

TUESDAY

July 27, 2004

WEATHER

Tonight:



PARTLY CLOUDY

TONIGHT 67°-69° TOMORROW 86°-88°

BRIEFLY

Open house set at New Hope School tonight

An open house for New Hope Christian School, 118 Cedar Road, is scheduled from 6 to 8 tonight.

The entire community is invited to meet new and returning teachers for the 2004-2005 school year and visit the new toddler classroom facility for children 18- to 24-month-olds.

Salvation Army taking donations for school needs

The Big Spring Salvation Army is accepting donations for its annual "Back to School" program, which provides school supplies for area low-income students. Donations can be made in the form of supplies such as pens, pencils and other items, or monetarily, and can be made at the Salvation Army office, located at 811 W. Fifth Street. Corps officials expect to help more than 400 students with their back to school items this year. For more information, call 267-8239.

Dog tethering up for second reading tonight

The Big Spring City Council will hold a final reading of an ordinance that will ban the chaining and tethering of dogs within the city limits during today's meeting, set for 5:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, located at 307 E. Fourth Street.

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Big Spring TAKS scores rise, but still lagging

By LYNDEL MOODY
Staff Writer

Results from the last administration of the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills third grade reading test raises the Big Spring Independent School District passing rate to 95 percent.

That number falls slightly below the state average released by the Texas Education Agency of 97 percent passing for students who took the English version of the test. Some 94 percent of Texas third-graders who took the Spanish version passed. "Any time we're not at least with the state on any test admin-

istration, yes, that's a cause for concern," said Assistant Superintendent Rey Villarreal. "We are going to keep working on the strategies we use for third grade and see where we can improve in instruction, performance and helping the kids improve."

Passing the crucial test is a requirement for advancement to the next grade level. Parents can appeal the retention to a grade placement committee.

Next school year, fifth graders will have to pass both the reading and math TAKS test in order to be promoted to sixth grade as

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HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody
Big Spring High School math department chair Kim Hughey was among a number of teachers this morning preparing their classrooms for the new school year. Classes resume Monday, Aug. 16, for Howard County public schools.

Top Democrats deliver feverish speeches to crowd

BOSTON (KRT) — A Democratic Party bound by hopeful unity opened its nominating convention Monday with former President Bill Clinton forcefully arguing that voters face a clear difference between the principled direction of John Kerry and an ideological Republican Party that uses wealth and moral certitude to divide the nation.

"They believe the role of government is to concentrate wealth and power in the hands of those who embrace their economic, political and social views, leaving ordinary citizens to fend for themselves," Clinton said.

In an impassioned speech designed to invigorate his Democratic audience and distinguish the party's candidate from President Bush, Clinton emphasized Kerry's military credentials and said that his experience as a decorated Vietnam War veteran would help strengthen America and rebuild global credibility the nation has lost.

"During the Vietnam War, many young men, including the current president, the vice president and me could have gone to Vietnam and didn't," Clinton said. "John Kerry came from a privileged background. He could have avoided going too. But instead he said, 'Send me.'"

In a spectacle of political choreography that unfolded under high security, former President Jimmy Carter, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton



KRT photo by Richard Michael Prutt/Dallas Morning News

Former President Bill Clinton speaks to the Democratic National Convention on Monday.

and a string of other Democratic leaders past and present delivered glowing endorsements of Kerry.

Speaking to thousands of enthusiastic partisans gathered in the FleetCenter, Boston's professional basketball and hockey arena, prominent Democrats told Kerry's story, chapter by chapter, in hopes of presenting a bold contrast to Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney.

As the Massachusetts senator campaigned in Florida, steadily making his way here to accept the party's nomination Thursday, Democrats celebrated his candidacy and voiced optimism at his prospects for November. Kerry's

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Delinquent tax penalty to see 5 percent increase

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

Delinquent taxpayers beware: The penalties on paying your taxes late in Howard County are going up.

That's the Monday morning message from the Howard County Commissioners Court and local attorney Drew Mouton, who contracts as delinquent tax collector for the majority of the county's taxing entities.

Commissioners unanimously approved a hike in the attorney fees charged on delinquent taxes, increasing it from 15 percent to 20 percent.

Mouton explained to the court the increase is necessary due to of the number of smaller accounts on the delinquent tax rolls, which take more time and people working to collect the money owed.

"It's now divided among a number of smaller accounts," explained

"The additional penalty will most likely generate something in the range of an additional \$30,000 to \$40,000 per year."



Drew Mouton

Mouton. "We don't have near as many large accounts as we used to, which made it a little easier to collect taxes. Let's face it, it's easier to collect one account for \$100,000 than it is to collect 10 accounts for \$10,000.

"If you look at last year's numbers, the largest account we collected was \$21,000. And yet we collected over \$1.4 million in taxes. That tells you what has happened. The delinquent tax roll is made up of a lot of smaller accounts, and that demands more time and man-hours toward the collection effort. This

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Local DAV officials warn of possible fund-raising scam

By LYNDEL MOODY
Staff Writer

The Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Department of Texas headquarters is cautioning the public about a possible scam circulating the state involving the solicitation of funds for a veterans' organization.

"We uncovered it sometime in May," said Peggy Daniels, executive secretary at the DAV's Texas headquarters. "It has sprung up in different areas of the state."

According to the DAV, a flier circulating in the San Antonio area is soliciting money, volun-

teers and items for an organization called the Disabled Veterans Association and lists a phone number, e-mail address and a San Antonio address.

After contacting a spokesperson at the organization's national office in Ohio, the DAV learned that the Disabled Veterans Association does not do business in Texas.

"The Disabled Veterans Association is in no way involved with the organization that has been circulating a flier in San Antonio," Disabled Veterans Association Executive

Director Pamela Semun wrote in a letter to the DVA, which faxed the Herald a copy. "We do not have an office in San Antonio. Nor do we solicit funds in Texas."

Semun goes on to say the organization has been "unsuccessful in finding information on who is involved in the San Antonio operation. Whoever is circulating the flier is obviously trying to scam the fine people of Texas."

Ed Meiser, commander of the local DAV Chapter 47, who brought the possible scam to Herald's attention, said he want-

ed to warn area residents.

"We don't do any solicitations over the phone," Meiser said. "When we have a fund-raiser, we advertise it in the paper or on the radio and then we're in full view of the public."

If anyone receives a call from someone claiming to be from this Disabled Veterans Association, Meiser recommends contacting the local authorities.

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

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Concern raised over children's health care provider

AUSTIN (AP) — A lawmaker says an insurance company recently awarded a state contract to manage health care services for about 95,000 low-income children may not be financially strong enough for the task.

State Insurance Commissioner Jose Montemayor was asked by Rep. Larry Taylor, R-Friendswood, to investigate the contractor, Bankers Reserve Insurance Co. of Wisconsin, which does business as Superior HealthPlan Network.

Superior has received a contract, effective Sept. 1, from the Texas Health and Human Services Commission to manage the children's health insurance program, or CHIP, in about 170 primarily rural counties.

Taylor, who is an insurance agent, wrote Montemayor that the insurance rating service A.M. Best gave no member of Superior's parent company, Centene Corp., anything better than a "C++."

That rating, Taylor wrote, is "predominantly given to small companies for which A.M. Best does not have sufficient financial information."

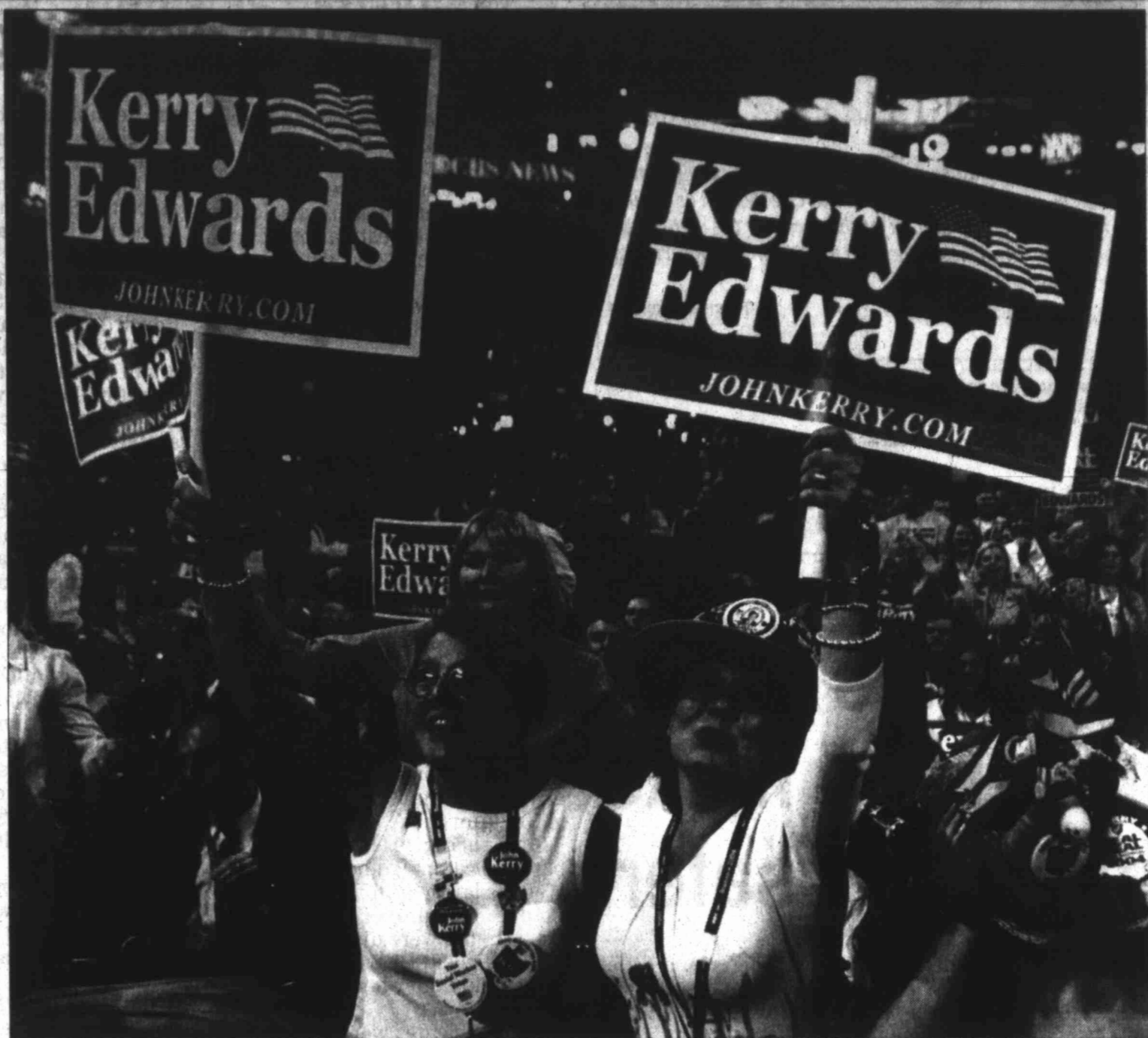
Superior won a competitive bid for the contract, said Kristie Zamarzil, spokeswoman for the Health and Human Services Commission.

"The new contract will be fully insured," she told the Houston Chronicle in Tuesday's editions. "We held Superior to the same standards we held every other bidder to. Superior met every requirement."

Montemayor was traveling and unavailable to respond to Taylor's letter.

Superior was scheduled to succeed Clarendon National Insurance Co. as a CHIP contractor. The Clarendon contract expires on Aug. 31.

The state auditor earlier this month criticized the Health and Human Services Commission for overpaying Clarendon by \$20 million. Clarendon has denied the overpayment.



Ohio delegates Kristin Peterson, of Oberlin, left, and Sandra Wist of Fremont cheer during the first night of the Democratic National Convention on Monday.

KRT photo by Tom Fox/Dallas Morning News

TAKS

Continued from Page 1A

the new requirement becomes enforced for the first time.

Starting in 2007-2008, when these same fifth graders will be in the eighth grade, students must also pass the eighth-grade TAKS reading and math exams to be promoted to ninth grade.

"The increased standards at Grade 5 will be a

new experience for the teachers and staff," said Superintendent Michael Downes. "These students met the tougher accountability requirements at Grade 3 two years ago. These kids are used to having to meet strict accountability standards tied with the tests."

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

COUNTY

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increase in the penalty will allow us to provide that from our office."

Although the increase will generate a considerable amount of revenue for Mouton's office, he said the money will also help cover a number of incidental costs associated with collecting late taxes.

"The additional penalty will most likely generate something in the range of an additional \$30,000 to \$40,000 per year," said Mouton. "Not only do we have salary and payroll expense with that — there's increased costs. We have to pay for title evidence and examination fees. So there are a lot of incidental costs that we have."

The 20 percent penalty won't be retroactive and will be applied to delinquent taxes for 2005 and beyond.

"I'm bringing this increase before the commissioners today, and I'll be taking the same 20 percent proposal to all of the other taxing entities in Howard County," Mouton told the commissioners.

Mouton also made a presentation to the commissioners on delinquent tax collections for 2003-2004, reporting \$1.44 million in collections for the past year, a marked increase of \$375,776 over last year's total.

Broken down by the major taxing entities, Howard County collected \$287,210; Howard College collected \$161,210; the city of Big Spring collected \$159,266; and the Big Spring Independent School District collected \$590,025.

"There are other, smaller entities, such as the city of Coahoma, the city of Forsan and the Forsan Independent School District that also collect on these," said Mouton. "This total is for all of the entities in the county. The only entity we don't collect for is the Coahoma Independent School District."

Mouton said the recipe for success in collecting more delinquent taxes comes down to a bigger delinquent tax roll and experience.

"First of all, the roll is bigger," said Mouton. "The more money there is to collect, the easier it is to collect it. The other thing is experience. I've been doing this well over 15 years now and I have a good grip on how to move these files."

"This past year one of the things that I realized is although we do a good job, I can see where we can do a lot better. Unfortunately it just takes more man hours to make that happen."

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at citydesk@bigspringherald.com

CONVENTION

Continued from Page 1A

Vietnam service served as a theme of the day — a former crewmate was summoned to deliver a prime-time testimonial of his "skipper, Lt. Kerry" — and one the campaign hopes will resonate for another three months.

"Today, our Democratic Party is led by another former naval officer, one who volunteered for military service," said Carter, recalling his Navy service even as he touted Kerry's. "He showed up when assigned to duty and he served with honor and distinction."

Throughout the evening, Democrats made repeated references to Sept. 11, 2001. Images of New York's darkened skyline were shown. As a violinist played "Amazing Grace" in memory of those who died in the worst act of terrorism on American soil, delegates waved tiny flashlights that illuminated the colossal hall.

"That tragedy changed all of us," said Hillary Clinton, the junior senator from New York. "And every day now, as a mother, as a senator and as an American, I worry about whether we are acting as wisely as we can to protect our country and our people."

While Democrats pledged to articulate a positive message at the convention, shying away from shrill attacks against Republicans that they fear could disillusion independent voters, the last two Democratic presi-

dents' carefully chosen words were designed to serve as a reminder of Bush's military record. During the Vietnam War, Bush joined the National Guard, but questions have not been resolved about his attendance record.

Former Vice President Al Gore also invoked Kerry's "uncommon heroism on the battlefield in Vietnam." He urged Democrats to keep the 2000 presidential election alive in their minds and channel their anger "fully and completely" for Kerry and his running mate, Sen. John Edwards of North Carolina.

"I sincerely ask those watching at home who supported President Bush four years ago: Did you really get what you expected from the candidate you voted for?" Gore said, speaking at the beginning of the evening before the broadcast networks began their hour of coverage. "Is our country more united today or more divided? Has the promise of compassionate conservatism been fulfilled or do those words now ring hollow?"

The words spoken inside the convention hall Monday evening stood in sharp contrast to what Kerry said himself as he toured the Kennedy Space Center. With three icons of Florida history at his side, he turned to the poetry of space to fuel his presidential campaign.

"President Kennedy said we're going to do this not because it's easy, but because it's hard," Kerry said of the manned space

program. "That's the American spirit. We're here because there's no better place to launch something than right here in Cape Canaveral."

Former astronauts John Glenn and Sen. Bill Nelson, who rode a space shuttle mission, accompanied Kerry along with Florida Sen. Bob Graham as the candidate toured the space center and spoke to a small, hand-picked group of voters.

After a tour of the Rocket Garden, with a replica of the Mercury Atlas that Glenn flew to become the first American to orbit Earth, Kerry took care to remain positive.

"We've got to lower our voices in America and listen to each other," Kerry said, "and start coming up with solutions to problems that don't have a Democrat label, a Republican label, but an American label on them and make things happen for this nation."

Kerry's softer, gentler tone comes as he makes his way toward Boston and a nationally televised speech accepting the Democratic nomination for president. With the spotlight upon him like never before in the campaign, Kerry has resisted

the harsh rhetoric against Bush that has marked many campaign appearances this year.

So when Mike McGee, a union painter, handed Kerry a bumper sticker, the senator quickly passed it along to Graham, who handed it to Nelson, who handed it to Glenn. It read "Vote the son of a Bush out," and none of the four men was willing to read it out loud.

In Boston, however, many of the thousands of party activists gathered at the city's first national political convention seemed more than willing to criticize Bush. On T-shirts and buttons, bumper stickers and neckties, the Democrats took delight in slogans that ridiculed the Bush administration.

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Lamenting the perplexity and problems of pantyhose

Pantyhose
Invented by a male, there are a number of variations on the patented pantyhose. There are full-length hosiery and mid-ankle, and knee heights as well.
Control Top, Regular, Support, Sheer-to-Waist, Shaper, All Over Shaper, Rear Shaper and Tummy Squelcher top the list, while reinforced toe and



CHRISTY ALTON

sandlefoot bring up the heel.
The young pray for pantyhose that slip on lighter than air; the older, for pantyhose that glide on like lead coating.
Rules of the Game.
1. When planning to wear anklets, be sure to wear pants.
2. Wear knee-hi's only with longer skirts. (versus a mini or mid-length skirt.)
3. With tight dresses, wear control top, lead-like, all-purpose-shaper hose.
4. Flippy-type sandals with a strap between the toes do not require nylon assistance.

5. Always, always, wear a garter belt with thigh highs. Safety pins in thighs are painful and can rip flesh. Thigh highs that hang ankle high tend to embarrass wearers.
6. Keep a bicycle inner-tube repair kit in your purse in case of runs.
Not only do these stretchy horrors come in all shapes, sizes, and control-freak styles, they also come in "fashion colors."
From nude, to beige, to oatmeal (which is one color I have personally rebelled against) and every color in between, there is a hue to satisfy any style need.

Descriptors such as barely, misty, almost, dusty and creamy precede all tints and shades of this spandex.
Also available are hideous colors like red, purple, white, pink, and gray.
A woman can literally spend two much-needed hours of her life searching for the perfect shade of barely-in-the-mist-off-cream-spice.
Christy Alton is a full-time student, employed part-time, mother of a son and a daughter and married to her park ranger Ron. Her column appears in Tuesday's edition of the Herald.

Bluebonnet Books

A Strong Right Arm: The Story of Mamie "Peanut" Johnson

By STORMY EMERY
Special to the Herald
"A pitcher that looks the batter straight in the eye, sizes him up for a curve or fast ball, stretches her 5-foot, 2-inch frame and pops a surefire, windup, coming right at-ya pitch smack dab over the plate. One that lets the batter know this "peanut of a girl" means business. This is how author Michelle Green describes Peanut Johnson.
Mamie Johnson, the main character of this book, was a 10-year-old girl living with her Grandma, Cendonita Belton, in Ridgeway, S.C.
Mamie Johnson loved baseball — that's why she's a pitcher. Mamie's first teammate was Coach Bones, or another name for him would be Leo Belton, her uncle. Later on in the story Mamie and her friend, Mary Alice, were walking to town to get some lunch meat when Leo came running up and told her to come to the house.
When they got there they saw a cluster of people crowded around. When Mamie walked closer to the house the Rev. Adams appeared. The Rev. Adams told them that their Grandma had a stroke early that morning.
When her mom came she told Mamie that she would have to live with her Uncle Ed and Aunt



STORMY EMERY

Dorothy in Long Branch, N.J., until she could get a room ready at her place. Sure enough, a couple of years later she was living with her mom in Washington D.C.
A couple of years after that Mamie and her friend went to a stadium to get into the girls baseball league. The person who owned the stadium told them they couldn't try out.
One day when Mamie was playing baseball she kept seeing a man in the bleachers. After one game the strange guy came down and took Mamie to the business manager of the Indianapolis Clowns.
Does Mamie Johnson play professional baseball or gets kicked off the team? I'm not going to tell you the end of the book.
So just get up and check this wonderful book out. The author made this book interesting by telling what happened to Mamie's life. This book makes me feel really good.

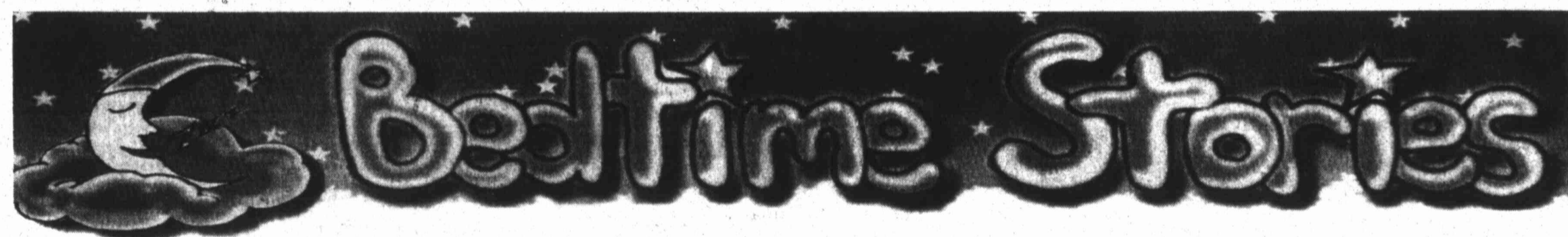
T-shirts are still terrific to wear

By LISA TOWNSEL
St. Louis Post-Dispatch (KRT)
ST. LOUIS — T-shirts. So simple, you hardly notice them when they're worn. You just slip one on and chill.
Rarely does anyone judge a T-shirt unless it's somehow ill-fitting; otherwise, it's just seen and accepted.
First used by military men as undergarments, today's T-shirts are the ubiquitous piece in everyone's wardrobe.
Dressing up? A gathered-front, cap-sleeved tee will probably do the trick.
Fishing? A ribbed tank tee with blue-jean shorts may cast you in the best light. At the office? A crisp white one under a jacket or cardigan is sweetly chic.
How can such a nondescript, cotton top attract such a following among the young and old, the prude and crude, the famous and fanatical?
"It's basic and can be worn with anything, and I think Hollywood has brought it back to the market with all of the stars wearing them, such as Cameron Diaz," says

Laura Coughlin, store manager of Charlotte Russe at St. Louis Mills.
While, indeed, a typical tee is made of cotton, has a round (or crew) neck and short sleeves, there are many variations of it. More than anything, Coughlin says, a T-shirt connotes comfort.
But she offers a word of advice to those ready to slip into its stretchy confines: "Make sure it's not too small for your body type," she warns. No better way to ruin a look of comfort than drawing attention to everything you don't want to highlight underneath.
Others agree.
"The No. 1 question we get is, 'Do I look like I have back fat in this?'" says Drea Ranek, co-owner of Lusso in Clayton, Mo. "So it's important to buy the right size and not get it too small."
Big isn't always better, either. "Oversized ones can look sloppy," Ranek adds.
And trend alert: Ranek says such trends as wearing your sleeves rolled up (like we did in middle school) or twisting the bottom front in a knot

just "aren't in right now." In fact, T-shirts are at their best, she and others say, when they're simply left alone.
For women, Ranek says the crewneck, short-sleeved T-shirt is still "the one that everyone goes for."
"The move is toward a slimmer shirt, not the oversized, extra-extra large that they were doing for so long."
Ringer tees (the kind with contrasting fabric at the neck and arms) have made a comeback, too, as have shirts with slogans and themes from rock concerts from decades past.
"The novelty T-shirt thing is really opening up for guys," Ranek adds. "At first, guys thought they needed to wear a solid black, gray or blue T-shirt. Now, they'll wear ones with more personality."
Among the top T-shirt trends? Layering them, be it short over long or prints under solids, notes Old Navy spokesperson Alexandra Cohan.
"It's a way to have fun dressing in the summer," she adds. "It's about personal style and what

makes you feel your best."
Cohan mentions other trends as well.
"I am seeing people knitting T-shirts in back for more of a fitted style," she says.
Men, she says, are rallying to Old Navy's newest fit, the vintage fit, that is "thinner through the waist and fitted in the shoulders."
Rocker and worded tees have helped guys make a statement about their "surfer," "outdoorsy" and "rugged" natures, Cohan says, not to mention just another way to wear an old standby.
"For guys, it's really easy to throw on a T-shirt and cargo shorts and be done with your summer wardrobe," she says.
Of course, T-shirts come dipped in all sort of shades this summer, but all-white ones remain among the most popular and versatile of the bunch.
"You can wear it with skirts and high heels or jeans and flip flops. It's so easy," Lusso's Rahek reiterates about the simple basic cotton tee. "They're so comfortable, it's hard to want to wear anything else."



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LOGAN, THE LIZZARD

Logan was a pretty special lizzard. Some lizzards can change colors anytime they want to. Logan could too, he just could do it faster than the other lizzards. Do you know what you would call a lizzard that can change colors? Ask the person reading this story to you what they are called. Are you big enough to read this story all by yourself? Do you know what they are called? I will write it down for the little children who don't know what they are called. Then it is a very big word! Are you ready? They are called—, are you sure that you are ready? Ok, they are called Chameleons! That is a big word, isn't it?

Now, let's begin our story. Logan lived in a town with lots and lots of other lizzards. It was a very nice town. It was a very safe place for lizzards to live. They have to be very careful because there are a lot of birds and animals that would love to have them for lunch. As long as the lizzards stayed in that town, they were safe!

Logan had a sister named Abbigail. She was a pretty little lizzard and Logan loved her very much. And she loved Logan. They always played together in the sand, and in the buildings, and in the water. They had lots and lots of friends that liked to play with them.

Logan woke up early one beautiful spring morning and went out to play. He played for a long time and then he began wondering why Abbigail wasn't awake already and out playing with him. He ran back home and ran up the stairs and saw his mother in Abbigail's bedroom. "What's wrong," he asked his mother, "Why is Abbigail still in bed?" "She is terribly sick," said their mother, "I am worried!"

Logan's father just happened to be a doctor! That was lucky! Logan's mother called his father and told him to come home because Abbigail was terribly sick! In just a few minutes, Logan's father came bursting into the bedroom! He felt her pulse, he checked her temperature and did everything that he could to find out what was wrong with Abbigail. Then he turned around with a sad look on his face, "I know what is wrong and the medicine she needs is in another town a long way from here. I don't know how we can get the medicine back here safely!"

Logan already knew how they were going to get the medicine to his sister! He was going to go get it himself! He loved Abbigail very much and did not want anything to happen to her! He asked his father which town the medicine was in. "Why do you want to know, son," the father asked? "Because I am going to get it," said Logan. "But you can't do that," said the father, "It is too dangerous!" "But father," Logan cried, "Don't forget, I can change colors faster than anybody!" "That will help me." "Ok son go, but please be very careful, there are a lot of animals and birds that will be looking for someone just like you!"

So Logan took off running just as fast as he could go. He ran into a forest where everything is green. He turned himself green right away! He came upon a lake and he had to swim across. So he turned himself blue just like the water. No one could see him!

Logan finally got to the town where the medicine was, got the medicine, turned around, and just as swiftly, started running back towards home with the medicine for Abbigail.

All of a sudden, he was in a very sandy place that he had crossed on his way to the town. It seemed very safe the first time that he was here. But this time it was a little different! There were hawks and eagles and crows flying above and looking for something to eat. And Logan just was the type of meal that they were looking for! But why are you worried? Did you forget that Logan could change colors very fast? Besides, we can't let anything happen to our hero, can we?

Logan saw that the sand was a very light brown color. So, what color do you think that Logan changed into? You didn't say orange or purple, did you? I didn't think so. He changed into the very light brown color so those birds could not see him. All of a sudden, he was in a place with green grass, but you know what? He changed colors so fast that no one even saw him do it! He was almost safely home now and very worried about Abbigail.

He saw his home and ran even faster than ever before to get the medicine to his sister. His parents were so glad that he was safe! Then they quickly gave the medicine to Abbigail. Later on that night she was feeling much better, thanks to Logan!

The next day, Logan ran out into the yard to play and do you know, Abbigail was there waiting for him.

Now, you are probably thinking, How in the world can a lizzard be called a hero? Well, you should know because you were there!

THE END



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The Mini Page

By BETTY DEBNAM

The Pelican State

Louisiana From A to Z



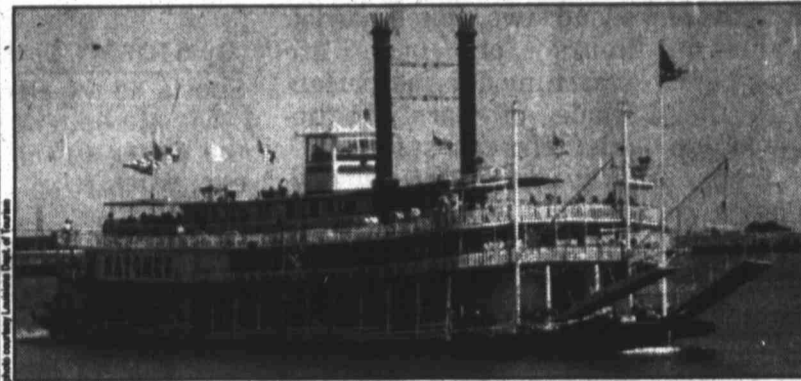
Louisiana is a Southern state shaped like a boot and bordered by Arkansas, Texas, Mississippi and the Gulf of Mexico. It is known for the Mardi Gras celebration in New Orleans, the Mississippi River, its wetlands and seafood.

Louisiana is the top producer in the nation of salt (it supplies almost a fourth of the country's total) and of natural gas and petroleum. It is also a leader in crawfish, shrimp and oyster production. The top crop is cotton.

Robert de LaSalle, a French explorer, claimed the land drained by the Mississippi River for France in 1682, naming it "Louisiane" after King Louis XIV.

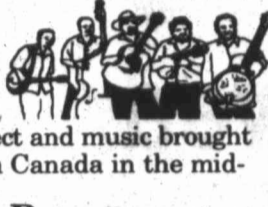
French history is still strong today, and French is the main language spoken in some regions. More than 4.5 percent of the population speaks French.

Louisiana is home to nearly 4.5 million people.



Tourism is very important to the economy of Louisiana, bringing in more than \$9 billion annually to the state. Steamboat cruises are offered down the Mississippi River. The Natchez, a popular steamboat, runs twice daily.

Acadiana is in the south-central region. It is known for its French food, dialect and music brought to Louisiana from Canada in the mid-1700s.



Creoles are people whose ancestors were the original French and Spanish settlers.

Cafe du Monde is a popular coffee shop in New Orleans. It serves "beignets," square French-style doughnuts covered in powdered sugar.

The state has the three biggest **Egret** colonies in the country.

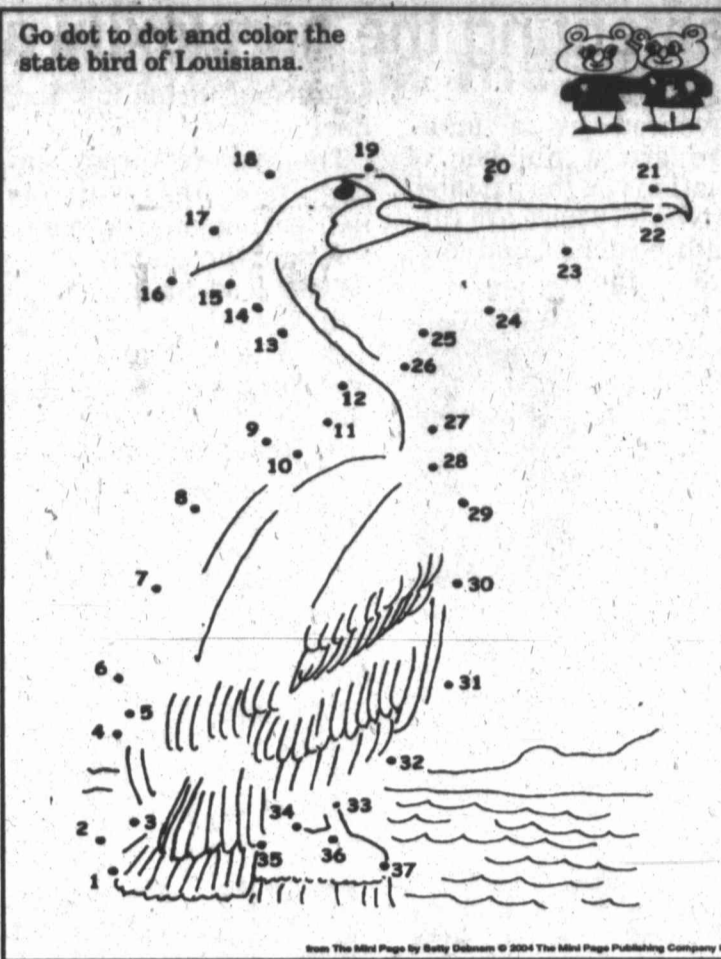
The state **Flower** is the magnolia.

Gumbo, a traditional southern Cajun soup-like dish, often includes seafood and is sometimes made with wild game.

Baton Rouge is the state capital. The capitol building is 450 feet high, the tallest in the nation.

It is called "**The Bayou State**" because of its many bayous, from an Indian word, "bayuk," meaning "river." Bayous were a major form of transportation until modern times.

Cajuns are people whose ancestors were French and came from Canada.



Rookie Cookie's Recipe Fried Shrimp Po-Boys

"Po-boys" are a popular type of sandwich in Louisiana. To "dress" a po-boy means adding lettuce, tomatoes and mayonnaise. They can be made with any type of meat or fish.

You'll need:

- 2 (8-ounce) packages frozen fried popcorn shrimp
- 4 tablespoons mayonnaise
- 1 loaf french bread
- 1 tomato, sliced
- 4 lettuce leaves

What to do:

1. Cook shrimp in oven according to package directions.
2. Slice bread lengthwise and cut four pieces for sandwiches.
3. Spread 1 tablespoon of mayonnaise on both sides of each sandwich.
4. Layer each with 1/4 of the shrimp, lettuce leaf and tomato slice.
5. Fold and eat! Makes 4 po-boys.

Note: You will need an adult to help with this recipe.

Meet Chef Paul Prudhomme

Paul Prudhomme is one of the country's best-known Cajun chefs. He was born on a farm near Opelousas, La., in 1940, the youngest of 13 children. As a child he loved to cook with his mother. In 1979, he opened K-Paul's Louisiana Restaurant in New Orleans, a famous place to dine today. He enjoys lecturing and has written several cookbooks.

Meet Britney Spears

Britney Spears is a well-known pop star. She was born in Kentwood, La., in 1981. As a child she was very good at dancing and gymnastics, but she loved singing most of all. Her big chance to show her talent came when she signed on with a recording company in 1999. Her songs "Baby One More Time" and "Oops! I Did It Again" were the start of her international success. She says, "Onstage I'm the happiest person."

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Gus Goodsport's Report
Supersport: Justin Vincent

Height: 5-10 Birthdate: 1-25-83
Weight: 210 Hometown: Lake Charles, La.

To thousands of football fans in Louisiana, Justin Vincent is one of the best things to come out of their state since gumbo.

As a freshman last season, the speedy, shifty running back rushed for 1,029 yards and helped Louisiana State win the Division I national football championship.

Vincent gained 117 yards in the Sugar Bowl victory over Oklahoma and won the Most Valuable Player Award. He also was named MVP of the Southeastern Conference championship game.

Vincent, a mass communications major, found time to help with reading programs in Baton Rouge area schools as well. He also enjoys hunting and adding to his DVD collection, which totals more than 200.

And what will the sophomore do next? Keep Tigers fans roaring with delight, no doubt.

More About Louisiana

The Catahoula Hound, or leopard dog, is the state dog and a breed native to the state.

Avery Island is the site of a large salt mine. Tabasco, a hot pepper sauce, is made on the island.

Jambalaya is a traditional southern Creole dish made of vegetables, rice, and meat, poultry or seafood.

Krewes are private clubs that put on balls and parades for Mardi Gras.

The state was a part of the **Louisiana Purchase**, western territory the U.S. bought from France in 1803 for \$15 million.

Mardi Gras is French for "Fat Tuesday." It is a celebration filled with parades and balls. It attracts many visitors. It begins each year 46 days before the Easter season.

Natural gas and petroleum are important minerals. The state ranks high in oil and gas production in the U.S.

Oak Alley Plantation is one of the most famous historic homes in the South and has been featured in many movies.

New Orleans is the largest city and one of the busiest ports in the world. Some of its nicknames are "The Big Easy" and the "Cradle of Jazz."

Louisiana is divided into 64 **Parishes**, divisions or areas of land similar to counties in other states.

The **Brown Pelican** is the state bird. Louisiana's nickname is "the Pelican State."

The **French Quarter** in New Orleans is called the Vieux Carré in French, meaning "Old Square." It is known for its jazz, fine food and Mardi Gras.

The **Mississippi River** flows through Louisiana into the Gulf of Mexico.

Roux (roo) comes from the French word for "red." A mixture of fat and flour, it is used as the basis for thickening sauces.

Sugar is an important crop. The Domino Sugar refinery near New Orleans is the largest in the country.

The state **Tree** is the bald cypress, a hardwood that grows across the state and especially in swamps.

Urban areas, including Baton Rouge, Shreveport and New Orleans, are where two-thirds of the state's population live.

International Visitors can shop tax-free. It is the only state in the U.S. to offer this.

Wemco Inc. in New Orleans is the world's largest producer of men's ties.

ReX, the King of Mardi Gras, arrives by riverboat the day before the celebration.

Lafayette Parish is said to be the French-speaking capital. Fourteen percent of the population speaks French. French is taught in some public schools across the state.

JaZZ, a style of music, began in New Orleans in the early 1900s. A man named Ferdinand "Jelly Roll" Morton is said to be the inventor of jazz.

Sites to see:
www.crt.state.la.us/
www.louisianatravel.com

Look in your newspaper for products from Louisiana.

The Mini Page is created and edited by **Betty Debnam**

Associate Editors: Tall Denton, Lucy Lien
Staff Artist: Wendy Daley

MIGHTY FUNNY'S Mini Jokes

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

Daniel: What is the quickest way to make soup taste really bad?
Wanda: Change the U to an A, and you have soap!

Peter: What is the slowest soup to prepare?
Charlene: Turtle soup!

Greg: Waiter, there's a twig in my soup!
Waiter: I'm so sorry — just give me a moment and I'll call the branch manager!

LOUISIANA TRY 'N FIND

Words and names that remind us of Louisiana are hidden in the block below. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some words are used twice. See if you can find: NEW, ORLEANS, GAS, TABASCO, MARDI, GRAS, MASKS, PARISHES, MISSISSIPPI, REX, ROUX, SUGAR, JAZZ, FRENCH, QUARTER, CAJUNS, JAMBALAYA, GUMBO, BAYOUS, FLOATS, BALLS, SHRIMP, CRAWFISH, SALT.

WHICH WAY TO MARDI GRAS?

M A R D I P I S S I S S I M
R P A R I S H E S E V I T C F
E M B O T S N A E L R O A A R
T I A B A L L S Q O W S B J E
R R Y M A S K S U E A A A U N
A H O U F R E X N R O L S N C
U S U G A R S A G O D T C S H
Q H S I F W A R C S T A O L F
K A Y A L A B M A J A Z Z A J

Mini Spy ...

Mini Spy and her friends are watching a Mardi Gras parade. See if you can find:

- man in the moon
- two peanuts
- snail
- acorn
- muffin
- butterfly
- word MINI
- donkey
- bird
- owl
- lima bean
- elephant
- pumpkin
- letter U
- sailboat
- comb
- bell
- safety pin
- mushroom
- question mark

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BIG SPRING REFINERY
1929 2004
75 YEARS

S

IN B

BSISD set season tick
Big Spring scheduled football sea sales. Previous s et holders chase 2004 s ets start through Au a.m. to 4 p. 11:30 a.m. p.m.). The gene may purch tickets from through Au 8 a.m. to 4 p noon to 1 p. However, sales are fr to noon only. For ques Kay Cook a

Crossroad sign-up da
The Youth Associati announced dates for t ing season. Football will take p Big Spr Football p sign up th 21 on Fri p.m. to 7 Saturdays (p.m.) only. The fla league cost football div 2 costs \$55, ly. For mor tion, call Robert at 4-

BSISD an volleyball
Big Spr volleyball on all Mo Thursdays summer fr at the juni There w lifting and ing both M Thursdays gym from For mor tion, con Daggett at

Herald an golf toum
The B Herald h annual Champion Saturday at Coma Park. The tou open to all men or w Howard C annual n Comanche Course at Spring Co There is fee, whic green fee carts. The will be handicap. For mo tion, Comanche Course at

Softball in Snyder
A mer tourname has been 7-8 at Win 7321. ON T Sports Br

IN BRIEF

BSISD sets football season ticket dates

Big Spring ISD has scheduled its dates for football season ticket sales.

Previous season ticket holders may purchase 2004 season tickets starting today through Aug. 6 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. (closed 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.).

The general public may purchase season tickets from Aug. 9 through Aug. 20 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. (closed noon to 1 p.m.).

However, all Friday sales are from 8 a.m. to noon only.

For questions, call Kay Cook at 264-3662.

Crossroads football sign-up dates set

The Crossroads Youth Football Association has announced the sign-up dates for the upcoming season.

Football sign-ups will take place at the Big Spring Mall. Football players can sign up through Aug. 21 on Fridays (5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.) and Saturdays (9 a.m. to 6 p.m.) only.

The flag football league costs \$30, while football division 1 and 2 costs \$55, respectively.

For more information, call Stacie or Robert at 432-268-9634.

BSISD announces volleyball open gyms

Big Spring will hold volleyball open gyms on all Mondays and Thursdays for the summer from 6-8 p.m. at the junior high.

There will also be lifting and conditioning both Mondays and Thursdays after open gym from 8-9 p.m.

For more information, contact Revis Daggett at 432-816-9560.

Herald announces golf tournament

The Big Spring Herald has set its annual City Golf Championships for Saturday and Sunday at Comanche Trail Park.

The tournament is open to all residents — men or women — of Howard County and annual members of Comanche Trail Golf Course and the Big Spring Country Club.

There is a \$35 entry fee, which includes green fee, but not carts. The tournament will be flighted by handicap.

For more information, contact Comanche Trail Golf Course at 264-2366.

Softball tournament in Snyder announced

A men's softball tournament in Snyder has been set for Aug. 7-8 at Winston Field.

For more information, call Luis 325-573-7321.

ON THE AIR

Sports Broadcast Schedule

Today

Event, Time, Station

Astros vs. Diamondbacks, 8:00 p.m., 3490

Wednesday

Event, Time, Station

Rangers @ Angels, 8:30 p.m., 3490

Thursday

Event, Time, Station

Penguins @ Astros, 9:30 p.m., 3490

Arizona ends skid, Pettitte hurt again

HOUSTON (AP) — Luis Gonzalez and the Arizona Diamondbacks finally have something to feel good about.

The Houston Astros, however, are worried about Andy Pettitte's elbow again.

The Diamondbacks snapped their club-record 14-game losing streak Monday night, beating Houston 4-1 behind Brandon Webb's pitching and Scott Hairston's hitting.

"It's been stressful. We're major leaguers and we don't like being embarrassed. It's been a long time," Gonzalez said. "Anytime you lose 14 games in a row it's not fun. We all made mistakes and we all shared in the frustration. None of us wanted to be embarrassed by losing any more games."

Pettitte came out after the fifth inning because of his troublesome left elbow, which has sent him to the disabled list twice this season.

"I aggravated it again a little bit. We're going to see how it feels the next couple of days and hopefully I'll be able to make my next start," Pettitte said. "It's the same thing, the flexor tendon in my elbow, but it's not as bad as it was before. I threw a backdoor cutter to (Alex) Cintron in the fourth and that is when I first felt it."

Pettitte (6-4) gave up three hits, including consecutive homers to Hairston and Gonzalez in the first inning. The left-hander struck out four and walked none before leaving with a sore elbow.

Pettitte was on the disabled list April 7-29 with a left elbow strain and again from May 27 to June 28 with a left forearm strain.

He's been limited to just 13 starts since signing

with Houston in the off-season.

"I really felt good after those home runs. I was really putting it where I wanted to. I think I'll be able to make my next start. We are at a point where I need to pitch," Pettitte said.

Pettitte will be examined by a doctor Tuesday to determine the extent of the injury.

"He said that he felt something when we came out to talk to him in the fifth, but he said he thought he could get through the inning. We didn't want him to push it. He probably could have gone back out," Houston manager Phil Garner said.

The Diamondbacks won for the first time since beating San Francisco on July 8. Arizona, which went 0-11 on a homestand that ended Sunday, improved to 5-30 since June 18.

"Everybody has been playing hard. It would be different if we had just been throwing our gloves out there," Hairston said. "It's tough to swallow losing 14 in a row, but tonight we put it all together."

Webb (4-11) ended his six-game losing streak, holding Houston to one run and six hits in 7 1-3 innings. He threw a season-high 124 pitches, striking out five and walking four.

"Tonight it seemed like I got stronger each inning. Now maybe we can get back on track," Webb said.

Hairston finished 4-for-4, a career high for hits. Danny Bautista added a two-run single off Dan Miceli in the ninth.

"This is the first time as a professional that I've gotten four hits, even in the minors. Tonight was special. I'll never forget tonight," Hairston said.

Cowboys look to residents for help with new stadium

ARLINGTON (AP) — The Dallas Cowboys want a 50-50 deal with this city's residents, offering to pay half the cost of a new football stadium if taxpayers will shoulder the rest of the cost, the mayor says.

The Cowboys will negotiate exclusively with the city of Arlington until at least Aug. 17 in its search for a new stadium location, Arlington Mayor Robert Cluck said on Monday.

Cluck told reporters that the Cowboys are looking at two locations near Ameriquest Field in east Arlington. "This is a great opportunity to build a state-of-the-art stadium that'll allow the region to attract a Super Bowl, an NCAA (basketball) championship as well as millions in economic impact and thousands of new jobs," said Brian Mayes, a Cowboys consultant.

The Cowboys had been in talks to build a new \$650 million stadium at Fair Park in Dallas with \$425 million in public funds.

Those talks were ended by the Cowboys in June.

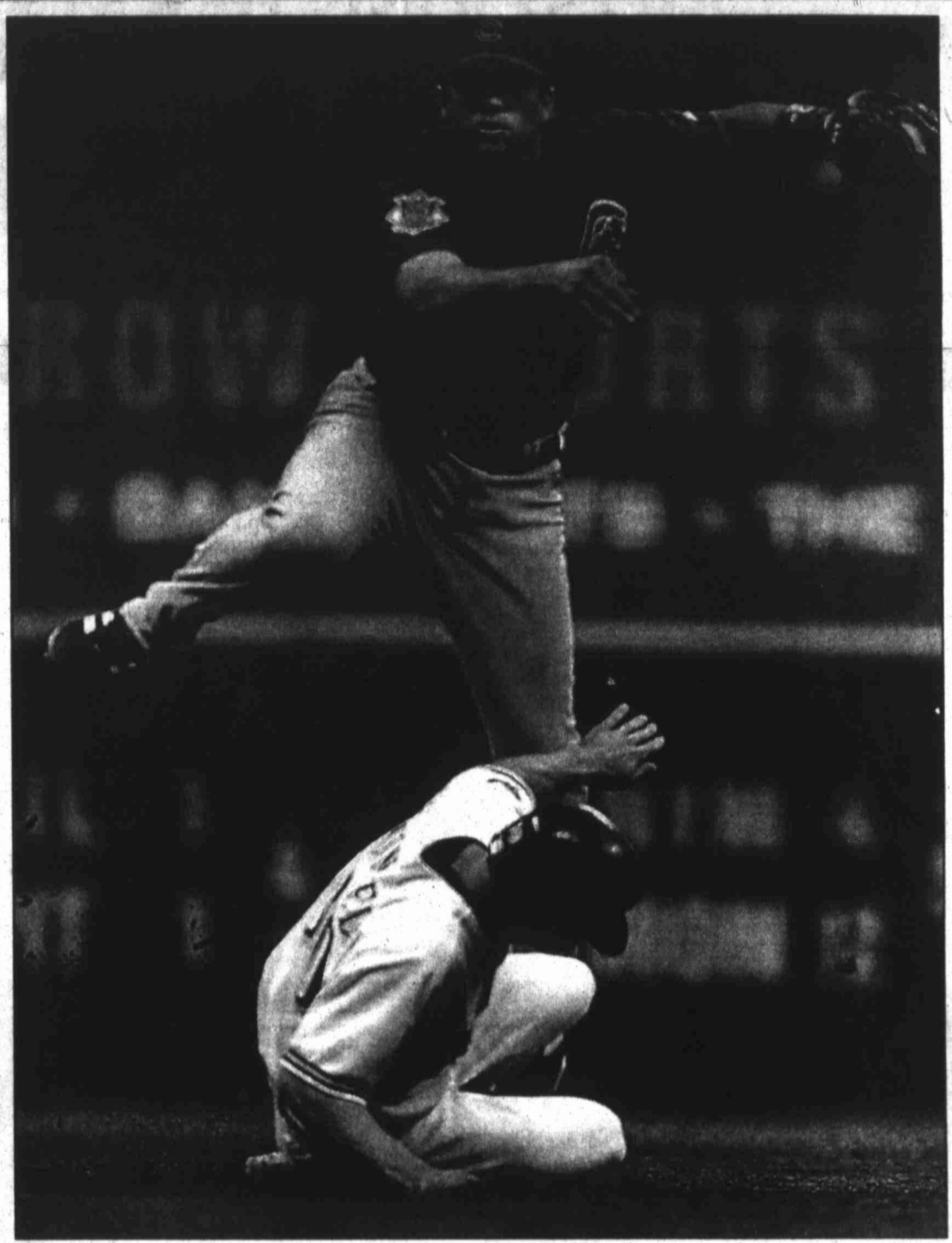
Arlington, about halfway between Dallas and Fort Worth, already is home to the Texas Rangers.

Cluck said the Arlington Sports Facilities Development Authority, which owns Ameriquest Field and leases it to the Rangers baseball team, would own the proposed Cowboys park.

The team has agreed to pay up to \$50,000 for research and legal fees associated with an Arlington city analysis of the plan, he said. Completion of a report on whether it makes financial sense for Arlington to help pay for a stadium is expected by Aug. 17.

The City Council was expected to vote then on putting a tax-increase proposal on the Nov. 2 ballot. Arlington officials can put a proposal on the ballot as late as Aug. 24. The Cowboys currently use Texas Stadium in Irving.

"Arlington is certainly an area we should and will continue to keep our evaluations open," said Cowboys owner Jerry Jones.



Milwaukee Brewers' Craig Counsell is out at second as Alex Gonzalez of the Chicago Cubs completes a double play in the third inning. The Cubs defeated the Brewers, 3-1, at Miller Park in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Monday.

Anthony guarantees USA gold at Olympics

By CHRIS SHERIDAN
AP Basketball Writer

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — With little prodding, Carmelo Anthony made a bold statement on his first day of practice with the U.S. Olympic basketball team.

"We're guaranteeing a gold medal. We're bringing it back," Anthony predicted.

That statement might be viewed as a youthful indiscretion coming from a player who just turned 20 and is about to embark on a journey with the youngest (average age, 23.6) U.S. team since the Americans started sending pros to the Olympics in 1992.

It also seemed at odds with one of the main messages the American coaching staff tried to get across at the team's welcome dinner Sunday night: Respect the competition.

"That's just a young kid saying that," coach Larry Brown said. "But as long as he respects the people we're playing against and understands how good they've got, I don't have any problem with that."

Anthony is the second-youngest member of a team that includes three players — Anthony, LeBron James and Dwyane Wade — coming off their rookie NBA seasons, along with rookie-to-be Emeka Okafor. The Denver star was asked how he thought his guarantee would be received by other teams in the Olympics, includ-

ing three that defeated the Americans two years ago at the World Championships.

"I guess that's going to make the games more fun," Anthony said. "Right now, teams are not scared of us no more. Why not hype the games up? It's the Olympics. We're having fun, man. We've got to go over there and win."

Brown is holding two-a-day practices Monday and Tuesday in an effort to get the players acquainted with one another. Only three of them, Allen Iverson, Tim Duncan and Richard Jefferson, remain from the U.S. team that won the Tournament of the Americas last summer.

"We've got a lot of teaching to do. If we would have had the nucleus of the guys from last summer, that wouldn't have been necessary," said Brown, who also lamented a shortage of preparation time.

From the looks of things Monday during a portion of practice that was open to the media, Brown has plenty of work ahead to get his team to conform to his mantra of "playing the right way."

"One pass and a shot, we can't do that!" Brown yelled at Amare Stoudemire after he clanged a mid-range jumper early in a possession during a four-on-four

drill. "I've got to reprogram you guys!" Brown later yelled, unhappy with the level of intensity he was seeing on the defensive end.

"If Allen (Iverson) makes a free throw you don't have to run," Brown offered.

One clanged foul shot later, it was wind sprints for everyone.

Iverson, named a co-captain along with Tim Duncan, screamed at himself when he missed the pressure shot.

It was not the type of leadership moment that the team's oldest member wanted to show his teammates and the man who coached him for six seasons in Philadelphia.

"I never know how much something means to me until it's gone, and that's how I am with coach Brown," Iverson said.

One of the challenges for the coaching staff will be educating the youngsters about the intricacies of international basketball.

After the players responded with shock to a foul call, Popovich took it as an opportunity to impart a lesson: The quality and objectivity of the refereeing will not be what these players are accustomed to in the NBA.

Dallas trades away Fortson

Dallas gets: Calvin Booth
Seattle gets: Danny Fortson

FOOTBALL BOOSTER CLUB TO MEET TONIGHT AT ATC

There will be an athletic football booster club meeting tonight at the Athletic Training Center beginning at 7 p.m. All parents of football players are encouraged to attend.

ODESSA ROUGHNECKS vs. Corpus Christi

August 7

5:30 p.m. — Tailgate party
7:30 p.m. — IFL game

Church Night

For discount tickets, call Troy Hyde at 432-263-7331, ext 237

JUL

27

2004

TUESDAY

JULY 27

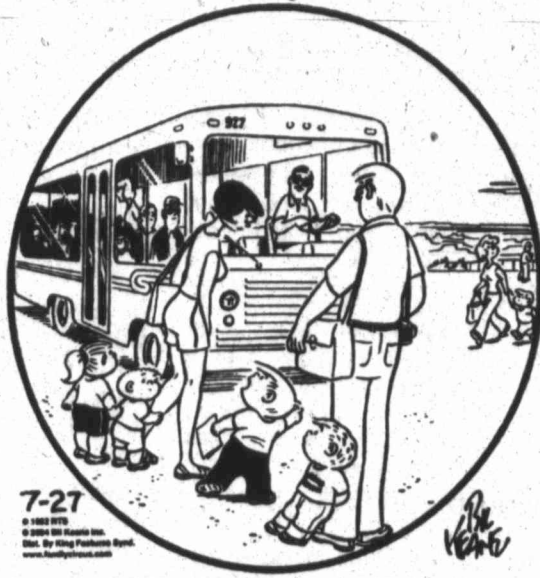
Table with 26 columns representing different TV channels (WFAA, KMID, UNI, KPEJ, KOSA, KTLT, KWES, WTBS, KMLM, KOCV, DISC, AMC, SPIKE, TNT, BET, DISN, ESPN, ESPN, TMC) and rows representing time slots from 6:00 AM to 12:00 AM, listing various programs and their genres.

DENNIS THE MENACE



*REMEMBER ME NOT TO USE THAT WORD ON MOM AGAIN!

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

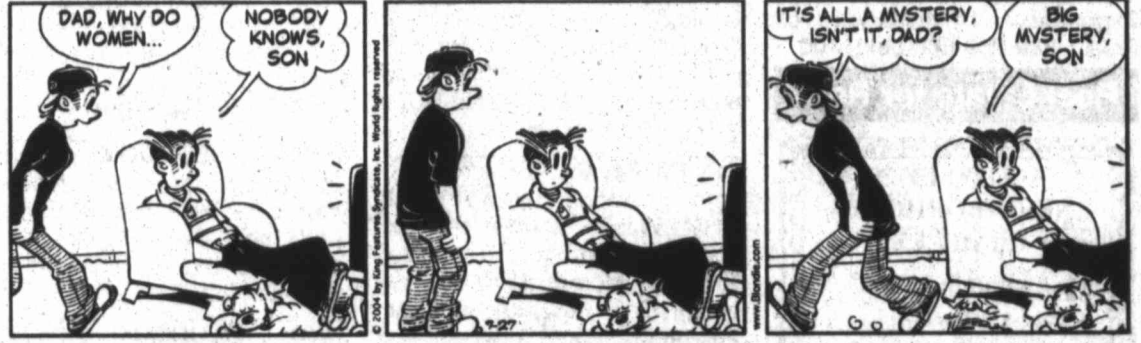


"Is this bus and the mules the only rides to go on at the Grand Canyon?"

HAGAR



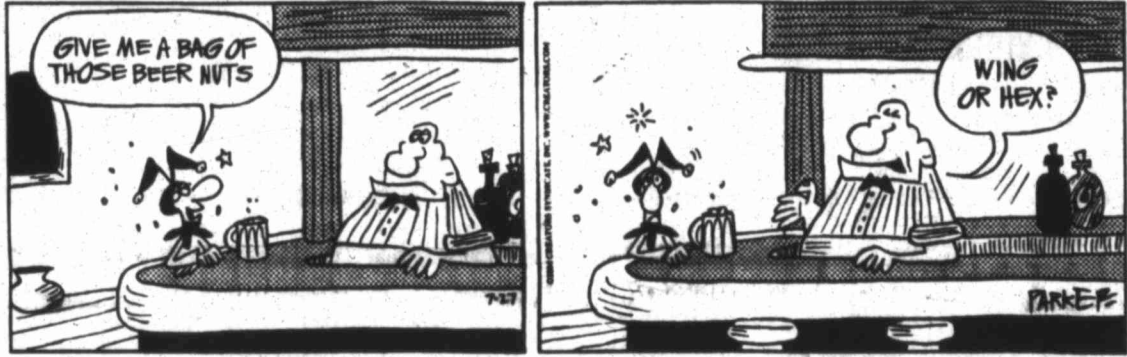
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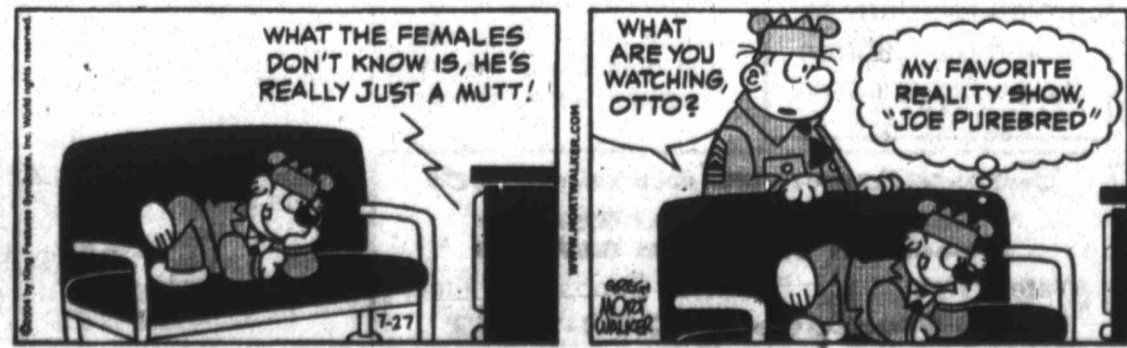
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, July 27, the 209th day of 2004. There are 157 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History:

On July 27, 1953, the Korean War armistice was signed at Panmunjom, ending three years of fighting.

On this date: In 1789, Congress established the Department of Foreign Affairs, the forerunner of the Department of State.

In 1794, French revolutionary leader Maximilien Robespierre was overthrown and placed under arrest; he was executed the following day.

In 1861, Union General George B. McClellan was put in command of the Army of the Potomac.

In 1866, Cyrus W. Field finally succeeded, after two failures, in laying the first

underwater telegraph cable between North America and Europe.

In 1960, Richard Nixon was nominated for president at the Republican national convention in Chicago.

In 1974, the House Judiciary Committee voted 27-11 to recommend President Nixon's impeachment on a charge that he had personally engaged in a "course of conduct" designed to obstruct justice in the Watergate case.

In 1976, following an American Legion convention in Philadelphia, Air Force veteran Ray Brennan became the first person to die of Legionnaire's Disease.

In 1980, on day 267 of the Iranian hostage crisis, the deposed Shah of Iran died at a military hospital outside Cairo, Egypt, at age 60.

In 1984, actor James Mason died in Lausanne, Switzerland, at age 75.

In 1996, terror struck the Atlanta Olympics as a pipe bomb exploded at Centennial Olympic Park,

killing one person and injuring more than 100.

Today's Birthdays: TV producer Norman Lear is 82. Rhythm and blues singer Harvey Fuqua is 75. Actor Jerry Van Dyke is 73. Sportscaster Irv Cross is 65. Actor John Pleshette is 62. Singer Bobbie Gentry is 60. Actress-director Betty Thomas is 56. Olympic gold medal figure skater Peggy Fleming is 56. Actor Maury Chaykin is 55. Singer Maureen McGovern is 55. Actress Janet Eilber is 53. Actress Roxanne Hart is 52. Country musician Duncan Cameron (Sawyer Brown) is 48. Jazz singer Karrin Allyson is 42.

Answer to previous puzzle: ECHO SRTA ASSET, COAX HEAD BEECH, ONLYCHILD STARE, LETGO NEST ALUM, ENID URNS, SINGLES PACING, RNS LEA ADORE, OATHS RUM REFIT, TROOP NAP APE, LONESTAR STATE, EDDY ITEM, RELY SCAN RABBI, ALIBI ONELINERS, HAVEN OKRA DEAL, SLEEK NASH ARTE

Newsday Crossword

BE CALM by Bob Frank
Edited by Stanley Newman

- ACROSS: 1 Model-kit item, 5 Pennsylvania sect, 10 Sweet potatoes, 14 Morales of NYPD Blue, 15 Roping and riding show, 16 Coup d', 17 "Be calm!", 19 Infrequent, 20 Diminish gradually, 21 Alternatively, 22 Shipshape, 23 Cry away, 25 Rap-sheet info, 26 The Thin Man dog, 29 Ilie of tennis, 33 Ships' rears, 35 Li'l Abner creator, 36 Annoy, 39 "Be calm!", 42 June grads: Abbr., 43 Movie lioness, 44 Winter eave hanging, 45 Immersed, 47 "That was close!", 48 Superb grade, 51 Contemporary of 29 Across, 53 Chow, 54 Tons, 57 Cancel, 61 Rural stopovers, 62 "Be calm!", 64 Wise person, 65 What majorettes do, 66 Practice boxing, 67 Piggy-bank feature, 68 In the blink of, 69 Bank vault, 11 Video-game pioneer, 12 West Side Story heroine, 13 Apple holders, 18 Historic period, 24 Shoe part, 25 Savory jelly, 26 Makes an inquiry, 27 Young or hip ending, 28 Shirt types, 30 Cloth remnant, 31 Prof.'s aides, 32 Plant pests, 34 Russian refusals, 36 Hankering, 37 Actor's part, 38 Was aware (of), 40 Take advantage of, 41 Banana buyer's concern, 45 Day's end, 46 Diner, e.g., 48 Not quite right, 49 Word before code or colony, 50 Jargon, 52 Skimmer or derby, 54 " boy!", 55 Sodded surface, 56 The Grapes of Wrath figure, 58 Western wine valley, 59 Blue Angels org., 60 Ancient stringed instrument, 63 de France

