



BIG SPRING

HERALD

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At the Crossroads of West Texas

50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 WEEKEND

THURSDAY

July 3, 2003

WEATHER

Tonight:



PARTLY CLOUDY

TONIGHT 67°-69° TOMORROW 94°-97°



CELEBRATING INDEPENDENCE

TODAY

POPS IN THE PARK
5 p.m., Amphitheater gates open
6 p.m., Air National Guard band
8:30 p.m., Big Spring Symphony and Chorus
9:45 p.m., Fireworks

FRIDAY

FUNTASTIC FOURTH FESTIVAL
9 a.m. to 9 p.m.,
Downtown Big Spring.

HIGHLAND SOUTH FOURTH OF JULY PARADE

10 a.m., Parade route is corner of Stonehaven and Highland to Goliad.

SATURDAY

FUNTASTIC FOURTH FESTIVAL
9 a.m. to 9 p.m.,
Downtown Big Spring.

COAHOMA FREEDOM PARADE

10 a.m., Parade route is Bulldog Stadium south on Broadway in Coahoma.

BRIEFLY

The *Herald* office will be closed Friday in observance of Independence Day. Friday's paper will be delivered at the usual times. Circulation employees will be available from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at 263-7331 to take calls from any customer that might not have received a paper.

INDEX

Classified 8-9
Comics 10
Features 5
Local 3
Obituaries 2
Sports 7

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Find us online at: www.bigspringherald.com

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

Pops concert to kick off celebration



By JOHN A. MOSELEY

Managing Editor
Big Spring and Howard County residents planning to attend tonight's Pops in the Park concert and fireworks show at the Comanche Trail Park Amphitheater need to be aware that officials will be strictly enforcing traffic flow into and out of the park.

"With so many people and so many vehicles, we've just got to simplify the way people enter and exit the park," Tim Blackshear, who heads the Fourth of July Foundation organizing committee, said in

explaining that all vehicle entering the park will have to use the Wasson Road entrance.

Amphitheater gates will open at 5 p.m. today.

Big Spring police will have park entrances from U.S. Highway 87 blocked.

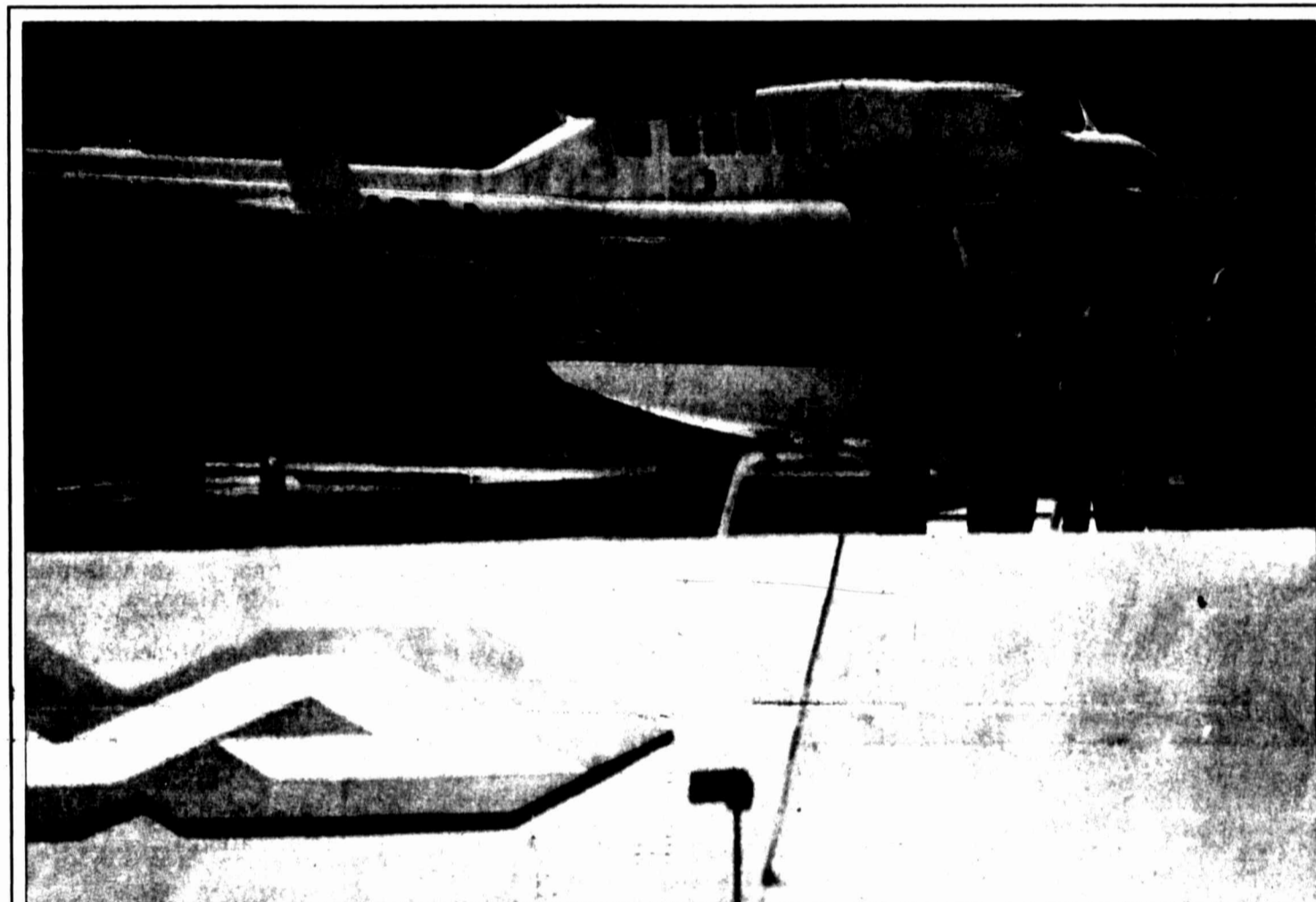
Public parking will be located to the west and north of the swimming pool. Handicapped parking will be available in the facility's new parking lot south of the amphitheater.

In addition, traffic around the swimming pool will be routed in a counter-clockwise fashion and no traffic will be allowed along Starlight Drive in front of the amphitheater.

The concert will feature the Big Spring Symphony and Chorus, as well as the Air National Guard Band of the Gulf Coast and an appearance by U.S. Congressman Randy Neugebauer.

Gates open at 5 p.m. today, with the Air National Guard band

See CELEBRATION, Page 3



Fred Macias, helicopter pilot for Critical Air, gives a tour of the aircraft to some teen-agers at the VA Medical Center. On Tuesday, the helicopter was the first aircraft to land on the newly built VA helipad.

LIFE-SAVING LINK

Helipad ready to serve VA Medical Center's critically ill

By LYNDEL MOODY

Staff Writer
The VA Medical Center officially christened its new helipad Tuesday when a three-person air emergency service team landed to care flight an

accident victim to Lubbock.

"This pad is excellent," said Critical Air flight nurse Debra Crafts.

"We can see it for 15 miles out. The visibility is perfect. There are no wires, trees, lines or any-

thing around. It looks like it's going to be well lit for nighttime."

Helicopter pilot Fred Macias said he was also impressed with the new spacious landing area and added the pad is extensive enough to land

large military aircraft.

Tuesday's care flight was unusual in the fact that the VAMC doesn't normally deal with trauma situations, said Iva Jo Hanslik, VAMC commu-

See HELIPAD, Page 5

Coahoma, Stanton notified of recommendation for low-income housing grants

By ROGER CLINE

Staff Writer
It's not set in stone yet, but Stanton and Coahoma have been notified that they will probably soon receive large grants for low-income housing.

According to city spokespersons, Stanton is set to receive funding to build nine new brick homes, while Coahoma will receive money for eight homes.

The grants have not been finalized by the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, both Stanton City Manager Danny Fryar and Coahoma spokesperson Tammie Garrison were quick to point out, but each city has been notified that it will be recommended to receive the

"Once you put one of those homes in a neighborhood, everybody else goes to cleaning up, too. It helps the whole community."



Danny Fryar, Stanton city manager

funding. Fryar said Stanton's check should be in the \$500,000 range, while Garrison wouldn't comment on a dollar figure

See GRANTS, Page 5



Big Spring Fire Chief Brian Jensen encourages Howard County summer reading program participants, from left, Desirae Hernandez, Blake Freshour, Hannah Webber and Brady Webber as they drop pennies in a glass to win prizes during a wrap up carnival Tuesday night. Around 100 people attended the party to celebrate the end of the program. During the month 109 of the 215 children who registered for the program finished their required 15 books to attend the party.

Family of Year

Samaritan now seeking nominations

By LYNDEL MOODY

Staff Writer
The Samaritan Counseling Center of West Texas is seeking nominations for the Family of the Year.

"We're looking for families that are involved in their community and their churches," said Janie Conley, Family of the Year Committee member and Big Spring resident. "This award is meant to recognize families who have a healthy relationship with each other and contribute to the community."

"We also want to recognize parents who have raised healthy children and are guiding them into positive futures," Conley continued.

The center honors one family from each of its primary service areas during an annual banquet on Oct. 16. The center serves Midland, Odessa and Big Spring.

"It is a fun and exciting experience to see those

See SAMARITAN, Page 5

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A BIG SPRING AROUND THE TOWN

Obituaries

Jimmie D. Newsom



Jimmie D. Newsom, 67, of Big Spring died on Tuesday, July 1, 2003, in a local hospital.

Graveside funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, July 4, 2003, at the Peace Chapel at Trinity Memorial Park in Big Spring with Don and Sandy Smith, officiating.

He was born on Jan. 8, 1936, in Howard County and married Virginia Murphy in 1966 in Fort Worth.

Jimmie was a lifetime resident of Howard County. He was a horse and farm enthusiast and was a loving husband, father and grandfather.

He had served in the United States Navy.

Survivors include wife, Virginia Newsom of Big Spring; three sons, Jimmie Newsom and Shane Newsom, both of Big Spring, and Robert Murphy of Illinois; one daughter, Japa Upchurch of Fort Worth; one sister, Natalie Roberts of Big Spring; two brothers, Don Newsom of Big Spring and Dean Newsom of Chandler; and five grandchildren, Kevin Upchurch and Ashley Upchurch, both of Fort Worth, Michael Newsom of Big Spring, Taylor Newsom of Kerrville and Richie Merritt of Big Spring.

Arrangements under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring. Online condolences can be made at www.npwelch.com
Paid obituary

Support groups

THURSDAY

Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, 12 noon to 1 p.m.; Women's meeting; 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Non-smoking closed discussion meeting, 8 to 9 p.m.

Fibromyalgia/Chronic Fatigue Support Group meets at noon at the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center.

FRIDAY

AA open discussion meeting from noon to 1 p.m. at 605 Settles. Noon Open Big Book Study Meeting, 8 to 9 p.m.

SATURDAY

Open Discussion Meeting, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. Open Podium/Speakers Meeting 615 Settles 8 to 9 p.m. Open Birthday Night, No Smoking meeting the last Saturday of each month at 8 p.m.

SUNDAY

Alcoholics Anonymous meets from 11 a.m. to noon at 615 Settles. Open meeting 5 to 6 p.m.

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.

MONDAY

The Military Support Group meets on the first Monday of each month at 6 p.m. in Room 219 at the VA Medical Center. If you have a family member serving in the armed forces, you are welcome to join. For more information, call Treva Hall at 263-8574 or Holly Moore at 263-8106.

TOFS Club TX 21 (Take Off Pounds Sensibly), weigh-in at 5:30 p.m. and meeting at 6 p.m. at Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, 306 West Third.

New Voice Club support group for laryngeal diseases and families. For more information, call 267-3900.

Alcoholics Anonymous meets from noon to 1 p.m. at 615 Settles. Open meeting on fourth floor at VA Medical Center from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

TUESDAY

The Multiple Sclerosis Support Group meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Texas RV Park meeting room. For more information, call 263-3918.

TOFS Club TX 1756 (Take Off Pounds Sensibly), 5:30 p.m. weigh-in, 6 p.m. meeting, Birdwell Lane Church of Christ, 11th and Birdwell, Call 263-2786 or 263-1310 for more information.

WEDNESDAY

The Crossroads Group of Cocaine Anonymous meets at 7 p.m. in the office building between Third and Fourth streets on the west side of Lancaster Street. For more information, call 466-3254.

Police blotter

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

• **CHARLES LYDIA**, 42, of 2911 W. Highway 80 was arrested this morning on a charge of possession of marijuana two to four ounces.

• **GERARDO ALVIA**, 26, of Laredo was arrested Wednesday on two local traffic warrants.

• **HENRY RAYMOND**, 29, of 447 Armstrong was arrested Wednesday on charges of driving with a suspended license and failure to stop and leave information.

• **JOHNNY LEE RIOS**, 18, of 710 Creighton was arrested Wednesday on two capias warrants.

• **MINOR ACCIDENT** was reported in the 1500 block of East FM 700 and the 1700 block of Purdue Avenue.

• **DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE** was reported in the 2900 block of West Highway 80.

• **DISTURBANCE OR FIGHT** was reported in the 1200 block of Ridgeroad Drive, the 1800 block of East FM 700 and the 800 block of Lorilla Street.

• **LOUD PARTY/NOISE** was reported in the 1000 block of North Main Street.

• **FIREWORKS** were reported twice in the 1200 block of Ridgeroad Drive and twice in the 4200 block of Elm, and in the 100 block of Northeast 10th Street, the 1500 block of Sycamore Street, the 1900 block of East 25th Street, the 800 block of Lorilla Street, the 2400 block of Alamesa Drive, the 2400 block of Carleton Drive, the 1300 block of South Runnels, the 1400 block of North Highway 87, the 1400 block of Mesa and the 2600 block of Crestline Road.

Sheriff's report

The Howard County Sheriff's Office reported the following recent activity:

• **DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE** was reported in the 9300 block of Jay Road. A woman told deputies that her husband hit her and left in a blue van.

• **HIT AND RUN ACCIDENT** was reported in the 600 block of Jeffery Road. A Dodge truck reportedly hit a fence in the area and drove off.

• **THEFT** was reported in the 2600 block of North Old Gail Highway.

• **RUNAWAY** was reported in the 100 block of Hoosier Road. Deputies located the runaway en route to the call and escorted him or her back to the residence.

• **FIREWORKS** was reported in the 1900 block of Hilltop Road. Fireworks were reportedly thrown into the complainant's carport area.

• **SHORT IN WIRES/WIRES SMOKING** was reported in the 400 block of North Texas. The Howard County Volunteer Fire Department was dispatched to assess the situation.

• **A SNAKE IN THE BATHROOM** was reported at the rest area near mile marker 191 on Interstate 20. A deputy responded to the rest area and disposed of the snake.

Weather

Tonight...Partly cloudy in the evening then clearing. Lows in the upper 60s. South winds 5 to 10 mph.

Independence day...Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Highs in the mid 90s. Southeast winds 5 to 10 mph..Friday night...Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Lows near 70.

Saturday...Partly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of thunderstorms. Highs near 90.

Sunday...Mostly cloudy with a slight chance of thunderstorms. Lows near 70. Highs in the mid 90s.

Monday...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 70s. Highs in the mid 90s.

Tuesday...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 70s. Highs in the mid 90s.

Wednesday...Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 70s. Highs in the mid 90s.

Take note

□ **THE MOBILE MEALS PROGRAM**, which delivers to the elderly and homebound, needs volunteers to deliver meals.

If you can spare one hour per week to deliver eight or 10 meals, you are needed.

About 85 to 90 meals are prepared, packaged and delivered to recipients within the city limits of Big Spring.

If you can volunteer, please call 263-4016 before 3 p.m.

□ **SPRING TABERNACLE CHURCH**, 1209 Wright, has free food for the area needy.

Distribution is scheduled from 10 a.m. to noon every Thursday.

Bulletin board

If you have items for the Bulletin board, contact the Herald Features Desk at 263-7331, ext. 238 or email jmooley@crcom.net.

TODAY

Kiwanis Club, noon, Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane, 267-6479.

Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060, 7 a.m., Herman's Restaurant, 1601 Gregg St.

Coffee Club, 10 a.m., Gale's Sweet Shoppe, 1712 E. FM 700.

Genealogical Society of Big Spring, 7 p.m., Howard County Library, 500 S. Main.

Pops in the Park, 5 p.m., Comanche Trail Amphitheater. The annual event features the Big Spring Symphony and Chorus, the Air National Guard Band of the Gulf Coast and will end with a rousing fireworks display. Newly-elected Congressman Randy Neugebauer of Lubbock will take part in the ceremonies.

Mexican Dinner fund-raiser for Muscular Dystrophy, 5 p.m.-6 p.m., Canterbury Retirement Homes, 1700 Lancaster.

Duplicate Bridge Club, 1 p.m., Big Spring Country Club, Driver Road.

FRIDAY

Highland South Fourth of July Parade, 10 a.m., Highland South.

AMBUCS, noon, Brandin Iron Inn., Highway 87.

Greater Big Spring Rotary, noon, Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

Funtastic Fourth, downtown Big Spring.

Country & Western Dance, 7:30 p.m.-10:30 p.m., Spring City Senior Center, 1901 Simler. All area seniors are invited.

SATURDAY

Freedom Parade, 10 a.m., Coahoma. The parade will begin at Bulldog Stadium and continue down Broadway.

Hangar 25 Air Museum, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., McMahon-Wrinkle Airpark.

Heritage Museum, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., 510 Scurry.

Potton House, 1 p.m.-5 p.m., 200 Gregg St., a restored historical home. Admission is \$2 for adults and \$1 for children and senior citizens.

Big Spring Squares, 267-7043 or 263-6305 for more information.

SUNDAY

Hangar 25 Air Museum, 1:30 p.m.-4 p.m., McMahon-Wrinkle Airpark.

MONDAY

Sr. Circle Sit and Be Fit Chair Aerobics, 4 p.m., Scenic Mountain Medical Center, 1601 W. 11th Place. People 50 years old and older are invited to participate, call 268-4721.

Evenings Lion's Club, 6:30 p.m., La Posada, 206 Northwest Fourth St.

Encourager's Support Group (All widows and widowers are invited) Monday, July 7, 6 p.m. at La Posada Restaurant. Call 398-5522 for more information.

Lottery

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 6-7-13-32-44 Bonus Ball: 12 Number matching five of five, plus Bonus Ball: none. Estimated jackpot for Saturday night drawing: \$18 million.

The winning Cash Five numbers drawn Wednesday by the Texas Lottery: 9-30-31-33-35

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 8-7-6

BIG SPRING HERALD

www.bigspringherald.com

Reflecting A Proud Community

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BY THE MONTH HOME DELIVERY: Evenings and Sunday, \$6.65 monthly; \$63.42 yearly (includes 10% discount for yearly).

MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$12.50 monthly Howard & Martin Counties. \$13.25 elsewhere.



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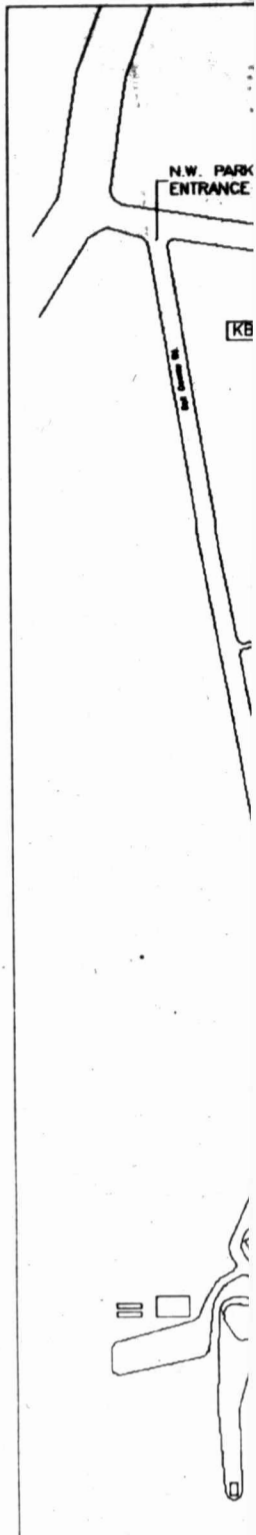
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CELEBRA

Continued from Page

beginning its first sets at 6 p.m. The phony and chorus the stage at 8:30 fireworks display at 9:45.

An entire week activities is scheduled for Howard County.

The Funtastic Festival is set for Friday and Saturday but several other ties are set to celebrate our nation's

denise.

The Mountain Lodge "Hot Dog Pie and Chevrolet is scheduled for 5 p.m. today. A View is located Virginia.

And at 5 p.m. Canterbury Retirement Home, 1700 Lancaster will hold a fund-raiser for the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

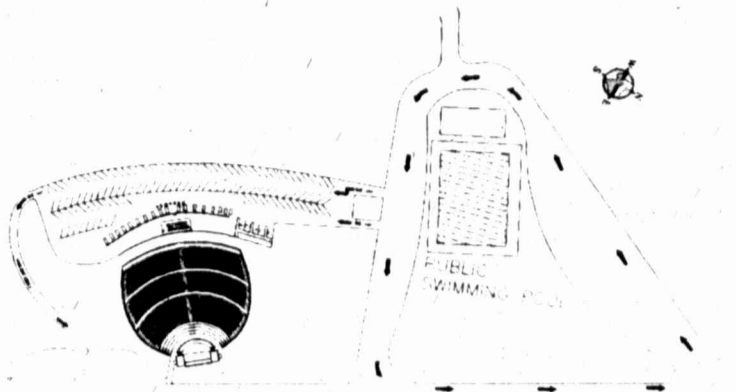
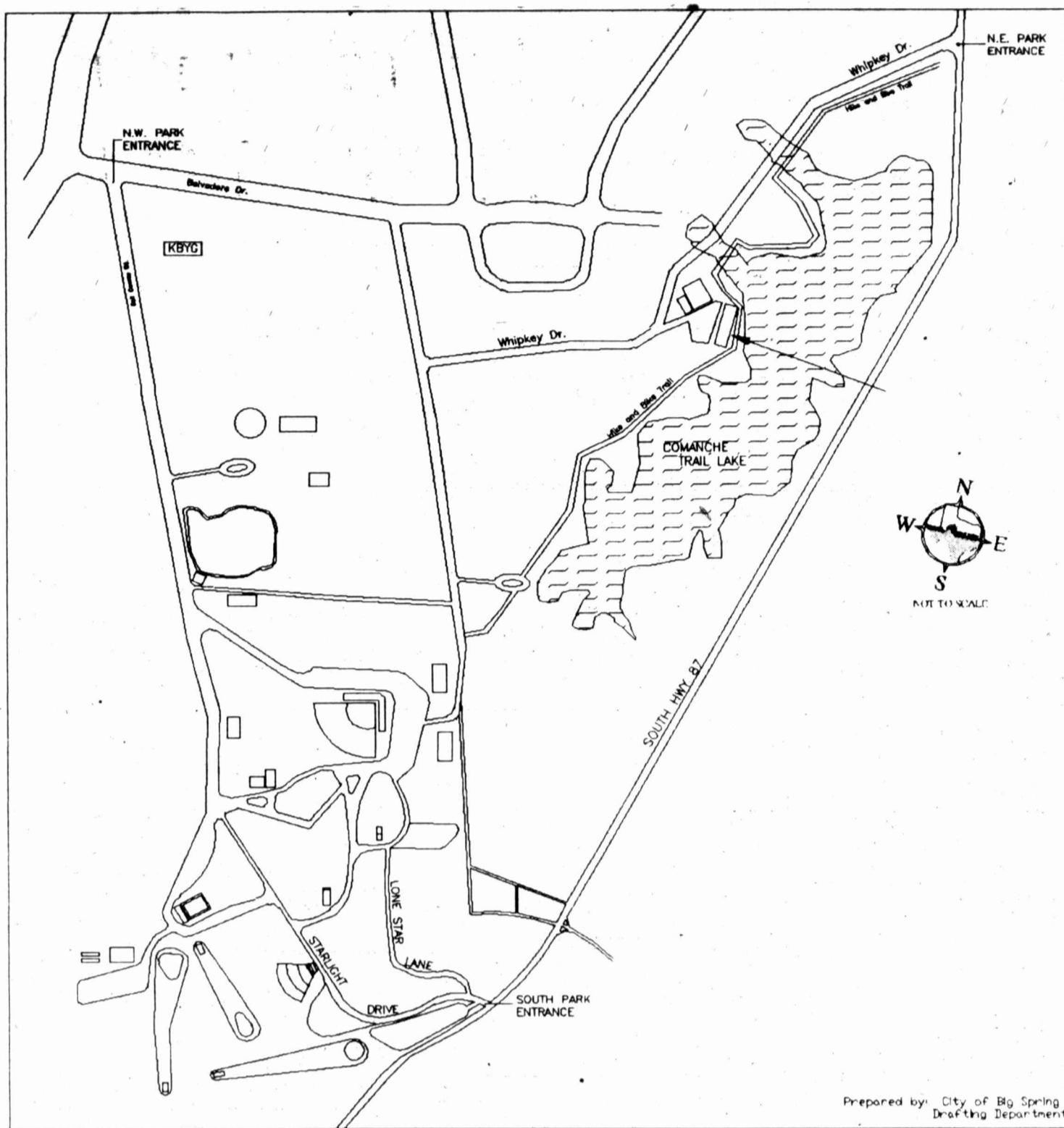
The Funtastic Festival, sponsor Downtown Revitalization Association, will start at 9 a.m. on Friday and Saturday at the Heart of Big Spring.

The centerpiece festival will be the pronged Battle Bands in which musicians can win \$500 or \$250 prize and roll, court Tejano categories.

The Battle of the Bands will feature hours of music category each.

Tejano kicking at 11 a.m., rock picking up at 2 country wrapping up each day from 8 p.m.

Ongoing gospel



Park access:

Those planning to attend tonight's Pops in the Park patriotic music concert and fireworks display will only be able to enter Comanche Trail Park at the entrance off Wason Road, as shown in the map at left.

Police will have the park's entrances off U.S. Highway 87 blocked.

In addition, traffic around the swimming pool, as shown above, will be routed one way in a counter-clockwise fashion.

Handicapped parking will be available behind the amphitheater.

In addition, no traffic will be allowed along Starlight Drive in front of the amphitheater.

RITZ
401 S. Main 263-7480
Movie Hot Line: 263-2479
Admission Adults: \$7.00
Child, Senior & Matinee: \$4.50
NEW DIGITAL PROJECTION
*Sinbad (PG)
Daily: 2:40, 4:50 & 9:20
*Legally Blonde 2 (R)
Daily: 2:30, 4:40, 7:00 & 9:10
*Pass Restricted



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& CHAPEL
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Free maps of Big Spring and Howard County while supplies last.

CINEMA 4
*Terminator 3 (R)
Daily: 1:40, 4:20 & 7:10 Sat. 9:30
*Charlie's Angels 2 (PG-13)
Daily: 2:00, 4:40 & 7:30 Sat. 9:50
*Hulk (PG-13)
Daily: 1:30, 4:10 & 7:00 Sat. 9:40
*2 Fast 2 Furious (PG-13)
Daily: 1:50, 4:30 & 7:20 Sat. 10:00
ADULTS: \$6.00
\$3.50 ALL MATINEES, CHILDREN & SENIOR CITIZENS
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CELEBRATION

Continued from Page 1

beginning its first of two sets at 6 p.m. The symphony and chorus take the stage at 8:30 and the fireworks display begins at 9:45.

An entire weekend of activities is slated in Howard County.

The Funtastic Fourth Festival is set for Friday and Saturday downtown, but several other activities are set to commemorate our nation's independence.

The Mountain View Lodge "Hot Dogs, Apple Pie and Chevrolet" event is scheduled for 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. today. Mountain View is located at 2009 Virginia.

And at 5 p.m. today, Canterbury retirement home, 1700 Lancaster, will hold a fund-raiser for the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

The Funtastic Fourth Festival, sponsored by the Downtown Revitalization Association, will run from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday in the Heart of the City Park.

The centerpiece of the festival will be a three-pronged Battle of the Bands in which area musicians can win \$1,000, \$500 or \$250 prizes in rock and roll, country and Tejano categories.

The Battle of the Bands will be feature three hours of music in each category each day, with Tejano kicking things off at 11 a.m., rock and roll picking up at 2 p.m. and country wrapping things up each day from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Ongoing gospel music

will also be featured throughout each day of the festival.

Other activities and vendors with carnival fare, arts and crafts and other items will also crowd the area.

"We've got a block and a half of children's events lined out," said Allan Johnson, DRA president. "We're going to have a motorcycle show. We're going to have a car show, classic cars and low riders. All kinds of motorcycles. We're going to have a huge washer tournament. The washer tournament is going to be put on by Cornell Corrections. That's big."

The holiday weekend will also feature a tamale sale hosted by St. Thomas Catholic Church at the church parish hall at the intersection of Northwest Sixth Street and North Main Street. Tamales will be on sale from 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday and from 10:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday.

The spicy Mexican treats will be available to eat on the scene or to go. For more information, call the church at 263-4337.

Highland South residents will hold their annual Fourth of July Parade Friday at 10 a.m. The parade will start at the intersection of Stonehaven and Highland and head down Highland, all the way to Golliad.

The annual Freedom Parade in Coahoma will be at 10 a.m. Saturday. The parade will start at Bulldog Stadium and make its way down Broadway in Coahoma.

Staff Writer Roger Cline contributed to this story.

4th of July SALE!

<p>SALE 9.99 FASHION TRENDS SHEETING CAPRIS Reg. 26.00</p>	<p>SALE 24.99 DONNA STAMP PRINT COTTON DRESS Reg. 44.00</p>	<p>SALE 9.99 BY DESIGN SLEEVELESS SWEATER Reg. 27.00</p>	<p>SALE 7.99 ELITE SPORT KNIT TOP Reg. 24.00</p>
<p>SALE 10.99 ELITE SPORT PIQUE GROUP Reg. 24.00</p>	<p>SALE 19.99 SAG HARBOR LONG LINEN BUTTON FRONT DRESS Reg. 42.00</p>	<p>SALE 24.99 RAFAEL SPORT FLORAL CAPRIS Reg. 44.00</p>	<p>SALE 19.99 DI NUOVO SILK TEES AND MOCK NECK TOPS Reg. 40.00 - 48.00</p>
<p>SALE 19.99 TOMMY HILFGER CANVAS SHOES Reg. 40.00 - 49.00</p>	<p>SALE 29.99 TRAVELER'S CLUB COOL CARRY PICNIC SET Reg. 80.00</p>	<p>SALE 9.99 YOUR CHOICE JN APPAREL SKIRTS Reg. 29.00</p>	
<p>SALE 19.99 TOMMY HILFGER THONGS Reg. 25.00</p>	<p>SALE 5.99 MONET JEWELRY Reg. to 18.00</p>		

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JULY 2003

Vacation Bible School
Mission: **All Things Are Possible**
Where: Coahoma Church Of Christ
When: July 7-11
Times: 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
Ages: Cradle Roll - Adult
On Friday Night we will have an Ice Cream Supper to conclude the VBS.

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 EditorBill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Let's celebrate
our nation's
independence!

Put on your red, white and blue and join Howard County in one giant weekend-long celebration this weekend. Family-oriented activities full of music, fireworks food and fun are on the agenda, non-stop, beginning tonight and continuing through Saturday.

First on the list, of course, is the annual Pops in the Park extravaganza, centered around the Comanche Trail Park Amphitheater. Vendors' booths open at 5 p.m. The celebration gets into full swing with the Air National Guard Band of the Gulf Coast at 6 p.m., followed by the Big Spring Symphony and Chorus at 8:30 p.m. and the fireworks show at around 9:45 p.m. It will be a rousing good time, with a special salute to area veterans and those currently serving in the military.

The Funtastic Fourth Festival cranks up its two-day run Friday morning in downtown Big Spring. Filled with booths, special exhibits, a block-and-a-half of children's events and a three-pronged Battle of the Bands competition, the festival runs from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

If parades are what you enjoy most, you'll find two going on this weekend. The first is the Highland South Fourth of July Parade at 10 a.m. Friday. This long-time neighborhood event starts at the intersection of Stonehaven and Highland and treks its way to Goliad. Heavy on patriotism, children and pets, this is one of the cutest parades you'll ever enjoy.

On Saturday, the Coahoma Freedom Parade takes off from Bulldog Stadium in Coahoma at 10 a.m. and makes its way south along Broadway to near Interstate 20. It's a colorful community parade complete with riding clubs, bicycles, motorcycles and the like — all decked out in Independence Day colors.

Several other activities are going on. Today, Mountain View Lodge, 2009 Virginia, is hosting "Hot Dogs, Apple Pie and Chevrolet" from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.; and Canterbury, 1700 Lancaster, is holding a stackable taco dinner fund-raiser for the Muscular Dystrophy Association at 5 p.m. Also, St. Thomas Catholic Church, Sixth Street and North Main, is selling tamales from 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday and from 10:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday.

No matter how you want to celebrate the Fourth of July, you'll find it in Howard County. Join us as we laud our nation's independence.

LETTERS POLICY

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

- 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.

- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to jmoseley@crcom.net

HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

In order that we might better serve your needs, we offer several ways in which you may contact us:

- In person at 710 Scurry St.
- By telephone at 263-7331
- By fax at 264-7205
- By e-mail Managing Editor John Moseley at jmoseley@crcom.net or News Editor Bill McClellan at newsdesk@crcom.net.
- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

Dear Lord, when our faith falters and we are skeptical, may we talk honestly to you through our prayers, for you will provide us with stronger faith. Amen

Who's Worse Gumby or Mayor Mike

Which politician is more reviled by his own constituents — California Gov. Gray Davis or New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg?

The latest Public Policy Institute of California poll found that a measly 28 percent of Californians approve of Davis' handling of his job. Hence the movement to recall him.

In New York, the bloom is off his nose. A New York poll found that Bloomberg's approval rating — 24 percent — was at a record low.

California critics describe Davis' approach to governance as "non-stop fund raising" — another way of saying barely governing. Davis has worked his whole life to be governor. Once elected, he went light on doing the job.

The New York Daily News sums up Bloomberg's approach to governing as his "nonconfrontational style" — a euphemism for ineffectiveness.

Both pols are facing big deficits in their budgets.

California state coffers have a \$38 billion hole. New York's shortfall is about \$3.8 billion.

Californians are angry at Davis because he spent too much time fund raising and campaigning last

year, when he should have been paying more attention to the state's growing revenue shortfall.

New Yorkers are miffed with Bloomberg because he has spent too much time telling other people how to behave — as in the city's new ban against smoking in bars and restaurants — when he should have been making Gotham's government run better.

Changes in workers' compensation laws under Davis have driven California employers' premiums through the roof, hurting employers and jobs.

New York businesses are being dinged as city workers fine them under an obscure law for such offenses as displaying illicit signage on awnings. Awnings with the words "cold beer" — rather than simply the establishment's name — can earn a fine of \$2,500.

Both politicians also show a deficit in their personalities.

Sacto wags call Davis "Gumby." Even the statewide officers who say they won't run in a recall election have made it clear they don't like Davis.

New York tabloids have dubbed Bloomberg "Mayor Mike." The citizenry call him puritanical, prissy, a grinch lookalike and a busybody.

Davis has been happy to allow others to take the credit for tax hikes. Just before his own finance director Steve Peace raised the vehicle license fee — at an average cost of \$158 more per car owner — Davis told the Sacramento Bee the

decision was "up to the financial officers of the state."

Bloomberg has shown himself willing to take the heat for higher parking tickets, hiring more ticket writers for parking and business infractions, and calling for unpopular budget cuts. His methods for enhancing city revenues have small business owners furious with Bloomberg for balancing the city budget on their backs.

Last year, Davis spent some \$77 million of other people's money to win re-election, but he won after chasing 1.3 million voters away — 3.5 million Californians voted for Gumby in 2002, as opposed to 4.8 million in 1998.

Bloomberg spent more than \$50 million of his own money to win the mayor's seat. Now, Bloomberg is so unpopular that there are unsubstantiated rumors that Bill Clinton will replace him as mayor in 2005.

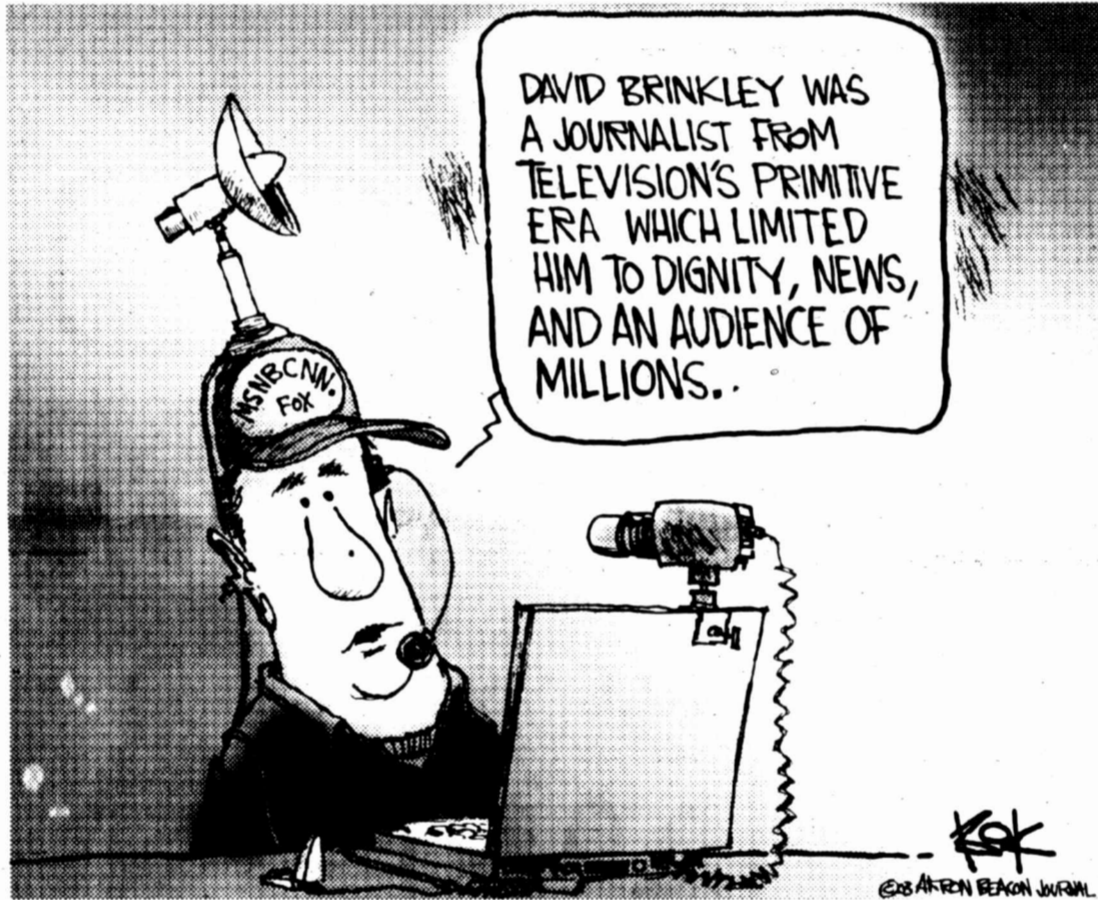
In California, tongues wag that Arnold Schwarzenegger will pummel Davis if there's a recall election, which could happen this year. The bad news for Davis is that the more he spends to keep his seat, the less he governs and the more likely he is to lose.

To find out more about Debra J. Saunders, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com.

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The squeezing of the U.S. Army

Two trenchant quotations were repeated through Army corridors of the Pentagon last week — one by an enlisted

infantryman enduring hardships of occupation duty in Iraq and the other by a four-star general leaving the service after 38 years. Each was clearly unhappy with Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld. Taken together, their comments signaled hard times ahead for the U.S. Army.

On the previous Sunday, a front-page story in The New York Times aroused attention throughout the Pentagon. Pfc. Matthew C. O'Dell, 1st Brigade of the 3rd Infantry Division, told a reporter: "You call Donald Rumsfeld and tell him our sorry asses are ready to go home. Tell him to come spend a night in our building."

Four days earlier, in a speech that marked his retirement as the Army's chief of staff, Gen. Eric Shinseki said it's "just not helpful and it isn't true" for "some (to) suggest that we in the Army don't understand the importance of civilian control of the military." He added: "To muddy the waters when important issues are at stake, issues of life and death, is a disservice to all of those in and out of uniform who serve and lead so well." Unlike the pfc., the general did not mention Rumsfeld by name. But that's who he meant.

O'Dell's complaint echoed previous grumbling by troops occupying Iraq, but the willingness of a professional soldier to be quoted by name was something new. It

suggested deep-seated morale problems with profound repercussions. Shinseki's passionate farewell address, extraordinary for a retirement ceremony, reflected the divide between the old Army brass and Rumsfeld.

At the heart of both men's unhappiness, the Army has been stretched thin to execute the nation's foreign policy. Shinseki and Rumsfeld were in continuous tension over how many troops were needed to pacify Afghanistan, to subdue Iraq and then occupy Iraq.

The end product is Matthew O'Dell's lament for being stuck in Baghdad. The Washington Post reported Friday from the Iraqi capital that victorious U.S. troops, under fire in a hazardous occupation, are "frustrated and disillusioned" as too thinly deployed peacekeepers. The unspoken fear in Army circles is that complaints will depress re-enlistment, so important to an all-volunteer force, and ultimately diminish the vital corps of non-commissioned officers.

With over 370,000 soldiers or 70 percent of the Army now deployed in 120 countries, President Bush's capability to pursue his doctrine of pre-emption is constrained. In his farewell address, Shinseki called for "a force sized correctly to meet the strategy set forth in the documents that guide us." He warned: "Beware the 12-division strategy for a 10-division army."

As a yearlong lame duck when Rumsfeld unexpectedly announced Shinseki's retirement a year in advance, Shinseki never was able to convince the secretary that policy was outstripping capabilities. When his June 11 speech declared that "mistrust and arrogance are antithetical to inspired and inspir-

ing leadership," everybody in the Pentagon knew he was accusing Rumsfeld of exercising command but not leadership. The general declared that "command is about authority, about an appointment to position" but that "leadership... must be learned and practiced."

Nobody from the Office of the Secretary of Defense attended Shinseki's retirement ceremony, and none had been invited. Rumsfeld's response to Shinseki was bringing back Gen. Pete Schoomaker, who retired in 2000, as the new chief of staff. That indicated the secretary of defense felt none of the serving three-star or four-star generals could be trusted. Appointing Schoomaker, renowned in his career as an exemplar of special operations, was a rebuff to heavy infantry and tube artillery advocates.

Civilian Defense Department officials have stressed that the highly regarded Schoomaker is no yes-man, but it is taken for granted inside the Pentagon that Rumsfeld would not have picked another no-man. It is taken for granted that the gruff and difficult James Roche, shifted from secretary of the Air Force to secretary of the Army, will do Rumsfeld's bidding (in contrast to his fired predecessor, Thomas White) — once he is confirmed by the Senate.

Confirmation will not be automatic. Senators will interrogate Roche and Schoomaker about plans to further squeeze the Army without diminishing its global mission.

To find out more about Robert D. Novak and read his past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com.

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NEWS B

Fireworks blast

BONITA SPRING keeping their distance fireworks blast that of the \$20,000 worth. Workers were truck to another at of powerful blasts into the sky and shers were injured.

The fireworks Independence Day Naples. Officials sa

The state fire ma of Alcohol, Tobacco investigating the c

However, the overnight because all of the firework Sheriff's spokesma

Bush steps up

WASHINGTON (up U.S. pressure or

SAMARITAN

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Past recipients family of the Big area include the and Lila Adkins the Dennis and Smiley family at Mark and Pam M family.

Application for be obtained by Samaritan Cou Center at (432) 563-800-329-4144. Ch civic groups and i uals are eligible to

HELIPAD

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Normally the called when the l needs to quickly critically-ill pati other medical faci

Whether deair trauma situatf transferring patie team is traine equipped to de almost any emerg the air. Crafts sai

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GRANTS

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The grant wou from a joint fed state program. has received through the three times befor

"What we'll c take application just depends on v ifies," Fryar sa last program. I b all over town. In never had a prog this that I have all over town."

The program added benefit c rid of eyesore t he added.

"What they c person that ha house that's fall and it's going more to repair i worth, we'll t



2601 Wasson

NEWS BRIEFS

Fireworks blast leaves four people dead

BONITA SPRINGS, Fla. (AP) — Investigators were keeping their distance Thursday from the site of a fireworks blast that killed four people, worried not all of the \$20,000 worth of explosives had detonated.

Workers were transferring the fireworks from one truck to another at 2:10 p.m. Wednesday when a series of powerful blasts erupted, shooting colorful flames into the sky and shaking the ground. Two other workers were injured.

The fireworks were bound for the annual Independence Day display Friday in nearby East Naples. Officials said the event had been canceled.

The state fire marshal's office and the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives were investigating the cause.

However, the bodies remained at the scene overnight because authorities did not know whether all of the fireworks had detonated, said Lee County Sheriff's spokesman Sgt. Michael Maschmeier.

Bush steps up pressure on Liberia leader

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush has stepped up U.S. pressure on Liberia's president to resign while

holding off on a decision on possibly sending peace-keeping troops to the troubled African nation.

As foreign leaders called on Bush to send U.S. troops to the country founded by freed American slaves, the president sharply denounced Liberian leader Charles Taylor from a White House podium Wednesday.

"One thing has to happen: Mr. Taylor needs to leave the country," Bush said. "In order for there to be peace and stability in Liberia, Charles Taylor needs to leave now."

Gun rights ruling asked to be reviewed

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court is being asked to overturn an appeals court ruling that said the Constitution does not guarantee people a personal right to own a gun.

The court's past rulings on Second Amendment gun rights — many in the 1800s — are a mess that should be straightened out when the justices return from their summer break, an appeal being filed Thursday at the court said.

The appeal relates to one of two closely watched cases from the liberal-leaning 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco. The high court will also decide later this year whether to review a 9th Circuit ruling that banned teacher-led reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance in public schools because of the phrase "under God."

The gun case includes an unlikely group of challengers — not the National Rifle Association or other organized groups, but some rugby teammates and friends. They include a police SWAT officer, a Purple Heart recipient, a former Marine sniper, a parole officer, a stockbroker and others with varied political views. They had sued the state over laws banning high-powered weapons.

The 9th Circuit panel said the amendment's intent was to protect gun rights of militias, not individuals.

Court says innocence trumps guilty plea

AUSTIN (AP) — Seven years after pleading guilty to a crime he now says he didn't commit, Wesley Ronald Tuley is a step closer to becoming a free man.

Tuley won an important round in a legal battle to establish his innocence Wednesday when the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals refused to reconsider an earlier decision that overturned his guilty plea to sexual assault charges when new evidence showed him to be innocent.

Innocence, the court said in its earlier ruling, trumps a guilty plea.

"I'm beyond ecstatic," said Tuley's attorney, Michael Levine. "I had heart palpitations when I heard."

Tuley works in the Dallas area in commercial lighting and was not immediately available for comment.

SAMARITAN

Continued from Page 1

families honored, to see these Christian families recognized," Conley said.

Past recipients for the family of the year representing the Big Spring area include the Larry and Lila Adkins family, the Dennis and Becky Smiley family and the Mark and Pam Morgan family.

Application forms can be obtained by calling Samaritan Counseling Center at (432) 563-4144 or 800-329-4144. Churches, civic groups and individuals are eligible to nomi-

nate a local family.

The deadline to receive nomination forms is Aug. 15. Nominations can be sent to: Samaritan Counseling Center of West Texas Inc., P.O. Box 60312; Midland 79711-0312 or faxed to (432) 561-8611.

Samaritan is a non-profit, faith-based counseling center with offices in Midland, Odessa and Big Spring, providing services to a 30-county area in West Texas and Eastern New Mexico.

Contact Staff Writer Lyndel Moody at 263-7331, ext. 234, or by e-mail at newsdesk@crcom.net

HELIPAD

Continued from Page 1

nity relations coordina-

tor. Normally the service is called when the hospital needs to quickly transfer critically-ill patients to other medical facilities.

Whether dealing with trauma situations or transferring patients, the team is trained and equipped to deal with almost any emergency in the air, Crafts said.

"We are an air emergency room," said Jonathan Smith, Critical Air team member. "We do pretty much everything

they do in the emergency room."

In time-sensitive situations, the crew can touch down, load a patient and get going quickly.

"Many times we do what we call a hot load, meaning we don't even shut the helicopter down," Crafts said.

"We come in and do our assessment. We talk with the family and get our forms signed and go. We're usually on the ground less than 10 minutes."

Contact Staff Writer Lyndel Moody at 263-7331, ext. 234, or by e-mail at newsdesk@crcom.net

GRANTS

Continued from Page 1

for the Coahoma grant.

"We got a letter that they've recommended it to go before the state committee," Fryar said. "But they've pretty well told me that we're going to get it."

The grant would come from a joint federal and state program. Stanton has received funding through the program three times before.

"What we'll do, we'll take applications and it just depends on who qualifies," Fryar said. "My last program, I built them all over town. In fact, I've never had a program like this that I haven't built all over town."

The program has the added benefit of getting rid of eyesore buildings, he added.

"What they do, some person that has an old house that's falling down and it's going to cost more to repair it than it's worth, we'll tear that

down and build on their property," he said. "They have to own the property and their taxes have to be paid up on their property, free and clear. It cleans up areas where there's dilapidated houses. Once you put one of those homes in a neighborhood, everybody else goes to cleaning up, too. It helps the whole community."

Garrison said Coahoma also got the phone call from Austin saying the town's housing grant had been approved.

"That is not the final decision, it has to go before the board," she said. "We will not know anything for sure until that meeting happens. If we are approved, it's going to be for eight houses."

Coahoma recently completed construction on nine homes through a similar grant, she added.

The TDHCA will meet July 30.

Contact Staff Writer Roger Cline at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at newsdesk@crcom.net

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JULY 3 2003

Strawberries sweeten firecracker dessert

By The Associated Press

Summer brings plenty of occasions for entertaining, both casual and festive, and strawberries rank high on menus for ease of presentation, color and popularity.

For flag-waving days, including the Fourth of July, the red berries can be matched with patriotic accents of white whipped cream and blueberries, as in the following recipe. Phyllo dough makes the crispy containers for this creamy concoction, which is served warm on little pools of strawberry sauce. A sweet summer salute to the red, white and blue.

Note: You can make the sauce a couple of days in advance, and prepare the firecrackers a day ahead of serving time.

Strawberry Firecrackers
(Preparation 20 minutes, cooking time 5 minutes)

For sauce:
1 cup frozen sweetened

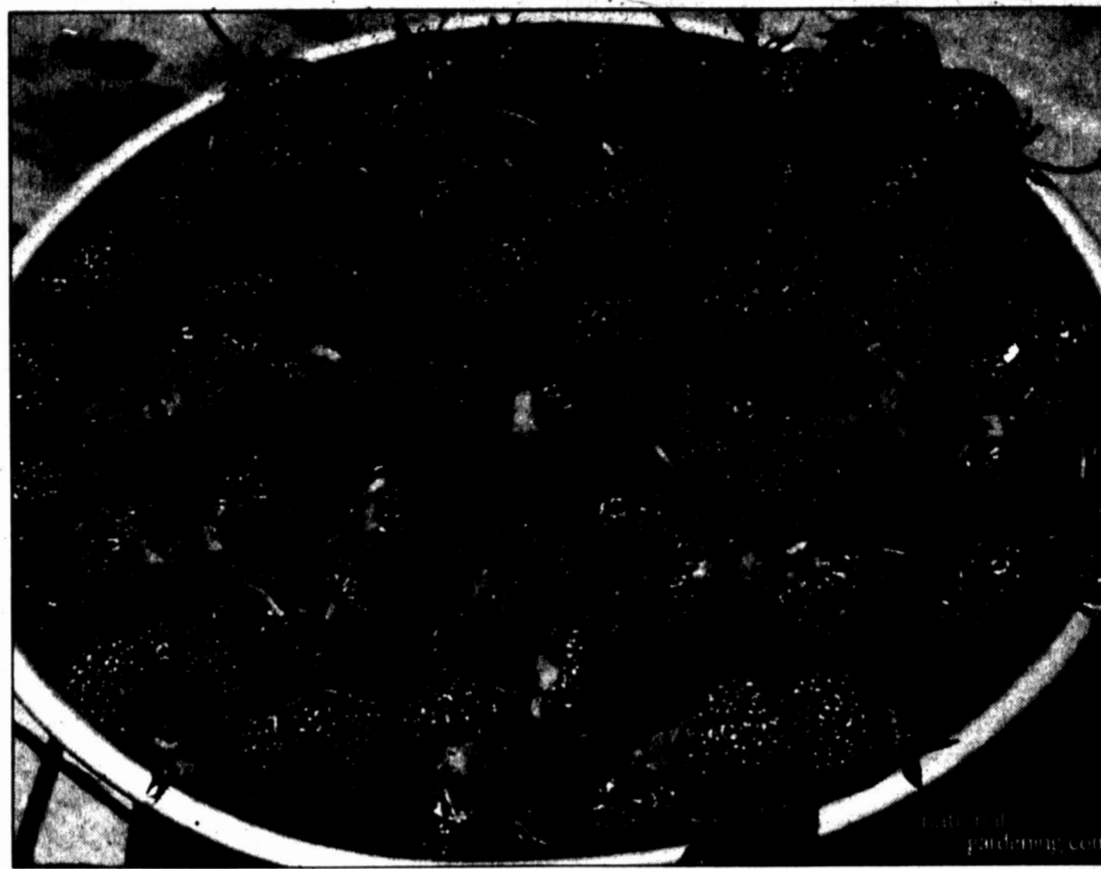
strawberries, thawed
2 teaspoons orange liqueur or 1 tablespoon orange juice plus 1/2 teaspoon grated orange zest

For Strawberry Firecrackers:

3 sheets phyllo dough
1/4 cup unseasoned dry bread crumbs
1/4 cup sugar
1/4 cup (1/2 stick) butter, melted
2 pints whole stemmed strawberries
Sweetened whipped cream for garnish
Fresh blueberries for garnish

To make sauce: In blender or food processor, puree strawberries. Stir in orange liqueur or orange juice and zest. Refrigerate, covered, up to 2 days.

To make Strawberry Firecrackers: Heat oven to 500 F. Cut phyllo sheets in half to make six 8-by-12-inch sheets. Cover with damp towel. In small bowl, mix bread



crumbs and sugar. Lay 1 sheet of phyllo on work surface, keeping remaining pieces covered, and brush with butter. Sprinkle with 1 tablespoon of the bread crumb mixture. Place a row of 4

or 5 strawberries about 2 inches above long edge of sheet, centering the row to leave ends of sheet uncovered. From long edge, carefully roll up; tuck ends of sheet under. Place seam-side-down on

ungreased baking sheet, brush with butter and sprinkle with 1 teaspoon of the bread crumb mixture. Repeat with remaining ingredients to make 6 rolls. Bake phyllo rolls in center of oven for 5 min-

utes or until crisp and browned.

To serve: Spoon 2 tablespoons of sauce onto each of 6 plates; place one roll on each plate (see note) and garnish with a dollop of whipped cream and a few blueberries. Serve immediately.

(Note: Rolls can be cut in half on an angle with a serrated knife. Cut carefully with a light sawing motion; phyllo may crumble.)

Makes 6 servings.
Nutrition information per serving: 189 cal., 9 g fat, 21 mg chol., 79 mg sodium, 29 g carbo., 3 g fiber; 2 g protein.

For advance preparation:
Strawberry Firecrackers can be prepared up to one day in advance. Place unbaked firecrackers on baking sheet, wrap tightly with plastic wrap and refrigerate up to 24 hours. Remove plastic wrap and bake in preheated 500 F oven for 5 minutes.

Protecting your family

"Put me in, coach!" Injury doesn't have to keep your kids on the bench. Simple safety precautions like proper conditioning and equipment can help your kids stay off the sidelines and in the game.



KATIE WALKER

Consistency is the key. Most organized sports-related injuries occur during practice unfortunately, a third of parents (34 percent) say their kids do not often take the same precautions for practices as for games. It's important that your children take safety precautions whenever they play. SAFE KIDS has partnered with the National Athletic Trainers' Association to provide you with the following tips.

Before the game: Before beginning a sport, all children should receive a general health exam and an orthopedic exam. Find out as much as possible about the person who is responsible for your child's care while playing. Does the coach possess a state or nationally approved certificate to coach this

Church News and Club News should be turned in by Wednesday noon before the Friday they are to appear, are subject to editing and will run as space allows.

sport? Is he or she certified in CPR, and is a first aid kit available? Is a certified athletic trainer available to provide instruction and rehabilitation?

Children should be physically and psychologically conditioned for activities, instructed in basic skills and matched with other kids of similar skill level, weight and maturity.

Check athletic grounds for hazards (rocks, holes, water, etc.). Also consider current and potential weather conditions (e.g. lightning). Make sure children always wear appropriate safety gear and equipment that fits properly. Protective gear is sport-specific and may include mouth guards, shin pads, helmets, elbow pads, knee pads, safety goggles, etc.

Ensure that children warm up and stretch before playing.

During the game: Make sure children are supervised by an adult at all times. All safety rules

should be strictly enforced.

Dehydration in young athletes is a serious concern. Make sure kids drink adequate liquids prior to, during and following athletic activities. Know the symptoms of dehydration: thirst, weakness, headaches, dark-colored urine or a slight decrease in body weight.

Kids should receive adequate rest breaks during practice and games. They should not be expected to play through an injury.

Parents and coaches should be role models by practicing good sportsmanship and playing by the rules.

Prepare for an emergency by providing the child's coach with important information: parents' names, addresses, phone numbers, and any medical conditions or allergies affecting the athlete.

Katie Walker is the Texas Cooperative Extension agent for family and consumer science in Howard County.

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BRIE

Crossroads cheerleaders sign-ups

Registration for 2003 Crossroads Little League Football League ball and cheerleader squads is now underway at the Big Spring Mail.

Registration cheerleaders continues through July 14 at 7:30 p.m. during the week, and from noon to 4 p.m. on weekends.

A copy of each child's birth certificate report card will be needed at the time of registration.

The cost for cheerleading is \$65 per season.

For more information, contact Steve Campbell at 268-9633.

July 4th tournament slated for Coahoma

The annual Coahoma Fourth of July Rag Football Tournament will be held at the Coahoma Softball Park, beginning at 5 p.m.

For more information, please call Larry Martin at 466-1950.

Booster Club golf tournament slated

The second annual Big Spring State Football Booster Club Golf Tournament has been scheduled for Saturday, July 12, at the Big Spring Country Club.

The four-man scramble will have 10 teams consisting of 10 players paired with their former Steers teammates and current Gulf Breeze Packers tight end Bubba Franks make a guest appearance.

The tournament starts at 8 a.m. sharp.

Entry fee is \$65 per person and includes cart rental and a meal. To enter or receive more information, call 264-6600.

Rose Magers-Powell volleyball camp

The Rose Magers-Powell Volleyball Camp will be held 23-26 at Steer Gymnasium. Registration forms are available at the BSHS Athletic Training Center.

Camp times for 9-12 will be from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The cost is \$80 per camper.

For more information, call 263-4847.

YMCA instruction class registration

Registration is now open for instruction classes that begin the week of July 7 at the YMCA.

The classes include swim lessons, gymnastics classes, tennis lessons and martial arts classes.

For more information, call the YMCA office at 267-8234.

All Americas Open slated for July 2

The inaugural Americas Open hole golf tournament will be held July 2-4 at the Coahoma Trail

BRIEF

Crossroads cheer, football sign-ups

Registration for the 2003 Crossroads Little Football League football and cheerleading squads is now under way at the Big Spring Mall.

Registration for cheerleaders continues through July 14 at 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. during the week, and from noon to 4 p.m. on weekends.

A copy of each child's birth certificate and report card will be needed at the time of registration.

The cost for cheerleading is \$65 per person.

For more information, contact Stacy Campbell at 268-9634.

July 4th tournament slated for Coahoma

The annual Coahoma Fourth of July Ragball Tournament will be held at the Coahoma Softball Park, beginning at 5 p.m.

For more information, please call Laura Martin at 466-1950.

Booster Club golf tournament slated

The second annual Big Spring Steers Football Booster Club Golf Tournament has been scheduled for Saturday, July 12, at the Big Spring Country Club.

The four-man scramble will have teams consisting of three players paired with a Steers coach or player.

Former Steers standout and current Green Bay Packers tight end Bubba Franks will make a guest appearance.

The tournament is set for an 8 a.m. shotgun start.

Entry fee is \$65 per person and includes cart rental and a meal. To enter or receive more information, call 264-6600.

Rose Magers-Powell volleyball camp set

The Rose Magers-Powell Volleyball Camp will be held July 23-26 at Steer Gym.

Registration forms are available at Athletic Supply and at the BSHS Athletic Training Center.

Camp times for players in the seventh through ninth grades will be from 9 a.m. to noon. Players in grades 10-12 will attend from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

The cost is \$85 per camper.

For more information, call 263-4847.

YMCA instructional class registration

Registration is under way for instructional classes that begin the week of July 7 at the YMCA.

The classes include swim lessons, gymnastics classes, tennis lessons and martial arts classes.

For more information, call the YMCA office at 267-8234.

All Americas Open slated for July 23

The inaugural All Americas Open, an 18-hole golf tournament, will be held July 23 at Coahoma Trail Golf



Tanner Riley and the Stanton Buffaloes will try and avoid the pitfalls that hampered the team last season in a 1-9 campaign. Stanton is expected to compete for a spot in the state playoffs this fall, according to Dave Campbell's Texas Football preseason magazine.

BOUNCING BACK

Stanton hoping to put ghosts of '02 to rest this coming season

By TOMMY WELLS
Sports Editor

The Stanton Buffaloes could be living proof that every dark cloud does come with a silver lining. And, almost certainly, the dark clouds that hung over the Stanton football program during a 1-9 campaign in 2002 have begun clearing away.

Despite losing their second head coach in as many years, expectations couldn't be higher this season for Stanton, a program that climbed to the top of the state's football mountain in 1997 by capturing the Class 2A crown. A wealth of older, more experienced players has the Buffaloes looking to crawl back into the midst of the pack in the rough and tumble District 32A race.

Stanton's marked increase in experience hasn't been lost on the preseason pollsters. The Buffaloes, according to *Dave Campbell's Texas Football*, are expected to compete for a playoff berth this fall.

The Buffs, according to the magazine, will finish fourth in the district race behind Crane, Colorado City and Seagraves.

The biggest hole in the Stanton lineup heading into July is at head coach where the school has been searching for a replacement for Larry Tate, who announced two weeks ago he was retiring to East Texas. Tate had served eight years in Stanton, the first seven as the Buffs' defensive coordinator under former coach Mark Cotton.

Tate's first season at the helm was anything but easy. Armed with a team that had been stripped of almost every starter by graduation,

Crossroads Football

- Mon: Big Spring Steers
- Tues: Coahoma Bulldogs
- Wed: Forsan Buffaloes
- Thurs: Stanton Buffaloes
- Fri: Garden City Bearkats
- Sun: Grady/Sands/ Borden

his team struggled to find its offensive legs throughout the year.

The Buffaloes shouldn't have to endure as many growing pains this season. Stanton heads into two-day workouts with eight starters back on the offensive side of the ball, including promising quarterback Victor Hernandez and running back Tanner Riley. Hernandez, despite spending a considerable amount of time scrambling for his life last season, threw for more than 600 yards in 2002.

Making Hernandez's life easier will be the return of three key offensive performers in tight end Luis Chapa and guards Blake Anderson and Alex Shafer. Anderson, a 6-foot-6, 315-pounder, and Shafer will be trying to pick up any slack caused in the line by the graduation of Lance Kargl, who signed this summer with the University of Houston.

Running back Bobby Decker will figure into the SHS attack, as will running back Eric Hernandez. A vastly improved offense could



TATE

be the best news the SHS defense could hear. Already one of the top defensive units in the area, the Buffaloes dominated opposing offenses but wore down late in games.

Hernandez and Dex Allred will lead the Stanton defense this fall. The two linebackers earned all-district notice a year ago. Chapa will key the Buffalo defensive line from his defensive end position.

Overall, Stanton will head into the 2003 season with 17 returning lettermen.

Crane, despite losing head coach Alan Cherry to Bay City, is the preseason favorite to win the 3-2A crown again. The Cranes bring back six offensive and five defensive starters from a team that went 12-2 and advanced to the Class 2A, Division II quarterfinals.

Colorado City, though not returning the sheer numbers as Crane, brings back two of the district's top rushers in senior Jacobie Russell and sophomore Kenneth Scott, the 3-2A Newcomer of the Year last year.

Seagraves, the district's third-place playoff representative a year ago, brings back the bulk of its defense. Among the seven starters slated to return are linebackers Jose Bueno and Kyle Wilson.

Coahoma and Forsan are picked fifth and sixth, respectively.

The Bulldogs are coming off a 2-8 campaign. Forsan finished 4-6 last fall.

Brewers take 5-3 win over Astros in 11 innings

HOUSTON (AP) — Milwaukee starter Wayne Franklin was long gone when the Brewers finished off the Houston Astros.

"I call our hitters the Prime Time Hitters," Franklin said. "People who get up and leave are making a mistake. This team will put on a show in the late innings."

Eric Young and Scott Podsednik had run-scoring hits in the 11th inning as the Brewers beat the Astros 5-3 on Wednesday night.

"That's the way our team has been," Young said. "We don't get down. Ned (manager Yost) does a good job with keeping us up. That's why we usually don't lose two in a row."

The loss was the Astros' sixth in eight games and dropped them into a tie for the NL Central division's lead with St. Louis and Chicago.

Franklin, traded to the Brewers last September after five years in the Houston organization, is 2-0 in four starts against the Astros.

He went seven innings, leaving with the score tied at 3.

Ricky Stone (5-3), the eighth Astros pitcher, walked Keith Osik to start the 11th.

Osik was sacrificed to second and took third when pitcher Brooks Kieschnick grounded out as a pinch hitter.

Young followed with his second RBI single of the game, then scored on Podsednik's double.

"I knew if Wayne kept us in the game, we'd be battling right to the end and we'd find a way to

score some runs," Yost said.

Valerio De Los Santos (1-2) pitched two innings for the victory. Leo Estrella worked the 11th for his first career save in his first opportunity, getting pinch-hitter Gregg Zaun to ground out to end the game.

"I think Jimmy has a lot of confidence in me," Zaun said. "He knows that I am going to fight off some pitches and battle. I was fouling off some balls waiting for him to make a mistakes and he didn't make one."

Rangers blanked by Angels

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — Not many pitchers can say they won a World Series clincher before getting their first complete-game victory or shutout in the major leagues.

John Lackey can. It took him 36 regular-season starts to do it, but the Anaheim right-hander took care of those two items Wednesday, beating Texas 5-0 with a four-hitter.

Lackey retired his last 16 batters and tied his career high with eight strikeouts — including Alex Rodriguez his first three times up.

"You're not going to see something like that happen to Alex Rodriguez very often," Angels manager Mike Scioscia said. "He's the best player in the game, but John really made some pitches to get a guy of that caliber to strike out three times."

Lackey, an Abilene native who beat the Rangers last Sept. 26 in Arlington to clinch a wild-card berth, won consecutive starts for the first time this year. His 18th start matched last season's total, when he completed his rookie season with a 3.66 ERA and a 9-4 record.

"I was here for Game 7 of the Series and I was impressed with him and how he gave that type of performance with that type of pressure on him," said Rodriguez, who homered three times in 11 previous career at-bats against Lackey.

"He's always pretty tough, and he pitched very well tonight. He had every pitch working and he had good location. But we also helped him out at times."

The free-swinging Rangers did not draw a walk for the second game in a row and 10th time this season — extending their drought to 22-2/3 innings without a base on balls.

Lackey (6-7) did not walk a batter for the fifth time this season, and first time in seven outings. He threw 110 pitches while lowering his ERA to 5.01.

"I think it was more frustration than a lack of confidence that John was feeling earlier in the season," Scioscia said of his 24-year-old pitcher. "Although his experience may be a little shy of what you would expect from a guy who's a big part of a championship-caliber rotation, he showed last year that he pitches well beyond his years."

"He's confident out there and he's got great makeup. The way he repeats pitches, the sharpness of his breaking ball, that whole package has come together the past two games."

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6:30 PM	News Wheel	King of the Hill	Cyberchase Zebboomies	7th Heaven (CC)	News Ent. Tonight	News Wheel	News Seinfeld (CC)	Seinfeld (CC)	Las Vegas del Amor	Movie: Thunderball	15 Movie: Novocaine (CC)	Movie: Rock My World (CC)	Medical Detect	The Spirits Within	Update/Israel John Hagee	Amer. Justice	New Date-Three	Law & Order (CC) (DVB)	Slater, Slater Lizze
7:00 PM	Movie: The Love Letter (CC)	Movie: The Hurricane (CC)	Antiques Roadshow	Movie: The Karate Kid	Amazing Race	Movie: The Love Letter (CC)	Friends (CC)	Movie: Life (CC) (DVB)	Rebecca				Secrets of Fo-	Terminator 3 Movie: Star	Biblical Israel Faye Hardin	Biography: Jimmy	Critical Rescue	NASCAR Racing	Slater, Slater Lizze
8:00 PM			Shore Things (CC) (DVB)		C&I: Crime Scene		Will & Grace Frasier (CC)		Entre el Amor		Movie: Kiss the Bride	Movie: Double	Crime Scenes	Wars: The Splende	Light of the Southwest	Columbo: Death Hits	U.S. Mint (CC)	Winston Cup Series -	From Planet Weird (CC)
9:00 PM	Primetime Thursday	Dharma-Greg	Frontline (CC)	B. Leonard	Without a Trace (CC)	Primetime Thursday	ER (CC)	15 Movie: Lethal	Aqui y Ahora	Ren & Stimpy Gary the Rat			Against the Law	the Clones (CC)		Jackpot	Real Fort Knox	400 Qualifying	Slater, Slater Even Stevens
10:00 PM	News Nightline	70s Show Raymond	Newshour With	700 Club (CC)	News Late Show	News Nightline	News Wimbledon	4 (CC) (DVB)	Primer Impacto	Siriperalis Ren & Stimpy	Movie: Jeppers	Boxing: ShoBox: The	Secrets of Fo-	Taxicab Confessions	Hour of Healing	Third Watch (CC)	Critical Rescue	(CC) (DVB)	Boy World Proud Family
11:00 PM	Jimmy Kimmel	Sudden-Susan	Soundstage (CC)	Caroline Rhea	(CC)	Ent. Tonight Show	Tonight Show	45 Movie: Lethal	En las Mejoras	Blind Date	Blind Date	New Generation	Crime Scenes	Project Greenlight	Update/Israel Jesse Lee	Biography: Jimmy	U.S. Mint (CC)	Movie: To Die	Smart Guy
12:00 AM	Paid Program Cowboy	Blind Date Beyond	Surviving the Iron Age	Paid Program	Paid Program Street Smart	Live (CC)	Oprah	Highlander (CC)	Camila	Highlander (CC)	Thursday (CC)	Lady Chatterly	Against the Law	Movie: Pendulum	How Can I John Hagee	Columbo: Death Hits	Real Fort Knox	For	Slater, Slater Even Stevens

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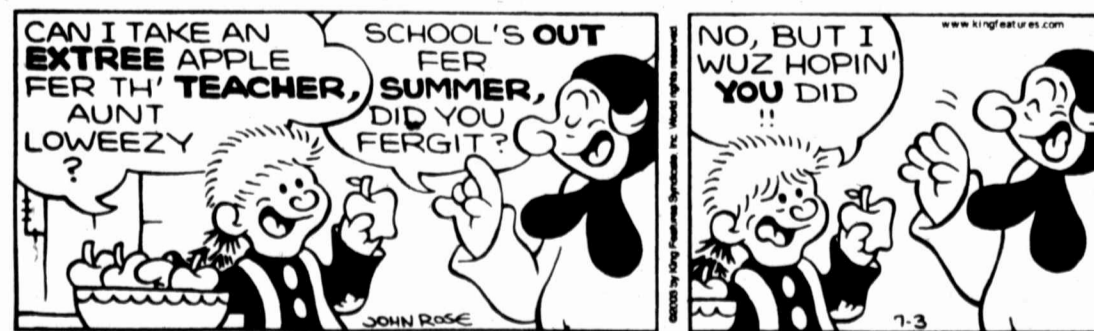
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This Date In History

By The Associated Press Today is Thursday, July 3, the 184th day of 2003. There are 181 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 3, 1863, the three-day Civil War Battle of Gettysburg, Pa., ended in a major victory for the North as Confederate troops retreated.

On this date: In 1608, the city of Quebec was founded by Samuel de Champlain.

In 1775, Gen. George Washington took command of the Continental Army at Cambridge, Mass.

In 1890, Idaho became the 43rd state of the Union.

In 1898, the U.S. Navy defeated a Spanish fleet in the harbor at Santiago, Cuba, during the Spanish-American War.

In 1930, Congress created the U.S. Veterans Administration.

In 1962, Algeria became independent after 132 years of French rule.

In 1971, singer Jim Morrison of The Doors died in Paris at age 27.

In 1986, President Reagan presided over a gala ceremony in New York Harbor that saw the relighting of the renovated Statue of Liberty.

In 1987, British millionaire Richard Branson and Per Lindstrand became the first hot-air balloon travelers to cross the Atlantic, jumping into the sea as their craft went down off the Scottish coast.

In 1988, the USS Vincennes shot down an Iran Air jetliner over the Persian Gulf, killing all 290 people aboard.

Ten years ago: Ousted Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and Haiti's military chief, Lt. Gen. Raoul Cedras, separately signed an accord designed to return Aristide to power. Steffi Graf of

Germany won her third consecutive Wimbledon title as she defeated Jana Novotna of the Czech Republic. Hall of Fame pitcher Don Drysdale died in Montreal, Canada, at age 56.

Today's Birthdays: Movie director Ken Russell is 76. Playwright Tom Stoppard is 66. Writer-producer Jay Tarses is 64. Singer Fontella Bass is 63. Actor Kurtwood Smith is 60. Actor Michael Cole ("The Mod Squad") is 58. Country singer Johnny Lee is 57. Writer Dave Barry is 56. Actress Betty Buckley is 56. Rock singer-musician Paul Barrere (Little Feat) is 55.

Answer to previous puzzle

BOSC	FILED	WEDS
OLEO	OCALA	AMAT
ALEC	THUMBARTIDE	
AROMA	DEBT	RAW
NOTA	REEK	
SPUMONI	DANCES	
PEAT	ENDS	MURAL
LISP	SUITE	CARA
ONTAP	LOON	KNEW
DEALER	MOTTLED	
MEET	PIKE	
IRA	VAIL	TODAY
FINGERBOWL	OBEY	
FLEA	EERIE	WINE
VEWS	DREGS	NEST

Newsday Crossword BRINGING UP THE REAR by F. Piscop Edited by Stanley Newman

- ACROSS
- 1 Buenos
- 6 Gyro meat
- 10 "Get lost!"
- 14 Little Eva's creator
- 15 Neck of the woods
- 16 Unlikely story
- 17 Forster novel
- 19 Has (is connected)
- 20 Capture
- 21 Figures out logically
- 23 Cowboy's pal
- 25 Cockamamie
- 26 Hedge shrub
- 30 Mold in relief
- 33 Makes simpler
- 34 "Get lost!"
- 35 Help the checker
- 38 For guys only
- 39 In on, with "to"
- 40 Window piece
- 41 Crumpets partner
- 42 Delve into
- 43 Formal pronouncements
- 44 La __, WI
- 46 Not as bold
- 47 Tablelands
- 49 Chicago locale
- 51 Most showy
- 54 It might hold up your train
- 59 Demeanor
- 60 Rabbit feature
- 62 Zoning unit
- 9 Expressed, as farewell
- 10 Tablecloth blotches
- 11 Wild duck
- 12 Sci-fi visitor
- 13 Keyed up
- 18 "Doggone!"
- 22 Run amok
- 24 Sound unit
- 26 Roach or mole
- 27 Hourly fee
- 28 Violin virtuoso
- 29 __ out (relax)
- 31 Chess turn
- 32 Baby in blue
- 34 B'way signs
- 36 Initial stake
- 37 Low or reverse
- 39 Phone letters
- 40 Soupy Sales faceful
- 42 Sit for a snap
- 43 "Maybe yes, maybe no"
- 45 Actress Ella
- 46 Philippine native
- 47 Half a '60s quartet
- 48 Author Jong
- 50 Playful swimmer
- 52 Strike defier
- 53 Option for Hamlet
- 55 "Now!" in the OR
- 56 O'Hara home
- 57 Fabric fuzz
- 58 "If all __ fails..."
- 61 Deadlock

