

BIG SPRING HERALD

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

TUESDAY

July 23, 2002

WEATHER

Tonight:



PARTLY CLOUDY

TONIGHT 69°-72° TOMORROW 91°-95°

INSIDE

Teacher insurance

Big Spring Independent School District employees will see some relief in health insurance costs when the district switches from its partially-funded insurance plan to the Texas Retirement System Active Care Plan.

"Our employees seem to be happy with the insurance," said Sandra Waggoner, the district's business manager.

Page 3

Support groups

Do you need help with a drug or alcohol problem or know someone who does? Interested in losing weight but don't want to "go it alone"? Big Spring has a number of support groups for anyone in need of help.

Page 2

BRIEFLY

Stock market

NEW YORK (AP) — Wall Street struggled to hold steady today, giving up early gains despite encouraging earnings reports from companies including Gillette and Texas Instruments.

In morning trading, the Dow Jones industrials were off 25.06, or 0.3 percent, at 7,759.52, pulling back from an early advance of more than 100 points. The Dow tumbled nearly 758 points over the previous three sessions.

Broader indicators also retreated. The Nasdaq composite index fell 5.95, or 0.5 percent, at 1,276.70, while the Standard & Poor's 500 index lost 9.41, or 1.2 percent, at 810.44.

Financial stocks slid for a second straight session as a congressional subcommittee investigating the Enron collapse prepared to hear testimony from J.P. Morgan Chase and Citigroup officials.

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Kight resigns as Howard County ag agent

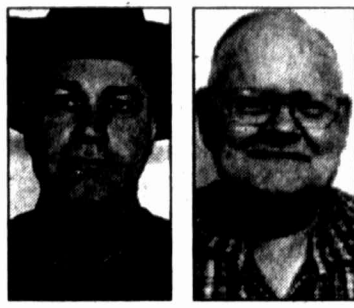
By ROGER CLINE

Staff Writer

Howard County commissioners didn't have to hold an executive session during their meeting Monday to decide what to do about Cooperative Extension Agent David Kight.

Kight, free on \$10,000 bond in Glasscock County for alleged insurance fraud, resigned his post as Howard County's agent late Friday.

"I received a call this morning from Charles Neeb, who is the area supervisor for the county agents in Fort Stockton," said Howard



KIGHT LOCKHART

County Judge Ben Lockhart. "He advised me that late Friday he received the resignation of David Kight as county extension agent here." Lockhart said the

Cooperative Extension Service is responsible for replacing Kight.

"They'll start advertising within a few days. After that I don't know how long it will be," he said. "The extension service is the one that actually does the advertising and selects them. A lot of times they'll bring us a choice, or there may not be a choice."

Kight is accused of falsifying the theft of a farm tractor and illegally filing insurance claims. According to a spokesman for the Glasscock County Sheriff's

Office, Kight collected \$11,500 on the claim.

Kight has been Howard County's extension agent since June 1997 when he replaced Don Richardson in the position. He previously worked as the county extension agent for Glasscock, Lubbock, Yoakum and Gaines counties during his 18-year career. He won recognition as Outstanding Young Agent in 1982 and worked with beef cattle and small grains operations before starting his Cooperative Extension career.

In other business, the commissioners:

• Were alerted to a recall on Crown Victoria police-model automobiles. "The city of Big Spring received some information and forwarded it to us," said Sheriff Dale Walker. "I believe they're making corrective measures on their cars and now that the commissioners are aware of this problem, we'll probably also move forward to get these corrections made on our cars. We have, I believe, six

See COUNTY, Page 3

New ER draws praise from staff, community

6,000 square feet added to existing emergency room

By LYNDEL MOODY

Staff Writer

Danny Whitehead, an emergency room charge nurse for Scenic Mountain Medical Center,

is itching to get into his new digs. The hospital is nearly finished with a \$1.8 million renovation of its emergency room, a project that will update and more than double the facility's space.

"It's been needed for a long time," said Whitehead. "It's been talked about for a number of years and now it's done. All the nurses are really excited about it."

Whitehead was just one of many of the hospital's employees showing off the new facility to the 300 or so community members that attended an open house on

Monday. The event was held in conjunction with the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours.

Guests were treated to shrimp, music provided by Tall City Trio and tours of the new facility.

The new renovation added 6,000 square feet to the already existing 4,000 square-foot facility and includes eight exam rooms, a triage area, a decontamination room, a central nursing area and a more spacious waiting room.

"Right now we are crowded into what used to be a classroom," Whitehead said. "We'll have double the space than the old ER. It may be overwhelming for

"It's been talked about for a number of years and now it's done. All the nurses are really excited about it."

Danny Whitehead, emergency room charge nurse

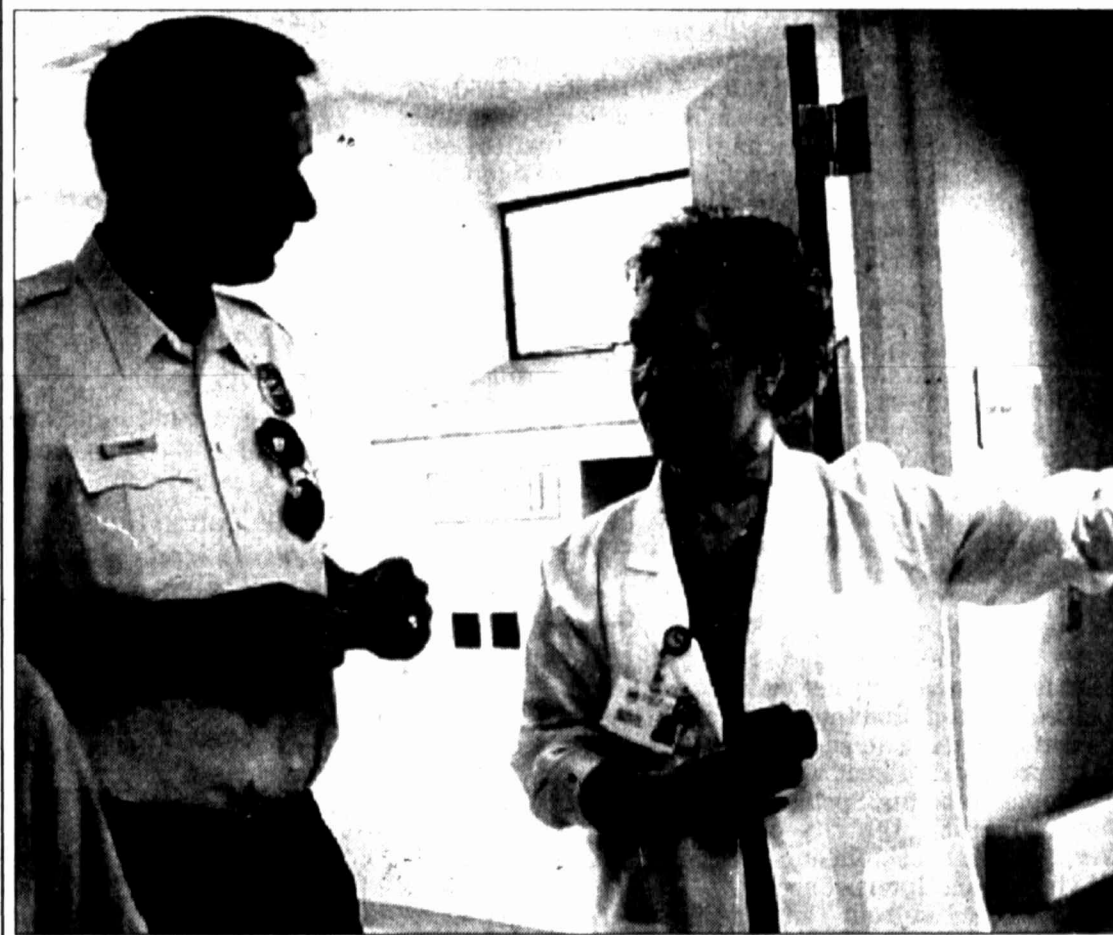
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See SMMC, Page 3



Registered nurse Danny Whitehead, right, chooses an hors d'oeuvre from the refreshment table while visiting with Jonetta Sweatt during Scenic Mountain Medical Center's emergency room open house Monday. The emergency room has undergone a \$1.8 million renovation that included adding 6,000 more square feet to the facility.



Fire Chief Brian Jensen is given the grand tour of the Scenic Mountain Medical Center emergency room by ER Director Judy Roever during a reception Monday. The department now has 10,000 square feet compared to the previous 4,000 and now has state of the art equipment. It will officially open July 31.

Technology updates will lead to fewer transfers, department head believes

By ANDREIA MEDLIN

Features Editor

The only casualties at the newly renovated emergency room at Scenic Mountain Medical Center Monday night were the jumbo shrimp and cocktail sauce.

Several hundred people crowded the halls of the emergency room at a reception and ribbon cutting ceremony held in celebration of the facility's near completion. The event was held simultaneously with the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce's Business After Hours program.

Visitors and guests were treated to hors d'oeuvres, petit fours, a virgin champagne fountain and the hapless shrimp. Tall City Trio was also in attendance and provided background music.

Eight new beds, an obstetrics/gynecology room, a room for pediatrics and four patient care rooms are among the many new features.

Adding eight new beds, an obstetrics/gynecology room, a room for pediatrics and four patient care rooms are among the many new features bringing the emergency room up to date, but that's not all.

"Each room will have an X-ray and overhead surgery light," said Judy Roever, director of the emergency department.

The new central monitoring station, telemetry sys-

See RECEPTION, Page 3

College to request \$750,000 for SWCID vocational center

By LYNDEL MOODY

Staff Writer

As part of its legislative appropriations request, Howard College will request \$750,000 to build a vocational building on the SouthWest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf campus.

"We know we are going into a tight legislative session," Dr. Cheryl Sparks told trustees Monday during their monthly meeting. "We are going to request that SWCID receive the same amount of money as last year's total appropriations."

The request for SWCID, which is considered a special item under the

"We believe until we get a vocational building, we won't be finished with our construction project."

Dr. Cheryl Sparks
Howard College president

Howard College proposal, will include budgeting for increased

See COLLEGE, Page 2

Adopting amended codes among items on city agenda

By ROGER CLINE

Staff Writer

At its meeting this evening, the Big Spring City Council will consider adopting amended city construction codes.

The council meets at 5:30 p.m. at its chambers, 307 E. Fourth St.

On the agenda for discussion are the city's building and structural standards codes and adoption of the International residential, plumbing, mechanical and fuel gas codes instead of the Southern Standard code.

"The city was under the the Southern Standard codes and has

INFORMATION

What: Big Spring City Council meeting.

Where: Council chambers, 307 E. Fourth.

When: 5:30 p.m. today.

been since the early '40s," said Public Works Director Todd Darden. "(The Legislature) didn't recognize the Standard codes as an approved adopted code for the state of Texas."

See COUNCIL, Page 2

JULY 23 2002

**BIG SPRING
AROUND THE TOWN**

Obituaries

Myrtle Kilgore Keele

Funeral service for Myrtle Kilgore Keele, 99, of Big Spring is pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home. Mrs. Keele died today, July 23, 2002, at a local nursing home.

Jesus Ruiz Esparza

Funeral service for Jesus Ruiz "Raymond" Esparza, 67, of Big Spring is pending with Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Mr. Esparza died Monday, July 22, 2002, at a Midland hospital.

Records

Monday's high 96	Year to date 7.44
Monday's low 74	Sunrise Wednesday 6:56 a.m.
Record high 104 in 1974	Sunset Wednesday 8:49 p.m.
Record low 64 in 1942	Sunrise Sunday 6:54 a.m.
Average high 94	Sunset Sunday 8:50 p.m.
Average low 70	
Precip. Monday 0.00	
Month to date 2.07	

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.

- 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.

- THURSDAY**
- Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. Noon women's Meeting 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Non-Smoking closed discuss meeting, 615 Settles 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.
 - Al-Anon support group, 7 p.m. 615 Settles.

- FRIDAY**
- AA Open discussion Meeting, 615 Settles 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. Noon Open Big Book Study Meeting, 615 Settles 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.
 - Al-Anon support group, noon, 615 Settles.

- SATURDAY**
- Open Discussion Meeting, 615 Settles 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. Open Podium/Speakers Meeting 615 Settles 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. Open Birthday Night No Smoking Meeting Celebrating AA Sobriety Yearly Birthdays, 615 Settles the last Saturday of every month covered dish supper at 7 p.m. Birthday meeting at 8 p.m.

- SUNDAY**
- Closed discussion meeting, 615 Settles 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. Open discussion meeting, 615 Settles 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.
 - Narcotics Anonymous 8 p.m., St. Mary's Church, 1001 Goliad. Call 268-4189 (pager).

Texas lottery

Cash Five: 3-11-12-32-34
Pick 3 (night): 3-4-3
Pick 3 (afternoon): 1-4-5

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity from 8 a.m. Monday until 8 a.m. today:

- **LATORANCE MARTAWANN BLAKELY**, 21, of 102 Martin Ave. was arrested on a county warrant from Mississippi.
- **ROBERT CARSON**, 34, of 1401 Scurry was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.
- **AMELIO YANEZ**, 49, of 2209 Chanute was arrested to hold for the Veterans Administration police.
- **JESSE HERNANDEZ**, 18, of 538 Westover Road was arrested on two local warrants.
- **MATTHEW AARON GILLIAM**, 20, of 510 S. Benton was arrested on two local warrants.
- **BENITO SMITHWICK**, 34, of 7131 W. 21st St. in Odessa was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.
- **INTERFERING WITH CHILD CUSTODY** was reported in the 1100 block of East Fifth Street.
- **ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE** was reported in the 2900 block of West Highway 80.
- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 4200 block of Muir. Someone reportedly used a knife or other cutting instrument to inflict \$60 damage on a purple 1998 Kia Sephia.
- **MAJOR ACCIDENT** was reported in the 1100 block of North Lamesa Drive.
- **MINOR ACCIDENT** was reported in the 300 block of South Lancaster Street and the 600 block of McEwen Street.
- **DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE** was reported in the 2700 block of Cindy Lane, the 1000 block of North Main Street, the 2400 block of Carleton Drive and the 2900 block of West Highway 80.
- **DISTURBANCE OR FIGHT** was reported in the 500 block of North Birdwell Lane and the 1500 block of Wood Street.
- **LOUD PARTY/NOISE** was reported twice in the 500 block of Westover Road.

**From Page One
COLLEGE**

Continued from Page 1

operating expenses and the construction project without asking the state for more money than the last legislative biennium.

The college secured funding for two other large-expense projects for the SWCID campus but failed to procure monies to build the workforce training center during the last legislative session.

"We believe until we get a vocational building, we won't be finished with our construction program," Sparks said.

Currently, SWCID is using a facility built in the 1950s for the Webb Air Force Base to house its vocational programs.

In other business, Michael Yeater, institutional researcher, reported summer school enrollment figures for 2002. For the mini-session the Big Spring campus had 73 enrolled; San Angelo, 118; the Federal Correctional Institute — Big Spring, 13; and Lamesa, none.

In Summer Session I, Big Spring had 266 students enrolled; San Angelo, 394; Lamesa, 125; and the Federal Correctional Institute — Big Spring, 4.

For Summer Session II, Big Spring had 128 enrolled; San Angelo, 189; Lamesa, 101; and Federal Correction Institute — Big Spring, none.

Trustees approved:

- A \$155,000 bid by ABC companies of Grand Prairie for a 1996 Van Hool touring bus with 246,000 miles on it and a \$60,000 bid by Lasseter Bus Company Inc. of Lewisville for a 1999 Eldorado National mini-bus with a rear luggage area.
- Funding as much as \$65,000 for a \$250,000 matching grant from Telecommunications Infrastructure Funds grant for a community network project to link several local entities to broadband Internet access. Other entities would have to contribute an additional \$185,000 combined.

The proposed project would connect the college, Moore Development of Big Spring, Howard County, the Howard County Library, the city of Big Spring and the Texas Workforce Network via one fiberglass line that would provide broadband Internet access.

- a \$181,010 bid from Tangent Computers of Burlingame, Calif., to purchase two Medallion 4000 units at \$2,180 each, four Medallion 4000 units at \$1,789 each, 26 Medallion 4000 units at \$1,319 each and 160 Valera D AMD units \$800 each.

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

COUNCIL

Continued from Page 1

Darden said the International codes are similar to the Southern Standard.

"There's not any large changes," he said. "We have a report that was submitted to the Texas Municipal League from a registered architect who did a comparison of the codes that the Legislature recognized as approved codes. In his opinion there were not significant changes for cities in the adoption of the International codes."

Darden said the city staff chose the International codes for consideration mainly because most Texas cities are choosing them.

"It appears that most Texas cities are choosing the International," he said. "It certainly makes it easier for contractors and people who do work in other areas throughout the state to have one uniform code."

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

Bulletin board

- TODAY**
- Big Spring Municipal Swimming Pool will be closed all day for maintenance.
 - Big Spring City Council convenes at 5:30 p.m. in council chambers.
- WEDNESDAY**
- Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. at the Howard College Cactus Room.
 - Senior Circle Sit and Be Fit Chair Aerobics meets at the Scenic Mountain Medical Center Yellow Rose Cafe at 10 a.m.
 - Downtown Lions Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room.
 - Duplicate Bridge Club meets every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at 1 p.m. at the Big Spring Country Club.
 - Line dancing class is at 1 p.m. at the Senior Citizens Center located in the Industrial Park. Call 398-5522 or 267-1628 for more information.
 - Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie Ladies Auxiliary meets at 7 p.m. at the Eagles Lodge located at 703 W. Third.
- THURSDAY**
- Gideons International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at Herman's Restaurant at 7 a.m.
 - Big Spring Senior Center, located in the Industrial Park, offers art classes at 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. for those 55 and over.
 - Coffee Club meets at 10 a.m. at Gale's Sweet Shoppe located at 1706 East FM 700.
 - Kiwanis Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room.
 - Masonic Lodge 598 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 219 Main.
- FRIDAY**
- Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at St. Mary's Episcopal Church. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281. Bring a lunch.
 - AMBUCS meets at noon at the Brandin' Iron.
 - ABC Club meets at noon at the Brandin' Iron.
 - The Greater Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room.
 - Spring City Senior Citizens Country and Western Dance will be 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. All area seniors are invited.
- SATURDAY**
- The Heritage Museum at 510 Scurry is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 - American Legion Post 506 will have a Fish Fry at \$7 per plate on July 20 from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. Delivery will be available from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Carry outs are also available and everyone is welcome. The Post is located at 3203 West Hwy 80. Call 263-2084 for more information.
 - The Potton House located at 200 Gregg, a restored historic home, is open from 1 to 5 p.m. A one-time admission fee of \$2 for adults and \$1 for children and senior citizens is encouraged.
 - There will be a dance at 8:30 p.m. at the Eagles Lodge located at 704 W. Third. Members and guests are welcome.
- MONDAY**
- Senior Circle meets at 4 p.m. at the Rose Cafe at Scenic Mountain Medical Center for Sit and Be Fit Chair Aerobics. People 50 and over are invited to participate. Call 268-4721.
 - Concerned Citizens meets at 7 p.m. in the Fiberflex conference room on Bethel Street in the McMahon-Wrinkle Airpark. The public is invited.

BIG SPRING HERALD
Reflecting A Proud Community

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**BSISD
relief**

By LYNDEL MOODY
Staff Writer

Big Spring Independent School District will see some health insurance when the district from its partia insurance plan to Retirement System Care Plan

"Our employees be happy with ance," said Waggoner, the business manager. Spiraling insurance prompted teachers to lobby the state to lobby plan. Last December employees faced cent increase in on already high rates.

In the TRS plan Education Age tributes \$75 per employee. Employees option to forward contribution toward the insurance or take as tion.

"We have employees on their spouse," Waggoner said. "Many may want their money toward insurance."

The district's insurance is \$150 per employee. In last week, trustee lowering the distribution by \$30 from Administrators recommendation the district's because of liability potential claims insurance, Waggoner. Also even with decrease, employees

RECEIPI

Continued from Pa

tem, is the most new addition in the \$1.8 million re

"It will allow us to constantly monitor the anywhere they are emergency room reach as far as Roever said.

"It will allow us to their heart rate will be wearing a pressure) and all do is push a inflate it," she said. "This can all be one location."

Other additions large trauma room termination room ative pressure room

Updating the of the department bringing in cut equipment will transfers to Lu other facilities at Roever.

"We will be a more here-like meries and sutur said.

While the depart be able to handle mas, those that a ered the most c continue to be t to other facilities

"Multi-system will have to trans head injuries, and cal injuries will Lubbock," Roever said.

Multi-system tr those injuries th two or more orga heart, liver an Severe head inj involve the expos matter and dama vessels and surro sues. Neurologic involve the nerv which can result sis and brain dan

Six thousand s was added to t existing 4,000 f emergency room should be in full

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BSISD teachers to see some relief in health insurance costs

By **LYNDEL MOODY**
Staff Writer

Big Spring Independent School District employees will see some relief in health insurance costs when the district switches from its partially-funded insurance plan to the Texas Retirement System Active Care Plan.

"Our employees seem to be happy with the insurance," said Sandra Waggoner, the district's business manager.

Spiraling insurance costs prompted teachers across the state to lobby for a state plan. Last December, BSISD employees faced a 30 percent increase in premiums on already high insurance rates.

In the TRS plan, the Texas Education Agency contributes \$75 per employee.

Employees have the option to forward the \$83.33 contribution from TRS toward the insurance premiums or take as compensation.

"We have employees who are on their spouse's insurance," Waggoner said. "Many may want to port their money toward more insurance."

The district's portion for insurance is \$150 per month per employee. In a 6-1 vote last week, trustees approved lowering the district contribution by \$30 from \$180.

Administrators made the recommendation to reduce the district's portion because of liability for potential claims on the old insurance, Waggoner said. Also even with the \$30 decrease, employee premi-

The new coverage will allow some district employees who have not been eligible for insurance coverage in the past to participate.

ums will still be reduced across the board.

The new coverage will allow some district employees who have not been eligible for insurance coverage in the past to participate.

New insurance rates including the optional TRS contribution includes:

- No cost to employees who chose the Active Care 3. State, district and TRS contribution takes care of the cost. The district portion of \$150 also covered costs for employees only on the low plan.

- Employees that include their spouse on the low plan will save \$155.80 per month with an out of pocket expense of \$231 per month. On the district plan, employees pay \$386.80 per month.

- Those insuring dependents will pay \$69 per month, a \$216.73 drop from the district plan cost of \$285.73 for similar coverage. Employees that insure the entire family can expect to pay \$285 per month, down \$169.19.

- Employee only cost for the Active Care 2 program will be \$7 per month on insurance, a \$147.93 savings. Employee only insurance on the district's medi-

um plan are paying \$154.93.

- To insure a spouse on Active Care 2 will cost \$409 per month, down \$87.23. Insuring dependents will cost an employee \$176.49 less per month than the district plan. Currently, employees pay \$370.49 to add dependents to their insurance on the medium plan but TRS plan will cost the employee \$194.

- Employees that insure the entire family on Active Care 2 can expect to pay \$481, down from \$568.09 on the district's medium plan.

- Employee only insurance on the district high plan is currently \$250.65. Those who have chosen the Active Care 1 plan will be paying \$91 per month, a savings of \$159.65.

- To add a spouse, employees will be charged \$599 per month on the new Active Care 1 package compared to cost of \$684.84 per month on the district plan.

- To insure a dependent will cost \$327 per month on Active Care 1, a \$192.19 savings from the district plan.

- Employees who insure their entire family on Active Care 1 will see a decrease of \$59.16 per month. The state plan charges \$689 per family down from similar coverage on the district plan of \$784.16.

The new insurance coverage for the district begins Sept. 1.

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



HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody
Jan Hansen, left, and Charles Warren visit during the Scenic Mountain Medical Center emergency room open house Monday.

SMMC

Continued from Page 1

Whitehead and other emergency staff will also have \$200,000 of added equipment to work with when the emergency room doors open on July 31.

Each exam room will have a mobile monitor that tracks a patient's vital signs, Whitehead said. The monitor transmits the vital signs via wireless technology to a central computer located at the nurses station.

If the patient is taken to another part of the hospital for testing while in emergency care, the emergency room nurses can continue to monitor the patient's vital signs at the central nurses station, Whitehead said.

Each exam room is an enclosed area separated by walls instead of curtains

and will give patients more privacy and confidentiality.

"We've needed it for a long time," said Linda Perez, Victim Services volunteer coordinator, who attended the open house.

Other community leaders say the community should be proud of the new addition.

"It's great for the community," said Debbye Valverde, Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce executive director.

"This is something the community can take pride in," said Irene Bustamante, a member of the hospital's board. "I think this is going to make the community more proud of the hospital."

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

RECEPTION

Continued from Page 1

tem, is the most exciting new addition included in the \$1.8 million renovation.

"It will allow us to constantly monitor the patient anywhere they are in the emergency room. It will reach as far as X-ray," Roever said.

"It will allow us to monitor their heart rate and they will be wearing a cuff (blood pressure) and all we have to do is push a button to inflate it," she explained. "This can all be done from one location."

Other additions include a large trauma room, a decontamination room and a negative pressure room.

Updating the technology of the department and bringing in cutting edge equipment will mean less transfers to Lubbock or other facilities according to Roever.

"We will be able to do more here like minor surgeries and suturing," she said.

While the department will be able to handle most traumas, those that are considered the most critical will continue to be transferred to other facilities.

"Multi-system traumas will have to transfer; severe head injuries and neurological injuries will be sent to Lubbock," Roever said.

Multi-system traumas are those injuries that involve two or more organs such as heart, liver and kidneys. Severe head injuries may involve the exposure of gray matter and damage to blood vessels and surrounding tissues. Neurological injuries involve the nervous system which can result in paralysis and brain damage.

Six thousand square feet was added to the already existing 4,000 feet in the emergency room which should be in full swing by

July 31. The department, as always, will be open 24 hours and will be manned by two 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. nurses, a 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. nurse, a 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. emergency room technician and two nurse's technicians according to Roever.

"We'll be better able to serve our patients," Roever said of the facility. "We're all very excited about this."

To contact Features Editor Andrea Medlin call 263-7331 ext. 236 or send an e-mail johnmoseley@bigspringherald.com

COUNTY

Continued from Page 1

or seven Crown Victorias still in service."

The problem involves the fuel tank of the Crown Victoria Police Interceptor rupturing and exploding in rear-end collisions. About 11 law enforcement officers nationwide have died in such explosions.

- Decided to request a permanent waiver instead of funding \$34,500 in repairs to bring the courthouse's two elevators up to code.

Construction Administrator Phil Furqueron said prolifera-

tion of elevator safety regulations has made providing elevator service difficult.

"There's nothing safer than a ride in an elevator," he said. "They used to be the easiest thing in the world to spec and bid and now they're one of the hardest."

- Heard a report on collection of delinquent taxes from Howard County's tax attorney, Drew Mouton. Mouton said the \$602,274 collection was down about \$130,000 from last year due to some large collections made last year, including about \$100,000 from the owners of the old Holiday Inn. Commissioners voted to renew their contract with Mouton for tax services.

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MOMS!

SYMPTOMS:
Do you...
 Think spaghetti is a finger food?
 Sleep "like a baby" (up at 10, 2, and 4)?
 Write your grocery list in crayon?
 Say "bye-bye" to everyone?

Diagnosis:
Mother of Preschooler! (MOPS)

RX:
Attend a MOPS meeting!
Relief is usually immediate!

MOTHERS OF PRESCHOOLERS
MOPS
because mothers count.

Open House
Thursday, July 25, 2002
11:30am-1:30pm or 6:30pm-8:30 pm
Fellowship Hall (Come and Go)

"Community of Hope"
Church of the Nazarene
1400 S. Lancaster
Big Spring, TX 79720
(915) 267-7015

MOPS is for all mothers with children from birth through kindergarten.
Child care is provided.

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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

Hank Bond
Publisher

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

SMMC's new ER facility rates kudos

It's been needed for a long time ... talked about for many years and now it's a reality. Scenic Mountain Medical Center unveiled its expanded emergency room Monday.

In fact, completion of the project that more than doubled the size of the hospital's ER was highly anticipated that several hundred people showed up to see the result of a \$1.8 million renovation.

The project added 6,000 square feet to the existing 4,000 square-foot facility and includes eight exam rooms, a triage area, a decontamination room, a central nursing area and a more spacious waiting room — all of which have been sorely needed.

Doors to the new emergency room will open on July 31.

There is no doubt that the new ER will be a facility our community can take pride in, and SMMC officials deserve kudos all around. They have taken an already excellent facility and made it better.

And in the long run, we believe those efforts will improve the quality of life for everyone in the community.

OTHER VIEWS

Someone needs to tell Michael Jackson to shut up. If he hadn't already made enough damaging career and life moves, his actions over the past two weeks certainly seem to be the final nails in the coffin for the former "King of Pop."

Apparently upset his 2001 album "Invincible" sold only 2 million copies, Jackson launched several tirades against Sony Music (his label) and Tommy Mottola, its chairman. ...

At the Music Industry Initiative Summit in Harlem, organized by the Rev. Al Sharpton's National Music Network, Jackson said that once he started breaking records set by Elvis Presley and The Beatles, "overnight they called me a freak, a homosexual, a child molester."

This certainly didn't happen overnight and Jackson can only blame himself. He faced a barrage of child molestation claims in the '90s and his determination to prove his innocence resulted in him paying off his accusers.

Before "Invincible" was released, Jackson held a laughable televised tribute to himself. Add that to his multiple plastic surgeries, bizarre marriages and strange public appearances, and you have all the evidence you need as to why people are turned off.

Perhaps it's time Jackson take his own advice and look at the "man in the mirror." That's where he'll find the source of his problems.

THE DAILY NEWS,
MCKEESPORT, PA.

LETTERS POLICY

- 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.

Least we can do is protect children

It's hard to believe a grown man could brutalize, rape and murder a 5-year-old child, as someone did in California. I hope that by the time you read this, the predator will be dead or in custody.

I've always thought that for those who cannot bring themselves to believe in evil, there is no better refutation than child-killers. One of these beasts who had murdered a little girl here in Florida was actually on the verge of being paroled.

Fortunately, he apparently bragged about it, and one of his fellow prisoners, a far more honorable man than he was, brained him with an iron pipe. So he got paroled all right — from his cell to his grave.

I personally do not see any salvation for these child-killers. I've always

thought that a person who would murder a child ought to be summarily executed. Too many of these predators are given time instead of death, and it seems that, invariably, once they get out, they prey on more children. If legislators cannot bring themselves to pass a death sentence for child murder, they should at least require by law that every child-killer wear a tattoo on his forehead that reads: "I Kill Children." That way, his fellow prisoners could do what the state so often lacks the guts to do.

There was a time when I seriously considered swapping journalism for law enforcement, but one of the factors that I considered in making my decision was these child-killers. I know in my heart that I could never arrest one and get him back to the jail alive. You haven't looked at evil until you see one of these children's bodies after the bastards get through with them. For some reason, sadism usually accompanies their perverted sexual preferences.

So far as I can determine, there is no cure for these pedophile predators, so the best thing to do when one is caught is to kill him or lock him up for the rest of his life. These new laws — which some states have adopted — that allow judges to hold these characters beyond their normal criminal sentences are good. Next to killing a child, I can't think of a worse thing to do than for an official to release one of these animals and watch him kill another child. How could anybody live with that? You had a guy locked up, you let him out, and a child facing a good life is murdered.

There is certainly a place for mercy in the criminal-justice system, but there is also a smaller place for being merciless, and those who victimize children deserve no break, no treatment, no succor and no nothing except permanent confinement or death. The least — the very least — any society ought to do is to protect its children. Whenever people are murdered, they are robbed

of what's left of their lives. In the case of older people, often that's not much, but with children, it's way, way too much. Think of all the pleasures that the little girl in California will never know — so many birthdays, Christmases, school, first loves, marriage, her own children. Everything in her future was snatched away by some self-indulgent monster who needed to satisfy his sick desires for 30 seconds.

Folks in Orange County, Calif., can be proud of their sheriff, though. He sounds extremely determined to get this guy, and I believe he will. I'm willing to bet that when the guy is caught, they'll find child pornography in his back-ground. I'd like to see someone tell that little girl's parents that child pornography is a victimless crime.

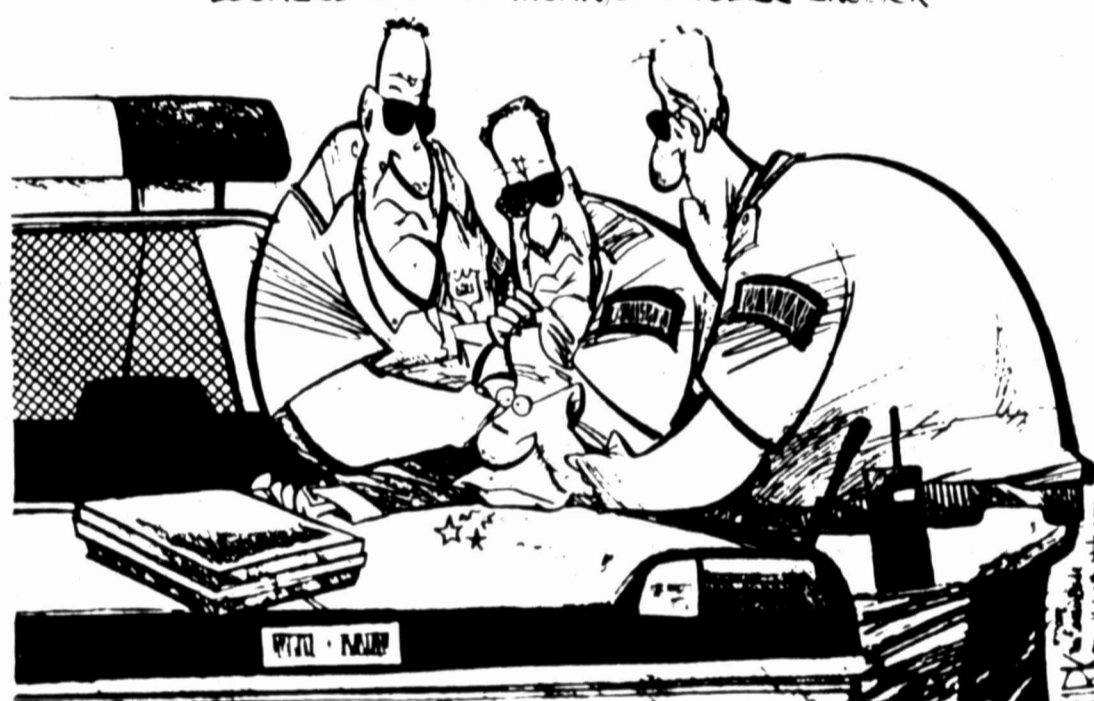
Editor's Note: A suspect in the crime to which Mr. Reese refers is in custody.

Write to Charley Reese at P.O. Box 2446, Orlando, FL 32802



CHARLEY REESE

VIDEOS YOU NEVER SEE: A CROOKED CORPORATE HONCHO GETTING BOUNCED OFF THE TRUNK OF A POLICE CRUISER



'Good' greed versus 'bad' greed

By most accounts Chairman of the Federal Reserve Alan Greenspan is doing a superb job; however, the same may not be said about the quality of his stock market predictions. When the Dow Jones Average was in the 6,000 range, he proclaimed it was a result of "irrational exuberance."

Over the next several years, the Dow proceeded to nearly double from that level. Now the Fed chairman has announced that "infectious greed" is undermining the market. He is wrong. Greed is not infectious; it's inherent. Greed is not undermining the market; it's supporting the market.

There is, after all, greed and there is greed. In its positive form, greed and incentive are synonymous. In its worst form, greed is larcenous. So was Mr. Greenspan referring to all greed or just the larcenous type? He did not say, and it does not matter, because the first is beneficial and the second can and should be controlled by legal prosecutions.

Stiffer white collar jail sentences are in the works. This is fine, but it involves little more than a restatement of grand theft. Grand theft is grand theft, and there are already substantial penalties on the books to cover the crime.

problem is not being fully resolved. The current situation allows accounting firms to act both as auditors and consultants, with the consulting division garnering the most money. The result is that accounting firms have an incentive to favor consulting over auditing, which is what has led to the Enron and WorldCom debacles. This, in turn, has led to a loss of confidence in audited financials, which equates to a loss in confidence in the stock market. This, clearly, is system incentivized bad greed. The solution is obvious: forbid accounting firms to act as both auditors and consultants to the same company.

But what about good greed? If good greed and incentive are synonymous, then incentive is where the concentration of effort should be placed. We want people to be inventive and industrious. We want people to want to make money. This is best accomplished by fewer, not more, laws and regulations. But it is also accomplished by

enforcing the laws that do exist. Otherwise, it is like playing a football game without referees. This means that the SEC should be adequately funded to police the market. It means that the SEC should be led by civil servants free from conflicts of interest, unlike the current chairman, Harvey Pitt, who has been compelled to recuse himself from more than two dozen cases because former clients were involved. To function, the stock market needs to be transparent (audited financials and full disclosures by public companies and the other companies, such as stock brokerages and market makers, that trade them) and policed (the SEC's primary, but under-funded function).

Prediction: The wrong laws will be passed and signed. The consulting-auditing conflict will go unresolved. All of this will be remedied at a later day, probably by a different Congress and president.

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JACK ANDERSON



Mallard Fillmore
by
BRUCE TINSLEY

SPORTS

IN BRIEF

BS Quarterback sets pair of ev
The Big Quarterback C announced that hold a golf tournament on Aug. 10 at Comanche Tru Course. The event is s to be a 4-man sc In addition to tournament, Quarterback Cl holding a co pep rally on A the Comanch Amphitheater. rally will reco Big Spring fal athletes. For more info about the Qua Club or its u events contact (at 267-1069, or P 263-5314, or Ne 267-6996.

Peewee sign-

slated for Aug Crossroads Football League having signu ning Thursday, at the Big Spring Players and cl ers, grades K-6 ble. Grades 3-6 p le football with ment provided. Grades K-2 w flag football. school kids in Big Spring, C Garden City and are welcome. There are 3 c beginning wit Football. This is program in wh players are tau basic skills. Divi for third and graders and is o tackle football the basic footba Finally, Divis for fifth and graders. The di designed to pre kids for junior h ball. The ball weight for this is 120 pounds. All games played on Saturd The first prac be Aug. 19 and game will be with the Supe games finishing son on Saturday. All children ir will be placed o nearest their h school. No child turned away if according to grade. For more info call Sheri at 268 Steve Decker at 2

Class D softba

tourney sched The 2002 USSS Class D State Tournament will Aug. 10-11 in 1 Teams intereste ticipating can c 699-5559 by Aug. fee is \$200 er tea

Peewee footba

coaches meeti The Crossroad Football Leagu scheduled a meeting for Thursday at 2521 Circle. All those inter coaching cheer football teams football teams attend. For more info call Sheri at 268 Steve Decker at 2

ON THE

Television MAJOR LEAGUE B 6 p.m. — Atlanta at Florida Marlins, 7 p.m. — Milwau Brewers at Houston FXS.

BOXING

9 p.m. — Super n dleweights Aaron D 6-0) vs. Ross Thom (25-5-1), ESPN2.

TUESDAY

JULY 23

	KMID (2)	KPEJ (3)	KERA (5)	FAM (6)	KOSA (7)	WFAA (8)	KWES (9)	WTBS (11)	UNI (13)	DISN (14)	NASH (15)	TMC (16)	SHOW (20)	HBO (22)	KMLM (24)	A&E (25)	DISC (28)	TNT (29)	TLC (41)
6 PM	News Fortune	King of the Hill Raymond	Cyberchase Zoboaloo	Home Videos Home Videos	News Ent. Tonight	News (CC) Fortune	News Serinfeld (CC)	Major League Baseball	El Juego de la Vida	Movie: The Thirteenth Year (40) Movie: Airborne (CC)	Real TV (CC) Real TV (CC)	Dr. T & the Women (CC)	Movie: Held Up (CC)	Update With John Hages (CC)	Update With John Hages (CC)	Law & Order (CC)	Frozen Kingdom	Law & Order (CC)	Medical
7 PM	Accord Jim	70s Show Grounded Life	Secrets of Lost Empires	Movie: Jack (CC)	JAG (CC) (DVS)	Accord Jim	Spy TV (CC) Spy TV (CC)	Atlanta Braves at Florida Marlins (CC)	Sakome (SS)	Year (CC) (40) Movie: Airborne (CC)	Star Trek: Next Gener.	Movie: Alive (CC)	Movie: Along Came a Spider (CC)	Two Can Play That Game (CC)	Jewish Voice N. McBride	Biography (CC)	New Detectives	Law & Order (CC)	Eye Spy Caught
8 PM	Mole II: The Next Betrayal	Cops (CC) Search	Raising of U-534	Whose Line? Whose Line?	Judging Amy (CC)	News (35) Late	News (35) Tonight	The Return (CC) (DVS)	P. Impacto Noticiero Univ	Even Stevens	(15) Movie: Defending Your Life (CC)	Red Shoe Red Shoe	Sex and City Wire (CC)	Hour of Healing	Law & Order (CC)	New Detectives	Law & Order (CC)	Eye Spy Caught	
9 PM	News Nightline	Jerry Springer (CC)	News Lehrer (CC)	700 Club (CC)	News (35) Late	News (35) Late	News (35) Tonight	The Return (CC) (DVS)	P. Impacto Noticiero Univ	Even Stevens	(15) Movie: Defending Your Life (CC)	Red Shoe Red Shoe	Sex and City Wire (CC)	Hour of Healing	Law & Order (CC)	New Detectives	Law & Order (CC)	Eye Spy Caught	
10 PM	Up Close Hollywood Sq	Suddenly Spin City (CC)	P.O.V. (CC)	Who's Boss? Who's Boss?	Show (CC) (37) Late	Ent. Tonight Up Close	Show (CC) (37) Late	Movie: Invincible	En las Mejores Familias	So Weird (CC) Jett Jackson	Year Life (CC)	Movie: The Silence of the Lambs (CC)	Dennis Miller (12:05) 3000 Miles to	Update With Church	Biography (CC)	New Detectives	Movie: Ed Wood	Mysteries of the Sphinx	
11 PM	Pad Program (35) Sally	Ricki Lake (CC)	Life 360 (CC)	Pad Program	Show (CC) Street Smarts	(12:06) Oprah Winfrey (CC)	Night (CC) Frasier	(CC)	Tu y Yo	Zorro (CC) Mickey Mouse	Baywatch (CC)	A Midsummer Night's Sex		Faith Pleases God	Cold Case Files (CC)	FBI Files		Nefertiti: Egypt's	

DENNIS THE MENACE



FAMILY CIRCUS



HAGAR



BLONDIE



B.C.



WIZARD OF ID



GEECH



HI AND LOIS



GASOLINE ALLEY



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILY



THIS DATE IN HISTORY

The ASSOCIATED PRESS
Today is Tuesday, July 23, the 204th day of 2002. There are 161 days left in the year.
Today's Highlight in History:
On July 23, 1886, New York saloonkeeper Steve Brodie claimed to have made a daredevil plunge from the Brooklyn Bridge into the East River.
On this date:
In 1885, Ulysses S. Grant, the 18th president of the United States, died in Mount McGregor, N.Y., at age 63.
In 1892, Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia was born.
In 1914, Austria-Hungary issued an ultimatum to Serbia following the killing of Archduke Francis Ferdinand by a Serb assassin; the dispute led to World War I.
In 1942, Harry James and his Orchestra recorded "I

Had the Craziest Dream" in Hollywood for Columbia Records.
In 1952, Egyptian military officers led by Gamal Abdel Nasser overthrew King Farouk I.
In 1967, rioting that claimed some 43 lives erupted in Detroit.
In 1977, a jury in Washington, D.C., convicted 12 Hanafi Muslims of charges stemming from the hostage siege at three buildings the previous March.
In 1982, actor Vic Morrow and two child actors were killed when a helicopter crashed on top of them during filming of a Vietnam War scene for "Twilight Zone: The Movie." (Director John Landis and four associates were acquitted of manslaughter charges in connection with the deaths.)
In 1984, Vanessa Williams became the first Miss America to resign her title, because of nude photographs of her that turned up in "Penthouse" magazine.
In 1986, Britain's Prince Andrew married Sarah

Ferguson at Westminster Abbey in London. (The couple divorced in 1996.)
Today's Birthdays: Actress Gloria DeHaven is 77. Actor Calvert DeForest is 74. Supreme Court Justice Anthony M. Kennedy is 66. Actor Ronny Cox is 64. Radio personality Don Imus is 62. Country singer Tony Joe White is 59. Rock singer David Essex is 55. Actor Larry Manetti is 55. Actress Belinda Montgomery is 52. Rock musician Blair Thornton (Bachman Turner Overdrive) is 52. Actress-writer Lydia Cornell is 45. Actor Woody Harrelson is 41. Rock musician Martin Gore (Depeche Mode) is 41. Actor Eriq LaSalle is 40.

Answer to previous puzzle

TARS	SRTA	ALONE
GLUT	HERB	SEGAL
IDEA	SALSA	SALSA
FARMTEAMS	IDEAL	
PUNT	HAS	
RAM	LAIR	UMANT
ARIES	VEIL	OLEO
COTTAGE	INDUSTRY	
EMIT	ISNT	LEAVE
RATEDG	SECT	RED
RIO	LARK	
INDIA	VILLANOVA	
ALONG	ELEV	AMIS
GETTO	NICE	CASH
ORSON	SETS	KNEE

Newsday Crossword

ON FOOT by Shirley Soloway
Edited by Stanley Newman

- ACROSS**
1 Wager
4 Something to wager on
8 Skillful
12 Knock for
15 Idyllic place
16 Swiped
17 Incense fragrance
19 Portend
20 One who directs a vehicle
21 Under anesthetic
23 Poetic preposition
24 "Clear Day..."
25 Comic Johnson
26 Hard to hold on to
29 Genetic letters
32 The Omen boy
35 Vegas, NV
36 Hotel amenity
37 Touches on
38 Director's cry
39 Pie edging
40 Ott and Blanc
41 Emeril's expletive
42 Soul singer Franklin
43 Fr. holy woman
44 Excited
46 Poke fun at
48 '60s radical org.
49 Actress Scala
52 Having a grooved edge
- DOWN**
1 Low man at the opera
2 Overjoy
3 Computer printer need
4 Do the gift over
5 Hubbub
6 Business VIPs
7 Makes beloved
8 Facing the pitcher
9 Evicted
10 Metal deposit
11 Supplemented with "out"
13 Poetic tribute
14 Lets out early, perhaps
18 Red head, once
22 Like some martinis
26 Forms a lap
27 Become round
28 Have a bite
30 Have a bite
31 Utah ski site
32 River blockers
33 Aid in crime
- 34 Frankie Laine tune
36 Get ready, casually
38 Motor part
39 Papal war
41 Campaign handouts
42 Abacus user
44 Singer Zadora
45 Hinders, in law
47 "Don't forget to ___!"
49 Chasm
50 Slanted letters, for short
51 So far
52 Heroic tale
53 Verve
54 Ballot marks
56 Tiger Woods' grp.
59 Something to trim

