

Commissioners expected to enact burn ban

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Howard County commissioners will meet Monday morning to discuss a number of issues, including formalizing a burn ban put into effect by County Judge Ben Lockhart a little more than a week ago.

Lockhart will formally present commissioners with a county-wide burn ban, a mea-

sure he said must be approved for the ban to remain in effect.

"Any time a county judge signs off on a burn ban like I did last week, the commissioners have to come back and approve it during their next meeting," said Lockhart. "The ban can only remain in place if the court votes to approve it Monday."

According to County Auditor Jackie Olson, she will present

invoices and purchase requests, in addition to a budget workshop, budget amendments and consideration of vehicle bids for the county road department.

Olson said the agenda makes reference to the Spring City Senior Citizen Center, but as of Friday there were no specific items pertaining to the facility.

"I wasn't completely sure if the center's board of directors was going to speak during the

meeting or have anything for us to consider, so it's on there just in case," said Olson.

County Treasurer Teresa Thomas is expected to present personnel considerations and a payroll report to the commissioners, while County Construction Administrator Phil Furqueron will discuss ongoing renovations at several county facilities.

Eddy Jameson, county road

and bridge administrator, will report on pipeline crossings and road maintenance, while County Indigent Health Care Director Irene Dominguez will request permission to go out on bid for prescription medications.

Attorney Drew Mouton is expected to report on a resolution for Behnke Business

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Martin Countians drawn to gathering

Old Settler's Reunion gets wayward natives home for celebration

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

STANTON — Filled with memories and pageantry, the Martin County Old Settlers Reunion took over the city of Stanton Saturday as both current and former area residents returned to visit, swap stories and catch up with friends and family.

Getting under way with a parade Saturday morning, the annual reunion was made up of residents and visitors of all ages, some having driven hundreds of miles to be part of the event.

"I got married in 1949 and moved to Midland in 1950," said Stanton resident Charlie Pinkerton. "I moved back to Stanton in 1970 and started teaching school. I retired in 1992 and I'm still here."

"I come out to these all the time," he said with a laugh. "I'm an old sore-head, so I just come out and have fun."

Having driven 800 miles to make her way to the reunion each year, Rosie McCuin said she and her husband recently decided to quit "running the

roads" and move back to the area.

"I grew up in Stanton and left about 41 years ago," said McCuin. "Last September my husband retired, so I talked him into coming back home. So after 41 years in Arkansas, I'm back home."

"I met my husband and married him in Arkansas, but when he retired, I said, 'You're going to Texas, boy!'" she said with a laugh. "So here we are."

McCuin said the reunion is very important to both her and her family.

"I love the Old Settlers Reunions in Martin County," said McCuin. "I've only missed three in the last 25 years. We drive out here every year. It's 800 miles, but we would drive out here every year. The only time we've missed it was when I was sick and couldn't make it. I have a brother in Washington, and he's made it to the Old Settlers Reunion just about every year except this one."

"This is my home. I grew up here and went to

See **REUNION**, Page 3A



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins
Charlie Pinkerton, right, catches up with fellow long-time Martin County resident Rosie McCuin as the annual Martin County Old Settlers Reunion Parade gets ready to take to the street Saturday morning.

BSISD trustees begin looking toward budget process

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

Just call it the "yes, but ..." budget.

Yes, the Big Spring Independent School District is putting the finishing touches on its 2005-06 budget — but things may change in a hurry.

Yes, BSISD's tax rate could remain at the maximum allowable under state law — but that is also subject to change.

While the Texas Legislature continues to wrangle with school finance reform, local school officials are preparing next year's budget based on current law.

BSISD trustees will announce the date and time for a public hearing on both the new budget and tax rate when they hold their regular meeting at 5:15 p.m. Monday in the high school board room.

So, keeping in mind that

things could change almost as fast as it takes a state representative to say "aye," here are some of the highlights of the proposed BSISD budget for the coming school year:

- The total budget now stands at \$23.45 million, a decrease of about \$500,000 from the previous year.

- The tax rate to fuel that budget now stands at \$1.50 per \$100 valuation — the maximum permissible rate.

Property valuations have increased in the county, but the budget now carries a tentative deficit of approximately \$20,000.

BSISD Business Manager Sandra Waggoner said that lost state revenue is behind the \$500,000 decrease in the budget's size. As things stand, Big Spring will lose about \$300,000 allotted to school based on their weighted average daily attendance (WADA).

Also, enrollment is expected

to decrease this year, which also negatively impacts the budget, she said.

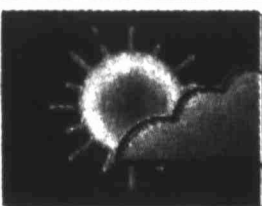
There is some good news, however. Increased property valuations have Waggoner optimistic that the final budget package will be balanced.

"If they leave things exactly the way things are, I believe the budget will be balanced, provided the Legislature doesn't do

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INSIDE TODAY'S HERALD



petitors race non-motorized cars down an 954-foot track in Akron, Ohio, in hopes of capturing the national title.

Cover Story: For 67 years, competition has attracted youthful drivers to the All-American Soap Box Derby, in which hundreds of com-

G8: WHY BOTHER?

For the 31st time since 1975, leaders of the most economically powerful countries in the world

have come together, deliberated the pressing issues of the day, issued a detailed communique and departed.

But this time, a terrorist attack has raised questions over the confab.

See Page 8A

SHUTTLE'S RETURN

In the 2 1/2 years since Columbia plummeted from the sky in a cascade of flames and halted U.S. space travel, NASA has stripped its fuel tanks of excess foam insulation and added launch-surveillance cameras.

It's toughened up the spacecraft and cracked down on know-it-all managers. It's created a laser-tipped boom to scour the shuttles' thermal skin for cracks and developed bandages for these ominous sores.

It's done everything it can to make the shuttles safer.

Still, the shuttle is vulnerable.

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Obituaries

Hazel Marguerite Hardy

Hazel Marguerite Hardy was born Sept. 30, 1906, the fourth of eight children born to Jimmie Margaret and A. D. Cook, in Garden City. She passed away in a local hospital July 8, 2005.



Marguerite worked for the phone company in Garden City before she married the love of her life, Lloyd Hardy, in Big Spring on July 4, 1939. He preceded her in death on July 17, 2002. They had two children, Reta Carol and Paula Beth. She was a fabulous cook and outstanding seamstress and adored by her family.

Marguerite was a lifetime member of the First United Methodist Church of Garden City. Survivors include two daughters and sons-in-law, Reta Carol and Steve Bell of Garden City and Paula and Guy Talbot of Big Spring; three grandchildren, Stephanie and Charles Dobbs of San Angelo, Neiman and Lance Hill of Dallas and Krystal and Brandon McDaniel of Leawood, Kan.; one great granddaughter, Bryce Hill of Dallas; one sister, Marjorie Klein of Fredericksburg; one brother, Allie B. Cook of Garden City; and many nieces and nephews who always loved to hear Aunt Rite's stories.

She was also preceded in death by her parents, Jimmie and A. D. Cook; two sisters, Allene Dozier and Pauline Berry; and three brothers, Alton D. Cook, Marshall Cook and Jack Cook.

Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Monday, July 11, 2005, at the First United Methodist Church in Garden City with Rev. Lloyd Hagemeyer, pastor, officiating. Interment will follow at the Garden City Cemetery.

Pallbearers will be James Cook, Dr. Billy Cook, Bud Saunders, Danny Coats, Dick Cunningham, Jimmy Hardy, Jamie Alvarado and Dick Davis.

The family suggests memorial to the First United Methodist Church in Garden City, P.O. Box 145, Garden City 79739.

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

Virginia Garcia

Virginia Garcia, 88, of Big Spring died Thursday, July 7, 2005, in a local hospital. A vigil service will be held at 7 p.m. Sunday, July 10, 2005, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel.



Funeral mass will be held at 2:30 p.m. Monday, July 11, 2005, at St. Thomas Catholic Church with Rev. James Plagens, pastor, officiating. Interment will follow at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Virginia was born on May 16, 1917, in Alpine and married Ramon Garcia in 1939 in Big Spring. He preceded her in death on Aug. 5, 1982.

She came to Big Spring as a young girl and lived here all her life. She was a member of St. Thomas Catholic Church.

Survivors include two daughters, Delia Lopez and Lorina G. Ontiveros, both of Big Spring; two sons, Oscar Garcia of Phoenix, Ariz., and Eloy Hernandez Jr. of Big Spring; one sister, Lily Martinez of Bakersfield, Calif.; two great grandchildren and four great great grandchildren.

She was also preceded in death by one great grandson, Chris Rivera in December 2004.

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

Guadalupe R. Molina

Guadalupe R. Molina Sr., 84, of Big Spring, died at 9:45 a.m. Friday, July 08, 2005, at the Veterans Administration Medical Center. Vigil Services will be at 7 p.m. Monday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral Mass will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday at St. Thomas Catholic Church with Rev. James Plagens officiating. Burial with Military Honors will be at Trinity Memorial Park.



He was born Oct. 15, 1920, in San Francisco, Mexico. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army, having served in World War II. Guadalupe farmed in the Knott community and was later a sheet metal worker for Kasch Brothers Construction. He was a member of St. Thomas Catholic Church.

He is survived by three sons, Guadalupe Molina Jr. of New York, Roberto Molina of San Antonio and Roy Molina of Austin; four sisters, Ramona Molina, Isabel Escovedo, and Petra Leos, all of Big Spring, and Augustine Vejil of Odessa; five brothers, Emilio Molina Sr. of Big Spring, Francisco Molina of Ocala, Fla., Felipe J. Molina of Corpus Christi, Valentin Molina of Holland, Mich., and Lolo Molina of San Angelo.

The family suggests memorials to St. Thomas Catholic Church, P. O. Box 627, Big Spring 79721.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersandsmith.com

J. D. Thompson

J. D. Thompson, 90, of Big Spring died Thursday, July 7, 2005, in a local hospital. Funeral services will be 10 a.m. Tuesday, July 12, 2005, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory, Big Spring, Texas.

Support groups

THURSDAY

• **Narcotics Anonymous, non-smoking discussion meeting, 8-9 p.m.**, at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 1001 Goliad.

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 8 a.m. Friday and 8 a.m. Saturday:

- **PATRICIA MCINTIRE**, 48, of 906 E. 14th Street, was arrested Friday and held for the HCSO.
- **IRMALINDA MORIN**, 32, of 1610 Cardinal, was arrested Friday on a charge of driving while license invalid.
- **VINCENT FERNANDEZ JR.**, 59, of 4108 Parkway, was arrested Friday on a Scurry County warrant.
- **SALLY SCHUMPERT**, 46, of 207 Circle, was arrested Friday on a charge of gambling promotion.
- **KATHY GERALDON**, 36, of 3729 Adams, was arrested Friday on a charge of gambling promotion.
- **TINA HARRELL**, 25, of 1511 Sunset Avenue, was arrested Friday on a charge of gambling promotion.
- **JAMES RINGENER**, 46, of 801 Marcy Apt. 22, was arrested Friday on a charge of keeping a gambling place.
- **ROBERT PAUL GOMEZ**, 20, of 538 Westover Road Apt. 204, was arrested Friday on four local warrants.
- **CHRISTIN MEYER**, 23, of 1314 Mt. Vernon, was arrested Friday on four local warrants.
- **APRIL MCGEE**, 24, of 1606 Robin, was arrested Saturday on charges of driving while license suspended and no liability insurance.
- **LINDA FOSTER**, 27, address not provided, was arrested Saturday on four local warrants.
- **ANGELA MCGEE**, 22, of 2911 W. Highway 80 Apt. 222, was arrested Saturday on a local warrant and a charge of failure to identify.
- **KANIEL MIRAMONTES**, 19, of 1110 Johnson, was arrested Saturday on a charge of minor in consumption of an alcoholic beverage.
- **THEFT** was reported:
 - in the 700 block of Interstate Highway 20.
 - in the 300 block of Gregg Street.
 - in the 400 block of Birdwell Lane.
 - in the 1700 block of FM 700.
 - in the 2300 block of Wasson.
- **GAMBLING PROMOTION** was reported in the 1700 block of E. FM 700.
- **BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE** was reported in the 5700 block of Interstate Highway 20.

Take note

- **THE CONCERNED CITIZENS COUNCIL** is having a planning session for "Balloonfest at Big Spring" at 7 p.m. Monday at the Howard County Library Dorothy Lamb meeting room. All are welcome.
- **GROUP PHOTOS TAKEN BY BRUCE SCHOOLER AT BIG SPRING DAY IN AUSTIN** are available for purchase from the chamber of commerce Tuesday through July 15. Cost is \$10 for an 8x10 and \$5 for a 5x7. For more information, call Schooler at 264-7728 or 213-1760.
- **PERMIAN BASIN MENSA** is accepting donations of cash or merchandise for their scholarship program. For more information, e-mail scholarships@pb.us.mensa.org or write to 301 E. Fifth St., Big Spring.
- **THE BIG SPRING HIGH SCHOOL OLDTIMERS** (those who graduated before 1940) are planning a reunion for the annual BSHS Homecoming Sept. 16-17. Anyone able to attend a reunion Sept. 17 should call 432-267-2900 and leave phone and address information.
- **TEXAS LIONS CAMP** is looking for children interested in attending camp this summer. Sessions are for children with physical disabilities 7 through 16 years of age. Camp is free for these children. For more information, call Bob Noyes at 267-5811 or 270-0811.
- **SCENIC MOUNTAIN MEDICAL CENTER'S SCHOOL OF RADIOLOGY** is having a reunion of all past graduates in conjunction with the 2005 graduation July 9 at the Spring City Senior Center. The reunion organizers are looking for these individuals: Tere Barrier, Susan Weaver Burton, Cheryl Carroll, Irma Chavez, Caroline Clifton, Paul Decker, Frank Garfias, Randy Gavin, Michelle Gonzales, Sandy Hatfield, Mickie Johnson, Sarah Martin, Janie McLaughlin, Mary Poston, Debbie Richter, Melissa Shafer and Susan Solomon. Contact Vivian Gordon at 268-4885 or e-mail to vivian_gordon@chs.net.
- **A MEMORIAL FUND HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED FOR THE FAMILY OF TYBO JACOBS** at the First Bank of West Texas in Coahoma and Big Spring to help with funeral costs. He died in an automobile accident March 10.
- **DEREK CHURCHWELL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP** has been established at Howard College. Donations may be made to the Howard College Foundation in care of Jan Foresyth, 1001 Birdwell Lane. Designate the Derek Churchwell Scholarship Fund.
- **HOWARD COUNTY CHILD WELFARE BOARD** is seeking financial donations to provide support for children in Howard County who have been removed from their home due to abuse or neglect. Contact Patti Richard at 432-559-6953 or mail donations to HCCWB P.O. Box 3101 Big Spring, 79721.
- **LEGAL AID OF NORTHWEST TEXAS** is accepting appointments for 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. the first and third Wednesday of each month. Individuals seeking legal advice for matters concerning family law, divorce, custody and child support issues, social security cases, employment and housing may contact the office to schedule an appointment. Criminal cases are not accepted. Anyone recently served with legal documents should call the office immediately at 800-926-5630 or 432-686-0647.
- **FRIENDS OF THE MARTIN COUNTY LIBRARY** have scheduled a used book sale from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. every Thursday in the new building across from the White Ford Motor Company, near the post office. The sale benefits the restoration of a library building. For more information contact Bud Lindsey at 756-2306.

Bulletin board

If you have items for the Bulletin board, contact the Herald news room at 263-7331 or email editor@bigspringherald.com

MONDAY

- Senior Circle meets at 4 p.m. at Scenic Mountain Medical Center for Sit and Be Fit Chair Aerobics. Those 50 years and older are invited to attend. Call 268-4721.
- **Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21** meets at 5 p.m. in the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, 306 W. Third for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 1-800-392-8677 or 263-0391 or 263-1758.
- Big Spring Band Boosters meet at 5:30 p.m. in the Big Spring High School band hall.
- **Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. TX 1756** meets at 5:30 p.m. Monday in the 11th and Birdwell Lane Church of Christ. A different program is offered every week, and anyone 7 years old or older is welcome to attend. Please enter through the northwest door. Call 263-2786 for more information.
- Coahoma Lions Club meets at 6 p.m. in the Coahoma Community Center at 306 North Ave.
- Evening Lions Club meets at 6:30 p.m. in the La Posada Restaurant.
- Archeology Society for Howard and Borden counties meets at 7 p.m. in the Howard County Library Community Room in the basement. Call 270-2615 for more information.
- The Concerned Citizens Council is having a planning session for "Balloonfest at Big Spring" at 7 p.m. Monday at the Howard County Library Dorothy Lamb meeting room. All are welcome.
- Prospector's Club work night begins at 7 p.m. at 606 E. Third.

TUESDAY

- Intermediate Line dance classes begin at 9 a.m. in the Spring City Senior Citizen's Center. Call 267-1628.
- Howard-Glasscock Counties American Cancer Society director's meeting in the dining room at Scenic Mountain Medical Center at noon. Call Sherry Hodnett at 264-7599 for more information.
- Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

WEDNESDAY

- Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- Senior Circle meets at 11 a.m. at Scenic Mountain Medical Center classroom for Stretch and Tone. Call 268-4721.

Weather

Sunday — Partly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of thunderstorms. Highs in the mid 90s. Light and variable winds.

Sunday night — Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Lows in the lower 70s. Light and variable winds.

Monday — Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 90s. Light and variable winds becoming east around 10 mph in the afternoon.

Monday night — Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 70s.

Tuesday — Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 90s.

Tuesday night — Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 70s.

Wednesday — Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 90s.

Wednesday night — Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 70s.

Thursday — Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 90s.

Thursday night — Mostly clear. Lows in the lower 70s.

Friday — Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 90s.

Lottery

Here are the winning numbers selected Friday in the Mega Millions lottery:

9-23-45-48-50
Mega Ball: 3
Estimated jackpot: \$88 million

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Friday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 8-16-19-29-35.
Number matching five of five: 1.
Prize per winner: \$35,443.
Winning tickets sold in: Houston.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Friday night, in order: 3-0-1

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Friday afternoon, in order: 9-1-8

BIG SPRING HERALD

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The Herald is a member of The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, West Texas Press Association, Texas Daily Newspaper Association, The Associated Press, Texas Press Association, Inland Press Association, National Newspaper Association, Newspaper Association of America, Small Newspaper Federation, Southern Newspaper Publishers Association and American Newspaper Association.

Published afternoons Monday through Friday and Sunday mornings, except Christmas Day. All materials copyrighted. Postmaster: Send address changes to Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, Texas 79721. Periodicals postage paid at Big Spring, Texas. USPS 1431-48 USPS 0055-940 ISSN 0746-0811
BY THE MONTH HOME DELIVERY: Evenings and Sunday, \$6.65 monthly; \$69.42 yearly (includes 10% discount for yearly).
MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$12.50 monthly Howard & Martin Counties. \$13.25 elsewhere.

Postal Service taking applications for openings COUNTY

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

The U.S. Postal Service announced that it is receiving applications for job openings at postal centers in Big Spring and surrounding communities.

John Hosey, a supervisor at the Big Spring Post Office, said applications are being accepted for the

following positions: City carrier, mail processing clerk, mail handler and sales, service and distribution associate.

Locally, positions are currently open for city carrier and processing clerk, Hosey said. Positions also are open in Midland, Odessa, Andrews and Stanton.

Starting pay for these positions range from

\$14.63 an hour for mail handlers to \$17.80 an hour for city carriers.

Applications will be received from July 25 until July, Hosey said.

Interested persons may apply either on the Internet at www.usps.com/employment or by phone at 1-800-601-8953. When prompted, use Announcement No. 131862 to apply for the

area positions.

Applicants must be at least 16 years of age with a high school diploma, a U.S. citizen with no felony convictions and be willing to take a drug test, Hosey said.

After applying, persons will be contacted on the time and date for testing, Hosey said tests are usually conducted about 30 days after the end of the

application process. Testing will be held at the Midland Mail Processing Center.

For more information, contact the local post office at 263-7391.

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

Continued from Page 1A

Services, while Charles Gaiser, a representative of the Texas Department of State Health Services will discuss the organizations Big Spring Clinic's lease and provision of services.

As always, discussion and action relative to the new jail facility currently being designed and debated is listed on the agenda, and commissioners are almost certain to do so.

The meeting will begin at 10 a.m. in the commissioners' courtroom, on the second floor of the county courthouse.

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

REUNION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

school here," she said, motioning to the streets of Stanton. "It's my home and I love it."

Former Martin County resident Norman Chandler said the distance traveled from his home in Dallas was a small price to pay for a piece of "home."

"We came to the reunion from our home in Dallas," said Chandler. "I'm originally from Martin County. I graduated from Stanton High School in 1946."

"We get back here for the Old Settlers Reunion every chance we get. I like to see all of my old class mates and all the people I know, and a lot of them are still here. I really enjoy the music they have at the pavilion, but the best part is seeing all the people you know."

While several parade participants reported coming from as far as California, it would be difficult to find anyone that traveled further than Spc. John Ramos of the U.S. Army 13th Bravo Field Artillery, who is currently home from Iraq.

Ramos, who rode in the parade, said he was asked to be a part of the event, an opportunity he relished.

"They asked me to come out and show my support. It gives me the chance to thank some of the people that have been helping



Spc. John Ramos, with the U.S. Army 13th Bravo Field Artillery, soaks up some West Texas sun while showing his support for the annual Martin County Old Settlers Reunion by riding in the event's parade Saturday morning.

me since I've been out there (Iraq), and that's the very least I can do," said Ramos.

"Things like this reunion and parade are very important," he added. "I've seen a lot of the older people here today that I looked up to when I was younger, and I just hope I set the same kind of good example

they've set."

While the reunion is undoubtedly a fun time for all in attendance, publicity chairman for the event Leza Smith said it takes a lot of help from a lot of different people to make it come together.

"It's a lot of hard work," said Smith. "We start at the first of the year and keep working all year

long. It takes lots of volunteers and a lot of the people that have been organizing it for years and years are still doing it."

"It's really wonderful. All the class reunions we have and everything, it's just a blessing to get to see everyone," she said. "Not just your class, but the classes before and

after you. We even have classes that graduated back in the 1940s. That's really fun to see because they are so energetic and they do their own floats and everything."

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

Perry in campaign mode, pushing school finance plan

By KELLEY SHANNON
AP Political Writer

AUSTIN — It's a campaign kind of summer for Republican Gov. Rick Perry.

Before he asks for Texans' votes for his 2006 re-election bid, Perry is campaigning for passage of a public school finance plan now that he's called the Legislature back into session.

Besides huddling at the Capitol with fellow Republican leaders, Perry has traveled the state stumping for his education proposal. He's even spending \$400,000 of his own campaign money for statewide radio ads urging legislative results.

It's an all-important undertaking for the governor, who faces a Republican primary challenge next year from Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn. If lawmakers don't reach a solution, Strayhorn is sure to keep

attacking Perry over it, alleging lack of leadership.

It also could be a tough political position for Perry if Texas is forced into school funding action by the Texas Supreme Court, which heard arguments Wednesday in a lawsuit between school districts and the state.

Perry's aides insist election-year concerns aren't his motivation.

"Politics does not play a role here for the governor," said spokesman Robert Black. "This is about what's best for our kids and our schools."

In June, Perry took a major political risk and used two of his biggest powers as Texas governor: the veto and the ability to call a special legislative session. Perry vetoed \$35 billion in public education funding and called a 30-day special session.

He proposed his own school funding plan, describing it as a compro-

mise between the plans approved by the House and Senate in the spring regular session. The two chambers never agreed on middle ground.

Among other things, Perry called for closing loopholes in the franchise tax on businesses, raising the state sales tax from 6.25 percent to 6.95 percent and increasing the cigarette tax by \$1 per pack, all to offset property tax reductions.

Then Perry began using what he calls the bully pulpit of the governor's office. He traveled to 11 cities in three days — from big cities like Dallas to smaller places like Nacogdoches and San Angelo — to push his plan in public appearances.

Critics of Perry's proposal, including Strayhorn and Democrats, say it won't raise the money it promises or that it doesn't strike a fair balance between businesses and consumers.

Even some skeptical Republicans worry it's only a short-term fix and would force lawmakers to again address school finance in 2007.

"I think most of the senators would prefer to solve this now so we won't have to take it up again," said Republican Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst, president of the Senate.

Perry's camp says school finance will have to be addressed by future legislators because it's never solved once and for all. His aides also say critics, like Strayhorn, should come up with their own proposals.

Perry's plan won a legislative victory when the House approved a similar business tax.

But not everyone shares Perry's urgency.

Many educators who lobby the Legislature would rather wait to see what the Supreme Court decides. It could take weeks or months for the justices to rule on the

state's appeal of a lower court ruling that declared Texas' school finance system unconstitutional.

Republican House Speaker Tom Craddick has voiced doubts about whether pending legislative proposals will satisfy the courts.

Rep. Rene Oliveira, D-Brownsville said even though Texas has "a constitutional gun to our head" in court, lawmakers should not rush into anything.

"We can still fix this," he said. "We still have time."

With less than two weeks remaining in the special session, the outcome of the lawmakers' work is moving toward a final House-Senate negotiating period, once the Senate votes on its school tax bill.

In previous House-Senate negotiations, the preferences and personalities of Dewhurst and Craddick have sometimes stood in the way.

BOARD

Continued from Page 1A

something to us," she said.

In other business Monday, trustees will consider:

- Annual reports on volunteer, Smart Start and technology programs.
- Approval of federal entitlement funds.
- Approval of the student code of conduct.
- Resignations, retirements and employment.

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

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Guadalupe R. Molina, Sr., 84, died Friday. Vigil Services will be at 7 p.m. Monday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral Mass will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday at St. Thomas Catholic Church. Burial with Military Honors will be at Trinity Memorial Park.

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EDITORIAL

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-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Susanne Reed
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Administration adds another shortcoming

In another miscalculation in planning for the Iraq war, the Bush administration failed to include sufficient funding in its budget for the number of veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan who need medical care. The Veterans Affairs Administration admitted last week that it had underestimated medical costs by \$2.6 billion this year and next, prompting emergency action by Congress to come up with the money. The administrator had budgeted for 23,553 veterans who would need medical care; that number has exploded to more than 100,000.

For months, congressional Republicans and the White House have thwarted efforts to boost VA medical funding by Democrats, who warned that the agency would experience shortfalls this year. The administration had known of the problem for seven months, but it was not until last week that Veterans Affairs Secretary Jim Nicholson admitted the \$1 billion shortfall. Republican lawmakers, angry and embarrassed, scrambled to put together \$1.5 billion in emergency funding.

The true cost of the fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan is the American soldiers who are killed and wounded. Veterans' medical care should not be treated as just another item in the dishonest budget games played in Washington.

The Times
St. Petersburg, Fla.

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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
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- By e-mail Managing Editor John A. Moseley at editor@bigspringherald.com or News Editor Bill McClellan at newsdesk@crcom.net.
- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

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- Sign your letter.
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- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

Divisiveness will only doom jail issue

Random thoughts while avoiding sun stroke:

So, exactly what are we going to do about this jail business?

By now, almost everyone knows that the Howard County Commissioners are wrestling over exactly what kind of jail facility this area needs.

The issue is not whether we need a jail — everyone is pretty much agreed on that point — but the size, location and cost of the facility has the commissioners at odds.

Our four county reps are evenly divided on the issue. Jerry Kilgore and Bill Crooker support construction of a 144-bed facility that would house offices for both the city police department and the county sheriff's office, while Gary Simer and Emma Brown want to leave the city out of the deal and build a 96-bed, jail-only center.

Whatever kind of facility the commissioners agree on — if they agree on one — will face a tough battle, regardless, when the bond issue goes before voters sometime in the future.

And if the commissioners remain as deeply divided as they are currently, things are only going to get tougher. After all, if they can't agree on what kind of building they want, how can they honestly expect voters to follow suit?

While I'm not a property owner, so I don't have a dog in this hunt (at least not directly), I do have a few observations on the subject:

We obviously need a jail — This is the one thing that almost everyone agrees about. Our current county jail, constructed around 1950, is in real danger of being shut down by state inspectors.

For the past several years, Sheriff Dale Walker and his crew have done an admirable job of keeping the jail up to state standards, but the simple fact is that the place is out-dated, cramped and too small for our current needs.

Walker recently said that state inspectors have granted waivers to the county on certain requirements. For example, the state mandates that prisoners have daily access to fresh air and sunshine. To satisfy the sunshine requirement, prisoners get to stand underneath a UV lamp for a few minutes every day.

Now, I'm not one of those who believe inmates should have cable TV (complete with HBO) and a recliner in each cell, but is it too much to let them breathe some fresh air every day?

Also, consider that if the courthouse ever catches fire, getting prisoners out of the building would be problematic to the extreme. If the lower floors of the building catch fire, inmates are basically stuck where they are.

The city needs to be included in plans for the new center — I know several of my fellow citizens strongly disagree with me, but if the City of Big Spring is not included in this deal, we can pretty much kiss a new jail good-bye.

Big Spring will be where the bond issue will eventually be decided. After all, that's where most of the voters are.

If the commissioners leave the police department out the plans,

they can, at best, expect no support from city officials in the upcoming election. At worst, they can expect quiet but determined opposition.

Another factor to consider: Coahoma school district voters will decide on a bond issue in September. If they approve the school bond, it is doubtful they will add to their tax burden by OKing a new jail.

That makes the Big Spring vote even more important, doesn't it? • Compromise is NOT a dirty word — I understand the commissioners' differing feelings on this issue, and I'm not going to paint any of them as bad guys, but they have to find some way to present a more-or-less united front on this matter.

The absolute worst message they can send voters is approving a bond issue by a divided vote. That, in all likelihood, would be the kiss of death to a new jail.

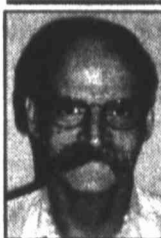
So, let's compromise. Maybe we can get by with fewer than 144 beds right now, but build the center at a place where we can expand it in the future if need be.

That's just one idea, and I'm sure there's more. The point is, county officials have to look for common ground, or we'll be stuck with a sub-standard jail for a few more years.

Remember, we're going to have to build a new jail sooner or later. And one of the few constants in the universe is that construction costs will increase.

Either we pay for it now, or we pay more for it later.

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



STEVE REAGAN



Too pro-life in the end

What would actually happen if conservatives got their way and got five justices to overrule Roe v. Wade? It would then be up to every state in the nation to decide whether to allow abortion, free from any constitutional law prohibiting it from banning the procedure.

The abortion issue would be on the table, literally, in every state election. Overnight, every election, for every state office, would become a referendum not on parental consent or partial birth abortion, but on whether regular old middle-class adult women could get first trimester abortions.

When you think about it that way, you have to ask: What could be better for Democrats?

Hillary Clinton would find herself with a movement on her hands and an army ready to go to war. Too bad the casualties would inevitably be so high.

Up to this point, restrictions on abortion have read like a who's who list of the politically powerless: poor women, teenage girls, wards of the state, women who don't have private insurance or access to private health care, servicewomen serving abroad, or the wives or dependents of servicemen, who can't get abortions in military hospitals even if they pay with their own money.

To paraphrase something Bob Dole once famously said, summing all of politics, poor children don't have PACs (political action committees). Who cares if people who don't vote don't have rights?

Middle-class women and college coeds today, at least on larger campuses and in big cities, can discuss abortion as a philosophical issue, secure in the knowledge that they have access to a safe and legal abortion. I'm always interested to find large numbers of young women who tell me that they aren't sure if they are pro-choice, but take it as a given that they have access to abortion. An entire generation that takes freedom for granted has been raised.

I spend a great deal of time traveling to college campuses, where half the students routinely don't vote. The shortest answer as to why not is that for most of them, it doesn't matter.

If the conservatives have their way, it will. Nothing will be a more powerful symbol to young women than taking away their reproductive freedom or even threatening to, even for the briefest period of time.

They just can't believe it when I explain to them what it "used to be like," in Massachusetts, no less, where I'm from, when even birth control wasn't legally available to unmarried women, and you had to go to New York for a safe abortion. I tell them stories about girls starting to bleed on the bus on the way back to Wellesley and being scared about what to say if you took them to the hospital, and

they look at me closely, because I don't look that old.

Maybe it's been too easy. Maybe it's time conservatives got what they wanted.

George W. Bush beat John Kerry by 11-15 points among married women, depending on which exit poll you look at. How many of those women might change their minds if they were being told that they would no longer have a choice about having another child?

The conventional wisdom is that Bush already squeezed every vote he could out of the Christian Coalition. No one pretends that the same is true on the other side. What better issue than this one.

It might work. But most pro-choice types are reluctant to test it, eager for new soldiers though they are.

There's that problem of women bleeding on buses again, and the fear of casualties that every war brings.

You never know how many, but with 50 wars and endless confusion, the numbers could be high. It's too bad we weren't more cold-blooded.

We're just too darned pro-life, in the end.

To find out more about Susan Estrich, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com.
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Dennis rips into Cuba, but loses some strength

By ANITA SNOW

Associated Press Writer

HAVANA — Hurricane Dennis bore down on the U.S. Gulf Coast on Saturday after slamming Cuba, sweeping away coastal homes and sending waves crashing over Havana's seawall. At least 10 people were killed, pushing the Caribbean toll to 20.

Strong winds and surf buffeted the U.S. detention camp for terror suspects at Guantanamo Bay, on the island's eastern end, where a life-guard tower was washed into the sea. No casualties were reported.

"It's arrived, with all its diabolical force," President Fidel Castro said on state television. He said 10 people died in southeastern Cuba, including one child who fell into roiling waters as the mother tried to cross an old bridge. Two middle-aged sisters were crushed to death when a wall collapsed in their home in the southeast coastal of province Granma.

As the storm passed east of Havana, waves of up to 10 feet crashed over the city's Malecon seawall. Fierce gusts of wind tore huge chunks of concrete off dilapidated colonial buildings and shattered glass globes from antique street lamps in the city's old section. Downed trees and utility poles littered roads.

By Saturday morning, however, the winds had quieted down, the ocean was flat and all hurricane watches and warnings for Cuba had been lifted. Wary residents began leaving their homes to check for damage outside.

"There was so much wind I didn't sleep all night," said Justo Jesus Castro, a 36-year old soccer coach in the coastal town of Guanabo. "It was out of this world."

"Look over there, the ocean is like a plate," he added.

Most of the damage in and around Havana and nearby beach towns appeared limited to uprooted trees and ripped lampposts and highway signs.

However, state radio reported that hundreds of homes around Cuba's southeastern coast had been destroyed or heavily damaged, and there was heavy damage to banana, mango and avocado crops in the island's central section.

The electricity had been shut off Friday before the storm reached the city of 2 million to prevent injury from fallen power lines. It remained off Saturday.

Huge waves swept away coastal homes as the storm's center made landfall on central Cuba's southern coast in the early afternoon Friday. Civil defense officials said more than 1.5 million people left their homes to take shelter with family or friends or in government refuges.

Cuban television showed Defense Minister Raul Castro, the president's brother, touring

storm-damaged areas along the southeast coast. Dozens of humble wooden homes in sparsely populated rural areas had been reduced to mounds of kindling. Corrugated metal roofs had been ripped off and twisted by the roaring winds, before being scattered across the countryside. A wooden sugar mill was missing its roof and parts of its sides.

The government had not issued damage estimates.

The storm had strengthened Friday morning to a Category 4 with winds reaching 150 mph, but weakened as it passed over Cuba, dropping to a Category 2. A reconnaissance plane measured maximum sustained winds of about 105 mph late morning Saturday.

It was expected to regain strength as it emerged over the Florida Straits and into the southeastern Gulf of Mexico later in the day.

By 11 a.m. EDT Saturday, the eye of the hurricane was about 125 miles west of Key West, Florida, and was moving to the northwest at about 14 mph. Forecasters predict the storm will hit the United States anywhere from Florida to Louisiana on Sunday afternoon.

A tropical storm warning was in effect for the Florida Keys, parts of the state's coast and the southeastern Louisiana coast.

Dennis was the earliest Category 4 hurricane on record in the Caribbean, according to Colin McArdie, a meteorologist with the National Hurricane Center in Miami.

About a half-million people in coastal Alabama and more than 700,000 in the Keys and low-lying areas of the Florida Gulf Coast were under evacuation orders. Hours before blowing over Cuba, Dennis struck Haiti and killed 10 people as it collapsed bridges, triggered landslides, inundated homes and blocked roads with downed power lines and trees.

Young Haitian men were charging \$2 to carry travelers and their possessions across the Grand Goave River, which overflowed and collapsed a 300-foot bridge, cutting off Haiti's southwestern peninsula. Chief of Cabinet Michel Brunache said Friday that five people died on the collapsed bridge, and others were reported missing.

At least four people died in the southern town of Jacmel, said Jeff Delorges, of Haiti's Civil Protection agency. He did not have details. A tenth person was killed by a falling tree.

In Jamaica, a rescue helicopter was to airlift food and emergency supplies to hundreds of stranded islanders in at least seven eastern towns cut off by knee-deep floodwaters, said Nadene Newsome, spokeswoman for the country's emergency management office.



Employees of Lowe's in Gulfport, Miss., load plywood for customers on Friday. Residents along the Gulf coast are preparing for the arrival of Hurricane Dennis.

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Back to space: 'A very risky venture' for space shuttle

By MARCIA DUNN

AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — In the 2 1/2 years since Columbia plummeted from the sky in a cascade of flames and halted U.S. space travel, NASA has stripped its fuel tanks of excess foam insulation and added launch-surveillance cameras.

It's toughened up the spacecraft and cracked down on know-it-all managers. It's created a laser-tipped boom to scour the shuttles' thermal skin for cracks and developed bandages for these ominous sores.

It's done everything it can to make the shuttles safer.

Yet even after all this — an overhaul exceeding \$1 billion — the space shuttle is still vulnerable, unpredictable, dangerous, unforgiving.

That's not the claim of critics.

It's NASA's. With the expected return to space Wednesday, NASA leaders stress this will be a test flight in the true sense, almost like the original Mercury space shots.

Managers believe they have licked the overriding problem of foam shrapnel, but warn that no one will know for sure until Discovery goes up. Ice from the fuel tank could also prove to be a deadly spoiler.

As for those little shuttle bandages, the astronauts don't trust them enough to ride home with them covering any holes, even those considerably smaller than the one that doomed Columbia.

An oversight group found the remedies to be so deficient that it ruled NASA noncompliant with Columbia accident investigators' 2003 insistence on practical space repairs.

The task force also found NASA lacking on two other crucial requirements, shuttle hardening and elimination of fuel-tank launch debris.

Eileen Collins and Vegas Kelly and their associates will be lifting off in the face of unknown risk, NASA Administrator Michael Griffin cautioned employees at the end of June. "This is a very risky venture. The people who are doing this are risking their lives ... and everybody should understand it."

Commander Collins and her co-pilot, James

A closer look:

The flight of space shuttle Discovery will be NASA's first since the Columbia accident in February 2003. It will be the 114th shuttle mission. Here are some details:

Destination: International space station.

Mission: To test and evaluate new shuttle safety measures, including inspection and repair techniques. There will be three spacewalks to test some of the new repair methods and to replace broken space station parts. The shuttle will also deliver supplies to the space station and haul away old equipment and trash.

Duration: 12 days, with liftoff set for July 13 and landing July 25.

Spacecraft: Discovery made its maiden voyage in 1984 and was also the first shuttle to return astronauts to space after the Challenger disaster in 1985. It is now NASA's oldest shuttle. This will be its 31st flight.

Crew: Seven astronauts, one of those from the Japanese Space Agency. The commander is Eileen Collins, who in 1999 became the first woman to command a U.S. space mission.

"Vegas" Kelly, will be at Discovery's controls during the eight-minute climb to orbit and the hourlong descent at mission's end.

It used to be only the launches that were nerve-racking, but no more. Columbia's destructive re-entry on Feb. 1, 2003, and the deaths of seven astronauts made landings equally feared.

NASA's traditional post-launch party is off, although beans and cornbread will be served up as usual after liftoff. No one expects to feel like celebrating when there are photos of the shuttle and external fuel tank to be scrutinized, radar to be analyzed, wing sensor and laser boom data to be crunched.

All these devices should produce a mountain of shuttle-health reports that will take nearly a week to sift through.

With so many eyes on Discovery, NASA expects to see more launch debris than on any other mission in the program's 24 years, although in reality it should be the least amount to come off.

"This is a very symbolic mission," said Stephen Robinson, one of Discovery's seven astronauts. "We're getting back on a horse and we're doing it in a much better and wiser and safer way."

Noted crewmate Andrew Thomas: "It is the mission that's going to tell us whether the space shuttle is safe to continue to fly."

When Columbia lifted off on Jan. 16, 2003, the spacecraft was jammed with science experiments. But there was no robot arm, no spacewalker jet pack, no access to the international space station — no obvious way, in other words, for the crew to check Columbia's battered wing, much less fix

it. Commander Rick Husband was notified about the foam strike that occurred 81 seconds after launch, but flight controllers dismissed it as no big deal. Their word was good enough for him.

What Husband didn't know — what hardly anyone knew at the time — was that a handful of lower-level engineers were worried the freed chunk of fuel-tank foam insulation might have pierced the shuttle's thermal shielding. They never expressed their fears to the people in charge, though, and the decision-makers never bothered seeking alternative views.

So when Columbia descended through the atmosphere following its 16-day mission, scorching gases penetrated the hole left by the foam. The stricken left wing melted from the inside out, and the spacecraft lost control and ruptured over Texas, 16 minutes from the Kennedy Space Center landing strip.

It was months before NASA accepted the fact that a 1 1/2-pound piece of foam could bring down a shuttle, and before space agency naysayers realized they could have done something in an attempt to save the crew if only they had known about the hole.

This time, NASA has a strategic plan and, hopefully, a reformed safety culture.

The first layer of defense was the removal of all unnecessary foam from the fuel tank, including the section lost during Columbia's launch. Heaters were added to the foamless areas to prevent ice buildup from the super-cold fuel. Where foam remained, workers were added to oversee the application process.

In all, NASA made near-

ly 50 improvements to Discovery in the wake of the Columbia tragedy.

"Nonetheless, there's still going to be a possibility that a golden BB could get us," said deputy shuttle program manager Wayne Hale. To make matters worse, "Our testing has now shown us that even a crack, much less a hole, could be catastrophic."

Because of that possibility, NASA embedded dozens of motion and temperature sensors in Discovery's wings to record any impacts during liftoff. More than 100 cameras — on the ground, in the air and aboard Discovery itself — will document the shuttle's climb to orbit in broad daylight. So will radar.

NASA is requiring a daylight launch for the next two missions in order to spot any damage, and also a shuttle on standby for a potential rescue.

Dr. Jon Clark, a NASA neurologist whose astronaut wife Laurel died aboard Columbia, fears for future flights.

"I can tell you, as soon as they can, they're going to start undoing all those things," Clark said. "What they want to do is get back to business as usual as fast as they can."

With a 2010 shuttle retirement date looming and the space station only half built, NASA is admittedly anxious to get things done.

Discovery will carry up badly needed supplies and replacement parts for the space station and, perhaps even more important, haul down trash that's been piling up for close to three years. The Russian cosmonaut living on the station likens the mess to the condition of his country's now defunct Mir outpost.

NASA will keep collecting images of Discovery, even as it's en route to the space station.

In two unprecedented and somewhat risky maneuvers, Discovery will perform flips so the shuttle astronauts can get close-up digital pictures of the departing fuel tank right after liftoff and so the station crew can zoom in on the shuttle's belly right before docking.

Discovery's astronauts also will gather 3-dimensional images of their ship's wings and nose cap, using the brand new 50-foot laser boom that will hook onto the end of Discovery's 50-foot robot arm. Flight director Paul Hill considers this the most hazardous of the groundbreaking procedures.

Imagine a thick, rigid, 100-foot crane being waved for hours around the fragile wings, and you

get the worrisome picture.

"If we make contact with the orbiter while we're doing this, I'm looking for another job," Hill said.

The benefits, if the boom works as advertised, will be immense. For the first time, a crew will be able to check out its spacecraft before returning to Earth, "and that's a really big thing," said Robinson, the astronaut.

Spy satellites also will snap pictures of Discovery as dictated by the Columbia investigators.

"We've got backups on backups on backups to get this information," said John Shannon, shuttle flight operations manager. "We're going to know if something came off. We're going to know if the vehicle is damaged."

If damage crops up, then comes the hard part. Does NASA send out the astronauts to attempt a repair or order them into the space station to await rescue?

Neither option is desirable. The space station is built for three occupants not nine, which would be the head count if Discovery's seven astronauts moved in.

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Investigation shows subway bombs blew inside of one minute

By MATT MOORE
Associated Press Writer

LONDON — Three bombs containing sophisticated explosives hit the London Underground within less than a minute of each other, police said Saturday as a clearer picture emerged of the coordinated attacks last week that killed at least 49 people.

The bombs on the subway went off within a span of 50 seconds Thursday, suggesting detonation by synchronized timers rather than suicide bombers, police said, revising earlier accounts that the blasts occurred within a 26-minute span. An explosion tore through a double-decker bus nearly an hour later.

The explosions were so destructive that authorities haven't been able to identify a single body and were depending on fingerprints, dental records and DNA analysis, detectives said Saturday.

More bodies remain trapped underground, police said. Recovery crews were hampered by heat, dust and other "difficult conditions," Deputy Commissioner Andy Trotter of British Transport Police said.

Sir Ian Blair, commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, said he expected the toll to rise but doubted it would reach triple digits. Many of the Underground tunnels are more than 100 feet beneath the surface.

Sophisticated coordination is a hallmark of al-Qaida, the terror network blamed for the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States and said by British officials to have possibly been behind the London blasts.

"A slightly different picture is emerging around the timing of these bomb incidents," Deputy Assistant Commission

Brian Paddick said at a Metropolitan Police briefing on Thursday's bombings. "All three bombs on the London Underground system actually exploded within seconds of each other, at 8:50 in the morning."

The first bomb exploded at the Aldgate station in east London. Two more went off within seconds, they said.

Police said the bombs were composed of "high explosive" — probably not homemade material. Investigators said Friday that the bombs were lighter than 10 pounds each and could be carried in a backpack.

A fourth destroyed a bus near a subway entrance, killing 13 people, police said. The attacks came as President Bush and other G-8 leaders were holding a summit in Scotland and a day after London was named the host city for the 2012 Olympics.

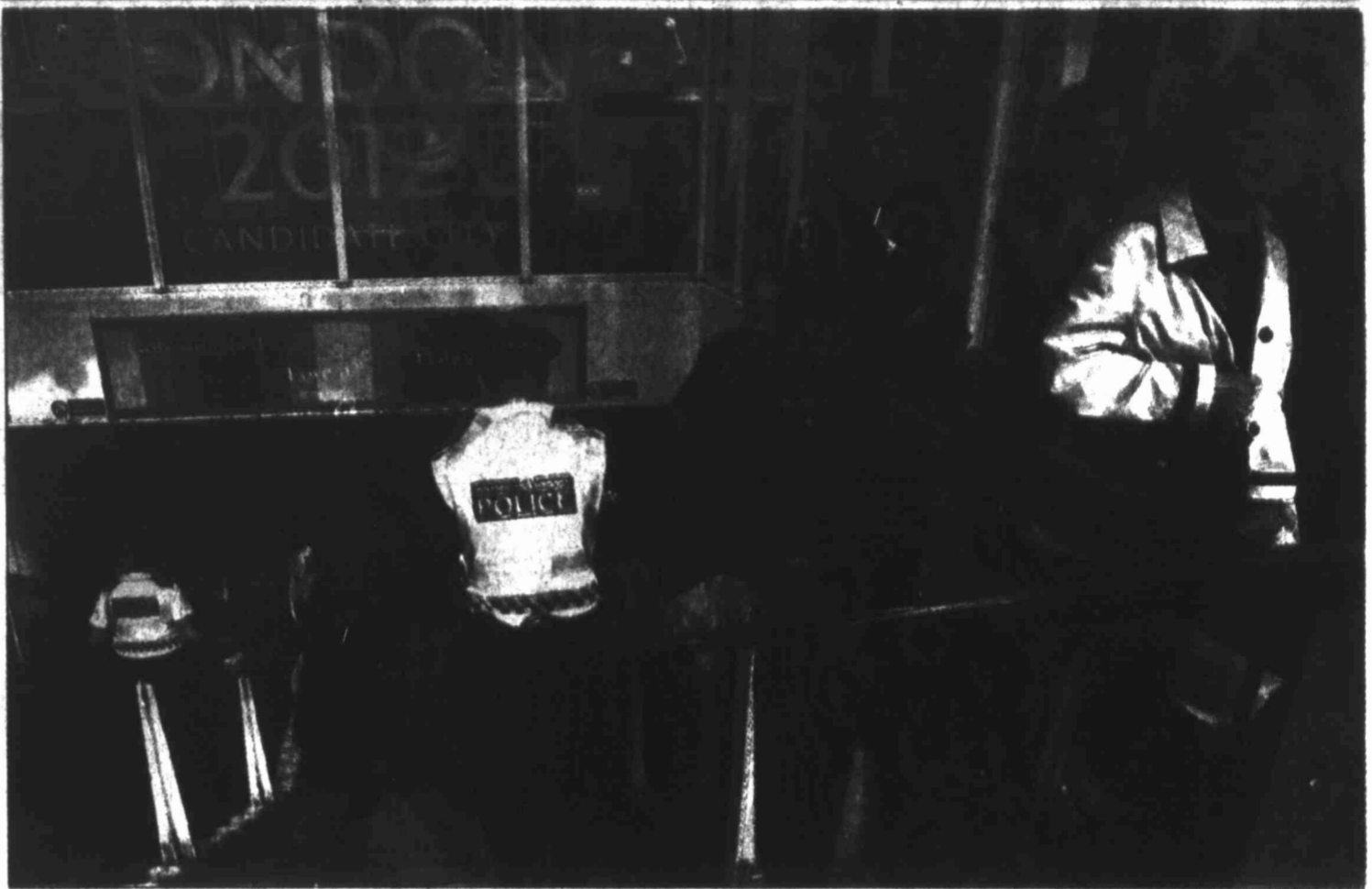
Forty-nine bodies have been recovered from the bombings but were so mangled that detectives have not been able to identify a single body.

"It is a very harrowing task," police Detective Superintendent Jim Dickie said. "Most of the victims have suffered intensive trauma, and by that I mean there are body parts as well as torsos."

More than 700 people from several countries, including the United States, were wounded.

In a British Broadcasting Corp. radio interview Saturday, Prime Minister Tony Blair said investigators did not yet know who was behind the attacks but hoped to have more information soon.

He said he was aware of a claim of responsibility posted on the Internet by a group calling itself The Secret Organization of al-



Commuters make their way through the Liverpool Street Station on Friday, as the death toll from Thursday's bombings in London rose to 50.

Qaida in Europe. He said it was "reasonably obvious that it comes from that type of quarter" but not yet clear exactly which organization was responsible.

Little was known about the group, but a Web statement in the same name claimed responsibility for the last major terror attack in Europe: the bombs on commuter trains in Madrid in March 2004 that killed 191 people.

A second claim appeared on a Web site Saturday, this one signed Abu Hafs al-Masri Brigades. The group, whose name evokes the alias of Mohammed Atef, Osama bin Laden's top deputy who was killed in a U.S. airstrike in Afghanistan in November 2001. But experts say the group has no proven track record of attacks, and note it has claimed responsibility for events in which it was unlikely to have played any role, such as the 2003 blackouts in the United States and London that resulted from technical problems.

North Korea agrees to rejoin six-nation nuclear arms talks

By BURT HERMAN
Associated Press Writer

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea said Saturday it will rejoin six-nation nuclear arms talks in July, ending a more than yearlong boycott in a breakthrough announced on the eve of a meeting between Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Chinese leaders.

The statement came after North Korean and U.S. envoys held a previously unannounced meeting in Beijing.

The negotiations, which involve the two Koreas, the United States, Japan, China and Russia, will resume July 25, the North's official Korean Central News Agency said. A Bush administration official in Beijing said the talks would

resume the week of July 25.

The top envoys to the negotiations from the United States and North Korea — U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill and North Korean Vice Foreign Minister Kim Kye Gwan — met Saturday in the Chinese capital, KCNA said.

"The U.S. side clarified its official stand to recognize (North Korea) as a sovereign state, not to invade it and hold bilateral talks within the framework of the six-party talks," KCNA reported.

North Korea has long demanded that Washington apologize for remarks by Rice labeling it as one of the world's "outposts of tyranny." North Korea said Saturday it took Hill's comments at the Beijing

meeting as "a retraction" of that earlier remark and decided to return to the nuclear talks.

The nuclear talks with representatives from China, Japan, Russia, the United States and the two Koreas last happened in June 2004.

Since then, North Korea has refused to attend, citing "hostile" U.S. policies.

Rice arrived Saturday in Beijing on an Asian tour expected to focus on the North Korean nuclear issue, and also will travel to Japan, South Korea and Thailand.

In February, North Korea publicly claimed for the first time that it had nuclear weapons, and it has made other moves that would allow it to harvest more weapons-grade plutonium from its main nuclear reactor.

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Left to Right: Sharri Wolf, L.V.N., Dana Steffer, Chief Nursing Officer, Jim Crenshaw, R.N., Scenic Mountain Medical Center Nursing Staff Voted 2005 Reader's Choice Winners

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G 8 summit: Long on security, paper but short on results

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

GLENEAGLES, Scotland — For the 31st time since 1975, leaders of the most economically powerful countries in the world have come together, deliberated the pressing issues of the day, issued a detailed communique and departed.

But this time, a deadly terrorist attack in London apparently timed to the beginning of the Group of Eight summit raised questions over whether this annual confab of the rich and famous has outlived its usefulness.

Certainly, the three-day summits — first of the world's six most powerful countries, then seven when Canada joined the club in 1976 and now eight with the addition of Russia — have grown much more costly to stage.

Last year's summit on Sea Island, Ga., cost an estimated \$37 million — much of it spent on 20,000 police and soldiers for security. The protection has increased exponentially since Sept. 11 added concerns about terrorist attacks to the old worry of anti-globalization protests.

Beginning in 2002, the summit leaders have camped out in remote luxury resorts, first Kananaskis in the Canadian Rockies and this year the Gleneagles hotel, a golf resort on the edge of the Scottish highlands.

The five-star hotel, located on 850 acres, was locked down in elaborate security given the exotic code name — Operation Sorbus, referring to a berry reputed by folklore to ward off evil spirits.

A 6-foot-high metal fence along with watchtowers and security cameras was thrown up around the perimeter of the resort and 10,000 police were brought from around the United Kingdom to provide 24-hour protection.

Many residents of this rural pocket of Scotland were not impressed.

"I don't believe a small community like this should have to put up with it," grumbled Colin White, who works in a butcher shop in the nearby village of Auchterarder.

And what happened while President Bush and the other G-8 leaders were surrounded by millions of dollars worth of security? Terrorists hit a soft target — the London bus and

subway system — in the most deadly attack on the British capital since World War II.

Is the added expense — and now risk to a summit host country — worth it?

Not in the minds of anti-globalization activists, who have long attacked the rich-country parties as useless in a world where millions of people have been left behind by the globalization revolution.

Certainly, the summits cannot be judged a success in terms of achievements produced on site. Yes, each year the leaders issue lengthy communique — joint statements filled with high-sounding rhetoric about the pressing problems of the day. But usually there is very little follow-through.

And those communique are largely pre-cooked, drafted during weeks and months of haggling by government officials.

That represents a change from the early days, when the summits were much more informal, with fewer aides and less attention from the media.

"At the beginning, the summits were much more freewheeling with much more time provided for give-and-take between the leaders," remembers Robert Hormats, who served as the U.S. sherpa for the first eight summits, helping Presidents Ford, Carter and Reagan prepare.

But Hormats argues that British Prime Minister Tony Blair made significant changes this year that could save the meetings from becoming irrelevant.

Instead of a laundry list of issues, Blair concentrated his energy on two centerpiece issues — poverty relief for Africa and global warming. He also invited five of the biggest emerging economies — China, India, Brazil, Mexico and South Africa — to join the discussions.

Ending the summits because Thursday's terror attack could just invite more terrorism, Hormats argued. "Canceling the summits because of terrorism would be a huge sign of weakness that could embolden the terrorists to just pick other venues for attack," he said.

In any event, Russian President Vladimir Putin served notice on Friday that he is looking forward to his chance to host next year's summit, the first G-



KRT photo/Eric Draper/The White House
President George W. Bush shares a light moment with Tanzanian President Benjamin Mkapa during the Friday morning session of the G8 Summit at Gleneagles Hotel in Auchterarder, Scotland.

8 meeting in Russia. He told reporters he has already selected the top agenda items for meetings in St. Petersburg — energy, infectious diseases, declining population rates in Europe and education.

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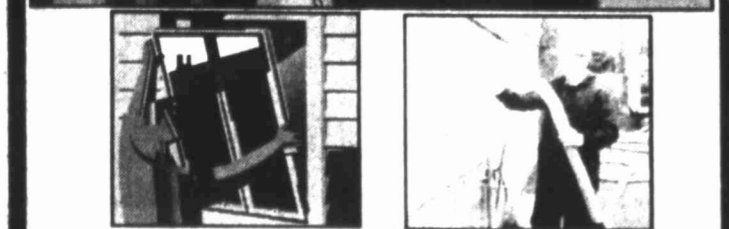
- July 4 • Monday**
 - Senior Circle Office Closed
 - Holiday
- July 5 • Tuesday**
 - Mall Walking - 8:00 am (Meet at the Mall & walk together)
 - Coffee @ Parkplace Retirement Center - 10:00 am (Coffee With Members)
 - Supper Club - Red Mesa - 5:30 pm
- July 6 • Wednesday**
 - Senior Appreciation Day - 11:30 am (Senior Circle members eat in the hospital cafeteria for \$2.00)
 - Games - 2:00 pm
 - Childbirth Classes - 9:00 am-4:00 pm
 - Laurie Burks, RN Certified Birth Educator - 2nd Floor Hospital.
- July 7 • Thursday**
 - Mall Walking - 8:00 am (Meet at the Mall & walk together)
 - Coffee @ Gale - 10:00 am
 - HARC Bingo - 6:30 pm
- July 8 • Friday**
 - POTLUCK & BINGO - 11:30 am
- July 11 • Monday**
 - Sit & Be Fit - 4:00 pm (Chair Exercise)
 - Lunch Bunch & Birthdays Gale's - 11:30 am
- July 12 • Tuesday**
 - Mall Walking - 8:00 a.m. (Meet at the Mall and walk together)
 - Supper Club - Casa Blanca 5:30 pm
- July 13 • Wednesday**
 - Senior Appreciation Day - 11:30 am (Senior Circle members eat in the hospital cafeteria for \$2.00)
- July 14 • Thursday**
 - Mall Walking - 8:00 am (Meet at the Mall & walk together)
 - Coffee @ Gale's - 10:00 am
- July 18 • Monday**
 - Games - 2:00 pm
 - Sit & Be Fit - 4:00 pm (Chair Exercise)
- July 19 • Tuesday**
 - Mall Walking - 8:00 am (Meet at the Mall & walk together)
 - Supper Club - Cowboy's - 5:30 pm
- July 20 • Wednesday**
 - Senior Appreciation Day - 11:30 am (Senior Circle members eat in the hospital cafeteria for \$2.00)
- July 21 • Thursday**
 - Mall Walking - 8:00 am (Meet at the Mall & walk together)
 - Coffee @ Gale - 10:00 am
- July 22 • Friday**
 - Summer Mummies - 5:00 pm
 - RSVP Early - Seating Limited
- July 25 • Monday**
 - Sit & Be Fit - 4:00 pm (Chair Exercise)
 - Supper Club - Hunan's - 5:30 pm
- July 26 • Tuesday**
 - Mall Walking - 8:00 am (Meet at the Mall & walk together)
 - New Mexico Casino Trip - 9:00 am
- July 27 • Wednesday**
 - Senior Appreciation Day - 11:30 am (Senior Circle members eat in the hospital cafeteria for \$2.00)
- July 28 • Thursday**
 - Mall Walking - 8:00 am (Meet at the Mall & walk together)
 - Coffee @ Gale's - 10:00 am
 - Lunch-N-Learn - 11:30 am
- July 29 • Friday**
 - MIDLAND SHOPPING - 9:00 AM

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IN BRIEF

C.G.A. sets golf touney to benefit B.S. golf teams

The Chicano Golf Association has set up a golf tournament fund-raiser to benefit the Big Spring golf teams.

The tournament will take place July 17 at Comanche Trail Park and it will be a four-person pick your own team low-ball touney. The tournament starts at 10 a.m. and all teams must be registered by 9:45 a.m.

For more information, contact Billy Pineda at 264-7116.

Howard announces men's basketball camps in mid-July

The Howard College men's basketball staff will host two week-long camps in the month of July.

The first camp will take place Monday through Thursday, while the second camp starts July 25 and ends July 28.

Both camps will cost \$250 per player who wants room and board and \$175 for a commuter. Both camps will take place at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

Sign-ups for the first camp will take place Sunday from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., while the second's camp sign-up will be July 24 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Both camps run each day from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Hawk camp format consists of morning and afternoon sessions. All sessions include specialized clinics on both the offensive and defensive phases of the game.

For more info, contact Mark Adams at 816-6957 or Jason Sautter at 816-3200.

Howard women's basketball sets three camp dates

The Howard College women's basketball program will be hosting two more camps this summer.

The camps will both take place July 18-21.

The first camp is open for kindergarten through third grade boys and girls. Registration will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. July 18.

The camp runs from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and costs \$50 per person.

The second camp is for fourth through sixth grade girls. Registration for this camp will take place from 12:30 p.m. to 1 p.m. July 18. The camp runs from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and costs \$60 per person.

For more information, call Earl Diddle at 264-5043 or Eric Rodewald at 816-4327.

B.S. Country Club sets junior clinics

The Big Spring Country Club has set up a summer junior clinic and an advanced summer junior clinic.

The clinics run through August 4.

For more information, call the golf shop at 267-5354.

Local talent to be showcased in annual All-Americans

Garden City hosts events for second straight summer

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor

GARDEN CITY — For the second straight year, Garden City will host the 10th annual All-Americans six-man football game and fourth annual All-Americans small school basketball games, according to Garden City Athletic Director and All-

Americas Coordinator Ken Hoskins.

"It's an ongoing process since February, but we think things will go pretty well and it should be a lot of fun," said Hoskins.

The basketball games will take place Friday while the football contest will occur Saturday.

The girl's basketball game will start at 6 p.m. and it features 16 girls from around the West Texas area, including Garden City graduates

Megan Niehues and Krystal Sullivan, Coahoma graduate and Howard College recruit **HOSKINS** Morgan, Forsan graduate Cynthia Becerra and Grady graduate Brianna Pribyla. The boy's game is scheduled to start at 8:15 p.m. and will include

two teams of eight, including Garden City graduate Chais Goodwin.

"The games will be standard four eight minute quarters, but I think we are going to allow each player to have up to six fouls instead of five," said Hoskins, who took over the All-Americans this year after Tommy Wells resigned after nine years of service.

There will also be several other players from local schools involved in

the basketball games, including other athletes from Grady, Forsan, Coahoma and Borden County. The teams will practice Friday at 10 a.m. and then play later that night.

This year's six-man football game will feature a team of 22 athletes from Texas and a team of 20 athletes from "the world." The game will begin at 7:30 p.m. and will consist

See AMERICAS, Page 2B

Steer 7-on-7 team advances to state

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor

For the third time in seven years, the Big Spring 7-on-7 touch football team has qualified for the state tournament after a second place finish at the state qualifying tournament in Wolforth June 25.

The state tournament features 64 teams from around the state and will take place at College Station July 15-16.

The Big Spring team took second place at the state qualifying tournament, losing to champion Amarillo Palo Dura in the championship game. The top two teams qualify for state and the Steers advanced to the championship game after defeating district rival Frenship in the semifinals.

The Steers squad is made of 16 Big Spring athletes who are involved in the football program, which is a requirement to play.

Junior Ryan Tannehill has handled most of the quarterbacking duties, while several others have contributed lots, as well. Most of the players are featured on both sides of the ball as Tannehill also plays safety.

"This style of play helps the quarterbacks with reads, helps the defense work on covering receivers and the receivers improve because they get a chance to catch a ton of balls," said coach Mark Choate, who is in his seventh year of running the team.

"It helps all aspects of the passing game."

The rest of the team is made up of Andy Lasater, Caleb Choate, Alex Castillo, Jacob Nichols, Raul Aguilar, Kalin Whitehead, Lance Tissue, Kyle Piercefield, Jacob Cortez, Chance Cain, Brandon Ontiveros, Robert Finn, Josh Hernandez, Josh Daniels and Johnny Williams,



The Big Spring 7-on-7 football team advanced to the state tournament recently. Front row, from left: Chance Cain, Robert Finn and Caleb Choate. Back: Josh Hernandez, Andy Lasater, Lance Tissue, Raul Aguilar, Josh Daniels, Alex Castillo, Ryan Tannehill, Jacob Cortez and Johnny Williams. Not pictured: Kyle Piercefield, Jacob Nichols, Brandon Ontiveros and Kalin Whitehead. The squad shows off its second place medals at the state qualifying tournament at Frenship June 25.

who helped the team advance to state, but won't be able to participate at College Station.

The offense consists of a quarterback, center and five wide receivers. The teams play on a 45 yard field.

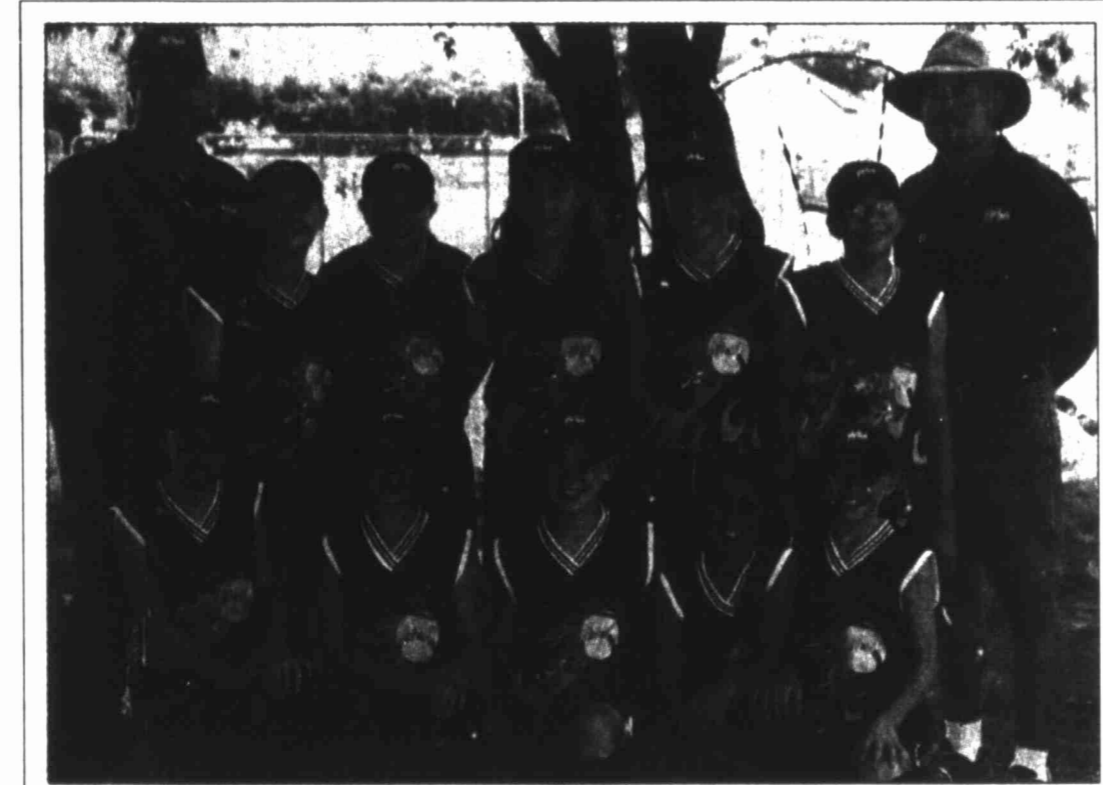
They must get a 15 yard first down in three plays on the first two segments

and get four downs to score when they get inside the 15-yard line. The seven athletes on defense are in charge of stopping the five wide receivers from getting the ball.

Mark Choate has taken two other teams to the state tournament. In 2000, the Steers reached the

final round of 16. The Steers played in the consolation bracket of the tournament in 2002, as well.

The players and coaches will leave for College Station Thursday morning and the team's final practice will take place at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at Blankenship Field.



The West Texas N.V. (envy), a fast pitch softball team based out of Midland, consists of 9- and 10-year-olds from Big Spring, Coahoma, Greenwood, Lamesa, Midland and Odessa. The team competed in nine tournaments this summer and came home with two first place finishes, grabbed second three times and also finished third twice. Their most recent tournament was the state touney in Sugarland and the N.V. came in 5th out of 54 teams. Front row, from left: Kaley Owens, Darrian Doederlein, Kassie Maddox, Stephanie Mollnar and Logan Yarbar. Back: Coach Rick Maddox, Kendall Maddox, Jennifer Castilaw, Randi Hanfeld, Alyssa Flannery, Alicia Alvarez and assistant coach Luke Yarbar. Not pictured: Assistant Coach Oscar Molinar, assistant coach Albert Alvarez, Gabi Marquez and Brittany Armendariz. Owens and Castilaw are from Coahoma, while Luke and Logan Yarbar are from Big Spring.

Wie just misses cut at John Deere

Back-to-back holes in back nine bring trouble to phenom

By NANCY ARMOUR
AP National Writer

SILVIS, Ill. (AP) — As much as Michelle Wie wants to see "Fantastic Four," she'd rather have waited a few days.

The 15-year-old has plenty of time to kill at the movies this weekend, stumbling in her last four holes and blowing her chance to become the first female in 60 years to

make a cut on the PGA Tour. Wie missed the cut at the John Deere Classic by two strokes Friday, shooting an even-par 71 that put her at 1 under for the tournament.

"I think I'm going to hit the movie theater," the teenager said when asked what she'll do with the unwanted free time.

Wie was trying to become the first woman since Babe Didrikson Zaharias in 1945 to make a PGA Tour cut, and she was on track to do it after making the turn at 4

under. But she stumbled in stunning fashion, dropping three strokes on Nos. 6 and 7, and then missing a last-chance birdie putt on No. 8.

As she walked off No. 9, her final hole, disappointment was etched across her face.

She tied for 88th, matching three-time major winner Nick Price and finishing ahead of David Duval. But it was little consolation.

J.L. Lewis, the 1999 win-

See WIE, Page 4B

Big Spring all-stars team finishes third in Midland Tourney

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor

MIDLAND — The Big Spring 9- and 10-year-old baseball all-star team made a strong effort in Midland this past week at the all-star tournament, but fell just short of a championship in the end.

The Big Spring team played seven games during the week and came away with five wins and two losses — both to Mid City.

Mid City defeated Big Spring in the loser's bracket final Thursday night and played in the championship game Friday against Northern, but had to beat Northern twice to win the championship.

GAME ONE

Big Spring took care of business quickly in the first game of the tournament. They defeated Eastern 14-4 in five innings after scoring nine runs in the first two innings and five runs in the fifth.

Eastern scored two runs in the fourth and two more in the fifth.

Trevor Burchett got the win on the mound and he tripled, walked and scored two runs at the plate.

Robert Guzman and Devin Roberson each had two singles and two runs, while Tobyn Tannehill walked twice and scored two runs.

The offensive leaders in

Game 1 were Clayton Galloway and Jarrod Doport. Both Galloway and Doport each had a single, scored three runs and walked twice.

GAME TWO

Big Spring ran into trouble early on in Game 2. Mid City sent across 10 runners in the first inning and that proved to be too much as Big Spring fell, 12-5, in a game which was eventually called in the fourth inning due to lightning. The game had two separate delays before being suspended.

Big Spring scored four runs in the second inning to cut into the lead, but then could only get one run in the final two innings as Mid City dominated from the start.

Guzman finished with two singles to lead Big Spring at the plate. Doport had a single and he walked and scored in the second inning. Burchett walked and scored in the second, while Galloway walked and crossed homeplate in the third.

Tannehill and Gunner Kennedy also contributed a run each as they both walked and scored in the second. Kennedy also reached base with a walk in the third.

GAME THREE

Big Spring bounced back with a win in the

See ALL-STARS, Page 2B

AMERICAS

Continued from Page 1B

of four 10 minute quarters.

The World team includes players from Canada, Nebraska, New Mexico and Colorado. They will be coached by Brent Green of Valley Christian in Roswell, N.M.

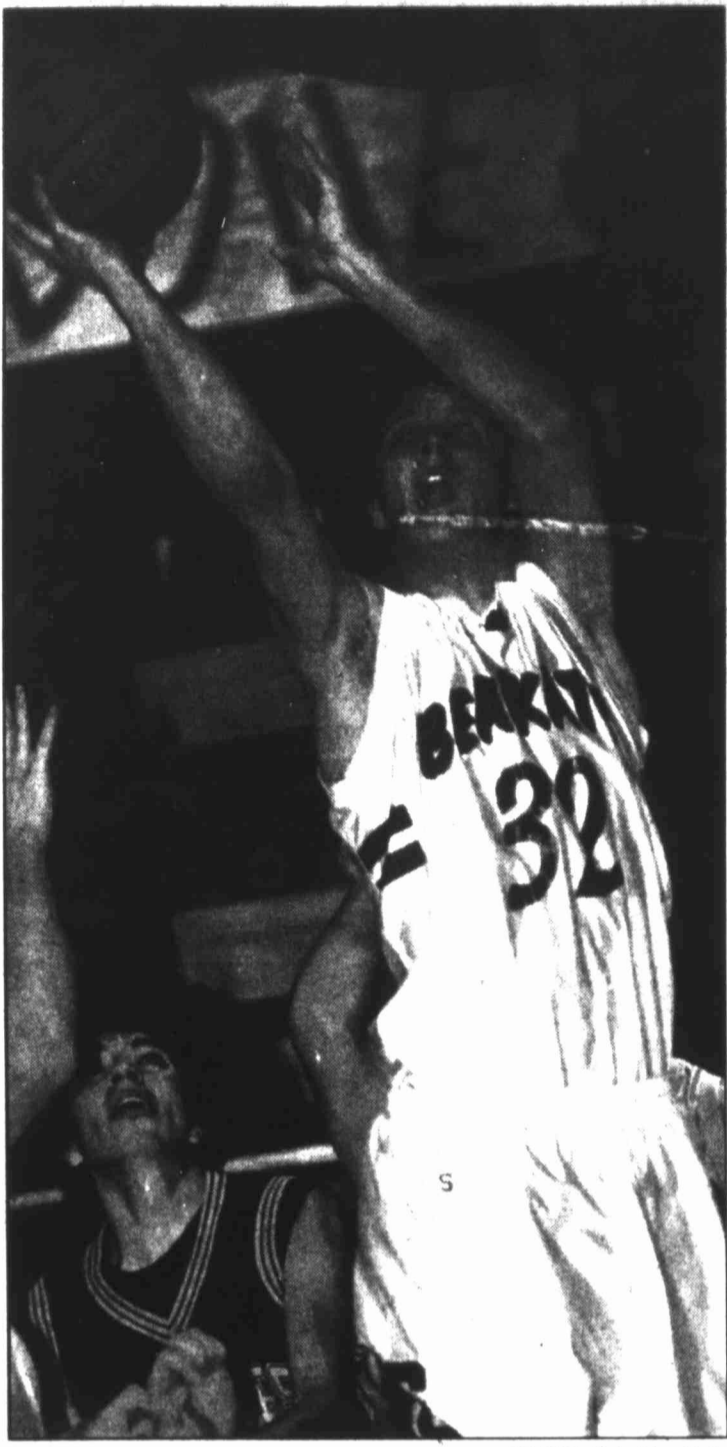
The Texas team will feature three players — Trey Hillger, Tim Schniers and Wade Machicek — from Garden City and several other six-man athletes from around the state.

All three Bearkats earned all-district honors last year, while Hillger and Machicek were also named to the all-state honorable mention squad. They will be coached by Mike Reed of Rule and assisted by Mike Norman of Klondike.

The out of town athletes involved in the football game will arrive in Garden City Tuesday and practice throughout the week. They will be staying in various homes around the Garden City area, as well.

The concession stands will be open on both nights, added Hoskins. Garden City coach Koby Abney will be assisting Hoskins in coordinating the event.

Abney will be in charge of the basketball games, according to Hoskins.



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde
Garden City's Chais Goodwin goes up for a shot in the lane during last year's basketball season. Goodwin, along with several other local athletes, will be playing in the fourth annual small school All-Americas basketball game in Garden City Friday. The six-man football game is Saturday.

Astros give Clemens no run support, Lidge gets win late

HOUSTON (AP) — Roger Clemens was victimized by poor run support again.

The Rocket allowed two runs in seven strong innings but didn't get a decision as the Houston Astros beat the Los Angeles Dodgers 3-2 Friday night on Morgan Ensberg's run-scoring double in the ninth.

Clemens, 40 in seven starts since May 30, gave up eight hits, struck out four and walked one. His ERA, the best in the major leagues, rose to 1.48 from 1.41 as he settled for his eighth no-decision of the year.

The 42-year-old right-hander, selected an All-Star for the 11th time, is 7-3 in 18 starts this year, and the Astros have scored three runs or

fewer in five of his no-decisions. He had lost in his only previous appearance against the Dodgers, the only major league team he had not faced at least twice.

"The disappointing thing earlier in the year was that I'd have to answer questions like this after we'd lose," Clemens said. "But this is a whole lot nicer. I've had a number of games in my career like this. That's just part of baseball."

Still, the Astros knew Clemens had given them another good start.

"I wouldn't put this up with his best games," Houston manager Phil Garner said. "But that just shows you how really good he is. He did not have his best location, but he still found a way to

keep us in the game."

Willy Taveras led off the ninth with his 41st infield single, sliding headfirst into the base to beat the throw from first baseman Hee-Seop Choi to reliever Yency Brazoban (2-3). Craig Biggio sacrificed, and the Dodgers chose to intentionally walk Lance Berkman, who was 3-for-3.

Ensberg, thus far omitted from the NL All-Star team, then doubled to deep right center, collecting his 10th game-winning RBI this season. Ensberg was inspired by the intentional walk.

"It always does," Ensberg said. "Even though you know it's the right strategy since Lance was really hot. But that

See ASTROS, Page 3B

ALL-STARS

Continued from Page 1B

third game of the tournament, which was played last Saturday. They defeated Midland Tower 8-2.

Big Spring jumped out to the early lead and never looked back as Midland's only two runs came in the first and sixth innings.

Doporto led Big Spring at the plate with three singles and a run in the third inning. He also had two RBIs in the first inning.

GAME FOUR

Big Spring beat up on a district rival in the fourth game of the tournament last Sunday as they defeated Andrews 15-5 in four innings.

Andrews scored all five of its runs in the fourth inning, but Big Spring scored four runs in the first, second and fourth innings and had three runners cross home in the third.

Burchett led Big Spring at the plate with three singles and four runs. Doporto had an RBI triple in the first and a double in the second inning. He also had an RBI in the third, walked in the fourth and scored two runs.

GAME FIVE

Another blowout occurred in the fifth game of the tournament, which was played on July 4. Big Spring defeated Floyd Gwen 13-3 in five innings.

Floyd Gwen scored two runs in the third and one in the fourth, but Big Spring was too strong at the plate as they put up five runs in both the fourth and fifth innings.

Burchett got the win on

the mound and led off the game with a home run. He also had two walks and scored another run in the fourth.

Roberson had two singles, a triple and three runs, while Guzman had two singles and a run.

GAME SIX

The final two games of the tournament were close throughout. Big Spring was able to reach the final of the loser's bracket with a win against Jim Parker Wednesday as they won 8-6.

Big Spring started off strong with four runs in the first inning, but Jim Parker didn't quit. They scored one run in the third inning before Big Spring put two more up on the board in its half of the third. The game would eventually be tied in the fifth as Jim Parker scored five runs in the fifth to tie the game at 6-6. However, Big Spring scored two runs in its half of the fifth and held Jim Parker scoreless in the top of the sixth and claimed victory.

Kennedy got the win on the mound for Big Spring and he also had an RBI double and a run in the fifth inning. Doporto had an RBI triple and a run in

the first, while Brandon Gonzales had two singles, a walk and a run.

GAME SEVEN

Big Spring had a chance to reach the championship series with Northern, but would have to beat Mid City to do it. Mid City defeated Big Spring 12-5 earlier in the week in a shortened game and ended the team's hopes again in the final game of the loser's bracket.

Mid City won the second game, but it was much closer than the first meeting as Big Spring lost, 8-7.

Big Spring led 4-3 after the first inning, but Mid City scored two runs in the third and fourth innings to take the lead and never trailed again. Big Spring scored three runs in the final two innings, but it was not enough as Mid City scored the winning run in the top of the sixth.

Doporto was a beast at the plate for Big Spring. He had a two triples, a double and a walk. He also had two RBIs and a run in the first inning.

Kennedy had a triple and a single, while Guzman had two singles and walk and he scored in the first and fifth innings.

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The Phillies' Pat Burrell is tagged out at home by Washington catcher Brian Schneider as Burrell tries to tie the game on a Ryan Howard hit in the sixth inning of their game at Citizen's Bank Park Friday. The Nationals won the game, 8-7, and remained in first place in the National League East.

Armstrong holds off rivals, still has large lead at Tour

• **Toughest mountain stage so far was taken by Weening**

GERARDMER, France (AP) — Lance Armstrong kept his overall lead in the Tour de France Saturday, fending off fierce challenges in the race's hardest mountain climb so far.

Dutch rider Pieter Weening of the Rabobank team won the eighth stage in a sprint, edging Andreas Klöden, last year's Tour runner-up.

Armstrong, bidding for a seventh straight title before retirement after the three-week race, had to hold off Klöden and his T-Mobile teammates on the day's final climb.

The Texan's Discovery

Channel teammates were unable to help him respond to the T-Mobile challenges on the Col de la Schlucht ascent, leaving him alone to contend with his rivals.

Three T-Mobile riders — Jan Ullrich, Alexandre Vinokourov and Klöden — could threaten Armstrong's hopes of winning in Paris July 24.

The T-Mobile riders combined on Col de la Schlucht to make life difficult for Armstrong and his teammates, who failed to keep the pace even though the climb is not as hard as those to come next week in the Alps.

"There was really nothing we could do about that, sometimes we have a bad day," Armstrong said.

ASTROS

Continued from Page 2B

still gives you a little bit more intensity."

Brad Lidge (3-2) pitched a perfect ninth for the Astros, who have won five of six and 14 of 18.

Los Angeles has lost five of seven.

Rookie D.J. Houlton gave up two runs and six hits in 6 2-3 innings.

Los Angeles took a 2-1 lead in the fifth when Robles' hit an RBI

grounder and Kent had a run-scoring single, the 2,000th hit of his major league career.

Berkman's RBI triple made it 2-2 in the seventh.

Rangers come from behind to take down Halladay, Toronto

• **Jays' ace leaves game in third after getting struck by ball**

ARLINGTON (AP) — The Toronto Blue Jays lost an All-Star to a line drive and then the game to shoddy defense.

Alfonso Soriano scored from third base on a one-out grounder to cap the Texas Rangers' two-run, ninth-inning rally in a 7-6 victory Friday night.

Toronto starter Roy Halladay left the game in the third inning after being struck on the left shin by a line drive.

"He got it flush," Toronto manager John Gibbons said. "Balls coming back that hard at such a short distance always strike fear in you."

Halladay was taken for precautionary X-rays on his badly bruised leg and a team spokesman said his status wouldn't be

known until Saturday. The Blue Jays were hanging on for the win until the error-filled bottom of the ninth.

Hank Blalock led it off with a grounder to third baseman Shea Hillenbrand, who threw wildly to first for a two-base error. Soriano's single off closer Miguel Batista (4-2) scored Blalock to tie it at 6.

See RIVALRY, Page 4B

Major League Baseball - current league-wide standings (as of 7-9)

| American League - East | | American League - West | | National League - Central | |
|---------------------------|-------------|------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| Boston | 49-36 — | L.A. Angels | 52-34 — | St. Louis | 55-31 — |
| N.Y. Yankees | 45-39 -3.5 | Texas | 44-40 -7 | Houston | 42-43 -12.5 |
| Baltimore | 45-40 -4 | Oakland | 42-43 -9.5 | Chicago Cubs | 41-44 -13.5 |
| Toronto | 44-42 -5.5 | Seattle | 37-48 -14.5 | Milwaukee | 40-46 -15 |
| Tampa Bay | 27-60 -23 | | | Pittsburgh | 38-47 -16.5 |
| | | | | Cincinnati | 34-52 -21 |
| American League - Central | | National League - East | | National League - West | |
| Chicago Sox | 57-27 — | Washington | 52-34 — | San Diego | 47-40 — |
| Minnesota | 47-37 -10 | Atlanta | 50-37 -2.5 | Arizona | 42-46 -5.5 |
| Cleveland | 46-40 -12 | Florida | 44-40 -7 | L.A. Dodgers | 40-46 -6.5 |
| Detroit | 41-43 -16 | N.Y. Mets | 43-43 -9 | San Francisco | 36-49 -10 |
| Kansas City | 29-56 -28.5 | Philadelphia | 43-44 -9.5 | Colorado | 30-55 -16 |

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 2000 Nissan Frontier King Cab - Gray, Automatic, Owned Locally. **Was \$9,995 NOW \$8,995**
 1998 Nissan Frontier King Cab XE - Sierra Gold, 4 Cyl., 5 Speed, Air, One Owner w/42,000 Miles. **Was \$9,995 NOW \$9,995**
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 2000 Ford Expedition Eddie Bauer - Slate Green/Beige, Leather, Dual Air, 3rd Seat, All Power, Local One owner w/59,000 Miles. **Was \$19,995 NOW \$17,995**
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WIE

Continued from Page 1B

-ner, followed his opening 64 with a 65 to take the lead at 13-under 129. Shigeki Maruyama (63) and Hunter Mahan (68) were second at 11 under.

"It was pretty killer," the teenager from Hawaii said. "Even though I finished below par, it still feels (bad) because I played so well the first nine and then I just totally messed up the back nine."

She now goes to the men's U.S. Amateur Public Links next week at Shaker Run in Lebanon, Ohio. The winner has traditionally gotten a spot in the Masters.

Wie had played beyond her years all week, hitting it straight and showing a better-than-expected touch around the greens. But all of that disappeared at the most inopportune time.

She went bunker to bunker with her first two shots on No. 6, then three-putted from 20 feet for her first double bogey of the week.

"I guess I was too aggressive with my putt," she said. "I hadn't made a bogey, and I didn't want to. It felt like a straight-forward putt. If I'd hit it a little softer, it would have gone in."

The double bogey dropped her to 2 under, with more trouble to come.

She pushed her tee shot on No. 7 so far right it bounced on the cart path, and she had to take a drop. She got on the green from 35 yards out, but two-putted for another bogey, all but ending her chances to play two more rounds.

When her 14-foot birdie putt on No. 8 skirted the edge of the cup, the teenager from Hawaii sank to her knees.

"It was a great experience," said her father, B.J. Wie. "Obviously we're disappointed. Michelle's disappointed. But it was a great experience and she's got to experience all things in golf."

A 1-under 70 in the first round put Wie a stroke over the projected cut, and she came out Friday looking determined to make up ground. She was even sporting a turquoise belt with a sparkly black "68" on the buckle, the number she wanted to shoot.

"I got it in France," she said. "I thought it was a really cool number."

She got off to a quick start, delighting fans with birdies on two of her first three holes. Though Wie is still three months shy of her 16th birthday, she's got all the makings of sports' next international icon.

There was a Sunday-sized crowd waiting for her on the 10th tee Friday, with fans of all ages.

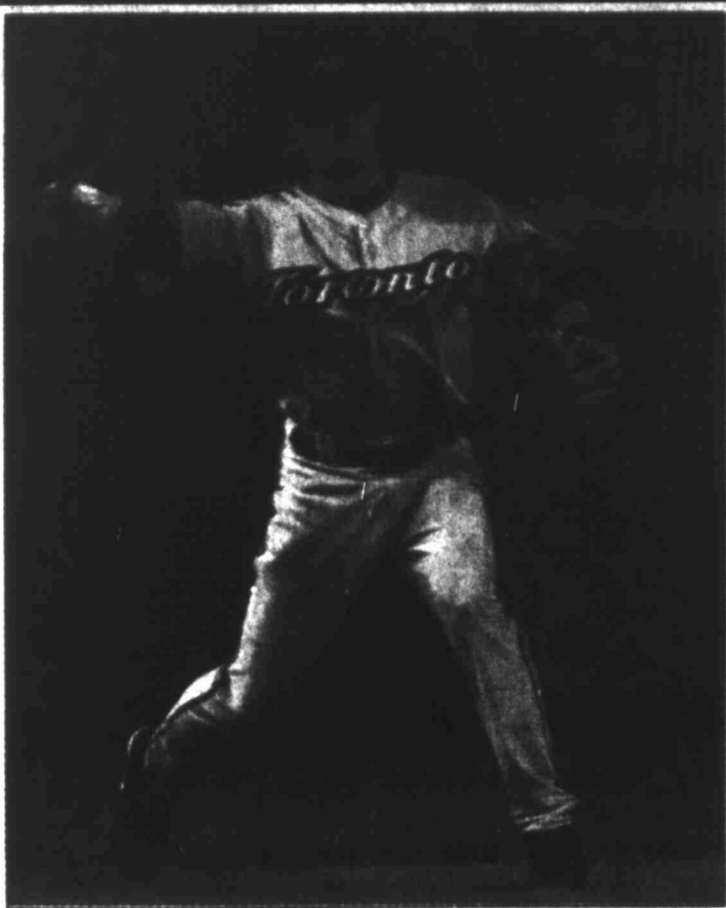
She attracted people who knew golf as well as those who couldn't tell a birdie from a bald eagle, and they followed her the entire afternoon.

When she capped her fine first nine with a tap-in birdie on the par-4, 463-yard 18th hole, she got a standing ovation from fans around the green.

"I was hoping to shoot a lower score and get on the leaderboard," she said. "But none of my putts went in on the back nine."

So instead of making history, she was looking for the movie section.

"On the LPGA Tour, I made the cut on my fourth try," she said. "My fourth try (on the PGA Tour) is coming up, so I'm really looking forward to that."



KRT photo/George Bridges, Knight-Ridder Tribune
Toronto player Russ Adams is shown in a game against Washington June 25 at RFK Stadium in Washington, DC. The Blue Jays grabbed the lead early Friday against Texas, but the Rangers won the game in the ninth inning after miscues in the field by Toronto. Francisco Cordero got the win for Texas on the mound.

RANGERS

Continued from Page 3B

After Kevin Mench was retired on a fly ball and Laynce Nix was intentionally walked, Soriano stole second and advanced to third on catcher Gregg Zaun's throwing error.

With the infield in, Rod Barajas grounded to shortstop Russ Adams, and Soriano, running on contact, beat Adams' errant throw to the plate on what was ruled a fielder's choice.

"We took what they gave to us," Soriano said. "That's why we won tonight."

Francisco Cordero (1-1) pitched one-third of an inning for Texas, which rallied from a five-run deficit.

Toronto held a 6-1 lead in the second but five Texas relievers combined to allow one hit over the final 7 1-3 shutout innings.

Sunday's Starters

Texas — Chris Young (8-5)
Toronto — Josh Towers (6-7)

"The bullpen was the key tonight, not our offense," Barajas said. "They answered the call."

The Rangers have won three of their last six home games in the bottom of the ninth.

"It's a good lineup over there, they score a lot of runs," Zaun said. "We did a good job holding them down but we fell apart defensively in the ninth."

Halladay, a prime candidate to be the American League's starter on Tuesday night, had a 6-3 lead when he was hit in the lower leg by Mench's liner. Halladay threw out Mench at first from a seated position, then rolled onto his side grimacing in pain.

Halladay was on the ground for about two minutes, got to his feet and walked slowly to the dugout after allowing three runs and six hits

over 2-3 innings. He was taken to the Medical Center of Arlington for the precautionary X-rays.

Michael Young went 4-for-5 for Texas, missing the cycle by a double, while Blalock homered and went 3-for-5.

Halladay wasn't sharp in the first inning, allowing three hits including Young's 14th homer as the Rangers took a 1-0 lead.

Rangers starter John Wasdin retired the side in order in the first, but the Blue Jays sent 12 hitters to the plate in the second and gave Halladay a 6-1 lead. Wasdin, making his second start of the season, allowed six runs and five hits in 1 2-3 innings.

Young's RBI single in the second and Blalock's solo shot in the third — his 16th — pulled Texas within 6-3.

In the fourth, Young's run-scoring triple and Blalock's RBI single off Jason Frasor narrowed the deficit to 6-5.

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... And the band played on Forsan High School's band had a trip to remember during a visit to Washington, D.C. for the Independence Day Parade



LEAD ON: Flag corps member Abby Janca leads the band down Constitution Avenue.

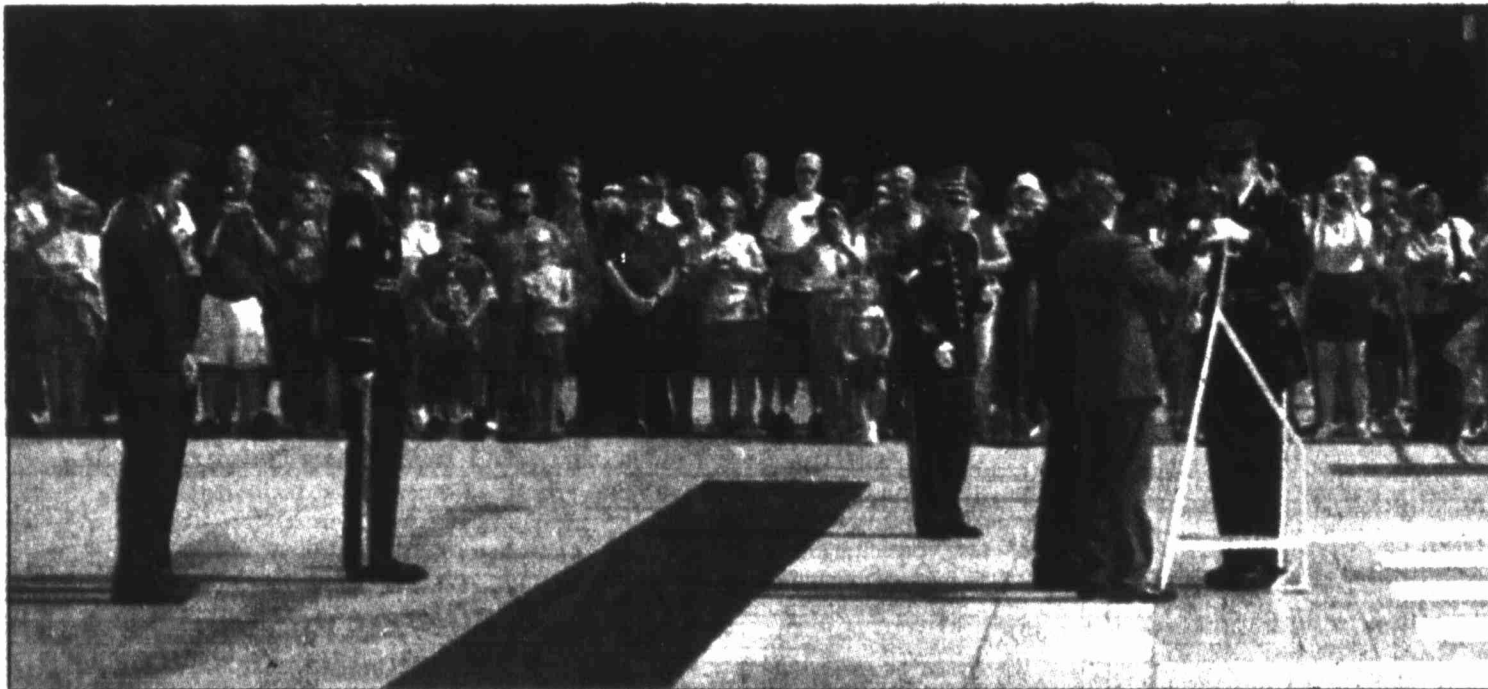


LOOK SHARP: From right, Seth Johnson, Justin Forshee, Cody Freltag and Russell Strong put their best foot forward during Monday's parade.



PASS IN REVIEW: The Pride of Forsan High School represents Howard County and the state of Texas in Monday's Independence Day Parade in Washington, D.C.

Photos
courtesy
of Carla
Harold



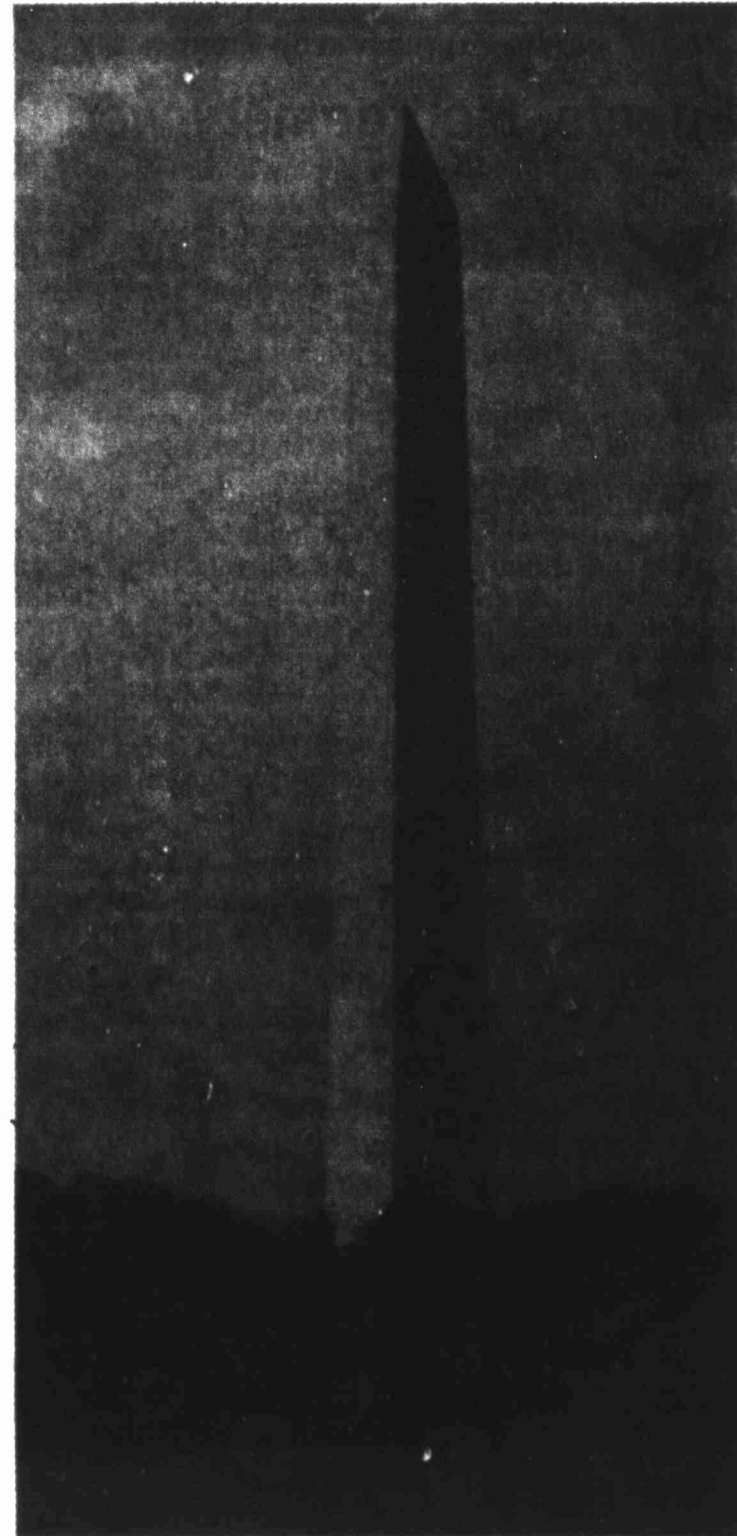
HONORING THE FALLEN: Band members laid a wreath at Arlington National Cemetery.



HAVING FUN: Twirler Marissa McDonald is all smiles during the Independence Day Parade Monday.



SAY CHEESE: Band members (bottom row, left to right) Shawn Lawson, Meagan Mancha, Caitlin Jones and Clint Lockhart and (top row, left to right) Rachael Wheeler, Alex Newsom, Crystal McNew and Kaela Strickland pose for photographs at the Franklin Roosevelt Memorial.



TOWERING SIGHT: The Washington Monument was one of the attractions band members visited.

Weddings



MR. AND MRS. TANNER SCOTT GRIFFIN

Schrader, Griffin exchange vows

Amanda Schrader of The Woodlands and Tanner Scott Griffin of Irving exchanged wedding vows at 7:30 p.m. June 25, 2005, on the #1 Tee Box of the Ridge Course at Tapatio Springs Resort in Boerne.

She is the daughter of Gordon and Jayne Schrader of The Woodlands and the granddaughter of Georgie Russie of Houston.

He is the son of Donna Griffin and the late Teddy Griffin, formerly of Big Spring and the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. C.G. and Norma Griffin of Big Spring and Mr. Beaty Howard and the late Wylene Howard of Lubbock.

White chairs lined the tee box with the beautiful hill country scenery in the background.

The bride wore a gown of candlelight ivory in an off-the-shoulder style. She was given in marriage by her father, Gordon Schrader.

Vocalist was friend of the couple, Larry Pinion.

Engagement



LAURA CHRISTINE JOHNSON AND JAMES DAVID TURNBOUGH

Johnson, Turnbough to wed

Laura Christine Johnson of Lubbock and James David Turnbough of Tokio announce their intention to marry at 5 p.m. Sept. 3, 2005, at the Historic Baker Building in Lubbock.

The bride-elect is the daughter of Dan and Shirley Johnson of Big Spring.

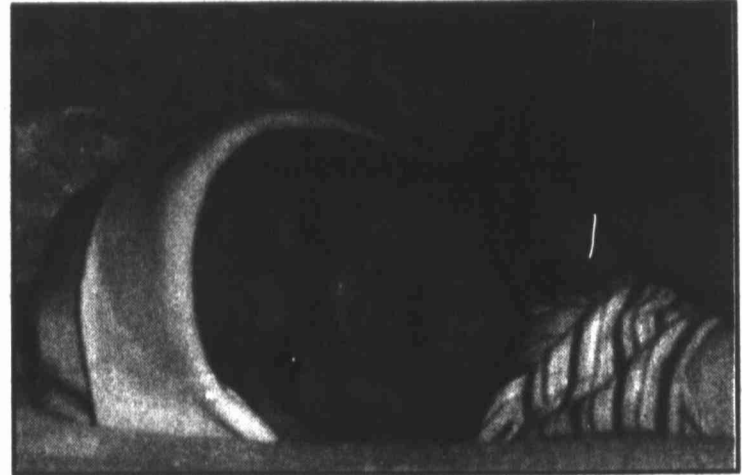
She is the granddaughter of the late Foster Sims and Flo Price and the late Leonard and Madeline Johnson.

The future groom is the son of Gary and Judy Turnbough of Denver City. He is the grandson of Obie and Pat Lee of Lubbock and David and Vi Turnbough of Denver City and the late LaNelle Turnbough.

Laura is a 2000 graduate of Big Spring High School and a 2004 graduate of Abilene Christian University with a bachelor's in food, nutrition and dietetics. She works for Women, Infants and Children as a nutritionist.

Jim is a 1999 graduate of Denver City High School and a 2004 graduate of Abilene Christian University with a bachelor's in industrial technology. He is employed by John Deere.

Births



BRANDON PORRAS

Brandon Porras, a Nicolas Nathaniel

Brandon Porras, a baby boy, was born on June 18, 2005, in Dallas weighing 7 1/8 pounds and was 19 1/4 inches long.

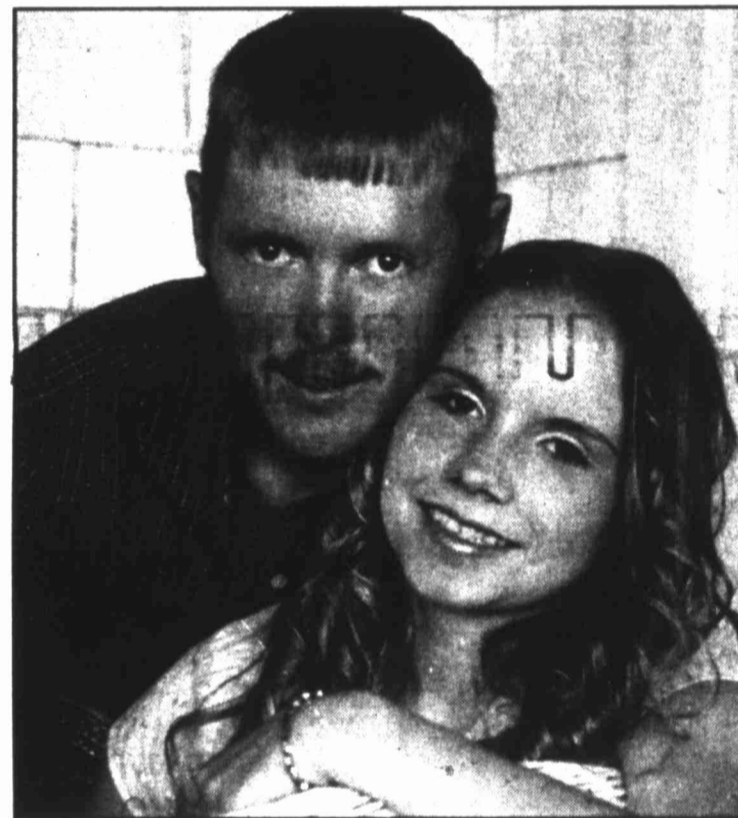
Parents are Luis Porras Jr. and Alejandra Catalina Muzquiz of Dallas. Grandparents are Luis and Lisa Porras of Coahoma, Viana Porras of Big Spring and Myrna Magana and Roberto Muzquiz of Cd. Acuna Coch., Mexico.

Brandon was welcomed home by big brother Isiah Porras.

Nicolas Nathaniel Lopez, a baby boy, was born on June 30, 2005, at 11:43 p.m. weighing 7 pounds, 12 ounces and was 21 1/4 inches long.

His parents are Bobby and Amanda Lopez of Big Spring. His grandparents are Audie and Quana Jones of Cleburne, Kathy and Paul Starr of Big Spring, Joseph Lopez of Beaumont and Andrea and John Lyons of Big Spring.

Nicholas was welcomed home by big sister Krystal.



MR. AND MRS. ANTHONY KEITH MONTGOMERY

Fugate, Montgomery wed

Ginger Ann Fugate and Anthony Keith Montgomery, both of Big Spring, exchanged wedding vows at 4 p.m. July 9, 2005, in the Dora Roberts Community Center.

She is the daughter of Steve and Cindy James of Big Spring and the granddaughter of Eugene and Barbara Bryant of Big Spring and Emma and the late Jim Fugate of Sutherlin, Ore. She is the great granddaughter of Chester and Alene Coffman.

He is the son of Terry Montgomery of Big Spring and the late Terri Montgomery. He is the grandson of Paige Palmer Cleavenger Jr., Annetta and Bruno Montgomery and the late Margie Lee Cleavenger. He is the great-grandson of Ewell Stanley Lewis and Katie Irene Lewis and Opal Lolita Snelling Pace Clevenger Sr.

Ginger is a graduate of Big Spring High School and currently attends Howard College where she is enrolled in the nursing program.

Anthony is a licensed electrician working at Superior Optimization.

Newcomers

George Shiju of Ranny, India, wife, Julie, son, Tim, 4, and daughter, Tina, 2. He is a school teacher. She is employed by Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

Angel Castelan of Snyder, wife Estella, and son, Angel Jr. Both are employed by Nabors Drilling Co.

Adam Stovall of New Braunfels. He is employed by the Big Spring Police Department.

Alice M. Helmstetler of Roswell, N.M. She is retired from the food service industry.

Adam Fox of Houston, wife, Heather, children, Christian, 7, and Ashton, 6. He is the manager for the Sonic Drive-In on F.M. 700.

Angela Wood of San Diego, Calif., son Adrian, 3 months, and daughter, Angel, 4. She is employed in office work.

Jung Park of Dallas, wife, Kay. He owns and operates K-Donuts.

Chad Hall of New Braunfels, wife, Belinda, son, Bradley, 3, and daughter, Jessica, 6. He is employed by Don Nan Machine in Midland.

Monica Perez of Del Rio. She is employed by StarTek USA.

Jennifer Ramirez of El Paso. She is a social worker at the V.A. Medical Center.

Fred Townsend of Ashtabula, Ohio, wife, Missey, daughter, Wendy, 17, and twins, James and John, 14. He is employed in the construction field. He is employed at Fast Stop.

Carmeen Sanchez of Midland.

Carol Collier of Salt Lake City Utah. She is employed at the V.A. Medical Center.

Michael Humphery of Lubbock, wife, Toni Lusk, sons, Michael, 17, Antwan, 15, and Bobby, 13.

Dennis Brehm of Crowley, La., wife, Kimberly, sons, Caleb, 2, and Marcus, 1. He is employed by Robinson Drilling of Texas.



NICHOLAS NATHANIEL LOPEZ

Menus

Spring City Senior Citizen's Center
Monday: chicken fried steak, potatoes, carrots, salad, milk, rolls, fruit.
Tuesday: large baked potato, chili, sour cream, broccoli & cheese, salad, milk, crackers, fruited gelatin.
Wednesday: pork chops, sweet potatoes, spinach, salad, milk, rolls, pie.
Thursday: cheese burgers, French fries, beans, lettuce & tomato, milk, cobler.
Friday: turkey & dressing, sweet potatoes, green beans, salad, milk, rolls, fruit salad.

HOWARD COUNTY Clubs and Organizations



This special guide to area clubs and organizations is your opportunity to showcase your club or organization to prospective members.

A special pullout of our annual Community Guide, extra copies will be given to the Chamber of Commerce to distribute throughout the year to people moving to the area.

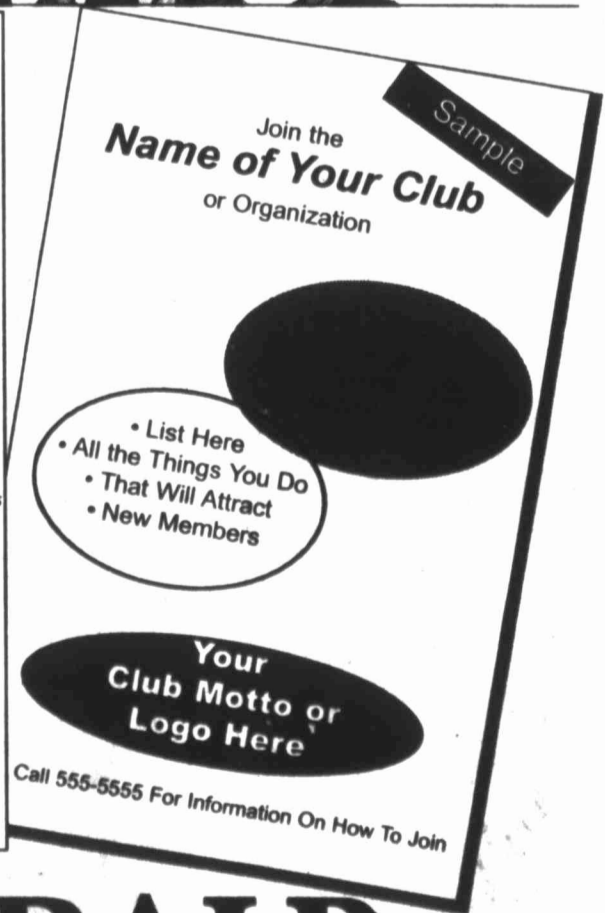
Publication Date
Sunday, July 31, 2005

Deadline:
Friday, July 15

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Include schedules of your meetings.
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Anniversary



MR. AND MRS. ADOLFO AND AMELIA SALDIVAR, THEN AND NOW

Saldivars celebrate 50 years of marriage

Adolfo and Amelia Saldivar of Big Spring celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary, July 9, 2005, by renewing their vows at Immaculate Heart of Mary followed by a reception at the event center.

A dance was held with music by Mariachi Armonia and DJ Adriel Saldivar.

Adolfo was born in Melven and Amelia Perez

was born in York Town. The couple meet in 1947 in downtown Big Spring. They started dating in 1950.

Adolfo and Amelia were married on Feb. 5, 1955, at Sacred Heart Church.

They have two children, Irene Ortiz of Big Spring and Mary Lou Solis of Scott Air Force Base, Ill.; five grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

The couple has resided

in Big Spring during the 50-year marriage. Adolfo is retired from the Big Spring Independent School District. Amelia is retired from the Days Inn.

They belong to Immaculate Heart of Mary Church.

Both love to garden and spend time with family.

Comments about their 50-year-marriage: "We have never separated and live very happy."

Braces: What every parent should know

By Heather Newman

Knights Ridder Newspapers
DETROIT - If your children or grandchildren are about to get braces, cheer up: You could be Kathy Walz.

The Scio Township, Mich., social worker had three children within four years of one another, and all three have needed braces. The bill so far: \$3,600-\$3,800. Each.

Walz laughs about it now, even as her third child heads toward getting his braces in August.

"We didn't think about all this stuff," she says. "We didn't think about three needing braces at the same time, needing wisdom teeth out at the same time, going to college at the same time. ... Aaaaaaa!"

Nancy Laracey of Ann Arbor, Mich., is in almost the same boat: Her son Nick Elslager, 15, is getting his braces off this summer - but another son, Stefan Elslager, 13, just had his put on.

"It's definitely something you have to budget for. Because I didn't have braces and wanted perfect teeth as a child, it was important to me that my sons didn't have any regrets," she says. "That's the first thing people see, is your smile."

Braces' hefty cost,



Siblings Tyler, left to right, Spencer and Alyssa Walz, of Ann Arbor, Michigan, show their smiles on June 26, 2005. Tyler and Alyssa are now wearing retainers. Spencer is about to start wearing braces.

which in most cases is only partly covered by insurance (if it's covered at all), is one reason why it's so important for parents to know all the facts before their children go in for treatment.

Here is what you need to know.

It's a good idea to get your kids checked by an orthodontist when their upper front permanent teeth come in (between ages 7 and 10), says James McNamara, a professor at the Michigan Department of Orthodontics and Pediatric Dentistry. He also maintains a practice.

"People ask when they should see an orthodontist. We say 7 years of age, and they look at us like

we're greedy," says Michael Ignelzi, associate professor at the University of Michigan and a pediatric dentist.

"But if you wait until the kid has all their permanent teeth come in, there's nothing you can do short of surgery for some conditions."

Most orthodontists won't put on braces at that age. If your child doesn't have any severe bite problems, you'll probably be told to come back in a year or two for traditional braces should he or she need them.

Most children wear braces in middle school, sixth to eighth grades, and for anywhere from 18 months to three years.

Cookbooks catch flavor of summer

By JOAN BRUNSKILL
AP Food Editor

NEW YORK (AP) - Food has a special taste these away-from-it-all summer days - and don't for a minute think that staying home need disqualify you from the pleasure. Even if you're not "away," you can catch the flavor through cookbooks that conjure up dishes and ingredients associated with what for many of us are vacation lands.

Here are some titles to start mouths watering:

"Recipes From a Very Small Island" by Linda Greenlaw and Martha Greenlaw (Hyperion, 2005, \$25.95) delivers wonderful stories and photos as well as recipes from Isle au Haut, Maine.

Readers of Linda Greenlaw's previous best-selling books on the fishing life ("The Hungry Ocean," "The Lobster Chronicles" and "All Fishermen Are Liars") should know that Martha is her mother, for whom "food is a gift and a passion" and at whose table "every morsel is a celebration."

Together they provide a feast of a book, to read, to savor the photos, and to cook from for a long time to come, way beyond summer.

"MaryJane's Ideabook-Cookbook-Lifebook" by MaryJane Butters (Potter, 2005, \$35) has a sunny straw-hatted figure on the

cover and the subtitle, "For the farmgirl in all of us."

This is a book that's lovely to look at but perhaps not conducive to lazy summer days for the more impressionable readers. Butters, who runs an organic farm in Idaho and founded the MaryJane magazine, seems capable of doing everything.

Her book includes how-to instructions in a serenely capable vein for cooking, sewing, cultivating, carpentering, looking after animals, hiking and camping and much more. Her text tells stories about family, family history, friends and places. She also took the photos for the book - and this at least does promise readers a little downtime, for sitting back and absorbing the images' rustic beauty.

"Vineyard Harvest" by Tina Miller with Christie Matheson (Broadway, 2005, \$35) is also likely to feed readers well beyond summer vacation. The subtitle explains the book covers "A year of good food on Martha's Vineyard." The writer is a Massachusetts native, who grew up on the Vineyard among cooks, took up a culinary career and is now a private chef.

Although she says the book is inspired by the Vineyard, Miller describes her cookbook's message as universal: Use

local, seasonal ingredients as much as possible, wherever you live. Glossy color photos include food shots and a few local scenes.

"The Beach House Cookbook" by Barbara Scott-Goodman (Chronicle, 2005, \$24.95) conjures up the beach mood without specifying any region - just the implication of leisurely days and fair, seashore weather.

Cookbook author and designer Scott-Goodman offers some 75 recipes for a pleasant selection of drinks and hearty grills, summer fruit, salads and desserts, illustrated in color photos - intended, she says, to help readers cook and entertain in a relaxed manner.

"Sharing the Vineyard Table" by Carolyn Wente and Kimball Jones (Ten Speed Press, 2005, \$24.95 paperback) uses the word vineyard in a different sense from the Massachusetts island: the subtitle describes the book as "a celebration of wine and food" from the Wente Vineyards Restaurant, in the Livermore Valley, Calif.

Carolyn Wente is president of Wente Vineyards, Jones was the vineyards' executive chef, and they've collaborated on this collection of some 100 recipes that bring out a California flavor in the lively seasonal use of the region's bounty.

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Alon USA sets terms for IPO worth up to \$136 million

WASHINGTON (AP) — Alon USA Energy Inc., an independent oil-refining company, Thursday announced the terms for a initial public offering of stock worth as much as \$136 million.

The IPO consists of 8.5 million shares for \$14 to \$16 each, according to a Securities and Exchange Commission filing.

The Dallas-based company, which refines and markets petroleum products mainly in the the southwestern and south-central United States, plans to list

its shares on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "ALJ."

In May, Alon USA said it planned to sell up to \$125 million in common stock in an initial public offering.

The company owns and operates a sour crude oil refinery in Big Spring, and owns and leases pipelines and terminals. It also operates 7-Eleven convenience stores in west Texas and New Mexico and is a major producer of asphalt.

Its parent, Alon Israel Oil Co., markets

petroleum products, operates service stations and convenience stores and holds exclusive franchise rights for the Pizza Hut and KFC brands in Israel.

According to a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission, proceeds from the IPO will be used to pay down debt, pay a dividend to stockholders and for general corporate purposes.

Managers of the offering have received an option to sell up to an additional 1.3 million shares to meet demand, the fil-

ing said.

For the three months ended March 31, Alon USA had net income of \$22.4 million, up from \$1.5 million a year before.

No new major refinery has been built in the U.S. for nearly 30 years and the resulting refining bottleneck is seen as part of the reason for soaring oil prices.

Alon's Big Spring refinery, with its throughput capacity of 70,000 barrels of oil per day, is unlikely to go out of fashion anytime soon, industry observers say.

Hot Dog!

Tafuro says opening new business downtown was 'offer he couldn't refuse'

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

Area officials may have to change the name of downtown Big Spring to Little New York, as local hot dog pioneer Tom Tafuro settles his New York's Finest Hot Dogs operation in the city's historic district.

Tafuro, who still maintains a presence at the Sand Springs location that's made him a local celebrity in addition to the downtown restaurant, said the decision to open a new operation on Second Street was a no-brainer.

"I hooked up with Main Street Inc., and they made me an offer I couldn't refuse," said Tafuro with a sly grin. "So I took advantage of it. It took like two months to get this place ready. Since then I've found out I'm going to have to be here more than at the hot dog

stand (in Sand Springs).

"The downtown location is going to be open Monday through Saturday, 7 a.m. until 4 p.m., and I'll work at the hot dog stand on Saturdays. Then I'll cut that out in the winter time and be here full time. We'll continue offering the Italian Take-out on Friday nights from 5:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. at the Sand Springs location. I may do some Italian Take-out at the downtown location later on, but not right now."

Tafuro said the move, which has allowed him to serve New York style breakfasts in addition to the hot dogs, has been good for both him and his loyal customers.

"It's a lot more convenient for my local customers. It gives them more time than if they

See **DOGS**, Page 5C



Tom Tafuro, right, owner of New York's Finest Hot Dogs, serves up one of his famous chili-cheese dogs at his new downtown Big Spring location on Second Street. Helping Tafuro out is his nephew Anthony, who is visiting his uncle from New York and getting a healthy dose of hot dog knowledge in the process.

HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins



Owner Gary Faulkner, fifth from left, cuts the ribbon to mark the grand opening of G&R Buildings on the south service road of Interstate 20 next to Bowl-A-Rama. Also present at the ribbon cutting are, from left, Chamber of Commerce Ambassador Sherry Wegner, Jan Hensen, Elaine Faulkner, Chamber President Joe Concienna, Alice Dunn, Rita Faulkner, Joy Armstrong, Clay Faulkner, Chamber Executive Director Debbye ValVerde and Ambassador Clarence Hartfield Jr.

Herald photo/Steve Reagan

Cotton producers feeling good despite negatives in agriculture this season

COLLEGE STATION (AP) — Texas cotton producers are optimistic despite inclement weather, insect problems and high fuel prices, and anthrax in livestock and deer was reported in one county in Southwest Texas, Texas Cooperative Extension experts said.

"We believe that we are off to a pretty good start this year," said Dr. Randal Boman, Extension agronomist in Lubbock.

"We have lost upwards of around 400,000 acres due to weather events (hail, high rainfall, wind, and blowing sand). We have estimated that our growers probably replanted cotton in lost fields in up to 200,000 acres. We are looking at around 3.4 million or so standing acres at this time. If we get some timely rainfall, we should have a shot at a very good crop overall."

Dr. Travis Miller, Extension agronomist in College Station, said, "The rain, hail and high winds in the High Plains have destroyed a great deal of the South Plains crop. Much of this will be replanted to sorghum and sunflowers."

High Plains producers are confident because the year started out with excellent subsoil moisture and most of the irrigated cotton was planted on time, Boman said.

"Pretty much all irrigated cotton in the Plains was planted in a timely manner, and we had some late planted dryland cotton due to lack of moisture in the upper profile," he said. "After early June rainfall, we got all of the dryland crop established."

South and East Texas

See **COTTON**, Page 5C

Drought alert: Efficient practices for saving your landscape

Probably the most important concept in landscape water conservation is proper watering. Knowing when to water, and for how long, is fundamental to maintaining a quality landscape that is water efficient.

Newly planted trees and shrubs will need more frequent watering from the planting time until they are well-rooted. During this establishment period, plants can be gradually weaned to a smaller amount of water. Proper weaning develops deep roots and makes plants "drought enduring."

Of the tremendous amounts of water applied to lawns and gardens, much of

it is never absorbed by the plants and put to use. Some water is lost to runoff by being applied faster than the soil can absorb it, and some water evaporates from exposed, unmulched soil before it can be used by the plant. Yet the greatest waste of water is when too much is applied too often. More plants are killed by too much water than by too little.

Most lawns receive twice as much water as they require for a healthy appearance. It is best to not water by the calendar, for example, once a week. It is better to water when the plant needs watering. Most gardeners can readily recognize lawn stresses due to

lack of water, such as wilting and yellowing. The key to watering lawns is to apply the water as infrequently as possible, yet thoroughly.

As with lawns, trees and shrubs should be watered as infrequently as possible, yet thoroughly. Most established trees and shrubs will benefit from a twice a month thorough watering during the growing season in the absence of adequate rain. Normal lawn watering is not a substitute for thorough tree and shrub watering.

There are two types of irrigation systems for use in landscapes — sprinkler and drip irrigation. It is recommended to use a combination of both systems

in watering turfgrass, trees, shrubs, ground covers, flowers and vegetable gardens.

When properly utilized, irrigation systems should give plants a sufficient amount of water without waste. In addition, planting areas which have a higher water requirement can be watered separately from lower-water-use plants by zoning the irrigation systems.

Tommy Yeater is the Cooperative Extension agent, agriculture, for Howard County. His office is in the bottom floor of the Howard County Courthouse. He can be reached at 264-2236.

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Help Wanted
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Help Wanted
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Dietary Personnel - Mitchell County Hospital
LVN- 7:00 pm to 7:00 am Shift - Mitchell County Hospital
Need 2 LVNs- 3:00 pm to 11:00 pm -Wallace Medical Prison Clinic
These are full time positions with benefits. Pick up an application at Mitchell County Hospital at 997 West I-20. See Human Resources Director or call (325)728-3431 ext. 7105.

MITCHELL COUNTY Hospital District is taking applications for:
Mitchell County Hospital is taking applications for a Registered Nurse to work the 7 am to 7 pm shift. This is a full-time position with benefits. Pick up an application at Mitchell County Hospital at 997 West I-20 or call Human Resources Director at 325-728-3431, extension 7105.

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Occidental Oil & Gas Corporation
Email: op_staffing@oxy.com
Fax: 713/985-1304

Please indicate Snyder Admin Assistant in the reference line.
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Newsday Crossword SATURDAY STUMPER by Charles E. Gersch
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

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|---|--|---|
| ACROSS 1 Meddler 10 Lady's man 14 Any sense, say 15 Soup for junior 16 Went too far with a role 17 Kick out 18 Attack 19 Camera technique 21 ETS test 22 OT causers 23 Co. based in Vienna 24 Fare at some film festivals 26 Camera type 27 Some recycled railroad cars 29 the finish 30 Golden, in Grenoble 31 Offer formally 33 Like some music 37 Got comfy 38 Ornamental shells 40 Sen. Shelby's state 41 It means "straight" 42 Within practical limits 44 Monitor part 47 Base 49 Man in chains 50 Operates 51 Year in the reign of Claudius 52 Literary signature 54 A Man in Full novelist | DOWN 1 Promotes 2 Introduce 3 Be unsteady 4 Shul scrolls 5 Perseverance motto starter 6 Sports div. since 1969 7 Squelches 8 Beamed with pride 9 : Tokyo :: New Amsterdam : New York 10 Casual sign-off 11 First 12 Have fun 13 Couldn't take 15 Laborer 20 Gave 12 to North and 14 to West 23 Mumbai server 25 Papal bulls, e.g. 27 Ninny 28 MTV toon 30 Anything triangular 32 Survivor locale 33 The 38th, for one | ACROSS 9 : Tokyo :: 34 Inspirational 1950s song 35 Quit 36 Classical starter 39 Caterer's need 43 Something easy 44 Virginia, once to go on 45 Get ready to go on 46 Housefly cousin 48 Glinda, in The Wiz 50 Never-seen title character 53 Ill-gotten gains 54 ABC and UPN, to Variety 56 Giants' #4 58 Steve Allen Show regular |
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Big Spring Herald
Weekend Edition, July 9-10, 2005

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Annie's Mailbox®

Dear Annie: My relationship with my husband is evaporating, and I can't seem to get things back to where they used to be. It's my fault. My job requires me to work every other weekend, which limits our time together. Besides that, my mother is becoming very dependent, and her care takes a good deal of my time and money.

My husband and I are both close to retirement, so changing jobs is not an option. We used to have one recreational activity together — now he does it with his niece, on the weekends when I work. When I'm home, he wants to get things done around the house. Besides my job, I do all the housework, cooking, cleaning and laundry, plus I mow the lawn. I feel like I'm becoming his housekeeper.

Physically, I'm in pretty good shape, but mentally, I think I'm becoming boring. My life is so filled with obligations that I'm losing touch with my friends. What can I do to become interesting again? — Emily

Dear Emily: We trust that the "one recreational activity" is golf and not sex. We know you feel overwhelmed, but surely the two of you can find a little time each week to do something together.

Explain this to your husband. Tell him you can devote more time to



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

him if he will help you with the housework (and he should). Set aside some time once a month to get together with friends, which can help broaden your horizons. Pick up on current events when you turn on your computer, and put news-magazines in the bathroom so you will have something of interest to discuss at the dinner table. This must become a priority for you — even if it means skipping the laundry or hiring someone to stay with your mother. Relationships take regular maintenance, too.

Dear Annie: I am the mother of the bride, and a widow. I would like to know the proper protocol for wedding dances if one of the parents is single. I know the bride and groom dance first, and then the groom dances with his mother while the bride dances with her father. In this instance, the bride is no father for her to dance with. What happens when the mother of the bride is not part of a couple? — Sun City, Ariz.

Dear Sun City: Often, when the father of the bride is unavailable, another male becomes a stand-in, not only for the dancing, but also to walk the bride down the aisle.

Usually this is an uncle, brother or other relative. If your daughter is not using a stand-in to walk her down the aisle, you can designate someone as your escort. Keep in mind, however that this dance is a traditional custom, but you are not obligated to follow it. It may be time for you to suggest a new custom.

Dear Annie: You printed a letter from "Sleepless in Sarasota," whose neighbor goes outside to cough and spit in the middle of the night. You suggested speaking to the neighbor or trying white noise in the bedroom. I have another suggestion: Earplugs!

My partner and I live on a busy street, and without earplugs we would be awake all night. Plus, we both snore and keep each other up. Earplugs are the perfect solution. We adjust the volume on the phone so we can hear it, and we crank up the clock radio so it wakes us up in the morning. And we tested the smoke alarm to make sure we can hear that, too. If anyone tries to break into the house, our dog will take care of waking us up.

The best kind of earplugs to use are the soft foam kind, since they don't accumulate any waxy residue. — Sleeping Peacefully in Eureka, Calif.

Dear Eureka: We agree that earplugs can cover a multitude of noises. Thank you for the additional suggestion to help our readers get enough rest.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to annies-mailbox@comcast.net.

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

The Virgo moon is like the supportive wife who is the woman behind every great man. She suggests, prods, nags and seduces; using whatever means are necessary to produce a desired result. If you know what you want, expect the universe to give you just the kick you need to get going. It might not be friendly, but it's effective!

ARIES (March 21-April 19). People around you just can't figure you out today. It's as if, of all of the billions and billions of life forms on the earth, you are the very strangest. Don't bother trying to explain yourself. Celebrate your uniqueness!

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). A long and grueling project seems to stretch out forever in front of you. Yet, when you look at the work that's ahead, you see objectives, not obstacles. A new partner will help you make music of your labor.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Domestic bliss is featured. Indulge yourself in the simple pleasures of life, especially those that can be found in the home — like freshly laundered sheets or cookies straight from the oven. It's lucky to share with a partner.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Your invitation to a family member is accepted. The key to a stress-free, pleasant visit is planning. With enough advance notice and well thought-out events, you create a bonding experience to remember.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). It feels as though the future of the world hangs on someone who can either say "yes" or "no." Of course, the future of the world really hangs on your reaction to their answer.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You feel pressured to make a decision. The stars encourage you to take a cautious, practical approach. Despite the stress being applied, there is really no rush. Think it through. All parties involved benefit from your diligence.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You cannot apply style to yourself. It must permeate from within. And that is why people find you so attractive — they can't buy what you have, and even if they could, you wouldn't sell it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Productivity happens first in your mind before it can happen in the so-called real world. So go to a quiet space where you can let your thoughts, desires and plans fill the room.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Oh, the messy complications of your social life! But thank goodness for the mess — otherwise relationships, and everything else for that matter, would be a bore.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). It's a liberating day. You're buoyant. Instead of trying to prove that your role in someone's life is essential to their well-being, you get on with the business of enjoying that role.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It's not easy to relate to your loved one's friends. You'll have to build a bridge from your world to theirs. Doing this is a gift of love, but you broaden your own horizons in the process.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Your family appreciates your generous and loyal nature more than ever. At a family gathering, you're the unspoken guest of honor. You are right to be flattered by their desire to spend time with you.

FORECAST FOR THE WEEK AHEAD: Aggressive Mars in Aries energy flares up when the Cancer sun forms an aggravating square to the warrior planet. The many faces of competition emerge. Some people compete silently, sharing their intentions with no one but their own image in the bathroom mirror. Others use bravado and posturing to psych themselves up and hopefully psych their opponent out. Some know how to channel their higher mind to become their own support system, and others let the critic inside mess up their game. Explore your own style, because the game is on and everyone is a player whether they admit it or not. Loving Venus and dreamy Neptune oppose each other on Monday, stirring up stories and ideas about the people in your social network. Gossip is a likely outcome, but not the best use of this star opportunity. As long as you're thinking things about people, you may as well think the best of them. They just may surprise you by shining that quality toward you the next time you meet. The Scorpio moon is a saxophone serenade for this weekend. New relationships smolder and spark, and it gets steamy even for couples who have been together forever.

If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to www.creators.com and click on "Write the Author" on the Holiday Mathis page, or you may send her a postcard in the mail. To find out more about Holiday Mathis, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

Legals

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Glasscock Groundwater Conservation District Board of Directors will conduct a public hearing on Tuesday, July 19, 2005, at 9:00 a.m. in the district office located at 132 N. Main, Garden City, Texas to receive public input considering a tax abatement agreement with Wind Plus, Inc. All interested parties are encouraged to attend and present their views.
#4624 July 10, 2005

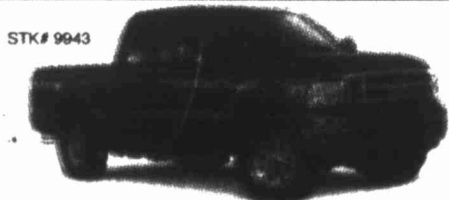
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EMPLOYEE PRICE - \$14,470.04
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2005 FORD FOCUS Z3

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EXAMPLES OF SAVINGS



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