. See if you can find:

- eagle
- word MINI
- bell
- cat
- dragon
- number 8
- bee
- football
- number 3
- caterpillar
- saw
- question mark
- snake
- frog
- tea kettle

More About Bald Eagles

Eagles roost on cliffs and in treetops. To make a smooth landing, they spread their wings and drag their tail. Eagle bones are hollow. This makes landing and flying easier. They like to hunt from a perch.

Bald eagle food
 Bald eagles eat mainly fish that they clasp in their talons. They also eat small mammals such as squirrels and water birds such as gulls. They also feed on dead animals. To save the energy needed for hunting, they often steal food from other birds. Most weigh between 7 and 14 pounds.

Where they live
 Bald eagles live near lakes, rivers, marshes and sea coasts. Alaska is the state with the most eagles. Other states with many eagles include Florida, Wisconsin, Washington, Minnesota, Oregon and Michigan.

Some bald eagles migrate. Others who have a good food source year-round do not.

Chilkat Valley near Haines, Alaska, is the site of the largest gathering of bald eagles in the world. Each winter, as many as 3,500 bald eagles might gather there to fish for the salmon that are weak from their long upstream swim.

Bald eagle size
 The female is larger than the male.
 Male wingspan might measure as wide as 6 feet 8 inches. Female wingspan might measure 7 feet 3 inches wide.
 Young eagles might look larger, because they have longer flight feathers, but they weigh less than older ones.

Eagles that live in northern states and in Alaska are larger in size than those that live in southern states.

The Mini Page is created and edited by Betty Debnam
 Associate Editors: Anne Chamberlain, Lucy Lien
 Staff Artist: Wendy Daley

While an eagle mother might lay two or three eggs, only one eagle usually survives. Eagles are ready to leave the nest after about three months. Only about 10 percent of the babies live past one year.

Nesting
 Most eagle pairs mate for life. If one is killed, the other might take a new mate.
 During courtship, pairs might join their talons in the air and tumble over and over as they cartwheel toward the ground. They let go just before reaching the ground.
 Pairs return to the same nest every year, so they build their nest bigger and bigger. Nest-building is a part of courtship. They build their nests in trees or on the ground if there are no trees.
 The largest nest ever measured was built in Florida. It was more than 9 feet across and 20 feet deep and weighed more than 2 tons!
 Parents take turns sitting on the nest 24 hours a day for about 35 days while incubating one to three eggs.

The Mini Page thanks Richard Cooper, the American Bald Eagle Foundation, Haines, Alaska (on the Web at www.bald eagles.org); and Debra Marx, Education Dept., The Raptor Center, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Minnesota (on the Web at www.raptor.cvm.umn.edu) for help with this issue.

Sing a song of the Fourth of July. Next week's Mini Page features the words of some of our most popular patriotic songs.

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Tomorrow's workforce is in today's classrooms.

The Mini Page/NIE

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