

BIG SPRING HERALD

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

SUNDAY

June 30, 2002

WEATHER

Today:



PARTLY CLOUDY

TODAY 90°-95° TONIGHT 60°-65°

INSIDE

VETERANS

Residents of the Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez State Veterans Home reminisce about their experiences during World War II on today's Life cover, Page 1B.

REVITALIZATION

The first in a four-part series on the Big Spring Revitalization Association. Today, a look at Downtown Revitalization Association. It's in Business and Agriculture, Page 4B.

WHAT'S UP

MONDAY

Howard County ARC meets at 806 East Third at the Bingo Hall.

District committee Lone Star of Big Spring meets at noon at 610 Scurry.

Senior Circle, 4 p.m., SMMC. Sit and Be Fit Chair Aerobics. People 50 and over invited to participate. Call 268-4721.

Concerned Citizens will meet at the Fibertex building at the airport at 7 p.m.

Big Spring Chapter and Council RAM meets at 7:30 p.m. at the Masonic building 221 1/2 Main.

TUESDAY

Intermediate Line Dance classes, 9 a.m., Senior Citizens Center. Call 267-1628.

Coahoma Senior Citizen luncheon, 11 a.m. at the Coahoma Community Center.

Evening Lion's Club meets at noon every Tuesday at the Senior Center in the Whipkey Room.

Alzheimer's Association, Greater West Texas Chapter meets at 2 p.m. in the Howard County Library, 500 South Main.

Big Spring Rotary meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room.

VFW Post 2013 meets at the VFW Hall, 7 p.m., 500 Driver Rd.

INSIDE TODAY

Business 5-6B
Classified 7-9B
Horoscope 9B
Landers 9B
Life 1-3B
Local 3, 5A
Nation 6-7
Obituaries 2A
Opinion 4A
Sports 8-11A

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change after no. 312

Anticipation mounts for annual Pops in the Park program

JOHN A. MOSELEY
Managing Editor

Big Spring and Howard County residents are now finalizing their plans for the Fourth of July holiday now that it's just days away, and for many of them one of the highlights will be Wednesday's "Pops in the Park" concert and fireworks display featuring the Big Spring Symphony and Chorus at Comanche Trail Park.

Heading into its fifth year, Pops in the Park has

become nothing short of a tradition — an extravaganza the entire community anticipates.

More than 8,000 are expected to pack the Comanche Trail Park Amphitheater for the show, just as they have in the past. When one factors in the number of people picnicking in the park and those lining U.S. Highway 87, the number of those attending the concert is

See POPS, Page 2A



Inez Salazar, left, and Ramona Saenz enjoy watching the activities during the 2001 Pops in the Park celebration. More than 8,000 are expected to pack the Comanche Trail Park Amphitheater for this year's show Wednesday. Gates to the amphitheater open at 4 p.m. and vendor's booths open at 5 p.m.

Herald file photo

Holiday period rolls in with a bang

If you must shoot fireworks, do it safely, fire marshal says

By ROGER CLINE

Staff Writer

"The rockets' red (and orange, blue and purple) glare" has always been a part of Americans' Independence Day festivities.

This year, with a county-wide burn ban in place and amidst news of wild fires in Arizona and Colorado, local firefighters are saying amateur-lit fireworks are a disaster waiting to happen.

Big Spring Fire Marshal Carl Condray urged Big Spring residents to leave the fireworks to the professionals manning the Pops in the Park festival fireworks show July 3 at Comanche Trail Park.

"I want to give the Pops in the Park a big shot," he said. "That's the safe way to enjoy fireworks and family fun and the standard type July 4 pattern. They're a hard-working group of people. The citizens have been donating and everybody's pulling to make that a community function."

While firefighters can't be

Fireworks safety

- Adults should always supervise the use of fireworks.
- Sparks and smoldering embers from fireworks can start fires. Have water nearby for emergencies.
- Never use fireworks in neighborhood backyards or other crowded areas.
- Always light fireworks one at a time.
- It is illegal to set off fireworks in the city limits.



CONDRA Y



The First Family of fireworks is the main highlight in this week's American Profile, featured in today's Herald.

on alert at every Howard County family's home-brewed fireworks display, they can and do watch over



HERALD photo: Roger Cline
Ryan Vassar, left, Sterling Burchett and Zack Finney, of the Texas Giant fireworks stand on South U.S. Highway 87 have been doing a booming business since they opened for the Independence Day fireworks season. Although a county-wide burn ban prevents them from selling favorites such as bottle rockets and fanned skyrockets, Finney said patrons are happy to explore other types of pyrotechnics such as Roman candles, mortars and this multi-shot cannon.

the big show at Pops in the Park.

"At that display, we have the city's fire protection

services, as well as the county gets involved with us," he said. "We have trained professionals out

there to protect the public's safety and make sure no

See FIREWORKS, Page 5A

Finally, leak at Howard County Library fixed... almost

By ROGER CLINE

Staff Writer

An ongoing leakage problem at the Howard County Library is fixed, almost.

Librarian Hollis McCright said the seal coat put down over the handicapped parking area about two weeks ago has practically stopped leakage into

the library's basement area.

"When we got that rain Wednesday night, I came down here the next morning to see if it leaked," she said.

"We did have a very small leak, probably not even 1 percent of what it would have been before the seal coat was put down

"We did have a very small leak, probably not even 1 percent of what it would have been before the seal coat was put down there."

McCright



Hollis McCright, librarian

Commissioner Gary Simer brought a tank

truck of water Thursday morning and flooded the parking lot to test for leaks.

"It didn't leak there, but in our Memorial Garden, we have a little garden on the side of the building. They flooded that flowerbed and it did leak through that," she said. "A very minimal amount, espe-

cially in comparison to what it had been in the past."

Plans are in the works to fix the problem, said architect Phil Furquerson.

"We're going to excavate down four or five feet and we're going to put a rubberized mem-

See LEAK, Page 3A



HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody
Howard County Red Cross volunteer Spenser Wolfe speaks with 4-year-old Konrad Krug, left, and his 12-year-old big brother Greg at a fund-raiser for the organization on Saturday. Staff from the chapter office in Odessa, local firefighters and members of the Howard County Disaster Team were on hand to provide information about the Red Cross. The chapter has spent \$130,000 responding to fires and other disasters this year but is only budgeted \$50,000.

TABC

Local woman nominated for state commendation

By LYNDEL MOODY

Staff Writer

Linda Perez, Victim Services volunteer coordinator, has been nominated for a Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission state wide commendation for her work in an teenage anti-drinking and driving program.

"It is issued to people who go above and beyond the call of duty in showing cooperation with other agencies," said James White, an agent with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission.

Perez is the first person from Howard County to be nominated for the Bert Ford Commendation, White said. The commendation is named after Ford, a former TABC administrator who



PEREZ



WHITE

promoted a spirit of cooperation during his tenure, 1936-1947.

Certificates of commendations are given throughout the year to people and agencies that have shown exceptional cooperation with state commission, said TABC Public Information Officer Claire Myers.

Perez coordinates the

See PEREZ, Page 3A

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OBITUARIES

Dorothy Teel

Funeral service for Dorothy Teel, 74, of Big Spring, will be 1 p.m.



Monday, July 1, 2002, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with the Rev. Doug Shelly, pastor of Eastside Baptist Church, officiating.

Burial will follow at Sweetwater Cemetery, Sweetwater.

Mrs. Teel died on Thursday, June 27 at her residence. She was born on December 24, 1927, in Fisher County and married Nawlin Teel on Aug. 2, 1947, in Sweetwater. Mrs. Teel came to Big Spring in 1945 and was a homemaker. She was a member of the Church of Christ.

Survivors include her husband, N. Teel of Big Spring; one daughter, Carol Schlif of Big Spring; one son, Keith Teel of Nome; one sister, Darcus Talley of Wichita Falls; five grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

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

Doris Wance Wood

Doris Wance Wood, 67, of Big Spring, died on Friday, June 28, 2002, in a local hospital. Funeral service will be at 11 a.m. Monday, July 1, 2002, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with the Rev. Don Snipes, pastor of Baptist Temple Church, officiating and her brother-in-law, Rev. Willie Earl Smith, assisting. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.



She was born on May 11, 1935, in Noodle and married Daryl Wood on Oct. 6, 1952, in Lovington, N.M. Mrs. Wood came to Big Spring in 1957 from Snyder and was a homemaker. She was a member of Baptist Temple Church and sang in the choir.

Survivors include her husband, Daryl Wood of Big Spring; one daughter, Tawa Wood of Big Spring; one son, David Wood of Big Spring; three sisters, Billie Tackett of Abilene, Ruby Smith of San Antonio and Paula Jones of Hermleigh; two grandchildren, Brent Wood and Casie Wood, both of Big Spring. She was preceded in death by her parents, Bill and Jetta Caldwell.

Pallbearers will be Doug Randel, Harvey Harris, Ricky Scott, Dennis Jones, Harvey Hocker and Craig

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL
24th & Johnson 267-8288
Loena Smith, 88, died Saturday. Services are pending.

NALLEY-PICKLE & WELCH Funeral Home
Trinity Memorial Park and Crematory
906 Gregg St. (915) 267-6331

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Caudill. The family will receive friends from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. today at the funeral home.

Arrangements under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home. www.npwelch.com
Paid obituary

LaVerne Berger

Graveside funeral service for LaVerne Berger, 79, of Big Spring, will be at 2 p.m.



Monday, July 1, 2002, at Trinity Memorial Park with Dr. Claude Craven, a retired Baptist minister, officiating.

Mrs. Berger died on Friday, June 28, 2002, in Amarillo.

She was born on Sept. 26, 1922, in Childress. She married Raymon Pollard in 1951 and he preceded her in death on Dec. 9, 1970. She then married John Lacy Berger in 1974 and he preceded her in death on Sept. 23, 1977.

She had owned and operated The House of Crafts in Big Spring for 21 years. She was a Baptist.

Survivors include one brother, Jimmy Phillips of Texas and several nieces and nephews.

There will be a gathering of friends on Sunday evening from 6-7 at the funeral home.

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

Marvin H. Holland

Funeral service for Marvin H. Holland, 71, of San Angelo, formerly of Big Spring, will be at 4 p.m.

Monday, July 1, 2002, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with the Rev. Arnold Tonn, pastor of Spring Tabernacle Church, officiating. Burial will follow at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Mr. Holland died on Friday, June 28, 2002, in a San Angelo hospital.

He was born on Feb. 5, 1931, in Decatur, Ala., and married Oralia Maestas on April 8, 1950, in Albuquerque, N.M. He worked for the U.S. Post Office for 18 years in Big Spring.

He was of the Pentecostal faith. Mr. Holland retired from the United States Air Force after 22 years of service. He was a member of the American Legion, the Disabled American Veterans and International Order of Odd Fellows.

Survivors include his wife, Oralia Holland of San Angelo; two sons, Ronald Holland of San Angelo and Mervin Holland of Vancouver, Wash.; one daughter, Marilyn Baumia of Temple; one sister, Maedean Barber of Detroit; five grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

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

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202 Scurry PH. 267-6278
Big Spring, Texas

Leone T. Bain

Funeral service for Leone T. Bain, 94, of Big Spring is pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home. She died on Saturday, June 29 in a local hospital.

Loena Smith

Funeral service for Loena Smith, 88, of Big Spring is pending with Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Mrs. Smith died on Saturday, June 29, at a local nursing home following a long illness.

POPS

Continued from Page 1A

annually estimated between 10,000 and 12,000.

Members of the Big Spring Fourth of July Foundation spend much of the year making plans for the show which requires more than \$20,000 to stage each summer.

Donations making the concert and fireworks show possible come from local businesses and individuals, as well as corporate sponsorships. What's more, they make it possible for the organizing committee to open the gates for all comers free of charge.

"It is the entire community's celebration," notes Tim Blackshear, who serves as the Fourth of July Foundation's chairman for the event. "It's an evening to gather with friends and family at the park and join your neighbors in celebrating the fact that we live in the best nation on earth."

Blackshear noted that the 2002 event follow very much the same program the celebration has followed in the past, but will include a 15-minute tribute to the victims of the Sept. 11 World Trade Center and those who provided rescue and recovery work in the days following the terrorist attack.

"There will be a few changes to what we've done in the past, but we didn't want to do much tampering with something that's been a success," Blackshear noted. "And there's no question in our minds that everyone in the community sees this as a worthwhile event."

"We've had overflow crowds at the amphitheater every year," he added. "But that's part of the beauty of an event like this. Even for those who decided to spread blankets on the grounds outside the amphitheater, the show was just as thrilling as for those sitting inside."

This year the committee has opted for the West Texas Musical Review that features local talent performing a variety of music, to open the show beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Gates to the amphitheater will open at 4 p.m. and vendor's booths will open at 5 p.m.

Sponsors of the event are the Big Spring Herald, Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, Big Spring Symphony, the city of Big Spring and KBST, which broadcasts the concert for those who are unable to get into the amphitheater.

Yet the real key to the concert's success has always

A BIG SPRING AROUND THE TOWN

been the response from the businesses and individuals who donate funds for the project. And while the committee has received a number of donations and is closing in on the amount needed to fund the show, contributions are still needed.

"We're getting closer to having what we need to pay all the bills for the show, but we're not there yet," Blackshear noted. "We still need people get caught up in the excitement so our community can collectively display its patriotism and celebrate the freedoms we enjoy as Americans."

When vendors' booths open, they'll offer a wide range of foods and novelty items.

Food booths will offer hamburgers and hot dogs, turkey legs, barbecue, sausage on a stick, popcorn, snow cones, cotton candy, burritos, roasted corn on the cob, corn dogs, cheese fries, fajitas, french fries, nachos, Frito pie, pizza, cookies, candy, soft drinks and bottled water.

Other booths will offer gift items and glow-in-the-dark necklaces.

The symphony will begin its performance at 8:30 p.m. The Sept. 11 presentation is set for 9:15 and the fireworks display will start at 9:30.

Symphony and-chorus director Dr. Keith Graumann has announced the patriotic music program will include "Fanfare for the Common Man," "Armed Forces Salute," "A Choral Portrait," "Liberty Bell March," "A Cohan Salute," "Patton March," "Washington Post March" and the "Battle Hymn of the Republic."

Selections for the fireworks display will be "An American Salute," "This Is My Country," "America," "America the Beautiful," "God Bless America," the "Star-Spangled Banner," "You're A Grand Ol' Flag," "Stars and Stripes Forever" and Tchaikovsky's "1812 Overture."

"We really feel like this celebration will again offer something for virtually everyone," Blackshear noted. "We want to invite everyone in the community to again be a part of the event this year and help us celebrate our nation's birthday."

Contact managing editor John A. Moseley at 263-7331, ext. 230, or by e-mail at johnmoseley@bigspringherald.com.

SUPPORT GROUPS

MONDAY

•TOPS Club TX No. 21 (take off pounds sensibly).

weigh-in 5:30 p.m. and meeting at 6 p.m., Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, 306 West Third.

•TOPS Club TX No. 1756 (take off pounds sensibly), weigh-in 5:30 p.m. and meeting at 6 p.m., College Heights Christian Church, 21st and Goliad.

•Military support group meets at 6 p.m. at the VA Medical Center in room 212 the first Monday of every month. Contact Wanda Gamble at 263-7180 or Treva Hall at 263-8106.

•Project Freedom, Christian support group for survivors of physical/emotional/sexual and/or spiritual abuse. Call 263-5140 or 263-2241 for dates/times of upcoming groups.

•Bereavement Support Group meets from 6:30-7:30 p.m. the first Monday of each month at Community Care Hospice.

•Surviving Pregnancy Loss meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Howard County Library Committee Room. Call 631-4430 for more information.

•AL-ANON open discussion meeting, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. Open meeting fourth floor at VA Medical Center 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

•Narcotics Anonymous, 7 p.m., St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 1001 Goliad. Open to all substance abusers.

TUESDAY

•The Greater West Texas Chapter of the Alzheimers Association meets the first Tuesday of each month in the community room of the Howard County Library at 2 p.m. Our support groups are for all caregivers of anyone no matter what the disease or disability. All meetings are confidential and are for your support. For more information you can call our office at 264-2397 or go by 501 Runnels (RSVP office).

•Open Discussion Meeting, 615 Settles 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. Noon podium closed podium meeting, 615 Settles 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

•Gamblers Anonymous, 7 p.m., St. Stephen's Catholic Church, room 1, 4601 Neeley, Midland. Call 263-8920.

•Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon open meeting and 7 p.m. 12 and 12 study.

•AL-ANON, 615 Settles, 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

•Gamblers Anonymous, 7 p.m., St. Stephen's Catholic Church, room 1, 4601 Neeley, Midland. Call 263-8920.

•Alcoholics Anonymous, Open Discussion Meeting 615 Settles 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. Noon Open 12 and 12 Study Meeting, 615 Settles 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

•Narcotics Anonymous, 7 p.m., St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 1001 Goliad. Open to all substance abusers.

THURSDAY

•Al-ANON support group, 7 p.m. 615 Settles.

POLICE

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity from 8 a.m. Friday until noon Saturday:

•Two reports of AGGRAVATED ROBBERY were reported at the police department, one in 2400 block of South Main where \$14 was reportedly stolen and one in the 1300 block of Park where a 1992 white Chevy was reported to receive \$600 in damage.

•MATHEW JAMES BEEBE, 26, of 2506 Chanute was arrested on a charge of assault Class C family violence.

•ROBERT RUBEN SANCHEZ, 38, of Gail Highway was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.

•BOBBY GLENN RUTH JR., 26, of 4103 Parkway was arrested on a charge of assault Class C family violence and for an Ector County warrant.

•ASSAULT CLASS C FAMILY VIOLENCE was reported in the 1600 block of Settles.

•DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE was reported in the 1600 block of South Runnels, the 500 block of East 16th, the 1300 block of Dixie Avenue, the 100 block of Airbase Road and the 4100 block of Parkway Road.

•DISTURBANCE/FIGHT was reported in the 700 block of East 11th Place, 2600 block of Chanute, 2400 block of South Main and in the 1200 block of Ridgeroad.

•CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL BY A MINOR was reported in the 700 block of South Bell St.

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1901 Gregg
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•Coffee Expresso
•Drive-Thru Window Available

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CINEMA 4
*Lilo & Stitch (PG)
Daily 2:00, 4:40 & 7:30 Fr & Sat 9:20
*Windtalkers (R)
Daily 4:10 Fr & Sat 9:30
*Minority Report (PG-13)
Daily 1:30, 4:20 & 7:10 Fr & Sat 9:50
*The Bourne Identity (PG-13)
Daily 1:40 & 7:00
*Mr. Deeds (PG-13)
Daily 1:50, 4:30 & 7:20 Fr & Sat 9:40
ADULTS: \$5.00
\$3.00 ALL MATINEES, CHILDREN & SENIOR CITIZENS
*PASS RESTRICTED
STAR
*Hey Arnold! (PG)
*Juwanna Mann (PG-13)
Call 264-6104 For Showtimes

The Family of Deana Smith would like to thank everyone in the community who had a part in sharing our lost. Thank you for all your prayers, phone calls, flowers, food and visits.

NOTICE!
On April 25, 2002, Acting Lt. Governor Bill Ratliff told attendees at the Spring Conference of the Texas Economic Development Council that he is getting reports that some cities were abusing the local option economic development sales tax by using the tax revenue for general government purposes and not for economic development.
Questions have been raised to the Concerned Citizen Council here in Big Spring as to the operations and management of our local Moore Development for Big Spring. The Concerned Citizens Council has voted to hold a public discussion about these issues on July 8, at 7 p.m., at Fiberflex, 615 Bethel. We would appreciate your presence and your input.
Pol. Ad Paid For By Concerned Citizens

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Avis Lube Stop last remaining. The group will raise funds.

LEAK

Continued from

brane on the wall to see that occur where concrete channel basement was. "We're going four or five planter on each think that's most of those. McCright's approximately 6-foot den area, located Fifth Street library, will after the me place.

Furquerson project will be expensive.

"It's not bi

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HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody
Avis Lube Sluggers' 19-year-old Freddie Sosa, left, and 18-year-old Abel Garcia dry the last remaining spots on this car during the organization's car wash fund-raiser Saturday. The group will be participating in the Coahoma Rag Ball tourney set for July 5-6 and was raising funds for fees and other expenses.

Convicted bank robber sentenced

HERALD Staff Report

The man who robbed the First National Bank in Stanton nearly a year ago has been sentenced to more than 14 years in prison.

On July 9, 2001, David Large, 36, walked into the bank, put a gun on the counter and demanded money. The teller gave the robber \$7,500 and Large

made his escape in a getaway car driven by Kimberly Wells, 21. Wells was sentenced in May to seven years in prison for her role in the crime.

The couple was arrested in Salem, Ore., on the bank robbery charges. Both confessed the Stanton robbery to Salem police investigators.

Large, previously convicted of drug distribution,

armed robbery and burglary of a dwelling, was also sentenced to a three-year supervised release program following his prison term and a mandatory \$100 fine to go to the Crime Victim's Fund.

Texas Rangers, the U.S. Attorney's Office, the FBI, the Salem Police Department and the Reno, Nev., Police Department all contributed to the investigation.

Service academy applicants are sought

HERALD Staff Report

U.S. Rep. Charlie Stenholm (D-Abilene) is accepting applications from young men and women who are interested in attending one of the United States service academies.

To be eligible, applicants must be at least 17 years of age but not older than 23 by July 1, 2003, and have graduated from high school by that date.

Any eligible person interested in attending the Air

Force Academy at Colorado Springs, Colo., the Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., the Naval Academy at Annapolis, Md., or the Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, N.Y. and who wish to serve as a commissioned officer should contact Jayne Schoonmaker in Congressman Stenholm's Washington office at (202) 225-6605.

Competitive applicants will have been in the top 15 percent of their class and have SAT scores or more

than 550 verbal and 600 math or ACT scores of 26 English and 27 Math.

Involvement in extra-curricular activities, including school and community organizations and sports as well as full or part-time employment is also in the applicant's favor.

Any individuals wishing additional information should call the above number or write to 1211 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515.

LEAK

Continued from Page 1A

brane on the vertical part of the wall to seal off the joints that occur where the concrete channels bear on the basement walls," he said. "We're going to extend that four or five feet past the planter on each side. We think that's going to fix most of those leaks."

McCright said the approximately 6-foot by 50-foot garden area, located along the Fifth Street side of the library, will be replanted after the membrane is in place.

Furqueron added that the project will be fairly inexpensive.

"It's not big," he said. "I

expect it to be maybe \$1,000 or \$2,000 and I think we'll just about have it nipped in the bud. There may be a small leak that occurs after that, but it will definitely be something that they will be able to live with."

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

PEREZ

Continued from Page 1A

"Shattered Dreams" program for the past two years

in Howard County. The program developed by the TABC is aimed at teaching teenagers the consequences of drinking and driving by staging a mock drunk driving accident.

"This takes hours and hours of planning and she has been spearheading this thing all the way," Thomas said. "I couldn't tell you how many hours she's spend working on this."

"She has to coordinate the program not just with law enforcement agencies but with many other agencies such as the schools, funeral homes, and on and on. Her dedication has made this such a successful program that I think she deserves the

award."

Victim Services Executive Director Shan Thomas said Perez has been dedicated to the program.

"I was elated to here about this nomination because when I took the "Shattered Dreams" project to Linda about two-half years ago she took this under her wing and just ran," Thomas said.

"I am very proud of her," Thomas said. "She has worked very hard for this project and she has done a great job."

Perez credits the success of the program to dedication of the community.

"No one can do this alone," she said. "We always have people willing

to give and do — that's what gets the job done. That makes my job easy."

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

Thanks

To Janie, Steve, Scott, Lisa and their families, Debbie Blair, and all our friends who made my 80th birthday so special!

I'm still reading cards, the "I Love Lucy" comments and drying a tear or two!

My thanks and love,
Lucy Emerson

BLISTERING TENT SALE EVENT



Hundreds of Items Under The Tent

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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

School board needs to learn what its job is

It's called cutting off your nose to spite your face. That appears to be exactly what the Big Spring Independent School District Board of Trustees accomplished June 21 with their decision to ignore Superintendent Murray Murphy's recommendation to hire Osbelia Rocha as principal at Moss Elementary School.

Those who voted against accepting the superintendent's recommendation made it clear they didn't doubt Rocha's qualifications, but instead made the decision in what amounts to a battle of power between the board and Murphy.

Rocha, whose credentials made it clear she is one of the most qualified administrators on the BSISD payroll, is headed to the Weimar ISD where she'll be a high school principal and curriculum director.

Therefore, Big Spring's loss is Weimar's gain.

Big Spring, on the other hand, has an unfilled opening at Moss with less than two months remaining before the start of the 2002-2003 school year.

What's worse, the Big Spring ISD appears to have a majority of school board members that don't want to let their chief administrator do his job.

How else can one interpret the situation?

Trustee Phil Furqueron noted the board's rejection of Rocha "really has nothing to do with the outstanding people we have with excellent qualifications," but "more of a vote for, basically, control. Board versus administration."

The BSISD board members need to remember that they do, indeed, have the final responsibility for the entire district. However, they should not attempt to take over the administration's responsibilities. They simply aren't qualified.

School boards hire superintendents to administer their school systems. They need to let them do their jobs.

And in this case, that clearly didn't happen.

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.

Strong enough to lead the country back

Except for the first four years, I've lived my entire life in a war state with a huge standing army, centralized power, a vast security apparatus and a growing contempt for the Constitution and the American tradition.

You ought to ask yourself why the United States has a standing army exceeded in size only by China's. You ought to ask yourself why American armed forces are stationed in more than 100 countries, even though we are not at war, nor are there any countries conceivably inclined to declare war on us.

You ought to ask yourself why, after communism collapsed, the United States insisted on keeping the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and even on expanding it. NATO had been set up for one reason and one reason only — to defend Western Europe against a Soviet invasion. Now there is no Soviet Union. The Red Army was

withdrawn completely from Europe. The Warsaw Pact, the communist answer to NATO, was long ago dissolved.

Yet NATO is being expanded. Why is that? Whom do they expect will attack Europe? And why did the American people remain dumbly passive when the Clinton administration persuaded NATO, a purely defensive organization, to launch an offensive war against the little nation of Yugoslavia? And why is the Bush administration also pushing NATO to adopt a new offensive strategy?

You ought to ask yourself why it was Russia, and not the United States, which suggested that nuclear warheads withdrawn in the recent arms-control agreement be destroyed. You ought to ask yourself why the United States insisted that warheads be merely stored, so they could be redeployed if needed.

You ought to ask yourself why President Bush recently scrapped 50 years of American strategic policy by announcing that the United States would be willing to use nuclear weapons on a non-nuclear state and that our policy would henceforth be pre-

emptive attacks.

What is that place in Wasington? Rome? And is Bush the emperor? Why do we have our mercenary legions deployed around the world? To guard an empire? Whose empire? Certainly none that benefits the average American. A multinational corporate empire perhaps, but that should have nothing to do with the American government. Private corporations can hire their own gunmen and leg-breakers.

"What kind of government have you given us?" a lady asked Benjamin Franklin after they had drafted a new Constitution.

"Madam," said Franklin, "We have given you a republic — if you can keep it."

And, of course, we could not. The republic died at Appomattox, and it's been empire ever since. The modest government, the freedom, the old policy of armed neutrality, the practice of relying on a citizen army, have all been scrapped. An all-volunteer force is in fact a mercenary force. And our government is strutting about as if it were the policeman in charge of planet Earth.

Well, just remember, all empires fall. They fall

because power corrupts, just as the British political philosopher said. They fall because they inevitably over extend themselves and go bankrupt. They fall because their citizens — recruited to passive watchers of games and consumers of bread — themselves become weak and corrupted.

Rome, too, got rid of its kings and for a while flourished as a republic, but greed and power eventually turned it into an empire. The only way we can avoid its fate is if a new generation of young leaders arises, leaders who are strong enough to lead the country back to the Constitution and its republican (little R) roots.

Are they out there? I don't know. I hope so. I have far more faith in American youth than in the baby boomer generation that is largely responsible for the mess we are in today. Eric Hoffer, the old waterfront philosopher, said in his last book that he was not at all sure America could survive the '60s generation. Neither am I.

Charley Reese can be contacted at briar1@earthlink.net.



CHARLEY REESE

ADDRESSES

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Phone: 202-224-9922
- **CHARLES STENHOLM**
U.S. Representative
17th District
1211 Longworth Office Bldg.
Washington, 20515.
Phone: 202-225-6605.



YOUR VIEWS

TO THE EDITOR:
The distention between the Big Spring school board and the administration carried over and affected an innocent by stander's life.

Power, control, and politics have no place in education. We (all adults) must work together to educate the youth of Big Spring and teach them to handle adversity as well as success.

Mrs. Rocha is a good administrator, an individual with strong character and was happy and positive to work around. I have worked with her for two years. Her life was tinkered with like she was a toy with no feelings. The individuals that are responsible for this need to look at the example they set for our youth.

What I see is it really doesn't matter who you have to hurt as long as you get your way or prove your point.

Is this the example that we want our youth to follow when working through their problems, feelings and emotions? Is this the way that those trying to establish control would want to be treated?

In 18 years of being an educator, I have seen similar situations that caused deep wounds and left deep scars which never com-

pletely heal.
BOBBIE TRUELOVE
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:
First, the Hispanic community was accused of putting in Hispanics that were not qualified for a position under affirmative action.

Last week school board trustees rejected a recommendation by the administration to hire Big Spring High School Assistant Principal Osbelia Rocha as principal of Moss Elementary. Rocha was selected from five other candidates and is well qualified for the job.

Furthermore, she was recommended by a fine person, Murray Murphy. One of the board trustees that voted against Rocha stated that she was well qualified for the job but decided to put the blame on the administration not being able to compromise.

Is it not true that the administration does the home work and makes recommendations to the board and the board members make the final decision?

If so, why is there a power struggle between the administration and the board? The board has the power.

Is seems to me that the

four who voted against Rocha are now the power on the school board. They will always be the deciding factor on how business is conducted, whether it is good for all the community or just the community they want to represent.

Prejudice, I thought was dead and buried, but we still have people in this community that hate to see Hispanics in high positions even if they are qualified.

One example of a good role model and well-qualified person is Esthela Aguirre, the assistant superintendent of the school district. Another example is Big Spring Junior High School Principal Rey Villarreal.

The old board was instrumental in selecting these well-qualified Hispanics to these positions. Now the new board will block all qualified Hispanics from any higher position.

I suggest we say "ya basta" and voice our opinion and ask the board to change its mind and reconsider Rocha to the position.

Pat DeAnda asked the board for a dialogue to discuss adopting new election procedures, to go to seven single member districts.

I can tell you now that the board will vote it down and will elect to fight in

federal court with "our" tax dollars. In the end, the board will lose like Midland did after it spent \$500,000 of the taxpayers money to fight a similar lawsuit.

Seven single member districts will insure equal representation.

Again, voice your opinion to change the board's mind for the betterment of our community.

JOE LUJAN
BIG SPRING

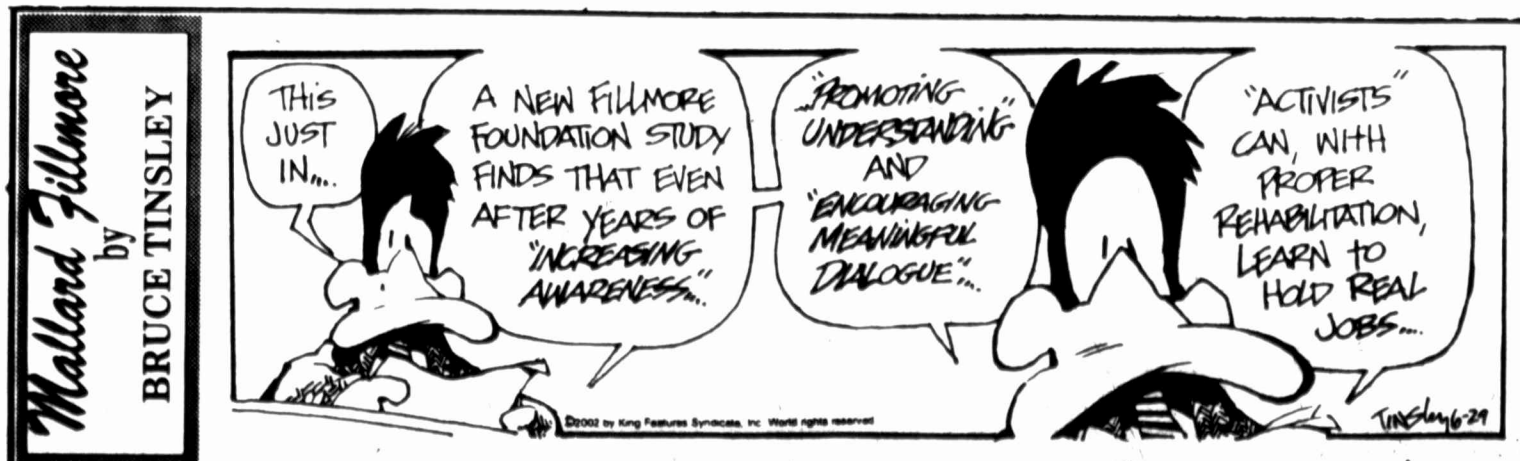
TO THE EDITOR:
We don't even know the gentleman's name, but for some weeks now, this "good neighbor" has been working his tail off, making improvements to his property at 1220 E. 17th Street.

He has taken all kinds of lumber and make wooden enclosures for his bushes, trees, etc.

His front lawn has been replanted, seeded, we think, and this property as well as our street has been improved so very much.

As a neighbor, I applaud this effort. It is so great to see someone proud enough to do this for the benefit of all of us who live on that street.

AL B. SCOTT
BIG SPRING



Mallard Fillmore by BRUCE TINSLEY

FIREWORKS

Continued from Page 4A

one's property get or destroyed."

Medical crews standing by just in case. "We also have personnel on scene by up there," he said. In fact, last year having bicycle roam through town. We're really proud that our done to put this ensure a safe event out there."

Those who do indulge in shooting their own fireworks are aware that shooting fireworks is prohibited. County commission also instituted a sale and use of fireworks with sticks or where in the county.

"Because of the rainfall and the fire we've had, the fire there is just high," Condray said. "I got a lot of fireworks there that's very right now. We had the right time to stage a lot of fireworks shoot of growth everything's just it's a tremendous it's just not worth it."

Condray said devices which enjoyed safely fire.

"There are safety that can be said. "They sell pull poppers at

YMCA at park

HERALD Staff Report

The YMCA will the annual Fun Walk on the Comanche Trail

It is a two-day that starts at the Old Settlers center of the The Fun Run 8:30 a.m.

Participants n

Snyder after gir

SNYDER (AP) police were in Friday after a 3-year-old was left in a day van for about an hour and had to be dehydrated.

Two workers Child Day Care the van driver; the van driver is an assistant — leave while an investigation is conducted.

Betty Jo Sand daughter, Alisha, Thursday evening seat in the van had been in

Woolah Magic
Game #204 (11)
Overall Odds are 1 in 4

Moolah Magic
Game #204 (11)
Overall Odds are 1 in 4

Triple Cash in a!
Game #250 (11)
Overall Odds are 1 in 4

Juggo!
Game #264 (10)
Overall Odds are 1 in 4

Triple Backs!
Game #274 (11)
Overall Odds are 1 in 4

Wizard of Odds
Game #274 (11)
Overall Odds are 1 in 4

Star of Texas
Game #274 (11)
Overall Odds are 1 in 4

You can claim prizes & are responsible at or Call the Texas Lottery

NOTE: A Scratch Off game may be winning any prize in these games

FIREWORKS

Continued from Page 1A

one's property gets damaged or destroyed."

Medical crews are also standing by just in case.

"We also have EMS personnel on scene that stand by up there," he said. "In fact, last year we started having bicycle medics that roam through the crowd. We're really proud of the work that our people have done to put this together to ensure a safe and happy event out there."

Those who do choose to indulge in shooting their own fireworks should be aware that shooting any firework other than sparklers in the city limits is prohibited. Howard County commissioners have also instituted a ban on the sale and use of fireworks with sticks or fins everywhere in the county.

"Because of the lack of rainfall and the growth that we've had, the fire index out there is just extremely high," Condray said. "We've got a lot of fuel load out there that's very volatile right now. We had rains at the right time that encouraged a lot of growth. We had a shoot of growth, and now everything's just dying off. It's a tremendous fuel load. It's just not worth the risk."

Condray said there are devices which can be enjoyed safely that don't require fire.

"There are safe fireworks that can be enjoyed," he said. "They sell these string-pull poppers and different

noisemakers that they can enjoy and don't have the risk of fire associated with them."

Sparklers can be safe if used correctly and under adult supervision.

"The sparklers, they are pretty and all that. If they're supervised by an adult, they can be very safe," he said. "They need to have water on hand. Even when a sparkler's out, it's still extremely hot. We get a lot of times when a kid will pick one up or step on it barefooted. You should never be barefoot around fireworks."

Ryan Finney of Texas Giant fireworks stand on South Highway 87 said many people simply enjoy shooting their own fireworks.

"A lot of people like to have their own fireworks, have a big family get-together and barbecue and shoot fireworks," he said. "Our family likes to go to the Pops in the Park and then go shoot our own fireworks. I think it just depends on the type of person."

Finney, who's managing Texas Giant for the first time this year, agreed with Condray that fireworks should be used properly.

"Some people ask if they should hold their Roman candles in their hands," he said. "We tell them not to, they should dig a little hole in the ground or something and put it in there."

Texas Giant is complying with the county-wide burn

ban, Finney added.

"People come up and ask us if we sell bottle rockets, and this year they banned them again, so we can't sell them," he said. "Usually after we tell them they're banned, they go to one of the big cannons or something that still does the same thing."

Finney said employees also warn customers that it's illegal to shoot fireworks in the city limits.

People can definitely have pyrotechnic fun even with the restrictions in place, Finney said.

"We have these big cannon things," he said, pointing at a two-foot tall, 8-inch

diameter cardboard cylinder with a square base attached. "You light the fuse at the bottom, and these big ones have seven shots. They shoot seven balls in the air that explode. Also, we have these Saturn Missiles. They make a loud screeching noise and they shoot like a trail in the air."

The stand also offers variety kits.

"The benefit of these kits is, like, if your family is going to be shooting a lot of fireworks and you have kids and teenagers and adults in the same family, it would be good to buy one of these kits," he said. "Certain of these kits have these little-

bitty poppers little kids can do, that you can just throw on the ground and they snap, all the way down to the artillery shells that teenagers and adults like to do. You put a ball in there and they shoot in the air."

Some of the kits also offer a large array of different artillery shells, which are similar to the cannon but must be loaded before they can be fired.

"Just come and get a box, and go," he said. "A little something for everybody."

Kathy Gray of the Mr. W fireworks stand, also on South Highway 87, wouldn't comment on Condray's warnings, but said sales

have been slow so far.

"It's slow at first, it always is," she said. "The day of the Fourth it will be packed."

Gray, who said she doesn't personally shoot fireworks, said the stand offers a wide assortment even with the burn ban in place.

"A little bit of everything," she said. "From firecrackers to Roman candles, sparklers, artillery shells, that kind of thing."

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

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YMCA plans fun run at park on Thursday

HERALD Staff Report

The YMCA will be hosting the annual Fun Run and Walk on Thursday at Comanche Trail Park.

It is a two-mile course that starts and finishes at the Old Settlers Pavilion in the center of the park.

The Fun Run will start at 8:30 a.m.

Participants may register

to enter one of the following three divisions: under 18 youth, adult men's or adult ladies divisions. Awards will be presented to the top three finishers in each division.

The registration fee is \$10 for adults and \$5 for youth. Registration forms are available at the YMCA as well as on the day of the race. For more information call the YMCA at 267-8234.

Snyder police investigating after girl left in day care van

SNYDER (AP) — Snyder police were investigating Friday after a 3-year-old girl was left in a day care center van for about eight hours and had to be treated for dehydration.

Two workers at Snyder Child Day Care Center — the van driver and a teaching assistant — were put on leave while an investigation is conducted.

Betty Jo Sanchez said her daughter, Alisha, was found Thursday evening under a seat in the van. The child had been picked up

Thursday morning.


Sanchez said she called the Snyder Child Day Care Center when her daughter never came home, but was told the girl was not at the facility.

Searchers eventually found the sweaty girl in the van, which was parked in a covered area as temperatures reached the lower 90s.

Day care officials said the girl was not normally on the pick-up list and was not checked when everyone else got off the bus.

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Jingle Bucks II Game #264 (#10) Overall Odds are 1 in 2.46	Mariachi Money Game #269 (#1) Overall Odds are 1 in 4.76	Cold Hard Cash Game #202 (#2) Overall Odds are 1 in 4.56
Triple Play Game #268 (#3) Overall Odds are 1 in 3.68	Wizard of Odds Game #276 (#1) Overall Odds are 1 in 4.79	Cattle Drive Cash Game #277 (#5) Overall Odds are 1 in 3.57
Star of Texas Game #276 (#5) Overall Odds are 1 in 3.26	Lucky Stars Game #275 (#2) Overall Odds are 1 in 4.88	

These games will close on July 31, 2002. You have until January 27, 2003 to redeem any winning tickets for these games.

You can claim prizes of up to \$599 at any Texas Lottery retailer. Prizes of \$400 or more are redeemable at one of the 22 Texas Lottery Claim Centers or by mail. Questions? Call the Texas Lottery Customer Service Line at 1-800-37-LOTTO (1-800-375-6886).

NOTE: A Scratch Off game may continue to be sold even when all the top prizes have been claimed. *The odds listed here are the overall odds of winning any prize in these games, including break-even prizes. Must be 18 years or older to purchase a ticket. © 2002 Texas Lottery.

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President Bush rails against corporate irresponsibility

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush, striving to shield himself from public anger over a growing list of accounting scandals, promised Saturday not to let an unethical few in corporate America "tarnish our entire free enterprise system."



BUSH

Bush defended his administration and the Republican Party against Democratic criticism that their laissez-faire attitude toward business has helped create the problems. "Despite recent abuses of the public's trust, our economy

remains fundamentally sound and strong," Bush said in his weekly radio address. "No violation of the public's trust will be tolerated. The federal government will be vigilant in prosecuting wrongdoers to ensure that investors and workers maintain the highest confidence in American business."

The president's scolding of big business, his fourth in as many days, could barely keep up with events.

Bush referred, though not by name, to WorldCom's disclosure earlier this week that it misrepresented \$3.8 billion in expenses. By Friday, Xerox had announced it, too, had overstated revenues by billions of dollars.

"Confidence is the cornerstone

of our economic system, so a few bad actors can tarnish our entire free enterprise system," Bush said. "America is ushering in a new era of responsibility and that ethic of responsibility must extend to America's boardrooms."

He listed administration efforts against corporate fraud: quick investigations into and actions against companies by the Securities and Exchange Commission and a 10-point plan that includes taking ill-gotten gains back from company executives and denying them the chance to serve on boards of directors.

Bush's address, recorded Friday, was broadcast on the day he was undergoing a colon screening by military doctors at Camp David,

Md. Because short-term sedation was involved, Bush was turning over the powers of the presidency during that time to Vice President Dick Cheney.

Sen. Paul Sarbanes, chairman of the Senate Banking Committee, also used the Democrats' weekly radio address to criticize corporate misconduct. "We are facing a crisis of confidence that is eroding the public's trust in our markets and poses a real threat to our economic health," he said. "We ignore it at our peril."

Sarbanes, D-Md., urged passage of his bill to tighten oversight of the accounting industry with a new private-sector body. White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said the president might support

the legislation when it goes to the Senate floor next month if it is changed to give the SEC greater administrative authority.

Bush has hit the issue hard as internal Republican polling shows him and his party vulnerable on the topic. He plans a July 9 speech on Wall Street as well.

Democrats, eager for political gains in this November elections that will decide control of the House and Senate, were seizing the moment, too.

Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., opened Friday's business on the Senate floor with a denunciation of "a deregulatory, permissive atmosphere that has relied too much on corporate America to police itself."

U.S., Mexico reach agreement Saturday in water debt

EL PASO (AP) — U.S. and Mexican officials signed a water deal Saturday that includes the release of 90,000 acre-feet of water from the Falcon Reservoir, providing short-term relief to drought-stricken farmers in the Rio Grande Valley.

The agreement marks the end of Mexico's 10-year failure to meet the terms of a 1944 water-sharing treaty. Mexico currently owes the United States about 1.5 million acre feet of water, a debt that has been mounting since 1992. An acre-foot is enough to cover one acre of land with one foot of water, about 326,000 gallons.

A date for the water release has not been given.

"This is a good beginning," said U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison.

"Although it may be too late to save this year's crops, this initial water release gets the cycle of payment started. Now we must work even harder to find a permanent solution to the mounting water debt that's devastating our Valley farmers."

Kathy Walt, spokeswoman for Gov. Rick Perry, said the release will be an important and welcome demonstration of Mexico's good faith effort toward meeting its obligation under the treaty.

"Mexico must take the next step, which is to commit to a regular schedule of

water releases," Walt said.

However, U.S. Rep. Solomon Ortiz, D-Corpus Christi, was unhappy with the announcement, saying that the release of 90,000 acre-feet of water is "about 200,000 acre feet less than our farmers and water users need right now."

"And with the effects of evaporation and hydrilla, much less than 90,000 will reach the irrigation districts of South Texas water users," Ortiz said.

The agreement includes several stipulations intended to ease the debt's accumulation, including the endorsement of a binational financial package for water conservation initiatives.

The move marks the first time both governments intend to invest jointly in measures for water conservation, sustainability and efficiency in the region.

The agreement also mandates the modernization of the hydrological infrastruc-

ture, with the goal of achieving greater efficiency in water use.

"The agreement reached contributes to resolving the water problems along the border, taking into account immediate needs as well as concrete actions to be taken

in the medium and long term," said Richard Boucher, spokesman for the State Department, in a written statement.

"In this way, both governments will assure more efficient use of water in Rio Grande basin."

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'01 Ford Explorer Sport Trac, One Owner \$20,980

Resident
PINEDALE, Ar that's left of the tion is a metal rod twisted. But walk fish are swimming beside a log cabin touched by the spread through week.
As residents r mountain homes first time since t found a patchw houses amid islan land.
"It will hit me, said Jean Stapley retirement home derblock foundat a fun house for dren."
Up the highway

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Residents chased from mountain town by wildfire allowed to return home

PINEDALE, Ariz. (AP) — All that's left of the Pinedale fire station is a metal roof, blackened and twisted. But walk 30 feet, and goldfish are swimming in a small pond beside a log cabin that was barely touched by the wildfire that spread through Pinedale last week.

As residents returned to their mountain homes Saturday for the first time since the fire hit, they found a patchwork of burned houses amid islands of untouched land.

"It will hit me. It'll take time," said Jean Stapley, who found her retirement home burned to its cinderblock foundation. "It was such a fun house for the grandchildren."

Up the highway, residents of the

area's biggest town, Show Low, were elated to find their homes and neighborhoods unscathed. The largest wildfire in Arizona history had come within 2,000 feet of the city's edge.

The threat from the 447,000-acre wildfire wasn't over for eastern Arizona, though. By Saturday, it had destroyed at least 423 homes and was about 25 percent contained by fire lines near Show Low, but it continued burning out of control elsewhere.

Firefighters were struggling to keep the flames from bursting out of steep canyons and into the 600 homes of Forest Lakes, about 40 miles west of Show Low.

The community of Forest Lakes sits on a plateau above steep canyons. Flames pushed out of one

of the canyons during the night and started several spot fires beyond a containment line, fire spokesman Jim Paxon said. Firefighters extinguished all of the spot fires.

"We're on edge," Paxon said. The fire began as two blazes that merged into one massive front. One part had been set accidentally by a hiker signaling for help; the other was also human caused, but officials haven't determined who started it or how.

In Show Low, a town fire officials had thought just a week ago was doomed, cars and motor homes filled the streets again Saturday as many of the 7,700 residents returned to still-standing homes. They had been ordered out on June 22.

Dianne Wentzloff had expected her white, ranch-style house to be covered with the red flame retardant sprayed by the firefighting planes, but it didn't have a scratch or a fleck on it. The American flag she forgot to remove still hung near the front door.

"I didn't care. But it's in beautiful shape," she said, smiling.

In all, more than 25,000 people were allowed back home on Saturday, out of the 30,000 evacuated from nine communities.

People were back in the streets of neighboring Pinetop-Lakeside and Hon-Dah, both of which were saved from the fire. But in nearby Linden, residents were still kept out of the heavily damaged subdivision of Timberland Acres, a square mile that had been dotted

with log cabins, trailers and ranch-style homes.

Residents of areas farther west of Show Low, including Heber-Overgaard, where more than 200 homes burned, were still under orders to stay out, among 3,500 to 4,000 people still kept from their homes.

Minnie Algeo of Heber-Overgaard wasn't sure Saturday whether her home had survived.

"I hope I'll be home for my 90th birthday. It's in November," Algeo said at a shelter in Holbrook.

In Colorado, another wildfire that had burned 71,000 acres north of Durango still threatened 152 homes and 206 other buildings Saturday, down more than 1,000 homes late Thursday, information officer Bill Hayes said.

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DISTRICT III TOURNAMENT

Nationals, Coahoma advance

Anderson's triple keys NL victory

By TOMMY WELLS

Sports Editor
Matt Ritchie and Monty Anderson might have won themselves roles in the next Harry Potter movie with their performances Friday night in the opening round of the District III Tournament. The two stars left the Midland Greenwood Rangers spellbound as they led the National League All-Stars to an easy 12-1 victory.

Ritchie hurled a two-hit gem and then watched on as Anderson capped a seven-run fourth inning outburst that sealed the victory and guaranteed the NL squad a berth in the second round against Coahoma Saturday night.

The winner of the NL-Coahoma matchup advances to play in the tournament quarterfinals on July 2 in Odessa.

The National League didn't waste any time in taking the upper hand. They built a quick 3-0 lead in the top of the first.

After Reagan Rotan and Kevin Burton had led off the game by drawing a pair of walks, Ritchie hit Greenwood ace Bevin Moody hard, slapping a shot to the gap for a two-run triple.

Ritchie helped himself even more seconds later by stealing home.

The NL all-stars added to their lead in the third, turning four walks and a hit batsman into a comfortable 5-0 lead.

See NL, Page 11A

District III Tournament	
NL	12
Midland	1



Coahoma's Beau Squires is congratulated by second baseman Jarred Ringener after making a diving catch in center field Friday night in the opening game of the District III Tournament at Johnnie Hobbs Field. Squires' catch helped Coahoma thwart a late rally attempt by the Big Spring American League all-stars and seal an 11-2 victory. With the win, Coahoma advanced to a second-round showdown with the Big Spring National League squad.

Herald photo/Tommy Wells

Hart, Coahoma stuns American League all-stars

By TOMMY WELLS

Sports Editor
Mike Hill drilled a two-run inside-the-park home run and Jarred Ringener went 3-for-3 from the plate and Coahoma to a stunning upset of the Big Spring American League All-Stars Friday in the opening round of the District III Tournament at Johnnie Hobbs Field.

Coahoma standout Chance Hart kept the Big Spring hitters off balance all night,

recovering from a rocky start to pitch six innings and earn a win.

The American League squad drew first blood in the contest, scoring twice in the top of the first. The AL squad cranked out two hits off Hart in the opening frame.

Coahoma answered right back, scoring two of their own — on Hill's two-run homer — to knot the game at 2-2.

The wheels came off the AL

District III Tournament	
AL All-Stars	2
Coahoma	11

wagon in the third, however. Coahoma turned a pair of errors and two hits into four runs and a 6-2 advantage.

The Coahoma defense got a shot in the arm in the fourth when center fielder Beau Squires turned in the defensive play of the game. Squires made a diving catch on a ball in the outfield that helped thwart an AL scoring chance.

The Coahoma bats responded to Squires' antics. The Coahoma squad stretched its lead to 9-2 in the bottom of the fourth as Ringer and his teammates crossed home plate three times.

Coahoma added two more runs in the fifth, before Hart took to the hill to seal the win with a solid effort from the mound. Hart fanned two of the final three batters he faced.

Tommy Wells is the sports editor of the Big Spring Herald. He can be reached at (915) 263-7331.

Win moves Astros near the 'Boot'

ARLINGTON (AP) — Houston center fielder Lance Berkman had the perfect spot to watch Roy Oswalt respond to adversity.

Kevin Mench tripped to start the seventh, but Oswalt left him there with three straight strikeouts as the Astros went on to the beat the Texas Rangers 6-5 Friday night.

"He's just got guts. A lot of time in adverse situations, he makes his best pitches," Berkman said. "I had a great view, and you could see he turned it up a notch and got the job done."

Oswalt didn't throw another pitch after Frank Catalanotto struck out on a nasty

sinker — the 111th pitch he threw. The right-hander left with a 5-3 lead.

"You have to make pitches.

With a runner on third, you have to focus on every pitch, and the biggest thing you have to do is make better pitches," Oswalt (8-5) said.

Oswalt struck out nine while allowing three runs on seven hits. The right-hander, one of the NL's top rookies a year ago, is 20-7 with a 3.02 ERA in 37 career starts.

Chan Ho Park (3-4) allowed five runs on seven hits over 7 2-3 innings. He struck out five and walked five while throwing 122 pitches in his longest outing for the Rangers.

"Except for one pitch (a homer to Orlando Merced), it was an OK outing," Park said. "I didn't get tired. It's a normal pitch count for what I used to do."

Berkman hit his 24th homer in the ninth, a 424-foot shot to center. That proved big after Mench homered in the ninth off Billy Wagner.

Ricky Stone took over to start the eighth, and gave up a run before Wagner got an inning-ending double play on his first pitch. Wagner got the last five outs for his 12th save.

"Oswalt really pitched a great game, especially his last inning," Astros manager Jimmy Williams said. "To be able to get out of that is some really great pitching. We thought he did his job and decided to make a change."

Merced's two-run homer gave Houston a 2-0 lead in the second. Richard Hildago was on after doubling off Juan Gonzalez's glove after the right fielder slipped on the warning track that had been soaked by a pregame thunderstorm.

Brad Ausmus had a two-run double and scored on a Jose Vizcaino single with two outs in the sixth to give Houston a 5-3 lead.

Alex Rodriguez tied the game at 2-2 all with his AL-leading 24th homer, a two-run shot after Ivan Rodriguez doubled in the second.

After the Rodriguez homer — the longest in the brief history of the Ballpark at Arlington, Oswalt struck out three of the next four hitters, including Gonzalez to end the third.

Texas led 3-2 in the fifth when Michael Young doubled and scored on a single by Catalanotto, who was activated earlier in the day after seven weeks on the disabled list because of lower back problems.

Ivan Rodriguez singled off Stone to start out the eighth and stole second before scoring on Gonzalez's single. Rafael Palmeiro was unable to keep the threat alive, though. He grounded into a double play on the first pitch Wagner threw him.

The Rangers and Astros split their six games last year, the first regular season series the two teams played, but Texas was given the Lone Star Series trophy for outscoring the Astros 44-28.

Lone Star Series	
Astros	6
Rangers	5

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division	W
New York	49
Boston	46
Baltimore	37
Toronto	31
Tampa Bay	27
Central Division	W
Minnesota	45
Chicago	39
Cleveland	37
Kansas City	30
Detroit	26
West Division	W
Seattle	50
Anaheim	45
Oakland	45
Texas	35

Sunday's Games

Montreal (Oka 7:4) at 12:05 p.m.
Atlanta (Marquis 6:4) at 8:12:05 p.m.
Arizona (Schilling 12:3) at 5:12:05 p.m.
Florida (Burnett 8:5) at 12:15 p.m.
Philadelphia (Person 10:3) at 12:35 p.m.
Milwaukee (Rusch 5:5) at 6:1:05 p.m.
Pittsburgh (Benson 1:4) at 11:1:05 p.m.
San Diego (Peavy 0:1) at 6:6:1:05 p.m.
Chicago Cubs (Clement 1:5) at 1:05 p.m.
San Francisco (Ortiz 6:4) at 5:7:3:05 p.m.
Colorado (Thomson 6:7) at 6:3:35 p.m.
Houston (Redding 3:4) at 7:05 p.m.
N.Y. Mets (Trachsel 6:1) at 7:05 p.m.
Los Angeles (Od Peralta) at 6:6:7:05 p.m.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Atlanta	W
Atlanta	49
Florida	40
New York	39
Philadelphia	35
Central Division	W
St. Louis	42
Cincinnati	41
Houston	35
Pittsburgh	35
Chicago	32
Milwaukee	28
West Division	W
Los Angeles	50
Arizona	46
San Francisco	44
Colorado	38
San Diego	33

Today's Games

Montreal (Oka 7:4) at 12:05 p.m.
Atlanta (Marquis 6:4) at 8:12:05 p.m.
Arizona (Schilling 12:3) at 5:12:05 p.m.
Florida (Burnett 8:5) at 12:15 p.m.
Philadelphia (Person 10:3) at 12:35 p.m.
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Houston (Redding 3:4) at 7:05 p.m.
N.Y. Mets (Trachsel 6:1) at 7:05 p.m.
Los Angeles (Od Peralta) at 6:6:7:05 p.m.

Rangers at Astros

ARLINGTON — Frank Catalanotto celebrated Friday and backed up for the Texas Rangers against the Houston Astros. Catalanotto hit the DL since a lower back problem. The Rangers...

Floyd Gwin rally sinks HCYBL All-Stars in tournament opener

By TOMMY WELLS

Sports Editor
The Floyd Gwin All-Stars reeled off nine unanswered runs in three innings and raced to a wild 9-4 comeback behind win over the Howard County Youth Baseball League All-Stars Friday night.

With the loss, the Howard County squad fell to 0-1 in District 3 Tournament play, and into a do-or-die situation heading into their consolation round matchup with South Odessa Saturday afternoon. Another loss would eliminate the HCYBL squad from the tournament.

"It just didn't go our way," said coach Jon Richard Sparks. "We just have to put this game out of our memory and play again."

Big Spring 7-on-7 team looks for berth in Brownwood

The Big Spring Steers found themselves with their backs against the proverbial wall this weekend as they traveled to Brownwood for the final 7-on-7 state qualifying tournament. Simply put,

District III Tournament	
Floyd Gwin	9
Howard Co	4

The team's mood was anything but unhappy in the early moments. Howard County built a 4-0 cushion through the first three innings.

Wesley Smith got Big Spring off and rolling in the first. He singled to right and then, moments later, raced home with the game's first run on a single off the bat of J. Rich Sparks.

Howard County struck again in the second. Josh Noble and Justin Watson both scored in the frame and stretched the lead to 3-0.

The HC advantage ballooned to 4-0 in the third, thanks to a picture-perfect squeeze bunt by Brandon

Wood. With the bases loaded, Wood dropped a bunt in front of the plate that allowed J.W. Beauchamp to race home from third.

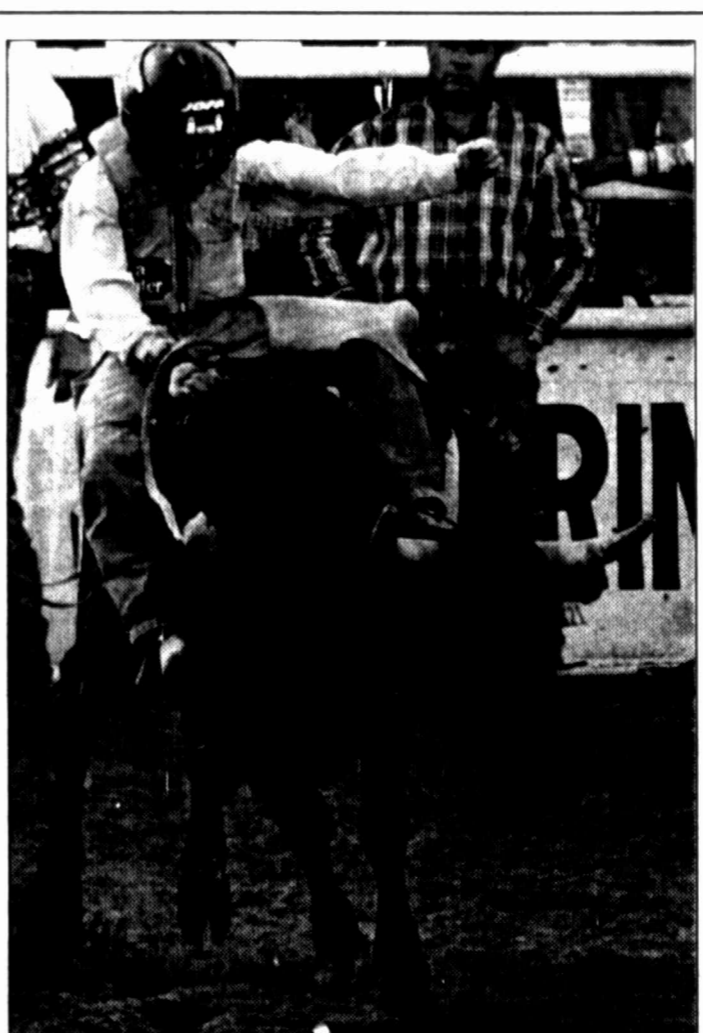
"He (Wood) put down a beautiful bunt," said Sparks. "When those kind of things work, they look great."

Unfortunately for Howard County, the momentum turned quickly. Floyd Gwin hammered out three runs in the third and pulled to within 4-3.

They erased HC's lead one inning later, exploding for four runs in the fourth and rolling to a 7-4 cushion.

Floyd Gwin added two more runs in the fifth. Sherwood downed South Odessa in the other first-round game Friday.

sharp in earlier tournaments, but suffered key losses in each. Last week they finished second in their pool in Abilene without starting quarterback Tye Butler.



Seth Mahaffey concentrates on his ride's head during bull riding action at the 57 Annual Howard County 4-H Junior Rodeo. The event concluded Saturday evening. For complete results, see Monday's edition of the Big Spring Herald.

Herald photo/Antonio Beromet

Rockets must wait for Ming

HOUSTON (AP) — The chase for Yao Ming is done. There is still a ways to go, however, before the 7-foot-5 center is wearing a No. 11 Rockets jersey.

The Rockets must wait until mid-October for Yao to complete his commitments to his Chinese national team in international competition.

Yao, engaging and friendly in brief interviews following his selection, is eager to begin his new life. But not before he completes work for his own country.

"I have obligations to balance both teams," he said through an interpreter. "I want to go to the NBA because they play a better game. It is where the best players are. My target is to win."

Yao is the first foreign player who didn't play college basketball in the U.S. to be chosen as the NBA's first draft pick.

Yao averaged 32.4 points and 18.9 rebounds with his club team in Shanghai. He'll be facing a tougher game in the NBA, and his strength is a question.

Advertisement for Chrysler vehicles, featuring a car and the text "17 CHR BENCH", "PROPRI", "SA", "MSRP \$", "7", "CHRY", "80".

SPORTS EXTRA

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Table with columns: East Division, West Division, Sunday's Games. Rows include team names, wins, losses, percentages, and game results.

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL American League ANAHEIM ANGELS—Recalled RHP John Lackey from Salt Lake of the PCL. Placed RHP Al Levine on the 15-day disabled list. Reassigned INF Shawn Wooten Rancho Cucamonga of the PCL and RHP Derrick Turnbow to the Mesa Angels of the Arizona League. BOSTON RED SOX—Named Mike Dee executive vice president for business affairs. CLEVELAND INDIANS—Sent RHP Tim Drew to the Montreal Expos to complete a previous trade. NEW YORK YANKEES—Placed LHP Sterling Hitchcock back on the 15-day disabled list. Recalled LHP Randy Choate from Columbus of the International League. TEXAS RANGERS—Activated OF Frank Catalanotto from the 15-day disabled list. Optioned RHP Aaron Myette to Oklahoma of the PCL. NATIONAL LEAGUE CINCINNATI REDS—Recalled RHP Luke Hudson from Louisville of the International League. Placed RHP Jose Silva on the 15-day disabled list, retroactive to June 27. LOS ANGELES DODGERS—Placed C Chad Kreier on the 15-day disabled list. BASKETBALL National Basketball Association LOS ANGELES CLIPPERS—Waived G Earl Boykins. SAN ANTONIO SPURS—Traded the rights to G Gordon Gingeck to Memphis for a 2004 second round draft pick and cash. NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE CHICAGO BEARS—Signed CB Roosevelt Williams. JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS—Signed OT Freddie Moore. ST. LOUIS RAMS—Agreed to terms with C Chris Massey on a three-year contract. Released LB Dustin Cohen. HOCKEY National Hockey League CALGARY FLAMES—Signed RW Chuck Kobasew. CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS—Re-signed D Phil Housley. LOS ANGELES KINGS—Signed D Jason Holland, to a two-year contract, and exercised an option on LW Derek Bear. PHOENIX COYOTES—Signed RW Fredrik Sjoström to a multiyear contract.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Table with columns: East Division, West Division, Today's Games. Rows include team names, wins, losses, percentages, and game results.

WNBA

Table with columns: EASTERN CONFERENCE, WESTERN CONFERENCE, Sunday's Games. Rows include team names, wins, losses, percentages, and game results.

AL LEADERS

Table with columns: AMERICAN LEAGUE, TEXAS LEAGUE. Rows include team names, wins, losses, percentages, and game results.

Rangers activate Catalanotto from DL ARLINGTON (AP) — right handed pitcher Aaron Myette to Oklahoma City. Before he was injured, Catalanotto started 13 games at second base, 11 in left field and one each at first base and designated hitter. He was the leadoff hitter in 25 of the 26 games he started.

Comets streak to sixth straight win

HOUSTON (AP) — Sheryl Swoopes tied a season-high with 27 points as the Houston Comets defeated the Utah Starzz 73-57 Friday for their sixth straight victory. The loss snapped Utah's four-game winning streak. Seventeen of Swoopes' points came in the first half. "I think we've finally realized how good we can be," Swoopes said. "Utah is a very good team and we knew what we had to do." Marie Ferdinand led the Starzz (8-4) with 16 points. Margo Dydek pulled down a game-high 16 rebounds but made just two of 10 shots. Natalie Williams made a layup with 13:04 left in the game to tie the score at 45, but Houston (11-3) responded with a 16-2 run. Swoopes scored five points during the run to give the Comets a 61-47 lead with 6:19 to go. Houston jumped out to a 23-15 lead in the first 9:26 of the game before Utah battled back and scored nine straight points to take a 24-23 lead with 6:06 left. Ferdinand scored five points during the run to give Utah its second lead of the night, but Houston responded with a run of its own, outscoring the Starzz 12-5 in the final five minutes to take a 35-29 lead into halftime.

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IN BRIEF

Black Gold Tournament set for July 12-14
The Big Spring Black Gold Tennis Tournament will be held July 12-14 at the Figure 7 Tennis Center. Age divisions are 12 & Under, 14 & Under, 16 & Under, 18 & Under and Adult. Participants may play singles, doubles and mixed doubles.
Entry fee for the tournament is \$15 for one event, \$20 for two events and \$25 for three events. Players may enter by calling Wendy Justiss at (915) 398-5485 or Sara Corse at (915) 263-2275.
Entries must be received by July 6.

Olympian will offer volleyball camp here
Rose Magers-Powell, a member of the United States volleyball team that earned a silver medal at the 1988 Olympic Games, will be conducting a volleyball camp in the Big Spring Junior High School gymnasium on July 22-25.

The camp will be conducted in three separate phases, helping campers develop at their appropriate levels. The camp will be divided into grades 2-5, 6-8 and 9-12.
To register, or for more information, write: Traci Pierce, 2711 Rebecca, Big Spring, Tex., 79720.

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.
The boys' and girls' games will be played prior to the All Americas Bowl, a six-man all-star football game.

Ragball touney is set for July 5-6
Booths are available for the 10th Annual Ragball Tournament, sponsored by the Coahoma 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.
For more information, call Denise Coates at 393-5584.

USSSA qualifier slated for Midland
The Permian Basin USSSA will be hosting the Last Chance Softball Tournament at the Bill Williams Complex in Midland on July 13-14.
USSSA registration is required. To enter call (915) 699-5559.

Juniors to open touney on July 5
The Big Spring Junior All-Stars are scheduled to open the District 3 tournament at 5:30 p.m. on July 5 with a game against Midland Christian.

Sabathia steps in as Cleveland's new ace

C.C. Sabathia made a strong case to be Cleveland's new ace, while Joel Pineiro showed why he's the future star of Seattle's staff.

One day after the Indians sent Bartolo Colon to the Montreal Expos in a six-player trade, Sabathia (6-6) shut down the World Series champion Arizona Diamondbacks in leading Cleveland to an 8-2 win Friday night.

"Yeah, he looks like a No. 1," said Diamondbacks outfielder Luis Gonzalez, who went 0-for-3. "Early in the game, in the shadows, it looked like 110."

Sabathia allowed just one earned run and four hits in 7 2-3 innings. He got his support from Chris Magruder, who hit a three-run homer, and Ellis Burks, a two-run shot, in a seven-run fourth off Miguel Batista (4-5).

In Seattle, Pineiro (8-3) limited Colorado to six hits in his second complete game in his last four outings as the Mariners beat the Rockies 6-2.

Brett Boone's homer off rookie Jason Jennings broke a 2-2 tie and helped Seattle to its 50th victory.

In other interleague games, it was the Chicago White Sox 13, Chicago Cubs 9; Atlanta 4, Boston 2; Montreal 2, Toronto 1; the N.Y. Yankees 11, N.Y. Mets 5; Pittsburgh 3, Detroit 1; Philadelphia 6, Baltimore 2; Tampa Bay 4, Florida 0; Minnesota 5, Milwaukee 1; Kansas City 14, San Diego 10; Los Angeles 7, Anaheim 5; and Oakland 10, San Francisco 6.

In the NL game, it was St. Louis 3, Cincinnati 2.

Yankees 11, Mets 5
Jorge Posada homered from both sides of the plate to drive in five runs and Robin Ventura knocked in four against his former team as the host New York

Yankees beat the New York Mets.

Braves 4, Red Sox 2
At Fenway Park, Vinny Castilla and Henry Blanco drove in runs in the ninth as Atlanta beat Boston in a matchup of teams that began the night as division leaders.

White Sox 13, Cubs 9

Paul Konerko homered twice after getting hit on the helmet by Kerry Wood, and the White Sox rallied to beat their crosstown rival Cubs in front of the largest regular-season crowd at new Comiskey Park.

Konerko went 4-for-4, his second straight four-hit game, and finished with four RBIs and four runs scored.

Twins 5, Brewers 1

Johan Santana threw eight strong innings, and A.J. Pierzynski and Dustan Mohr each hit two-run homers for Minnesota in a victory over Milwaukee.

Santana (3-1) scattered four singles, didn't walk anybody and struck out a career-high nine, though it did come against the free-swinging Brewers.

Phillies 6, Orioles 2

Randy Wolf got his first victory in more than a month and Pat Burrell hit a three-run homer and as Philadelphia beat host Baltimore.

Jimmy Rollins, Jeremy Giambi and Scott Rolan also homered off Orioles starter Travis Driskill (5-1) for the Phillies.

Expos 2, Blue Jays 1

At SkyDome, Tony Armas Jr. and Scott Stewart combined on a three-hitter, and

Fernando Tatis hit a tiebreaking home run in the seventh to lift Montreal over Toronto.

Armas (8-7) allowed one run and three hits in seven innings, improving to 3-0 in his last five starts.

Devil Rays 4, Marlins 0

Wilson Alvarez pitched four-hit ball for seven innings to lead Tampa Bay

over Florida for his first victory at Tropicana Field in nearly three years.

Alvarez missed the last two seasons recovering from left shoulder surgery.

Pirates 3, Tigers 1

Josh Fogg allowed two hits over seven innings, and Pittsburgh defeated host Detroit for just its fourth win in 14 games.

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NL

Continued from page 9
Burton, who has won three NL's assault with a pitch and a race home on a fly to center field.
With two outs, Jacob Acosta's Miranda Parks from the hill Rangers' ace and loading the Strickland gave Cole Barton a



SAVE
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NL

Continued from Page B1

Burton, who scored three times in the contest, opened the NL's assault when he was hit by a pitch and awarded first base. He stole second and third, and raced home on a one-out sacrifice fly to center by Ritchie.

With two outs, Blake Gorman, Jacob Acosta and pinch-hitter Miranda Parks chased Moody from the hill by working the Rangers' ace for three walks and loading the bases. Robert Strickland gave relief pitcher Cole Barton a rude welcome

from there. Strickland, pinch hitting for Anderson, drew a run-scoring walk — the fourth straight issued by Midland pitchers — from Barton.

The Rangers, managed to cut into the NL's lead in the bottom half of the third, turning an error and an infield hit into a run.

The National Leaguers hit on all cylinders in the fourth. They sent 10 batters to the plate in the inning and scored seven times — three coming on a bases loaded triple by Anderson.

Tommy Wells is the sports editor of the Big Spring Herald. He can be reached at (915) 263-7331.

Brazil, Germany to meet in World Cup finals

YOKOHAMA, Japan (AP) — It took half a century to happen, but this World Cup final could be worth the wait.

Brazil and Germany meet Sunday for the first time ever in soccer's biggest event, a fitting stage for a clash spiced by 50 years of anticipation.

There's something for everyone in this classic matchup of contrasting styles and strengths: The No. 1 offense vs. the No. 1 defense, Ronaldo vs. Oliver Kahn, artistry vs. discipline, Latin heat vs.

European cool.

"Germany is a traditional team, cold, calculating, a three-time champion," Brazil coach Luiz Felipe Scolari said. "We respect them deeply."

"It will be a great game, a historic game," he said.

Brazil and Germany have dominated the sport since World War II, with one of them reaching the World Cup final in 12 of the past 13 tournaments. The only exception was in 1978, when host Argentina defeated the Netherlands.

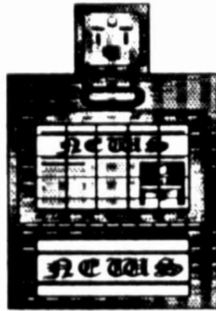
Brazil won the tournament in 1958, '62, '70 and '94. The Germans triumphed in '54, '74 and '90.

With veteran wingbacks Cafu and Roberto Carlos charging the flanks, Brazil has an arsenal unmatched at the World Cup.

Even the defense, traditionally Brazil's weak link, has jelled in the knockout round. Goalkeeper Marcos has three shutouts in six games.

German goalkeeper Kahn will be the main obstacle for Brazil. He has starred in the net this year.

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On March 20, 2001, Lamun Sanchez Stat Veteran's Home opened its first...

It is now for individuals with one time, four worked behind scenes in order to secure the same freedom of the States of America. Although the population is sent predominantly male there are female residents three of whom, said Susan Cutney, market specialist for the facility. The facility is 100 percent and Medicaid exception only to the private rooms.

Married couples welcome and ally given separate rooms. However, not required according to not always dependent. Requirement for the home that the resident to be 18 years old and a Texas resident must have social requirements. "A lot of people think this is a disability while working. While at the woodworking. "We encourage active lifestyle. Visitors are Call 268-8377

He followed veterans and talk about the losing World War experiences. Burnice "B" in the U.S. Army to an injury in Polk, La. His father's "Daddy," he said. Although he those who see. One person



Schwartz referred daughter I was so special to "If someone want it."

Hugo Camp Force and residents at The couple moved to California. "I was in for One of his bunked across and he was and I could cob pipe," re Meeting a bombing of astated area. "I was there and shoot do Strange co same chow l "We were son ahead of He later ra Pleasant co to Tokyo aft the A bomb. He is sure ry was. He e Annette as s

Dale Puck served from new Webb A "I was ver that I was fr Fighting fo

War Time Memories ... *from those who were there*

On March 19, 2001, Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez State Veteran's Home welcomed its first resident.

It is now home to 94 individuals who, at one time, fought or worked behind the scenes in order to secure the safety and freedom of the United States of America.

Although the home's population is at present predominately male there are seven female residents, three of who are veterans, said Susan Cutney, marketing specialist for the Veteran's home.

The facility is now 100 percent Medicare and Medicaid with exception only applying to the private rooms.

Married couples are welcome and are usually given semi-private rooms. However, this not required and, according to Susan, not always desired.

Requirements for living at the home are that the resident has to be 18 years old, honorably discharged, a Texas resident, and must have some medical requirements.

"A lot of people think this is a retirement home, but they have to have medical needs," she said.

The disability doesn't have to be service related and a resident's stay can be transitional while they recover from a hospital stay.

While at the home residents enjoy a variety of activities such as cards, Bingo and woodworking (check out the birdhouses, leather belts and windmills at the gift shop).

"We encourage them to get out of bed if they can. We try to help them maintain an active lifestyle if they can," said Susan.

Visitors are welcome but should call in advance if a tour is desired.

Call 268-8387 to schedule a time or for any questions call 1800-252-8387.



Pictured here from left are Burnice "Blackie" Clawson, J.D. Mitchell, Hugo Campbell, James Hollandsworth who declined to be interviewed, Annette Campbell and Dale Puckett. Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez State Veteran's Home has 160 rooms and is home to 94 veterans at this time. Although the population is predominately male there are seven women with three of them being veterans. For more information about the home call 1-800-252-8387 or 268-8387.

The following accounts are taken from the reminiscences of four of the World War II veterans and one spouse who lives at the home. For obvious reasons they would only talk about the pleasant memories they have of their time served, but because we are losing World War II veterans at a rate of 1,200 to 1,400 a day they want to share their experiences so that a little piece of that history won't be lost.

Burnice "Blackie" Clawson was a private for Co. B, 536th Armored Infantry Battalion in the U.S. Army and served from May 11, 1943, to July 17, 1943. His service ended due to an injury he sustained during a training exercise while he was stationed at Fort Polk, La.

His father was a World War I veteran which led Blackie to enlist. "I wanted to be like Daddy," he said.

Although his service was short, Blackie explained that he had tremendous respect for those who served and doesn't want them to be forgotten.

One person in particular was a man named Jean Schwartz who Blackie met while at the Veteran's Home. "He was blind, and had one leg cut off - he lost it in W.W.II but you would never know it. He was an all around good guy."

Blackie's good friend recently died after being hospitalized, but he left something with the Army veteran that will always be treasured.

"He always carried this bell and he would ring it whenever he heard me coming. I never could sneak up on him," Blackie joked. "He gave it to me before he went into the hospital because he knew it would get lost," he continued.

Why the bell was so special to Schwartz remains a mystery and Blackie has no plans to give it away. "I told his daughter I want it to be put in my casket, but I sure wish I could find out why it was so special to him," he said.

"If someone offered \$1,000 for the bell I'd tell them to go jump in the lake, I don't want it."

Hugo Campbell was a sergeant in Aircraft Mechanic Supplies for the U.S. Army Air Force and served from Sept. 17, 1942, to Dec. 4, 1948. Both he and his wife, Annette, are residents at the Veteran's Home.

The couple married in 1946 after Annette graduated from high school. They then moved to California after their honeymoon, but Hugo left to begin his stint soon after.

"I was in for four years and eight months. I've been to Tokyo three times," he said. One of his favorite memories was when he went to Tokyo for the last time and was bunked across from where the enlisted were housed. "Douglas McCarthy was in charge and he was staying in the building where the enlisted were. He was three stories below and I could see him when he came out and smoked his pipe," said Hugo. "It was a corn cob pipe," remembered Annette.

Meeting a historical figure pales however compared to what happened soon after the bombing of Pearl Harbor where he was aboard the second airplane to arrive to the devastated area.

"I was there when the Arizona turned over," he said. "We had to keep our eyes open and shoot down anything that wasn't supposed to be there," he explained.

Strange coincidences also befell Hugo when he unexpectedly found himself in the same chow line with his brother who was in the Navy.

"We were on Ouaelant Island, we were in the chow line and my brother was one person ahead of me. He was on a transport ship in the Navy," he said.

He later ran into another brother while he was stationed on Johnson Island.

Pleasant coincidences hardly made up for the horrors he witnessed when he returned to Tokyo after the war and chose not to comment, but he was witness to the effects of the A bomb, said Annette.

He is sure of one thing however and didn't hesitate when asked what his best memory was. He emphasized the emotion with a finger jabbing the air in the direction of Annette as she sat across from him. "When I got home and saw her."

Dale Puckett was a staff sergeant in maintenance in the U.S. Army Air Force and served from Sept. 12, 1942, to Feb. 5, 1946. He was in the second group to arrive at the new Webb Air Force Base.

"I was very fortunate and didn't see any combat," said Puckett. "My major found out that I was from Big Spring and saw that I stay, but I wanted to go," he said.

Fighting for his country was of course a priority, but there were other reasons that

encouraged his desire to leave. "Nobody liked me. Can you imagine, you're a mother whose sons are dying in Europe and I get to stay?" he said and explained that the negativity was disturbing to him.

Despite the trouble at home he was proud to serve and was privy to military secrets involved with the Norton Bomb Site. "It was very, very quiet," he said. "They brought pilots from San Antonio to teach them how to fly and to coordinate a target on the ground," he said. The bomb site was located behind what is now Hangar 25 and the target was locked in a box, taken out for use and then returned to its hiding place after each training mission, Dale said.

He was also involved in Glider Training which taught pilots how to maneuver 'dead stick' planes (the engine was turned off to avoid making any noise behind enemy lines).

"We called them one way trips because they were suicide missions. And in the beginning the pilots got combat pay, but the troops didn't until a general flew in one and decided that they should," said Dale.

As a jack of all trades, Dale was involved in almost every facet of the base's operation. "We trained civilian women to operate military trucks and in general maintenance. I took trainees to the ranch where they were trained to fly the gliders. You name it I did it," he said.

He later got his wish to leave granted and was stationed at Kerns, Utah before being sent to Hawaii. "I went over the major's head to get me out," said Dale.

Although he was never in combat the effects of the War are apparent. "I lost two cousins who committed suicide after the war and I have two buddies that are still in the Arizona - their bodies were never recovered."

Navy veteran John Taggart especially endeared himself to Dale who doesn't want him to be forgotten. "He was blind and carried a stick, but you would never know it. He wasn't flashy, you had to learn him before he would open up to you, but once he touched you he had you," said Dale as his voice quivered.

Dale said that he would like to know what happened to the maps that were in each one of the planes or anything pertaining to when the base first opened and would appreciate any information given to him.

Dale's message to young people is this - "When World War II broke out I wanted in in a hurry. I didn't care if I came back. Today it's a different situation, the enemy is already here. Our standards need a big modification, especially in the home," he said. "When I was a kid I never sassed my Daddy. They should have respect for their parents, school, peers and themselves," he said.

J.D. Mitchell was a staff sergeant for the 838th Air Engineer Squadron, 8th Air Corps, Army Air Force and served from Sept. 26, 1941, to Dec. 8, 1945. He was stationed at Thorp Abbot England, 90 miles northeast of London.

He worked on B-17's. "The best in the world," said J.D. and gives credit to the aircraft for winning the War rather than the military forces. "The Germans were very good soldiers. We were just civilians in uniforms," he mused.

While he was not assigned to a unit, he was sent with a convoy of 47 ships and was on the English ship Staffnauer which was not exactly a pleasure cruise as he described. "The only thing we had was a picnic table where we slept. There were six two foot by 12 foot tables for 180 men to share. Those who didn't go to bed early had to stand up all night," he said.

"It took us 14 days to cross because we were zig-zagging to miss the German subs," he said.

Seeing the submarines led to J.D.'s amazement of the battleship's ability to turn and take them out.

Later stationed at a depot in Blackpool, J.D. did everything to planes that could be done.

"We would pull out engines, tear them down and rebuild them," he said. When the pilots would buzz the grass, which was very tall, the ground crew had to polish the blades due to damage from the grass, J.D. explained.

He later went on a practice run that he would not soon forget. "I went on a practice run with a rookie crew from Texas on a plane that was to be sent on a mission the next day. When we left England the crew put the plane in auto pilot and leaned back in their seats. Before they knew it they were over Holland which was enemy territory. The plane was shot up and the crews had to stay up all night patching up the holes for the mission the next day," he quipped.

Another harrowing experience involved a routine procedure which ended in the loss of a man's life. "It was another instance where I was just a little scared," he said.

"The turret man didn't properly disengage a port and sat it down where it magnetized and set off the machine gun at the ball turret (located at the bottom of the aircraft). He was cut in half. I yelled 'Hit the ground' and my friend Kelly and I dug ourselves a hole this deep," he said indicating with outstretched hands.

"Over 350 caliber shells were exploded out of it and it rotated three and a half times until it got so hot it jammed," he remembered.

Along with the loss of the operator, the landing gear of three other aircraft were destroyed.

Another experience taught J.D. a valuable lesson. "There was talent all through the Army, from the generals on down," he said.

While on perimeter one night J.D. heard an approaching airplane that's engine was 'sputtering.' "It was a P-51 Pursuit Plane... it made a dive at the taxi strip and landed. About that time a fuel truck pulled out in front of it. The pilot pushed the throttle forward and the plane jumped over the truck, then the engine died. Nobody was hurt, but I was scared bad and it aged me a few years," he said.

J.D. was 26 years old when he went into the service and got home on Dec. 6, 1945. He got married on Jan. 28, 1948, and was remained so for 51 years and lived in the same house for 50 years.

— Story and photos by Andrea Medlin with the assistance of Susan Cutney and Joel Miller.

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Bill's more than just a neighbor in Hannah's eyes

You learn early that you have little or no control about your child's likes or dislikes, especially when it comes to people. It always bothered me that Hannah, now 3, was terrified of a friend who goes to our church. For a while, she screamed if he came near her, then she just tried to hide as soon as she saw him.



DEBBIE
JENSEN

He was a good sport about it, but it was embarrassing trying to pry her from my leg at a family-night supper if he happened to be in line for the buffet. Thank goodness she seems to have grown out of it.

While she acted shy and afraid around quite a few people as a baby and toddler, Hannah always loved Bill.

Our next-door neighbor, a widower with a great-grandchild about Hannah's age, Bill has always gone out of his way to be kind to my daughter. He never fails to greet her warmly; he'll ask where she's been and listen patiently to the answer, however unintelligible it may be to his untrained ears.

For a long time, Bill actually struggled to understand when Hannah talked to him. Then one evening on the driveway, my husband informed him, "You know, all you really need to do is smile and nod. Or say, 'Yes!'"

I have to laugh now when I come out on the driveway and there are the three of them - Hannah jabbering away, Brian and Bill smiling and

nodding. Every now and then one of the men will say, "Yes!" and they share a look that says, "Boy, are we smart! Let's get out some power tools!"

Whatever works. I'll never forget the day I explained to Hannah that Bill was our neighbor. She loved the idea that he had a title. He wasn't just the man next door; he was official.

"There's my neighbor," she told her grandmother during a weekend visit, pointing as Bill left his driveway. Once, after hearing me describe another person on our street as "our neighbor," she corrected me.

"No, Mom, remember, Bill is our neighbor."

Almost every time we drive up, Hannah looks to see if Bill is home. If he's not, she starts speculating about where he's gone.

"Maybe he went to Wal-Mart," she likes to guess. "He needed some dog food." Or if she hasn't seen him in a day or two, "I think Bill went to the lake."

If he is home, and happens to be working outside, Hannah can hardly get her seatbelt off fast enough, climb out the car door and go talk to him. He always greets her with a hearty, "Hi, Hannah!" He dutifully watches her ride her bike, and he never fails to remark on how much she's grown.

Hannah's favorite subject of conversation often seems to be her clothes, which she shows off proudly to Bill, pointing out how her socks match and other details. I'm sure he finds this fascinating.

Then there was the time Hannah noticed that she and Bill were both

wearing overalls. I've never seen her so excited. She scrambled off the porch like a lightning bolt and ran to share the news with him.

"I'm wearing overalls like you," she told him.

"Yes!" Bill thoughtfully answered.

"But my overalls have flowers," she added. "And look at my socks."

Bill continued to smile and nod. My husband would have been proud.

"I have on Barbie panties," Hannah continued. As soon as the words left her mouth, they drifted to my ear on the porch a few feet away. Cringing, I ran to Bill's rescue.

I calmly took her arm and walked her back over to the porch. "Bill looks very busy!" When we were out of earshot, I scrambled around to explain. "You know, it might be better not to talk about your panties with Bill. It's not polite." She looked at me with a frown, but I pressed on.

"It would be okay to talk about your panties with family members, but not other people."

"But mom," Hannah whined. "Bill is my family. He's my neighbor."

Now if only I could figure out how to explain to Hannah that Bill is planning to sell his house and move permanently to his place at the lake. He will be missed. Since his sister and brother-in-law live on the next block, though, I think he'll visit from time to time.

We may not see Bill around as much any more, but I hope he knows he'll always be our neighbor. Hannah wouldn't have it any other way.

Debbie L. Jensen is a Big Spring freelance writer.

STORK CLUB

Julia Deeann Jones, girl, born June 12, 2002, at 12:18 p.m. She weighed 7 pounds, 10 ounces and was 20 3/4 inches long. Parents are J. and Tiffany Jones.

Grandparents are D.L. Cooper of Azle, Teresa Cooper of Spring, Jeff Atwell of Midland, and Tommy and Becky Jones of Lubbock.

Paid announcement

Christopher Lee Viasana Jr., boy, born June 15, 2002, at 7:35 p.m. He weighed 7 pounds, 8 1/2 ounces and was 20 1/2 inches long.

Parents are Christopher and Elizabeth Viasana. Grandparents are Mary Puga and Lee Viasana of Big Spring and Deanna Schwart of Avondale, Arizona.

Cory Brian Horn, boy, born May 23, 2002 at 11:27 a.m. He weighed 7 pounds, 11 1/4 ounces and was 19 3/4 inches long.

Parents are Cathy Digby and Claudie Horn II. Grandparents are Rubye Digby and Ray Locke of Palatka, FL. and Patsy and Claudie Horn of Big Spring.

Dakota Cheyenne Pendleton, girl, born May 24, 2002 at 12:22 p.m. She weighed 7 pounds, 6 ounces and was 20 1/2 inches long. Parent is Jennifer Pendleton.

Grandparents are Joyce and the late Thomas Pendleton of Big Spring and Johnny and Gail Foster of Iraan, Tx.

Haley Renee Dean, girl, born May 31, 2002 at 1:22 a.m. She weighed 7 pounds, 7 1/2 ounces and was 20 inches long.

Parents are Jennifer Green and William Dean. Grandparents are Fradey and Darla Green of Odessa and John Logan and Janice Dean of Big Spring.

Reina Mercedes Gonzales, girl, born June 9, 2002 at 5:24 p.m. She weighed 5 pounds, 8 ounces and was 17 1/2 inches long.

Parents are Rita and Ruben Gonzales.

WHO'S WHO

West Texas A&M University awards diplomas to area graduates - Amy Dominguez, bachelor of science nursing, Big Spring. Area students named to the Dean's List are Zachary R. O Dell, junior, studio art, Big Spring and Leslie D. Phinny, sophomore, general business of Coahoma.

U.T. Permian Basin announces Spring 2002 honorees named to President's, dean's lists.

The University of Texas of the Permian Basin has announced students who qualified for the President's and Dean's honor roll lists in Spring 2002. Students who have a semester Grade

Point Average (GPA) of 3.50 to 3.99 are listed on the Dean's Honor List. Students who have achieved a 4.0 GPA are listed on the President's Honor List. Students seeking their first bachelor's degree only are eligible once they have earned at least 12 credit hours at U.T. Permian Basin.

Students named to the Spring 2002 Deans list from Big Spring include: Cristie Bridge, Celena Brim, Margarita Cervantes, Lisa Currie, Melissa Garcia, Elizabeth Gentry, Debra Green, Rhonda Green, Yvonne Loya, Kathryn Rowan, Mindy Sedberry and Nina Toscano.

Students named to the President's 2002 Dean's list from Big Spring include: Ronald Allen, Lana Churchwell, Tiffany Grant, and Alicia Wood.

NEWCOMERS

Scott and Misty Robison, daughters Jordyn and Chayse, son, Brody, of Harrison, Ark. He is an electronic technician.

J.E. Robbins of Sherman. He is a rehabilitation provider for West Texas Centers for MHMR.

Don and Debbie Howe, son, Jakob and daughter, Mika. He is a registered nurse at

the Big Spring State Hospital.

Bill and Maria Woodcock, sons, Daniel and Johnny, of Sterling City. He is employed by Pool Well Service.

Gary and Jessica Grand, daughter, Morgan of Snyder. He is the supervisor for Dr. Pepper. She is a licensed vocational nurse at the Malone and Hogan Clinic.

Jake and Jean Smith of Snyder. He is retired from Texaco Inc.

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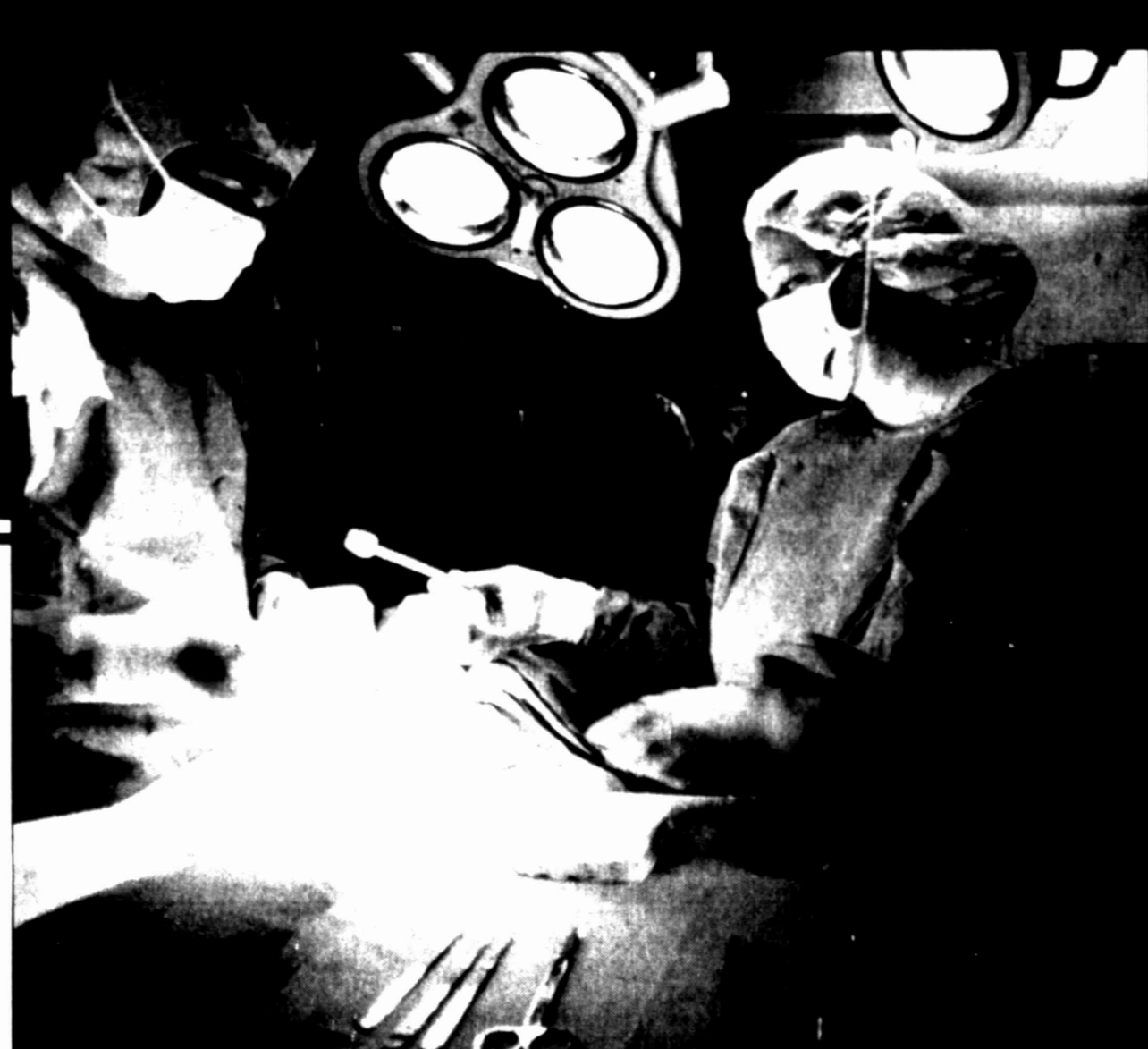
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BIG SPRING HERALD
Sunday, June 30, 2002

Patricia (Pa) Wilson and W Strickland exchanging vows June 30, 2002 at the Methodist Church in Rochester. She is the B.W. and Gladys Alleene, Ark. The bride was in charge of gown of graduation green chiffon. The groom was in charge of Matron of honor daughter of the bride was Julia

Irene Carr Michael Richardon in marriage on June 1, 2002, at Cove Beach Hawaii with Dennis De Re...
A candlelight followed at the Swan Court. The bride is the daughter of Jesus C. Spring and Ma of Midland. The groom is Mr. and Mrs. Kennedy of E and Mr. and Mrs. Richardson of ... He is the groom Helen Dial of and the late G Big Spring, the Richardson of Kenneth Richard... The bride v Mary's. The p joined with a v and full ball-g... it was appl...

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WEDDINGS

Wilson and Strickland

Patricia (Pat) Walker Wilson and W.A. (Buddy) Strickland exchanged wedding vows June 7, 2002, at Rochester United Methodist Church with Pastor Dolan Brinson officiating.

She is the daughter of B.W. and Gladys Walker of Alleene, Ark.

The bride was given in marriage by her father, B.W. Walker. She wore a gown of graduated colors of green chiffon. The veil was of seeded pearl with a head band. She carried a bouquet of sage green and lavender flowers with sprigs of seed pearls.

Jinx Shaver was pianist. Dustin Wilson was in charge of the audio.

Matron of honor was Michele Parker, daughter of the bride, of Stephenville.

Best man was Doyle Strickland. Flower girl was Julia Wilson, granddaughter of



the bride, of Big Spring. A reception was held at the United Methodist Church of Rochester Fellowship Hall following the ceremony.

The bride's cake was three tier, white, decorated with lavender and green flowers. The tiers were separated by Grecian columns and topped with a glass heart adorned with love birds.

The bride is a 1958 graduate of Big Spring High School and a 1982 graduate of Midland College. She is employed by Diamond Wholesale in Rochester.

The groom is a 1958 graduate of Rochester High School and is the owner of Diamond Wholesale.

Following a wedding trip to Hot Springs, Ark. and The Ozarks, Ark. The couple made their home in Rochester.

Cantu and Richardson

Irene Cantu and Michael Anthony Richardson were united in marriage on Saturday, June 1, 2002, at Makena Cove Beach in Maui, Hawaii with the Rev. Dennis De Rego officiating.

A candlelight dinner followed at the Hyatt's Swan Court.

The bride is the daughter of Jesus Cantu of Big Spring and Mayela Cantu of Midland.

The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Kennedy of Big Spring and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Richardson of Roscoe.

He is the grandson of Helen Dial of Big Spring and the late Gene Dial, Jean Emerson of Big Spring, the late Bill Emerson, Bernice Richardson of Mineral Wells and the late Kenneth Richardson.

The bride wore a gown made by PC Mary's. The princess cut gown was fashioned with a white satin strapless bodice and full ball gown skirt layered with tulle. It was appliqued with lavender and



ivory-yellow flowers, olive colored leaves, and white pearls.

She wore a tiara with pearl clusters holding a two tier veil and she carried a bouquet of fresh native tropical flowers.

The bride is a graduate of Big Spring High School and received a bachelor of science degree in interdisciplinary studies from Tarleton State University where she was a member of the Delta Zeta Sorority and the Kappa Delta Pi Education Honor Society.

She is currently employed by the Houston Independent School District as a second grade teacher at Montgomery Elementary.

The groom is a graduate of Big Spring High School and received a bachelor of science degree in exercise and sports studies from Tarleton State University where he was a member of the Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity. He is currently employed by 24-Hour Fitness.

Following their honeymoon in Maui, Hawaii, the couple will continue to reside in Houston.

J. and Debra F. Legg of Big Spring.

He is a 1998 graduate of Big Spring High School.

Navy Airman Esthela Ornelas, daughter of Elsa Hernandez of Big Spring and Frank Ornelas of Big Spring is halfway through a six-month deployment to the Mediterranean Sea and Arabian gulf while

assigned to the amphibious assault ship USS Wasp, based in Norfolk, Va.

While on deployment, Ornelas' ship visited Souda Bay, Crete where sailors and Marines had the opportunity to shop, sightsee and enjoy the local culture and cuisine.

Ornelas joined the Navy in August 2001.

MILITARY

Air Force Airman 1st Class Robert W. Legg has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio.

Legg is the son of Robert

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(L-R) Marga Moralez, Kristie Munoz, Maria Torres



Field Nurses (L), Judy Robertson, Amy Zant, Kirk McKnight (not pictured), Roxann Grisson.



Chaplain, Elwin Collom, Volunteer Berevement Coordinator, Sherry Hodnett, not pictured Brenda Hamm, Social Worker.



Office Mgr. Vickie Opegard, Medical Records, Patty Kirkpatrick.

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MENUS

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TUESDAY-Oven fried chicken, mashed potatoes, ranch style beans, peaches, hot roll, milk.

WEDNESDAY-Cheeseburger, French fries, salad, pinto beans, lemon pie, milk.

SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER

MONDAY-Steak & onions, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, salad, milk/roll, fruit.

TUESDAY-Ham & potato casserole, spinach, salad, roll, milk, apple crisp.

WEDNESDAY-Chicken strips, baked potatoes, carrots, salad, milk/roll, pudding.

THURSDAY-Chicken and ham salad, macaroni salad, vegetable salad, fruit salad, milk/bread-crackers.

FRIDAY-Enchiladas, Spanish rice, beans, tossed salad, milk/cornbread, fruit.

ENGAGEMENT



Leigh Ann Murpree and Eloy C. Leal Jr., both of Big Spring will exchange wedding vows July 3, 2002, at the home of Larry and Deantha Cotten in Midland. She is the daughter of Jeff and Melinda Murpree. He is the son of Eloy and Berta Leal.

To place an announcement in the Herald free of charge, come by the office at 710 Scurry to pick up a form. For more information call 263-7331. All mail should be addressed Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring 79720.

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ANNIVERSARY

Aristeo and Ofilia Hernandez of Big Spring celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary June 29, 2002, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. A reception was held at the Howard County Fair Barn after church services. The event was hosted by their children and grandchildren.

He was born in Big Spring and she was born Ofilia Rodriguez in Sonora. The couple met through mutual friends and family in Big Spring.

The couple was married on June 26, 1952, at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church. The couple's children are Nora

Hernandez of Big Spring, Christina Lopez of Dallas, Raul Hernandez and Gloria Hernandez of Big Spring and Anita Ybarra of Colorado who was raised by the family. They have 11 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

The couple have lived in Big Spring throughout their marriage.

He is employed by College Baptist Church and she is employed by Gregg Street Cleaners. They are members of Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

Aristeo still enjoys working part time. Ofilia enjoys knitting and cooking.



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AUSTIN (AP) General John Senate campaigned a Texas WorldCom Inc officer as host of an investigation state funds WorldCom Inc The canceled have been Beaumont Ranch The invitation Minority Leadership special guest hosted by Beaumont, and

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By ROGER CL...
Staff Writer
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Cornyn, past recipient of WorldCom contributions, opens Texas probe

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas Attorney General John Cornyn, whose Senate campaign plans had included a Texas fund-raiser with WorldCom Inc.'s chief operating officer as host, says he has opened an investigation to protect the state funds from losses in the WorldCom scandal.

The canceled fund-raiser was to have been held in July at Beaumont Ranch near Grandview. The invitation listed Senate Minority Leader Trent Lott as a special guest at the event to be hosted by WorldCom's Ron Beaumont, and his wife, Linda.

"They will not be hosting it," David Beckwith, a Cornyn spokesman, told The Dallas Morning News in Friday's editions.

This week, WorldCom executives admitted that almost \$4 billion in expenses was hidden from stockholders — wrongly listed on books of the nation's No. 2 long-distance company as capital expenses in 2001 and 2002. The Securities and Exchange Commission filed civil fraud charges against WorldCom on Wednesday.

The Clinton, Miss. company

started laying off 17,000 workers worldwide Friday, including 700 in the Dallas area.

The Cornyn campaign's decision to change the fund-raiser came on the same day the attorney general's office announced an investigation to protect the state treasury and state investment funds against losses from the WorldCom scandal.

Beckwith said the decision to scuttle the July 13 fund-raiser was a mutual decision after the SEC filed fraud charges against WorldCom. He said that the fund-raiser was being moved to a ranch

near Cleburne with oilman and cattleman Walter Mize as host.

Cornyn now wants to identify and pursue claims against WorldCom for any money owed to the state or losses identified by state pension and investment funds. An estimate of how much money the state might be out was not immediately available.

"The apparent fraudulent conduct of WorldCom is highly disturbing, and my office will use every legal tool we have to protect the interests of the people of Texas and to bring to justice all those whose improper or illegal actions

have hurt Texas taxpayers, public employees, investors and honest, hardworking WorldCom employees in Texas," Cornyn said in a statement.

The Attorney General's office said it was talking to the Employee's Retirement System of Texas, the Teacher Retirement System of Texas, State Comptroller's Office, the Public Utility Commission and other state agencies that may be affected by investments with WorldCom.

Cornyn said the office is examining state and federal laws to determine the best legal action.

Merchants form association to revitalize business

Downtown group begins with Independence Day splash, the Funtastic Fourth Festival

By ROGER CLINE
Staff Writer

Big Spring merchants are Doing Something New.

Each of the city's four main commercial districts now has an organization connected with it to promote local business and "keep Big Spring dollars in Big Spring."

The four groups are the Downtown Revitalization Association, the FM 700 Revitalization Association, the Gregg Street Revitalization Association and the Airpark Revitalization Association. They are all organized as "d/b/a's of a parent organization, the Big Spring Revitalization Association.

The group got its start when Allan Johnson of Allan's Furniture, the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce vice-president for Business Development, recognized that merchants in Big Spring need to work together to compete with out-of-town businesses.

"Last year we were looking at ways to get people working together without having conflicts of interest," he said. "We looked at it and decided Big Spring has three distinct retail districts, and then we also have the airpark, which is more commercial/industrial. Our plan to get people to work together was to form these associations. I decided we can't do them all at once, so I formed the downtown one first."

Forming the association was the easy part, he said.

"I got several key business people in the downtown area and we called and canvassed the entire downtown area," he said. "We called a meeting and formed an association."

Next came the hard part. "Our mission statement is 'To stir excitement in Big Spring, to bring people to Big Spring, to increase business and awareness in Big Spring, and to keep Big

"Our mission statement is 'To stir excitement in Big Spring, to bring people to Big Spring, to increase business and awareness in Big Spring, and to keep Big Spring dollars in Big Spring,'"

Allan Johnson, DRA president

Spring dollars in Big Spring," he said. "We've been hit the hardest, downtown has. We have the biggest challenge because we have more vacant buildings. It's less appealing and we're going to have to work harder to get new businesses down here. That's our job, to make it more appealing."

Johnson said the DRA has what it takes to get the job



Downtown Revitalization Association President Allan Johnson stands in Heart of the City Park which will form the focal point of the group's upcoming Funtastic Fourth Festival. The group is hoping the festival will give them some name recognition and help to instill some excitement among city residents about the downtown area.

done. "Energy," he said. "Our biggest thing is going to be energy, and we're going to

take it one step and one day at a time to make it appealing. In other words, working with Big Spring Main

Street, their job is to get the buildings in line, and it's our job to fill them up." A big part of the mission

Downtown Revitalization Association district:

Between First and 10th streets, from East Interstate 20 to West Interstate 20.

Officers:

Allan Johnson, President
Daniel Breyman, Vice-President
Ellen Barefoot, Treasurer
Vivian Glickman, Secretary
Vicki Dahmer, Project Coordinator

This is the first in a four week Business Page series highlighting the four member groups of the Big Spring Revitalization Association. Next Sunday, watch for a feature on the FM 700 Revitalization Association.



statement's "stir excitement" goal is coming up this Independence Day, Johnson said.

"Our first mission is, we wanted to make a big splash. We wanted to get ourselves known," he said. "We said we have to have some major event downtown. We looked and saw July 3 and Pops in the Park, and we knew that we already had 8,000 people in Big Spring for Pops in the Park. So it was a natural fit to put this on July 4, because we have all these people in town, and then we have a holiday and everybody's off on July 4. Everybody's looking for something to do. Why not

See DRA, Page 6B

SBS extends deadline to apply for disaster loans

Special to the Herald

The U.S. Small Business Administration has extended to Sept. 30 the nationwide filing deadline for small businesses affected by the Sept. 11 attacks to apply for Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs).

The previous deadline was May 22, 2002.

"The devastation caused by the Sept. 11 attacks was far reaching, and small

businesses all over the country are making progress towards economic recovery," said SBA Administrator Hector V. Barreto. "With this extension, more companies will have access to the working capital they'll need to rebound and stay in business."

The SBA administrator urged business owners to file their applications as soon as possible.

The EIDLs are available to eligible small businesses that suffered substantial economic injury as a direct result of the September terrorist attacks or a federal action taken in response to the attacks.

EIDLs provide eligible small businesses with the working capital needed to pay ordinary and necessary operating expenses they can't cover because of the disaster.

These expenses may include fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable and other bills.

Small businesses may apply for a working capital loan of up to \$1.5 million. The interest rate on these loans is 4 percent with a maximum term of up to 30 years.

The SBA determines the amount of economic injury, the term of each loan and the payment amount based

on the financial circumstances of each borrower.

For an online application and instructions on how to complete it, go to <http://www.sba.gov/disaster/eidl.html> on the SBA Web site.

Businesses, in Texas, interested in applying for an economic injury disaster loan can contact the SBA disaster area office in Fort Worth, 1-800-366-6303, to obtain an application.

July 15 final date to certify spring-seeded crops, FSA says

Howard County producers are reminded that the final date to certify spring-seeded crops is the close of business on July 15.

Spring-seeded crops include but are not limited to cotton, grain, sorghum, black eyed peas, sudex, guar and mung beans.

Spring-seeded crops planted after July 16 must be certified within 15 days from the date of planting. Spring-seeded crops not certified will be ineligible for commodity loan, loan deficiency payment, and the Noninsurable Crop Disaster Assistance Program. Late filed acreage reports may be accepted if physical evidence of the crop exists; however there would be a late fee of approximately \$50.

Contact the Farm Service Agency at 267-2557.

For a limited time grazing is allowed on county land reserved for the federal Conservation Reserve Program. For information about the program's requirements call the FSA.



RICK LILES

IN THE NEWS

The Dairy Queen restaurant at S. First Street in Coahoma has proclaimed Saturday as "American Legion/Military Day." On that day, July 6, members of the American Legion, military personnel and veterans showing proper membership with military identification cards, will receive a free five-ounce sundae. The event also provides an opportunity to support America's hospitalized children.

"we wanted to say 'thank you' to those who have made and continue to make tremendous sacrifices for our country," said Doris Richeson, owner. "At the same time, we wanted to raise money for our charity of choice, the Children's Miracle Network (CMN). The one-day event is one element in the DQ system's Red, White & Blue promotion in July.

During the promotion,

the system is partnering with the American Legion family to celebrate America, honor the nation's military and veterans and raise \$1 million for Children's Miracle Network hospitals.

During the promotion, paper Miracle Flag icons and Red, White & Blue Antenna Toppers will be sold for a \$1 donation and spare change will also be collected for CMN.

STAMFORD, Conn. (AP) — Xerox Corp. said Friday it had booked billions of dollars in revenue before it should have over the past five years, including \$1.9 billion that should properly be recorded this year and in the future.

The copier company posted too much revenue from equipment contracts up front instead of over the life of leases for servicing and financing equipment.

NEW NURSERY



Vanessa Cates and Susan Gaston, mother and daughter, prepare to cut the ribbon Thursday at a ceremony to welcome Spring Gardens Nursery as a new member of the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. The event was hosted by the Chamber and the Big Spring Ambassadors. Gaston's husband, Van, joined the celebration. The nursery is located on Moss Creek Lake Road.

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Big Spring Herald
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Big Spring, TX 79720

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NOTICE Howard County Road Department will accept applications from JULY 01 through JULY 10, 2002 for a TRUCK DRIVER. Water and Dump Truck experience a plus, must have a valid Class A CDL. Applications may be picked up and returned from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Monday through Friday at Room 305, County Court House. All applicants will be pre-job drug tested.

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Answer to previous puzzle MALRUS SHEL SAS ABBOTT AERO URN GASCAP GAIN NCO HESAREGULAR EYRE TON LAINE BEATLES TWETTER BAYOU HAIG HENNY YOUNGMAN COAT EELED BELLHOP ADDISON EMEER WOE RONA ROCKOFF JELLO ITT ORAL PRIMAL NEE MEND HELENA GIRR SEES ISLAND

Newsday Crossword SATURDAY STUMPER by Daniel R. Stark Edited by Stanley Newman ACROSS 1 Giants 10 Remove excess 15 Citizen Kane, for one 16 Big-eyed beast 17 Chicle source 18 Quite enough 19 Shelley selection 20 Forest dweller 21 1776 star 23 Stay unsettled 24 Advances 25 Dog 28 Conductor from Hungary 30 Lace tip 31 Bugging 35 Last 36 Soccer relative 37 Ice 38 Misses 40 Ramayana reader 41 Driver's bane 42 Most reasonable 43 Decrees 45 Hi and Lois pooch 46 Pilots et al. 48 Hwys. 49 Key letter 52 Something to write on 53 Learning centers 56 Where Montez is 57 Counting 58 Wading bird 59 Work with words, in a way DOWN 1 "Eso ___" (Anka tune) 2 Hoople's outburst 3 Cancel My Reservation star 4 Comedian Philips 5 Most frenzied 6 Like some bagels 7 Like some walls 8 Prince of Broadway 9 Tropical fish 10 Holst subject 11 Reunion activity 12 Called a strike 13 Goose eggs 14 "___ Tu" 22 Set to rest 23 King Kong 25 Shooting marbles 26 Curved molding 27 Buck character 28 Heroic narratives 29 Poet's peepers 31 Jabba, for one 32 Pompeii heroine 33 Shows approvals 34 Super-saturate 36 Clean off, perhaps 39 Bugle call 40 Anchor cables 42 Tum blue 43 Bone 44 Meshed man 45 Type of play 46 Grills 47 Pine for 49 Popular type 50 Pressure 51 Grenada, e.g. 54 Surly one 55 Wire measure

OPEN Sunday, Ju 4th of 1608 Red Sell port Ellen Ph

Pond A Nic •Two E •Two B •Three l F 142

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New residents presenting this ad during June or July 2002 and who qualify for a minimum six month lease on a ONE BEDROOM apartment (subject to availability) will receive a 50% rental credit during the first and sixth months of the lease. And remember, you deserve the best! Coronado Hills Apartments 267-6500.

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Sunday, June 30:

Open up to possibilities that surround your life, even if it means taking risks sometimes. Consider your options carefully before leaping to action. You have many opportunities coming your way, as long as you remain open and nonjudgmental. Curb a tendency to spend a lot of time alone, as you easily could become depressed. Confusion often surrounds communication. Don't hesitate to clarify. If you are single, a relationship will enter your life and could be quite different from your past bonds. If you are attached, your relationship warms up, especially if you become more hospitable to your in-laws. Travel warms your relationship. PISCES understands you.
ARIES (March 21-April

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ****

Be careful when making promises right now. You might be sure that you can fulfill the request, but interference seems likely. A friend or a call later in the day might seem too fun to say no to. Socialize till your heart's content. Tonight: Let the party go on.
GEMINI (May 21-June 20) *** You might be in a sour mood because of a must appearance. Understand that you have to do this, and make the best out of the situation.

HOROSCOPE

Not everyone has to be in agreement right now. Fun happens where you least expect it. Tonight: Indulge a parent.
CANCER (June 21-July 22) **** Though you might be sluggish getting going, you're a virtually firestorm once you get started. Another might not see matters as clearly as you do. Observe what might be necessary to help another feel at ease. Be generous emotionally. Tonight: Relax to a favorite TV show.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) **** Realize that someone close might be testing you unconsciously. Don't be so uptight about what is happening, rather, flow with opportunity. Be clear with another, even though your actions might speak wonders. Tonight: Let another share his or her dreams.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) **** Someone might be unduly hard on you. Step back, in this case. Follow through with a friend or loved one who you always enjoy. Don't be with difficult people. Be polite, but move on right now. Laughter surrounds you late in the day. Tonight: Be available.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) *** You might need some time to slow down or catch up on a project. Though yours is an unusually social sign, treat yourself as well as you do others. News from a distance might be disconcerting. Flow with changes. Tonight: Don't make a big deal out of anything.
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) **** Deal with finances carefully. An associate might feel a bit uptight about what is going down, relax and have a discussion. Share your insights with another. You'll find a

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RFB 02 494
Advertisement for Bids
The Howard County Junior College District is now accepting bids for the following:

FOOD SERVICE EQUIPMENT
Cabinet, Flatware, Dishes, Glasses, Serving Utensils, etc.
Specifications may be obtained from Dennis Churchill, Purchaser, 1001 Bidwell Lane, Big Spring, TX 79720. (915) 264-5167. Sealed bids will be accepted through 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 23, 2002 in the Howard County Junior College District Office, 1001 Bidwell Lane, Big Spring, TX 79720. At which time they will be opened and read aloud. The bids will then be tabulated and final determination of bid award will be made at a future board meeting. Technical and bidding questions should be directed to Dennis Churchill, Purchaser, 1001 Bidwell Lane, Big Spring, TX 79720. (915) 264-5167. Howard County Junior College District reserves the right to reject any and all bids. #1591 June 18 & July 1, 2002

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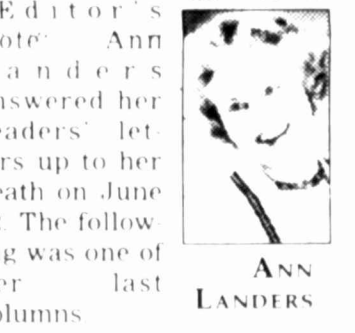
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PUBLIC NOTICE

ELECTION NOTICE
Filing for the September 14, 2002, election of Board of Directors of the Grassroots Groundwater - Water Conservation District are now open for Precincts Three (3) and Four (4). Those wishing to file need to do so in the Water District office at 132 North Main St. in Garden City. Filing will close on the 31st day of July 2002. Office hours are Monday thru Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Archivando para la eleccion del 14 de septiembre de 2002 para la junta directiva del Distrito Subteraneo de la Conservacion de Agua de Condado de Glascock esta abierto para el presento mes, 13 y principios de Agosto deseandole al archivar, necesitar el archivar en la oficina de distrito de Conservacion de agua en la calle Norte Main 132 en Garden City. Archivando se cerrara el dia 31 de Julio 2002. Las horas de oficina de lunes a viernes de las 8:00 de la mañana asta las 4:00 de la tarde.
#1589 June 18, 2002

Bully father of high school wrestler should be ashamed



ANN LANDERS

Editor's Note: Ann Landers answered readers' letters up to her death on June 22. The following was one of her last columns.
Dear Ann Landers: Last week, I witnessed something that really bothered me. I went to my nephew's wrestling match and saw a father "coaching" his son during the competition. The young man was putting his heart and soul into the match, and although he did not come in first place, he did win a medal. But that wasn't good enough for his father.

The man screamed at his son and humiliated him in front of everyone because he came in third. This boy was perhaps 15 years old and kept apologizing to his father for his "poor" performance. The father made him feel so worthless, the boy threw his medal into the garbage can.

I wanted to take the boy home with me. I knew his father would berate him all the way to their house. I hope all parents who behave like this will stop and think what they are doing to their children in the name of competition. If this boy's mother witnesses such abuse, I hope she will speak up and put an end to it. These men are bullies.

Wrestling Fan in New Rochelle, N.Y.
Dear Wrestling Fan: You are absolutely right. Parents should support their child's interest in sports and be encouraging. They should never berate or humiliate the child or be overly critical. Not only is this poor parenting, it could kill any desire the child might have for the sport.

Too many parents attempt to live their own dreams through their children. My heart aches for that young man. I hope his father sees this column and is thoroughly ashamed of himself.
Dear Ann Landers: I was

way around a problem. Tonight: Spice up your night.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) *** You might not want to go far from home. Why should you? Others seek you out. Popularity soars, but you really might prefer to deal one-on-one with another. Conversations that come from the heart bring closure. Tonight: Flow with the moment.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) **** Others seek you out. Give up a project and center on the people around you. Allow greater popularity to warm up your life. Reverse your direction if need be. Allow greater sensitivity to enter your life. Tonight: Knock on another's door.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) **** Dig into a project. Make it OK to work overtime if need be. You accomplish a lot as a result. Be sensitive to a child or loved one who could be a bit down and out. Your attention and nurturing could make all the difference. Tonight: Buy dinner.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) **** Let another in the door. Don't be so uptight or feel so vulnerable. Warm up a relationship by adding that touch of romance. In a convivial and loving atmosphere, both of you can open up. Share. Take a risk. Tonight: Others say yes, naturally.

BORN TODAY
Boxer Mike Tyson (1966), singer Lena Horne (1917), magician Harry Blackstone Jr. (1934)

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at <http://www.jacquelinebigar.com>
2002 by King Features Syndicate Inc.

recently asked out by "Laura," a girl who is deaf. I was surprised by her invitation since Laura rarely speaks to anyone other than her interpreter. She always seemed friendly, offering to do small favors, and so on, but I never took her up on her generosity. It bothered me to have a handicapped person do things for me that I am perfectly capable of doing myself.

I don't want to hurt Laura's feelings by turning her down. She's a nice person, but I am not attracted to her and have no interest in a relationship. What should I do? Mixed Signals in Louisville, Ky.

Dear Louisville: The fact that Laura is deaf should not determine your actions. If you have no interest in a relationship, you should let her know you prefer to remain platonic friends. From the tone of your letter, it seems that Laura's deafness might be a problem for you. I hope this is not the case and that you will give Laura the same consideration you would give any female who asks you out.

Dear Ann Landers: I am a 47-year-old single mother. I own my home and car, and consider myself intelligent and capable.

Here's the problem: I am in school to become a paralegal and must take algebra in order to get my degree. I will never use algebra in real life, nor is it a necessary component of being a paralegal. However, algebra is required in order for me to graduate.

I am terrible in math. Ann, I already have taken algebra once and failed. I am certain I will continue to fail, no matter how many times I take the class. Can you help me? I don't know what to do anymore. — The Dummy in San Antonio
Dear San Antonio: I, too, wonder why higher-level math classes are required for people who will never use them. Talk to the algebra teacher, and ask for his or her assistance. Also, please consider hiring a tutor. The results will be worth it.

JUNE 30 2002

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Alabama's ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF TRAIL provides the perfect antidote for those whose golf clubs are still encrusted in ice.

WORDS BY SAM SILVERSTEIN

Since opening for business in the early '90s, the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail in Alabama has built a reputation as paradise on earth among a certain breed of person: those whose idea of light reading is *Golf Digest* instead of *Dave Pelz's Putting Bible*, who absorb their doses of national news via the Golf Channel, who view any reflective surface as an opportunity to examine their swings.

Of course, non-golfers and beginners are welcome along the Trail. A recently renovated Marriott Grand Hotel at Point Clear, on the Gulf of Mexico, has a tricked-up pool for the kiddos and a European-style spa for men and women not set on tackling the course. Every golf hole on the entire Trail was designed with forward tees to accommodate golfers of various abilities.

But at its essence, this is hardcore golf, featuring beety, long layouts with lots of drama. Trail courses, 21 in all, are sited on sprawling tracts of land at eight facilities throughout the state. There's room enough at each facility for backless driving ranges, stately clubhouse and ambitious short courses—don't call them pitch and putts ideal for settling wagers that run into overtime.

In Scotland, luxury motor coaches carrying CEOs from seaside links to luxury resorts are a common sight. Here it's four dudes in a SUV, clubs stacked to the ceiling. The competition flows thickest during the spring high season, when hardcore golfers whose home clubs still are encrusted in ice head South en masse for their first golf fix of the year. The crowd "is from out of town, and they're here to play golf" says an assistant pro at one Trail complex.

IF YOU BUILD IT...

Not surprisingly, the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail sprang from the imagination of a golfer, Dr. David Bronner, CEO of Retirement Systems of Alabama. Officially, Bronner is an appointed money manager for the state's teachers and other public employees. Unofficially, he's Alabama's self-appointed tourist minister, ambassador and one of the main players in the state's development scene.

The idea of building a network of world-class golf courses first occurred to Bronner in the late '80s. An inveterate Big Thinker, Bronner set his sights on enlisting a conspicuous architect, and letters were sent to several of the most prominent names in the business. Most couldn't comprehend what was being proposed.

"They'd try to correct us: 'Clearly you don't mean you're going to do seven sites at the same time, more than 18 holes at each site,'" Bronner recalls.

"We were trying to do something that had never been done in the world... it was a matter

of finding someone who thought we were credible."

The most outrageous name on Bronner's wish list got his gist. He found a kindred spirit in legendary architect Robert Trent Jones, Sr., who emerged from semi-retirement to take on the challenge of developing the Trail. By then, Jones' legacy as one of the great golf course architects of all time was secure. But the opportunity to develop all seven original sites (an eighth, Capitol Hill, came online in 2000) proved irresistible to the octogenarian Englishman, who designed or renovated an estimated 500 courses during a seven-decade-long career.

Jones' zeal for the project was obvious in his hands-on approach as well as the quality of the final product. He once was quoted in *Business Week* as considering the Trail project a once-in-

lifetime chance "to paint my Sistine Chapel."

The Links course at Grand National regularly cracks the esteemed publication's annual public top-100 to this day.

The professional golf tours have the Trail on their radar as well. The LPGA tour visits Magnolia Grove, in Mobile, each year. The Buy.com tour held its season-ending Tour Championship at Capitol Hill in September 2001. Plans are in the works for both to return this fall.

72 HOLES, 72 HOURS

My own taste of the Trail comprised 72 holes in three days at three facilities within easy driving distance of Montgomery, Alabama's capital and roughly the state's midpoint. Typical of the entire Trail, each course had qualities in common, yet was distinct from one another, despite their proximity.

The Judge, our first course, is one of three at Capitol Hill in Prattville, on the outskirts of Montgomery. The Judge's elevated first tee box affords views of Montgomery and the Alabama River in the distance, a skinny band of fairway below, glimpses of pleasures to come beyond the steeply sloped first green. It was a grand, and appropriately daunting, way to christen the trip. "When you enter The Judge, you enter The Judge," our starter told us. "We'll bring sandwiches out to you, but you won't see much of anyone else for the rest of your round." Down we plunged.

A relentless lattice of difficult golf holes ensued. The Judge is the most recent Trail course to come online and was designed to expand on the most popular features of its predecessors. Namely: their difficulty. The Alabama River's opaque backwaters provide much of the trouble; the number of water carries reached double-digits early on the back nine. Dry corners of the course were guarded by colonies of fire ants. The round was punishing but enjoyable, and blew past in the blink of an eye.

Our resting spot, Legends Hotel, is conveniently close to the local Wal-Mart, which is handy when re-loading a supply of golf balls.

The following morning we drove an hour and 25 minutes due east, through cotton fields, beneath a promising sunrise, to the Grand National golf complex at Auburn/Opelika. Here we received another warm greeting at the bag drop, and mounted the stairs of another stately clubhouse. A trend clearly was developing.

Grand National features two regulation courses, Links and Lake, and a short course. Trent Jones, Sr. is reported to have characterized the property as the best for golf he ever saw.

We played the Links course which, true to its name, was Scottish in character. Six-hundred-acre Lake Saughatche, in play on 24 of Grand National's 36 regulation holes, is glimpsed for the first time behind the Links course's second hole and reappears intermittently throughout the track. No. 6, a twisty par 5 that plays to a remote corner of the property, was a particular favorite. And the water carry to 18 was as hard, and good, as it gets. Everyone in our group hit the green in regulation,

each other noisily across the dry forest floor were the only company.

The third and last stop on our Trail mini-tour was Cambrian Ridge, in Greenville, an hour south of Montgomery. Cambrian Ridge is a complex of three regulation nines. The property again has water everywhere, and Grand National's serpentine nature, but introduces a new element: hills. The Canyon nine is a roller coaster ride of elevated tees and landing areas in the elbow of doglegs, with several carries over catfish-roiled water. The Loblolly nine smooths out a bit, with generous fairways and rock-hard greens. Loblolly's polished air is said to be the closest most mortals will come to playing Augusta National.

Jones' masterly touch with the blueprint and the surveyor's map was felt all weekend long. With amoeba-like bunkers and raised, multi-tiered greens, only a true wizard with the flat stick will play much golf here without putting off one of the greens.

But what self-respecting hardcore golfer would back down from that challenge?

TO GET THERE

Fly Northwest Airlines* to Alabama's world-renowned Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail. With convenient jet service to Birmingham, Huntsville, Mobile, Mont-



playing for THE CAUSE

Retirement Systems of Alabama CEO Dr. David Bronner was born in Minnesota, and moved to Alabama in his early 20s to attend law school and pursue a PhD. He has been in charge of the state's pension fund for nearly 30 years.

Framed press clippings on the wall of his downtown Montgomery office describe Bronner as "iconoclast," "pugnacious" and "hard-driving"; his style has made enemies along the way. But the beneficiaries of his skill as a money manager, the state's public employees, are devoted. And Bronner's love for his adopted home, in turn, runs deep. To him the Trail is an investment, but it's also a cause.

The image of Alabama as an intolerant state was born during the Civil Rights struggles of the 1960s and perpetuated in 1990, when that year's PGA Championship was moved from the Shoal Creek Country Club in Birmingham after it was revealed that the club's membership policy barred the door to African-Americans.

But golf also could be the engine of Alabama's renaissance. Or so Bronner believes. "The straw I was grasping for was some mechanism to change the [state's] attitude and perception," Bronner says. The Trail is "an experiment to try to reintroduce Alabamians to the rest of the world, and introduce the rest of the world to Alabama."

True to its mission, the Trail

accomplishes an unlikely parlay: championship-quality golf shot through with an egalitarian vibe. The target demo is "people who love the game of golf who don't have the connections or the money to play championship golf," Bronner says. "Here's an opportunity to play championship golf that won't bankrupt you... [The Trail] is as good or better as any top-quality public golf courses in the world, but at a reasonable price."

Green fees vary slightly from course to course on the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail, but all are good deals. The steepest green fee in the circuit is \$65 to play The Judge at Capitol Hill during the spring peak season, and the general range is \$35-60 year-round. With steep discounts on same-day replays, a customer would be hard pressed to spend \$100 a day to play 36 holes of stellar golf plus rent a cart at any facility on the Trail.

Has the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail, as intended, turned tourist heads toward Alabama? It's hard to calculate a change in something as ephemeral as reputation. Hard numbers are easier to understand, especially in Bronner's world.

"We've had a positive return," Bronner says. "But the big impact has been on the state of Alabama. When the Trail started, tourism was less than a \$2 billion a year industry. Now it's a \$6.1 billion industry."

—S.S.

one of those "maybe we can play this game after all" moments that keep the golf economy humming.

Overall, Grand National seemed more forgiving, less overwhelmingly huge, than The Judge. The back nine features several craggy par fours that were downright cozy. Not that my score reflected any improvement. In the afternoon we played the short course, which featured all the regulation course's quality, sans the option to lay up. A father and son twosome on the horizon and several etiquette-indifferent squirrels chasing

gomery and Muscle Shoals, Northwest puts you in easy driving range of 21 fabulous courses on eight magnificent Trail sites.

Northwest Airlines, along with Northwest Airlink partners, Express Airlines and Mesaba Airlines, serves Birmingham daily from Detroit and Memphis; serves Birmingham, Huntsville, Mobile and Montgomery four times daily from Memphis; and serves Muscle Shoals twice daily from Memphis.

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