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WEEKEND EDITION

July, 3-4, 2004

WEATHER



SUNDAY 99°-100° SUNDAY NIGHT 72°-73°

INSIDE



Marlon Brando, one of the most lauded, imitated and influential actors in screen history, has died at the age of 80 in a Los Angeles hospital, his attorney said Friday.



As part of its Democracy in America series, American Profile asked teachers and students in four towns with star-spangled names "What does freedom mean to you?"

COMING MONDAY

Complete coverage of the Pops in the Park holiday celebration, including photos and stories from the heart of Comanche Trail Park and Amphitheater will be in Monday's edition of the Herald.

INDEX

Business	4-5C
Classified	6-8C
Life	1-3C
Obituaries	2A
Opinion	4A
Sports	1-4B

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PATRIOTIC HOLIDAY FUN



Above: Kaylee Pittenger, right, concentrates on keeping her "vehicle" on the road during the Coahoma Freedom Parade, while friend Britney Payte enjoys the ride. Left: Eight-year-old Katie Newton zips down Highland Drive Saturday in the annual Highland Fourth of July Parade. The annual event drew a large crowd of participants and spectators ending with an awards ceremony.

HERALD photos/Thomas Jenkins, Lyndel Moody

Funtastic Fourth

Entertainment, food, laser light show planned

Events schedule, Page 1C

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

As Downtown Revitalization Association members hit the final stretch in preparing for Sunday's Funtastic Fourth Festival, the annual show is shaping up to be even bigger and better than last year.

D R A President Allan Johnson said the multitude of activities and entertainment lined up to celebrate the birth-

"Big Spring is definitely the place to be July 4."



Allan Johnson

day of our great nation, which includes a fierce Battle of the Bands, will include something for everyone in the family.

"It's really going to be a great time for everyone," said Johnson. "We've got some very high quality bands playing and I think the crowd is going to love them. Each band will walk away with some money. I believe the lowest amount they can get is \$100 and it's very possible that the third-place band in the judging could win the People's Choice Award and walk away with \$1,100."

Also part of the celebration, which will be held at the Heart of the City Park in downtown Big Spring, will be a patriotic show slated for 6 p.m. which will feature the National Anthem, sung by Lucy Coble, and the Pledge of

See FUNTASTIC, Page 3A

St. Lawrence girl bids for Miss Texas title

By LYNDEL MOODY

Staff Writer

A 19-year-old St. Lawrence resident will be competing for the title of Miss Texas and a chance to represent her home state in the Miss America Contest during the week of July 5-10.

"I'm feeling very anxious and excited," said Chelsea Schwartz, a 2003 Garden City High School graduate. "I'm not nervous, but



SCHWARTZ

The week begins Saturday when Miss Texas and Miss Teen Texas will be special guests at

I'm very anxious to get there and see what it is all about."

Schwartz, the current Miss San Angelo, will join contestants from around the state in Fort Worth this week for the 2004 Miss Texas Pageant.

The "Johnny High Music Revue" in Arlington.

Competition begins Monday with the interview session.

"In the interview competition, they ask you anything they feel like asking you," Schwartz said. "You need to be well up on your current events. You need to be watching the news, know what's going on in the world and paying attention to the newspaper."

Although she has been prepar-

ing herself for several weeks for the session, Schwartz said the real key is staying true to yourself.

"You really need to be yourself throughout the process," she said.

"You need to go in with a positive attitude and come out with a positive attitude."

On Wednesday, Schwartz will

See TITLE, Page 5A

Two more one-vehicle rollovers occur in area

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

Department of Public Safety troopers had their hands full Friday afternoon as the sudden rash of one-vehicle rollovers that have blighted the holiday weekend continued on Highway 87 and Interstate 20.

DPS Trooper Shon Parker was called to the scene of a rollover accident on U.S. Highway 87, less than a mile from the site of a fatal crash that occurred approximately 24 hours prior. Big Spring

Fire Department firefighters and emergency medical personnel worked for nearly an hour to free Russell Scott, the driver of the vehicle, and his

wife, Olga, both of Big Spring, from their Dodge Dakota pickup truck.

Russell Scott was life-flighted from the scene of the accident to Shannon Medical Center in San Angelo. Scott was in stable condition Saturday afternoon. Olga Scott, whose injuries appeared

"I never really thought a seat belt would help me out or anything, but this time it did and I'm thankful."

Jesus Olmos, accident victim

condition Saturday afternoon. Olga Scott, whose injuries appeared

See WRECKS, Page 3A



A Big Spring man is air-lifted to Shannon Medical Center in San Angelo after a one-vehicle rollover on U.S. Highway 87.

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Obituaries

Jeffery Scott Cox

Jeffery Scott Cox, 23, of Sand Springs, died Thursday, July 1, 2004. Funeral Services will be at 8 p.m. Saturday at Myers & Smith Chapel with Rev. Arnold Tonn of Spring Tabernacle, officiating. The family will receive friends at Myers & Smith Funeral Home following the service.

He was born July 21, 1981, in Gillette, Wyo., to Kathy Miller Cox and Tommy Cox. He lived most of his life in Big Spring and Howard County.

He is survived by a daughter, Destiny Cox of Big Spring; his father and step-mother, Tommy and Sherye Cox of Sand Springs; his mother and step-father, Kathy and Ed La Fountain of Robert Lee; two brothers, Justin Cox of Brownfield and Clayton Foster of Robert Lee; a sister, Taylor Foster of Robert Lee; grandparents Connie and Chris Sellars of Phoenix, Ariz., and Nona Searl of Colorado City; his adopted grandfather and mentor, Tony Fiore of Coahoma; and a number of aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends.

The family suggests memorials to Cal Farley's Boy's Ranch.

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

Betty Mince

Betty Mince, 66, of Big Spring, died Friday, June 25, 2004 at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. Private services will be held with interment at Woodlawn Memorial Cemetery in Houston.

She was born Sept. 3, 1937 in Houston and married Bill Mince in October of 1952. They moved to Big Spring in 1981. She was preceded in death by her husband in July of 1984 and her daughter, Sharon, in October of 1992.

Survivors include her son and daughter-in-law, Jimmie and Melissa Mince of Houston; two daughters and sons-in-law, Cinda Mince and Skipper Smith of Houston and Katrice and Jeremy Klaus of Big Spring; four grandchildren and two great grandsons.

Arrangements under the direction of Aldine Funeral Chapel of Houston.

Zilpha Alyne Powell

Zilpha Alyne Powell, 82, of Sweetwater, died Thursday, July 1, 2004 in Big Spring. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Monday, July 5, 2004 at Cate-Spencer & Trent Funeral Home Chapel in Sweetwater with Minister Bill Johnston officiating. Burial will follow at Newman Cemetery.

The family will receive friends at the funeral home tonight from 6 p.m. until 7:30 p.m.

She was born in Lamesa on Jan. 2, 1922 and married W.R. "Bob" Powell on Oct. 29, 1945 in Sylvester. She worked for Sears and Roebuck, Cox Jewelers and Lawrence IGA before retiring.

She is survived by a son, Bobby Powell and wife, Bonnie, of Ackerly; a daughter, Kathy Sloan of Stephenville; four grandchildren and one great grandchild.

She was preceded in death by her husband.

Arrangements under the direction of Cate-Spencer & Trent Funeral Home.

Take note

□ **MANNA RELIEF**, a non-profit ministry that provides glyconutritional supplements to critically ill children, is accepting donations for the program. Call Gene or Robbie Froman at 263-0385.

□ **A MEMORIAL FUND FOR THE FAMILY OF TERRY STRICKLAND**, who died June 15, 2004, has been established at the Big Spring Educational Employees Federal Credit Union, P.O. Box 1110, Big Spring 79720.

□ **MEMBERS OF THE EVENING LIONS CLUB** are looking for area children with diabetes age 8-17 who would like to attend the Texas Lions Camp in Kerrville this summer.

For information on the camps, contact Bob Noyes at Bob's Custom Woodwork, 267-5811, or visit the Lion's Web site at www.lionscamp.com Lions provide funding for the camp as well as transportation, if necessary.

□ **A FUND FOR ALAN AND MITZI KNIGHT**, whose house on Oasis Road burned, has been established at the First Big Spring banking center. The home and all the family's belongings were lost.

□ **HERITAGE MUSEUM**, 510 Scurry, is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. on Saturday. An admission fee, which includes entry into the Pottin House, is \$2 for adults and \$1 for children.

□ **HANGAR 25 AIR MUSEUM** is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. on Saturday and from 1:30 p.m. until 4 p.m. on Sunday.

□ **BIG SPRING HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1989** 15-year reunion is set for Oct. 8-9. For information or to update your name or mailing address, contact Christy Alexander at 972-567-8087 or Shanette Johnson at 972-874-9308.

Police blotter

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

- **SARAH JOHNSON**, 18, of 1700 Lincoln, was arrested Friday on a charge of minor in consumption.
- **MARIA RESENDIZ**, 18, of 1610 Bluebird, was arrested Friday on a charge of minor in consumption.
- **LELDON TAYLOR JENKINS**, 20, of 1401 Lincoln, was arrested Friday on three local warrants.
- **BARRY BARNETT**, 46, of 1111 Johnson, was arrested Friday on two local traffic warrants.
- **GUILLERMO YBARRA**, 39, of Odessa, was arrested Friday on a charge of public intoxication.
- **LUZ SOLIS**, 24, of Wood Street, was arrested Friday on a Dawson County warrant.
- **JESUS MARTINEZ**, 24, of 813 Creighton, was arrested Friday on four local traffic warrants.
- **FREDDIE GARCIA**, 56, 811 Goliad, was arrested Friday on a charge of public intoxication.
- **CODY NALL**, 20, of 1605 Bluebird, was arrested Saturday on charges of public intoxication and criminal mischief.
- **JONATHAN LUSK**, 19, of 705 Highland, was arrested Saturday on charges of public intoxication and criminal mischief.
- **FRANK OVERTON**, 20, of 2402 Williams, was arrested Saturday on three local warrants and charges of criminal mischief and driving under the influence by a minor.
- **PHILIP GARCIA**, 27, of 1409 Oriole, was arrested Saturday on a charge of public intoxication.
- **THEFT** was reported:
 - in the 1800 block of Gregg Street.
 - in the 900 block of Willia.
 - in the 300 block of Gregg Street.
 - in the 1100 block of Lamesa.
 - in the 1700 block of FM 700.
 - in the 400 block of Birdwell Lane.
- **ASSAULT BY THREAT** was reported:
 - in the 1400 block of Highway 87.
 - in the 1000 block of Main Street.
- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 1100 block of S. Gregg Street.

Sheriff's report

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

- **DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE** was reported near the 162 mile marker of Interstate 20.
- **THEFT** was reported:
 - in the 5200 block of Dawson Road.
 - in the area of Rip Griffin's Truck Stop.

Support groups

MONDAY

- All widows and widowers are invited to attend the Encourager's Support group meeting at 6 p.m. in Cowboy's Restaurant. Call 398-5522 for more information.

TUESDAY

- The Multiple Sclerosis Support Group meets at 7 p.m. the last Tuesday of each month in the College Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, 1005 Birdwell Lane. Call Tracey at 263-4948 for more information.

Lottery

The single winning ticket in the record \$290 million Mega Millions lottery drawing was sold in Lowell, Mass.

The ticket — b10-25-38-39-50 and the Mega Ball 12 — was sold at Powers Wine Co. 30 miles north of Boston.

The winning Cash Five numbers drawn Friday by the Texas Lottery: 6-16-29-34-35

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Friday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 2-1-5

Weather

Sunday: Partly cloudy. Very hot. High around 100F. Winds S at 10 to 20 mph.

Sunday night: Fair to partly cloudy. Low 73F. Winds SSE at 10 to 20 mph.

Monday: Abundant sunshine. Highs in the upper 90s and lows in the low 70s.

Tuesday: Abundant sunshine. Highs in the mid 90s and lows in the low 70s.

Wednesday: Sunshine. Highs in the mid 90s and lows in the mid 70s.

Bulletin board

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

SUNDAY

- Team Rustic Circle, an amateur paintball team, meets for practice between noon and dusk at the Moss Creek Lake paintball facility. The public is always invited, whether to participate or just spectate. For more information contact Rick Boiles.
- Funtastic Fourth Festival is set for 1 p.m. to 11 p.m. in downtown Big Spring. Some activities will begin as early as 10 a.m. with gospel music.

MONDAY

- All city, county and federal offices are closed to observe July 4 holiday.

TUESDAY

- Intermediate Line Dance classes begin at 9 a.m. in the Spring City Senior Citizen's Center. Call 267-1628.
- Coahoma Senior Citizen luncheon is set for 11 a.m. in the Coahoma Community Center.
- Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- A Stitchin' Time Club meets at 3:30 p.m. at Primitive Baptist Church, 201 E. 24th St. Everyone is invited to learn and share sewing skills, and portable sewing machines are welcome. Call Kay Sikes at 394-4835 for more information.
- VFW Post 2013 meets at 7 p.m. in the VFW Hall, 500 Driver Road.
- Sheriff's Posse meets at 7 p.m. in the clubhouse on the Andrews Highway.
- Alzheimer's Association, the Greater West Texas Chapter meets at 2 p.m. in the Howard County Library conference room, 500 S. Main.
- Gospel Singing in the Kentwood Activity Center at 7 p.m. with special guest singers from Midland and Colorado City. Everyone is welcome.
- Concerned Citizens for Big Spring meets at 7 p.m. in the meeting room of the Howard County Library, 500 S. Main.
- Big Spring Chapter 67, Order of the Eastern Star meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Masonic Lodge, 219 Main St.

WEDNESDAY

- Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- Senior Circle meets at 10 a.m. in the Scenic Mountain Medical Center classroom for Stretch and Tone. Call 268-4721.
- Downtown Lions Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- Line dancing begins at 1 p.m. at the Spring City Senior Citizen's Center in the Industrial Park. Call 267-6966 or 267-1628.
- Duplicate Bridge Club meets at 1 p.m. in the Big Spring Country Club.
- Homeowner's Education workshop is set for 7 p.m. at the Crossroads Housing Training Center, 201 NE Seventh St. \$50 per family. Call 267-2208.
- Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie meets at 7 p.m. in the Eagles Lodge at 703 W. Third.

THURSDAY

- Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant.
- Coffee Club meets at 10 a.m. in Gale's Sweet Shoppe.
- Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane. Call 267-6479.
- Big Spring Downtown Revitalization Association workshop at 3:30 p.m. and again at 5 p.m. in the Hangar 25 Air Museum. Call Rhonda Campbell at 264-1999.
- Genealogy Society of Big Spring meets at 7 p.m. in the Howard County Library, 500 S. Main.
- Homeowner's Education workshop is set for 7 p.m. at the Crossroads Housing Training Center, 201 NE Seventh St. \$50 per family. Call 267-2208.
- Masonic Lodge 1340 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 2101 Lancaster.

FRIDAY

- AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant.
- Greater Big Spring Rotary meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- Spring City Senior Citizen's country and western dance from 7:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. All area seniors are invited.

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BY THE MONTH HOME DELIVERY: Evenings and Sunday, \$8.65 monthly; \$93.42 yearly (includes 10% discount for yearly).

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HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody
Brothers John John, 2, and Jay Jay Warren, 4, show off their patriotic spirit during the annual Highland Fourth of July parade Saturday.

WRECKS

Continued from Page 1A

to be much less severe, was taken to Scenic Mountain Medical Center by EMS transport.

A third passenger, the Scott's 14-year-old son, was treated on the scene and suffered only a few minor cuts and scrapes.

Parker said the accident occurred when the pickup Mr. Scott was driving veered off the road.

"The Dodge pickup was headed north on U.S. Highway 87," said Parker. "He swerved to the right and his right side wheels went off the roadway. He overcorrected to the left and came back across the road and got sideways, into a side skid. That caused the vehicle to roll into the center median."

Parker said the chance passing of an off-duty medic on the roadway helped get Mr. Scott stabilized and ready for the life-flight to San Angelo.

"I'm not sure where he's

from, but he started administering first aid and actually called for the helicopter when one of the deputies arrived," Parker said.

Less than an hour before the accident on U.S. Highway 87, DPS Trooper Weldon Jones was called to yet another rollover accident, this time on Interstate 20 approximately a mile east of Coahoma.

Jones said the accident occurred when the driver of a Ford pickup truck, Jose Antonio Segovia of El Paso, swerved into the median.

"He lost control of the vehicle," said Jones. "He came to a rest in the west bound lane. We're not sure how many times the vehicle rolled. The only injury was a small cut over the passenger's eye. It appears both the driver and the passenger were wearing their safety belts when the accident happened."

Jesus Olmos, the lone passenger in the vehicle with Segovia, said it

sounded as if a tire blew out when the accident happened.

Olmos went on to describe the accident and said he has no doubt that his safety belt saved his life, urging holiday motorists to buckle up as well.

"We were on the road headed east when it sounded like a tire popped," said Olmos. "It got out of control but he (Segovia) managed to control it a little bit when we got to the median, but it flipped over two or three times. We were both wearing our seat belts."

"Always wear your seat belt. That's what we learned today. I never really thought a seat belt would help me out or anything, but this time it did and I'm thankful. That's what saved our lives. I'm

sure of it."

Friday's accidents came less than 24 hours after a pair of similar rollovers took place on U.S. Highway 87 Thursday.

Eighty-year-old William Peace of Austin died when he was ejected from his Chevrolet Tahoe in a one-vehicle rollover in Glasscock County. The driver of the vehicle, Barbara Peace, 76, the victim's wife, was taken to Scenic Mountain Medical Center with non life-threatening injuries.

About an hour later Thursday, DPS troopers were called to the scene of another one-vehicle fatality accident on Highway 87 near Ackerly.

According to DPS Sgt. Jason Hester, the vehicle, driven by 82-year-old Alyne Powell of Sweetwater, was traveling north when it veered

FUNTASTIC

Continued from Page 1A

Allegiance by VFW Post 2013 Task Commander Leo Welch. Performances are also scheduled by the Disabled American Veterans, dancers from the Dance Gallery and a presentation by Mayor Russ McEwen.

"We want people to remember the reason for the holiday," said Johnson.

Events scheduled throughout the day include:

10 a.m. — Vendors are expected to begin setting up their booths and performances at the festival's gospel music stage will begin. Performances at the gospel stage will continue throughout the day and between performances during the Battle of the Bands.

1 p.m. — The festival will get into full swing with the beginning of the Battle of the Bands, which will feature three Tejano bands to get things started. The Farmer's Market is scheduled to open and the early car, motorcycle and low-rider show will get under way. The Howard County Sheriff's Posse will begin offering horseback rides, which will be available until 8 p.m.

3:30 p.m. — The country and western portion of the Battle of the Bands will begin.

6 p.m. — A patriotic show featuring the Disabled American Veterans and students from the Dance Gallery.

7 p.m. — The rock music portion of the Battle of the Bands will begin.

10 p.m. — An awards ceremony for the Battle of the Bands will be presented, followed by a laser light show.

Bands set to play in the Battle of the Bands include Super Bravo at 1 p.m.; X-Tremo at 2 p.m.; Eztrano at 3 p.m.; Texas Pipeline at 3:35 p.m.; Trey Austin Band at 4:35 p.m.; Seventh Addition at 5:05 p.m.; Crimson Soul at 7 p.m.; One Star Shy at 8 p.m.; and Sour Hand at 9 p.m.

This year's offering also includes a new award for the Battle of the Bands, according to DRA member Dana Baker.

"We're having a People's Choice Award for the Battle of the Bands," said Baker. "No one that competes is going to walk away empty handed. People will be able to vote for their favorite band at a special booth we'll have set up. Votes will be \$1 each, with a prize of \$1,000 to go to the people's choice winner. That way this year's big winner is chosen by the people."

"The judges are much more technical and much more involved in the battle."

"This award is about who the Big Spring people want, and they can just keep putting the money in. It will be a big part of our fund-raiser."

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

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267-8288

Berta Valencia Yanez, 53, of Big Spring died Wednesday. Funeral Mass was at 10:00 AM Saturday at St. Thomas Catholic Church with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Jeffery Scott Cox, 23, died Thursday, July 1, 2004. Funeral Services will be at 8:00 PM Saturday at Myers & Smith Chapel. The family will receive friends at Myers & Smith Funeral Home following the service.

off the right side of the road. She was pronounced dead at the scene by Howard County Justice of the Peace Bennie Green.

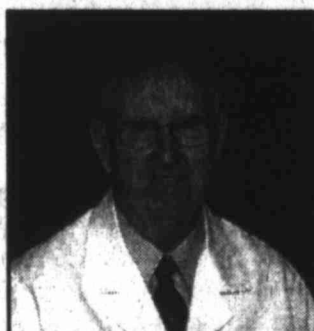
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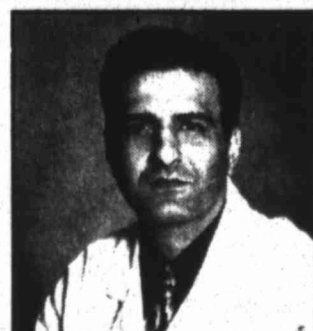


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EDITORIAL

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Susanne Reed
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Take a moment,
reflect on what
freedom means

A great many of us in Big Spring began celebrating the Fourth of July on Saturday in much the same way most Americans have for many years celebrated our nation's independence — picnics in the park or sampling the fare of concession vendors, live music, patriotic songs and fireworks.

That's the American way, after all.

But it behooves us all to take a moment to think about the events that had to take place to make this our Independence Day.

Some 225 years ago, our founding fathers gathered in Philadelphia to sign a document that became known as our nation's Declaration of Independence.

Men, women and children — persecuted in Europe and wanting more control over their respective lives — had come to the land we now know as the United States of America to start anew.

Their freedom was not easily obtained. It was paid for with the blood, sweat, tears and lives of many. That same freedom we enjoy today has had to be paid for on numerous occasions.

While there are those who would quickly complain of our nation's shortcomings, and we most assuredly have our share, we need to remember that even though our democratic system of government oftentimes reveals flaws, it is still the strongest and longest surviving of any in the world.

When revolt rocks other nations, our system continues to stand the test of time.

So, today when you fire up the grill for hamburgers and hot dogs, head to your favorite lake or simply turn on the TV to watch its fare for the holiday, take a moment to remember those who gave us our country and those who have since helped preserve and protect it.

In fact, it wouldn't hurt to offer a little prayer of thanks while we're at it.

Then go ahead and unfurl your flag. Display it proudly because it truly is a grand old flag and this is grand old nation is another year older.

God bless America.

How To CONTACT Us

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions. In order that we might better serve your needs, we offer several ways in which you may contact us:

- In person at 710 Scurry St.
- By telephone at 263-7331
- By fax at 264-7205
- By e-mail Managing Editor John 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

LETTER POLICIES

- The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.
- Limit your letters to no more than 300 words.
- Sign your letter.
- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
- Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

A SMALL PRAYER

By K. Rae Anderson

Instruct us and teach us the way we should go, Lord.

Amen

Salute all that makes America special

Happy birthday, America! Ye Olde Fourth of July rolls around again and finds the Great Nation

in, frankly, a somewhat pissy mood. Lots of blame game, name-slinging and general unpleasantness. But there's always an upside. The vice president reports that if you go ahead and let fly with the f-word, it makes you feel better.

Anything to get that fun Dick Cheney back to his usual sunny self, I always say.

True, we seem to have had more halcyon national natal days, but if we ignore I—q for the day, we should be able to celebrate our national heritage without punching each other in the eye.

So let's salute all that makes America special, starting with us, the people. Here's to all the musicians from country to hip-hop to rock to classical to jazz to folk to be-bop to *norteno* to polka to reggae, and to all the fusion forms thereof. Here's to all the artists who get no respect — the washboard players and lute strummers, harmonica blowers and banjo pickers. Here's to their endless generosity in playing special benefits for retired musicians who are ill and have no health insurance, all over America, every night. And here's to the great Ray Charles, bless his heart. May we all hear his version of "America the Beautiful" this holiday.

And here's to all the dancers who move to all that music, from the wildest Goth Watutsi to the competitive ballroom dancers and the tango enthusiasts and the two-steppers and line-dancers and Celtic folk round dancers and square dancers and those who never got the beyond the box-step. Here's to the African dancers and

tappers, and the experimental — modern crowd.

Here's to everyone trying to lose 10 pounds and all their lo-carb, hi-protein, all-fruit, cucumber-only, martini-drinkers' diets — may they all succeed. Here's to all their exercise machines and speed walking and gym workouts. Don't give up, we'll all be thin and gorgeous someday.

Here's to all the civic fandangles and to everyone who makes them happen — to moms who contribute brownies and dads who judge the goat contests, and the guys who set up the band seats. To all the Peanut Festivals, Turkey Trots, One-Armed Dove Hunts, Crayfish and Petroleum Days, Fat Stock Show and Rodeos, Blueberry, Strawberry and Artichoke Festivals, the Watermelon Thump, the Prairie Chicken Fling, Black-Eyed Pea Festival, the county fair, the school fair, the state fair, Puerto Rican Day, Gay Pride Day, St. Paddy's, Cinco de Mayo, Juneteenth and thousands more. Not to mention the Fourth of July parades.

Here's to all the good deeds we never hear about, to people who stop to help change flat tires, return wallets, take crying children to the lost and found and stay until their mommies come, to those who help old ladies across the street and especially to those who make waitresses laugh.

Here's to Tony Koriath, who used to stop to carry an old lady's garbage can up to her garage for her, and to his son John, who told the story at Tony's funeral. Here's to drivers who let others merge, the neighbors who baby-sit for pets and children and aging parents, here's to the gardeners who donate their excess zucchini and home-grown tomatoes to their neighbors, to people who bring food when someone dies, to all those who pitch in, lend a hand and say, "Let me help."

And here's to keeping America

weird. To Scott Peterson and Kobe Bryant for making cable television so busy, happy and productive. Here's to the tabloids, eternally discovering alien zombies from outer space (have they checked out the Veep lately?). Here's to all our grumps and scolds, constantly insisting that we're going to hell in a handbasket. Where would we be without an active core of selfless citizens constantly prepared to tell us we're dumb, fat and lazy, and it's all our fault? Concerning our national habit of polling ourselves to find how just how dumb we are, a new study shows 88.2 percent of all Texans believe Osama bin Laden has two first names, like Jerry Jeff or Billy Bob.

Here's to all our dreams and fantasies, to the frumpy women who dream of looking like the models in Vogue and Bazaar, to the fat guys who read the extreme sports magazines, to the dentists who ride Harleys to get in touch with their Inner Biker, to the would-be gunslingers taking part in fast-draw contests, the karaoke singers and amateur-night stand up comedians, to the sopranos who never made it to the Met but still star in the Methodist choir, to the frustrated explorers who take wilderness adventure vacations.

Our national scolds say we're something awful polarized these days, angry and snarling, don't like our fellow Americans. The fundamentalist Christians can't stand the so-called secularists, and vice versa. Oh, poop. Fellow citizens, we are, by and large, a splendid lot.

Did you hear what the Buddhist said to the hot dog vendor? "Make me one with everything."

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

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YOUR VIEWS

TO THE EDITOR:

George Washington once said, "It should be the highest ambition of every American to extend his views beyond himself, and to bear in mind that his conduct will not only affect himself, his country and his immediate posterity; but that its influence may be co-extensive with the world, and stamp political happiness or misery on ages yet unborn."

President Washington may have had the been talking of the world and how the United States is seen, but his words also apply to Big Spring. With the new attitude of our town and rising pride I am seeing, I believe Old George's thoughts are appropriate for Big Spring today.

Let us all work to make Big Spring a town to be proud of and a great place to be.

CHUCK BAGWELL
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

We want to publicly thank the city of Big Spring for providing the large item trash pick-up.

The men driving the trucks and loader were courteous and very thorough. They hauled away two huge dump truck loads from our street. What an improvement!

Also, we are very pleased with the sanitation truck driver that empties our dumpster. There is never any trash blowing out as he dumps it. His name is Luis and he is conscientious.

Services like these do a lot to improve our city.

EDWARD AND JEAN SLATE
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

To be named pioneer family of 2004 in Howard County is a special recognition give to the Boadle family.

On behalf of the Boadle family, I would like to thank the Old Settlers' Board, especially Quail Dobbs, Katie Cathey, the Heritage Museum's Nancy and Tammy, The Big Spring Herald and Thomas Jenkins, and the Rodeo Association and the many "behind the scenes" folks.

This was a special week for our family and we truly appreciate the honor bestowed. Thank you so much.

MADELINE BOADLE
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

I don't know if you can help me but I sure do hope so.

I was in the 2nd Armored Div. 66 Met Tank Battalion at Fort Hood in 1949. I had a friend on the base and he would take me to his home on weekend passes. The family name was Bell and they lived on a cotton farm not far from Big Spring.

The young man's name was Virgal Bell. I had their address, but over the year things get misplaced and now I can't find it anywhere.

I hope you can help me find this family. They were great people and always made me feel at home.

If anyone know how I can contact the Bells, please contact me at 410 Depot St., Scranton, Pa. 18509.

DONALD JONES
SCRANTON, PA

TO THE EDITOR:

Some years ago a black artist was an inmate in the prison across from the Senior Citizen's Center.

He was allowed to come over and give of his time and talent and to present the Senior Citizen's Center a gift of his work of art. He painted a very nice and colorful western scene on the back wall of our dining area.

Last week we noticed that the painting has been destroyed. It has

been covered up with a fresh coat of white paint.

It's a sad situation that someone has had something destroyed that wasn't theirs and it was not done by vandals.

NORMA PERKINS
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

On Oct. 1-2 Snyder is planning to honor its former band director during the years 1952-1968, Melvin Montgomery, with a band reunion. The planning committee need to enlist help with finding addresses for the hundreds of ex-band students.

If you have information about a former Snyder band student or need more information, contact me as soon as possible. Mail information to Mary Williams, 3412 N. Business Highway 84, Snyder 79545 or by e-mail to maryw@snyder-tex.com.

Thanks so much for your help.

MARY WILLIAMS
SNYDER

TO THE EDITOR:

We want to publicly thank the city of Big Spring for providing the large item trash pick-up.

The men driving the trucks and loader were courteous and very thorough. They hauled away two huge dump truck loads from our street. What an improvement!

Also, we are very pleased with the sanitation truck driver that empties our dumpster. There is never any trash blowing out as he dumps it. His name is Luis and he is conscientious.

Services like these do a lot to improve our city.

EDWARD AND JEAN SLATE
BIG SPRING

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Associated Pr

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Boy Scouts, looking at \$14 million debt, peddle some \$250 lemonade

By DEBBIE HUMMEL

Associated Press Writer

SALT LAKE CITY — A Boy Scout troop tried to put a dent in a potential \$14 million judgment Friday by selling lemonade — at \$250 a glass.

The federal and state governments earlier this week sued the Irving, Texas-based Boy Scouts of America to recover costs of the 2002 East Fork fire, allegedly started by Utah Scouts.

"C'mon, we need your help!" shouted one Scout to cars whizzing past during morning rush hour.

Troop 347 of Fruit Heights, a suburb north of Salt Lake City, was not involved in the campout two years ago that officials say precipitated the fire — a fact that the boys pointed out to potential donors — but they still wanted to help their fellow Scouts.

The 12- and 13-year-olds spent two hours hawking lemonade to build up a fund in case the Boys Scouts lose the lawsuit.

But \$14 million is a lot of lemonade, so prices were inflated a bit. A sip cost \$1, a small glass \$3 and for \$250, folks could get a large — about 16 ounces.

"If only one person in 40 in the entire state of Utah buys a large, it's over,"

said Scott Fisher, a morning radio disc jockey who helped organize the fund-raising event.

Salt Lake City attorney Paul Gotay handed the Scouts a \$10 bill for "just a little bit" of lemonade.

Gotay, a criminal defense attorney, said he heard about the stunt on the radio and wanted to come by to support the boys.

"What's more important? Teaching them what they did was wrong by showing them that there's no forgiveness for something they did unintentionally?" he asked. "That's not how the system should work."

They needed more donors like Gotay. After two hours, they had netted only \$66.43.

"It's just the beginning," Fisher said, calculating that with 210,000 similarly lucrative lemonade sales, the \$14 million would be raised.

The lawsuit filed Tuesday alleges that about 20 Boy Scouts ages 11 to 14 were left without adult supervision for a night outside an approved campground. Some of the boys built fires that were left to smolder and spread across more than 14,000 acres, the lawsuit says.

U.S. Attorney Paul Warner said the complaint seeks \$13.3 million

for the federal costs of fighting the fire and reclaiming charred land in the Uinta Mountains. The state is asking more than \$600,000 for its fire-fighting expenses.

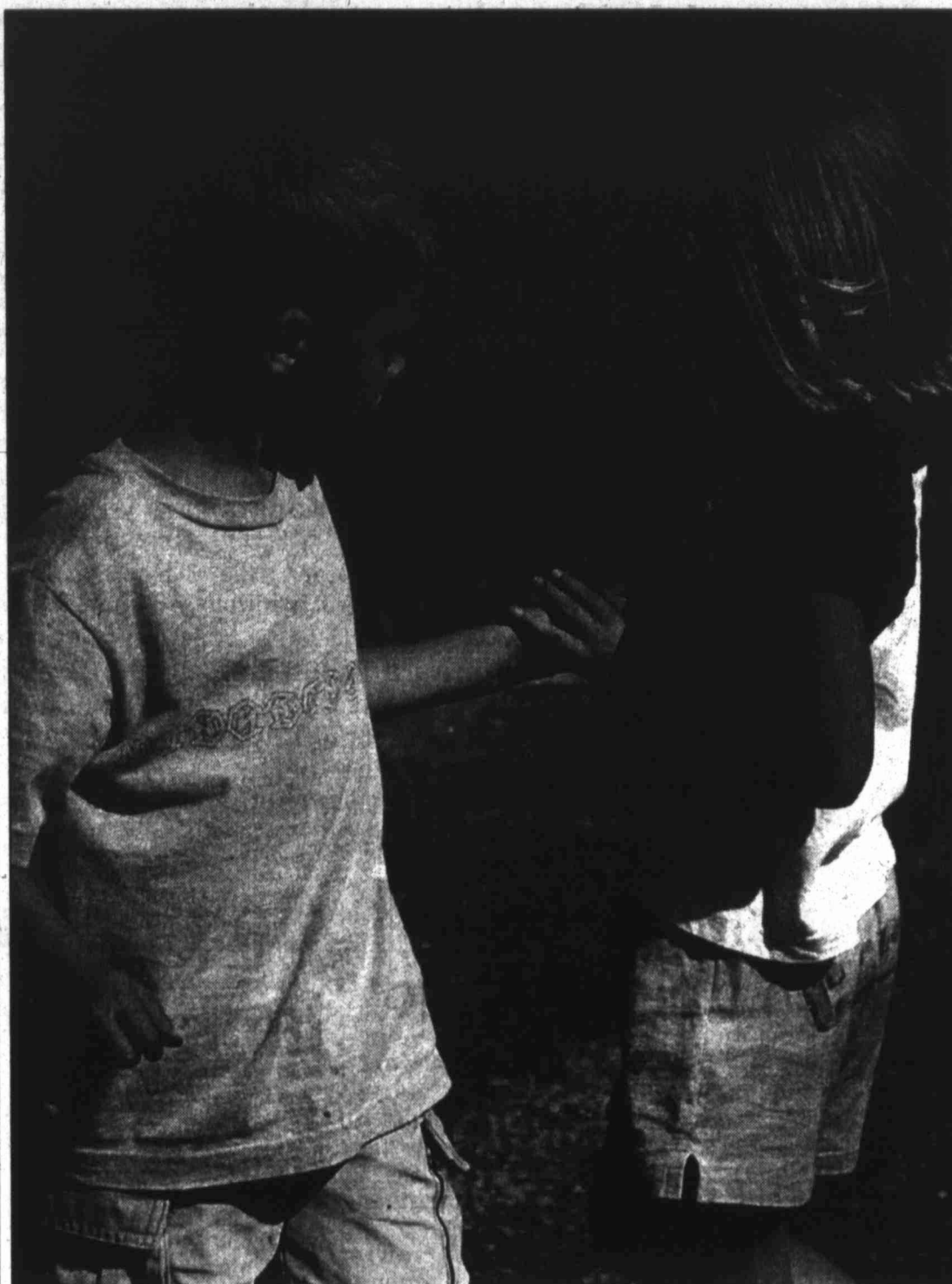
The Great Salt Lake Council has told state officials it has more than enough insurance to cover the costs, said Assistant Attorney General Mike Johnson.

The fire started June 28, 2002, inside or near the East Fork of the Bear River Boy Scout Camp, about 35 miles south of Evanston, Wyo. It blackened 14,200 acres of the Wasatch-Cache National Forest and caused an estimated \$150,000 in damage within the Scout camp to 12 camping sites, a rifle range, climbing towers, some latrines and several thousand feet of water lines.

Flames forced evacuation of the Scout camp, nearby campgrounds and summer homes, and prompted officials to close most of the north slope of the Uinta Mountains to the public.

The Boy Scouts have not admitted responsibility for the fire. Rob Wallace, a BSA attorney, said questions remain about how the fire started, and that it's possible people using all-terrain vehicles were to blame.

SHARING PARADE CANDY



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins

In tune with the holiday spirit, 6-year-old Hayden Abergg shares some of his candy with his sister, Sydney Abergg. Hayden and Sydney were among the dozens of children who lined North First Street in Coahoma Saturday morning for the annual Freedom Parade.

Big Spring native ordained to Order of Permanent Deacons

Fidel Hector Saldivar of Midland was ordained to the Order of Permanent Deacons for the Diocese of San Angelo on June 26, 2004, along with 27 other candidates.

Deacon Saldivar is a native of Big Spring, where he graduated from Big Spring High School in 1970.



SALDIVAR

He is currently a counselor at Lee Freshman High in Midland. Fidel is the son of Fidel and Lupe Saldivar of Big Spring. He resides in Midland with his wife,

Alicia, and two children and two grandchildren.

Deacon Saldivar will be serving at St. Stephen's Parish in Midland, where his focus will be on Hispanic Ministries.

He was honored by his family with a reception and celebration in Big Spring on July 3.

TITLE

Continued from Page 1A

compete in the evening gown competition. The swimsuit competition will be held Thursday and the talent contest on Friday.

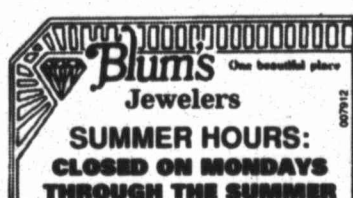
The week culminates on Saturday, July 10, with the live broadcast of the 10 finalists who will vie for the title of Miss Texas. The contest can be seen

locally on Channel 7.

Cards and letters of support can be sent to Miss San Angelo, Chelsea Schwartz, Holiday Inn South, 100 Alta Mesa Boulevard, Fort Worth 76134.

Contact Staff Writer Lyndel Moody at 263-7331,

ext. 234., or by e-mail at reporter@bigspringherald.com



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100-pound wonder shakes up the world of competitive eating

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — Sonya Thomas may look like she "couldn't eat a cup of cottage cheese," but she's a rock star in the world of competitive eating.

A wisp of a woman who weighs anywhere from 100 to 110 pounds depending on the contents of her stomach, she is ranked No. 2 in the world by the International Federation of Competitive Eating.

She is second only to Japan's Takeru Kobayashi, who for the last three years has won the annual Fourth of July hot-dog eating contest at Coney Island, the Super Bowl of competitive eating.

Thomas, 36, has won roughly \$30,000 in prize money since making her debut on the competitive-eating circuit just one year ago. She routinely outgorges men four times her size. She hopes to do the same Sunday at Coney Island, where the contest will be televised live on ESPN.

When she started beating the 300-pound and 400-pound men who had dominated previous events, "at first they were so surprised. They feel like they lose their pride. ... Now they know me."

Highly competitive, she did not like being underestimated and dubbed herself "The Black Widow," a kind of spider that gets its common name from the popular belief that the female devours the male after mating.

"In golf, in the other sports, the women have been trying to beat the men, but they haven't been able," she said. "I'm going to try to do it for the women. ... I really want to

bring the Mustard Yellow Belt (awarded to the winner of Sunday's contest) back to America."

The records Thomas holds are astounding. Eleven pounds of cheesecake in nine minutes. Nine pounds of crawfish jambalaya in 10 minutes. Eight pounds of turducken (chicken stuffed in a duck stuffed in a turkey) in 12 minutes. Forty-three soft tacos in 11 minutes. 167 chicken wings in 32 minutes.

"I really want to bring the Mustard Yellow Belt back to America."

Thomas, who came to the United States from South Korea in 1997, said she finally found the proper outlet for her hypercompetitive nature in competitive eating.

"Bowling, tennis, table tennis, I'm good at a lot of stuff," she said, but not good enough to dominate. "If I'm bowling and I get second or third place, I feel terrible. I want to do it, but my body doesn't go."

Her body, though, seems to place no limitations on her ability to eat. Thomas said her doctors examined her and found that her stomach is only slightly larger than normal. But her slight, skinny build may be one of her biggest advantages.

The prevalent theory in the competitive eating world is the "Belt of Fat" theory, which postulates that skinny people's stomachs can expand more easily because they

are not corseted by the ring of fat that burdens the heavy eaters.

George Shea, one of the founders of the IFOCE, said the league even had researchers who have been trying to get a scientific paper published on the topic.

In Thomas' case, her stomach expands to the point where she appears to be a little bit pregnant. Only rarely, though, does the massive eating make her sick.

The cheesecake was a problem, though. It went down so easily and smoothly that before she knew it, she had consumed 11 pounds.

"When you touched my stomach, it was so tight it almost hurts," she said, wincing at the memory.

Competitive eating has grown rapidly in recent years because of the clever marketing of Shea and his brother Richard, who parlayed their public relations efforts for the Nathan's Famous Hot Dog Eating Contest at Coney Island into a year-round cottage industry.

"She is very well received" at events across the country, George Shea said. "People expect to see a big Bluto character, and she is nothing like that. ... She is so small, it looks like she couldn't eat a cup of cottage cheese."

Ultimately, Thomas said she'd like to go to Japan and take on that country's notorious competitive eating circuit, where prize money is bigger and eating contests stretch on for up to an hour.

"Thirty minutes, one hour. That's too much," she said, crinkling her nose in disgust. "That's not healthy, don't you think?"

Iraqi prime minister drawing up amnesty plan for insurgents

By JIM KRANE

Associated Press Writer
BAGHDAD, Iraq — Prime Minister Iyad Allawi's new government is considering offering amnesty to Iraqi insurgents who fought the U.S.-led occupation, perhaps even pardoning those who killed Americans.

A spokesman for Allawi said fighting with U.S. troops was "justified" as resistance to occupation.

"If he (a guerrilla) was in opposition against the Americans, that will be justified because it was an occupation force," spokesman Georges Sada said of the rebels. "We will give them freedom."

Choking the brutal 14-month insurgency is the No. 1 priority of Allawi's government, and the prime minister is expected to make a number of security-related policy announcements in coming days.

Besides the amnesty plan, those include a new emergency law that sets curfews in Iraq's trouble spots and resurrects of Iraq's death penalty, Sada said.

The amnesty plan is still in the works, and a full pardon for insurgents who killed Americans is not a certainty, Sada said. The main thrust is to "start everything from new" by giving a second chance to rebel fighters who

hand in their weapons and swear off the insurgency.

"There is still heavy discussion about this," said Sada, interviewed in the prime minister's office. He said the U.S. Embassy has encouraged Allawi to try creative solutions to end the insurgency as long as they don't infringe on human rights.

There is wide acknowledgment that U.S. occupation chief L. Paul Bremer's disbanding of Iraq's army and security services was a mistake, and forced people into fighting the occupation for money and revenge, Sada said.

"Some people were cheated, some were misled. Some did this because they had no salaries, no food, no bread," Sada said.

There appears to be little controversy about pardoning rebels who were not actual killers of U.S. or Iraqi security forces.

Sada said it was "no problem" to amnesty rebel financiers and those storing heavy weapons in their homes.

The offer appears to be intended to drive a wedge between nationalist Iraqis who fought the U.S.-led occupation and their growing alliance with Islamic fighters who want to drive Westerners and their influence out of Iraq.

Weekend Family promotes peace, partying

MODOC NATIONAL FOREST, Calif. (AP) — Lucky Sunshine Day says he arrived at this year's Rainbow Family Gathering "a moon cycle ago," measuring time as he has for much of the 20 years of his life.

As a child, he traveled to the Gatherings aboard a Rainbow bus with his parents, Flower and Two Rock — most participants give only their Rainbow names. This year, he hitched a ride to the event deep in the woods of northeastern California.

"It's about love, it's about community, it's about family," he said. "We're here to restore the Earth to its natural state."

This year's annual peace gathering got off to a bad start when one participant was jailed for allegedly beating another nearly to death with a shovel for driving too fast through a campground.

But that was an aberration for an event where violations generally involve recreational drugs, occasional nudity or an unleashed dog, said participants and law enforcement officials, who have had 30 years of uneasy relations around the country.

On Sunday, the high point of the July 1-7 conclave, more than 10,000 self-described hippies from at least 40 states and eight nations planned to

hold hands in a circle, silently praying for world peace from dawn until noon.

This year's Gathering is being held in an area of hills and meadows in the Modoc National Forest, 26 miles over rough gravel roads from the tiny town of Likely.

Some of the "road dogs" — Rainbows who travel constantly between events with no permanent home or job — had been in the area for weeks, helping set up the camp, and will spend weeks more cleaning up.

Others, the "weekend hippies," were likely to arrive in Audis, Volvos or sport utility vehicles after pulling out tie-dyed T-shirts and Grateful Dead stickers for the occasion.

"You find a vast segment of society here, from lawyers to people who are living on the street trying to get along," said Happy, 46.

"Everybody with a bellybutton is a Rainbow. Some people just don't know it yet," said

Sarieah, cradling her 2 1/2-year-old daughter, Zakiaya, on her hip.

For some, the event is a religious experience.

"While other people are shooting off fireworks, we're praying for world peace," said Faith, a 29-year-old midwife from Texas. "My hair is standing on edge just thinking about it."

For others, it's a party in the woods.

Marijuana is everywhere but alcohol is discouraged. The reason is that 10,000 drunken hippies are a riot waiting to happen, while 10,000 stoned hippies are merely mellow, explained Glowing Feather, a Rainbow since the first event in 1972.

Though donations are accepted, the food is free, served communally at kitchens that have specialties: organic food, vegetarian, vegan, Hare Krishna, coffee, even a bakery — the only place where drumming was discouraged because the cakes might fall.

Drums fill the woods with a hypnotic tribal beat when the full moon is up. Rainbows consider themselves a tribe, or a gathering of tribes.



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They've got plenty of vroom to spare

Some of the cars whip around the track at speeds approaching 50 mph. To scale, the speed is faster than 500 mph.

By DANIEL P. FINNEY
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

ST. LOUIS — The crash is horrendous.

It's the kind of disastrous spill that ESPN would play over and over from 247 angles in super slow-motion.

The car is red. It slams into a guardrail on the Phourlorn Motor Speedway. It smashes into an orange jumpsuited track worker carrying a yellow flag, throwing the poor creature's body into the middle track as two other cars whiz by, smacking him around.

Those cars lose their way, too, and spin wildly out of their lanes.

A handful of men shout, "CRASH!" And all the racers mercifully stop as hands move in to clear the devastation.

"Good crash," says a grinning Carl Schorle. "What a traffic jam."

Now, before you condemn Schorle as a heartless ghoul, you should probably know that he owns the Phourlorn Motor Speedway. He built it himself in the basement of his Oakville home in south St. Louis County, Mo.

The race cars are 1/32nd scale model slot cars that zip around an electric track. The worker who was terribly beat up is merely a miniature figurine standing on the side of the model track for set dressing.

The figurine is witness to this weekly carnage along with several small astronauts — one of whom is seen using a scale model outhouse behind the grandstand — and the Batmobile, which is parked on the infield for repairs.

The 14 people gathered in Schorle's basement are members of the Gateway Slotcar Racing Association, which is 25 strong. The members, all men, range in age from teenagers to AARP card carriers. They gather each Wednesday at a series of homemade and manufactured tracks around the St. Louis area to play with toys.

"Hey Carl," says Dan Schmidt, a racer from St. Charles, Mo., "we can't get the little orange guy to stand up."

"He's probably been drinking," Schorle says.

The group lets out a series of chuckles and belly laughs.

"Yeah, that's what we grown men do on Wednesday nights," Schorle says. "We worry about whether the figurines will stand up. Ain't that silly?"

The hobby is part model trains, part electronics tinkering and part speed junkie. The racers spend as much time assembling their tracks and backgrounds as they do their cars. And wiring one of the tracks is no small feat, not unlike getting one of those 1962 Crystal Radio Kits to pick up an AM signal.

Slot cars are toy racers that gained popularity during the early- to mid-1960s. Of varying shapes and sizes, the cars are modeled after actual race cars and run on electrified tracks. A braided piece of copper wire wound through a plastic tongue fits into a slot on the track — hence the name "slot car."

The cars are steered with hand-held controllers plugged into the track. The driver accelerates, changes gears, and breaks using a thumb control or trigger, depending on the type of controller he built or bought.

The members of the club are all fans of racing of one kind or another, NASCAR, Indy Car, Formula One and World Rally. Alas, none of them can afford the hundreds of millions of dollars it takes to own a real race car.

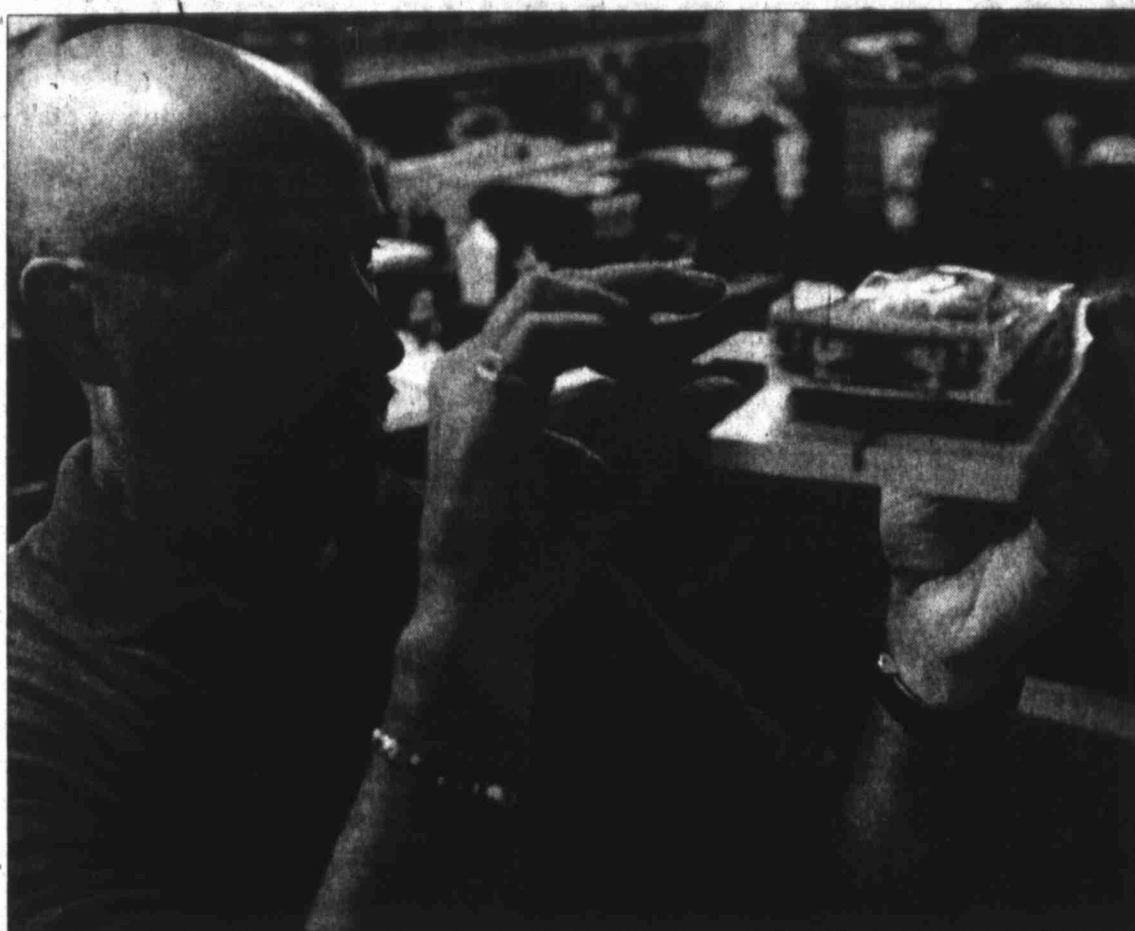
Members can, however, spend \$25 to \$35 on kits, paint and decals, which they apply to a slot car. The controllers can range in price from \$50 to more than \$200. Homemade controllers are cheaper.

Building a track, though, is for the real hard-core guys. Schorle spent nearly a year designing and building the main track in his basement. The materials set him back more than \$700. He spent another \$60 for software for an old computer, which times and counts laps and manages records.

But that's the technical stuff. These guys are about the speed. Some of the cars whip around the track at speeds approaching 50 mph. To scale, the speed is faster than 500 mph.

"Yeah, they're pretty quick," says Ken Risley of Ballwin, Mo., who races with his son Scott. "Part of the hobby is making them go a little quicker."

One thing about slot car racing: It's a very quiet sport. The cars' engines sound like wind whistling



Carl Schorle inspects the cars, making sure they meet the regulations rules before racing at The Phourlorn Motor Speedway, a mock style Indy 500 style raceway built by Schorle in the basement of his Oakville, Mo., home. The cars race in their lanes for two minutes, and the car that travels the greatest distance wins.

through a country farmhouse screen door on a stormy midsummer day. The bodies scrape the painted plywood track surface making occasional squeaks and scraps like a mouse skittering across a kitchen floor. And the drivers? They're deadly serious. Each driver has his own

technique. Dennis Vogeler of Granite City, Ill., for example, stands rigidly still with his controller held at his belt line. His head follows the movement of his car around the track like an owl stalking his prey through a cornfield.

Schorle could develop a dance move based on his machinations during the race. He sways and jives as his car makes each turn. He leans forward as if he's actually behind the wheel of the rig.

"Sometimes it gets a little intense in here," Schmidt says. "It really depends on who wrecks and what kind of havoc it creates."

Later that evening, the tail of Scott Risley's car spins wildly to the left and knocks his father Ken's car out of its slot into the wall.

"Sorry about that, Dad," Scott Risley says, and it is very hard to tell if the young man means it.

"Oh, I'll bet you are," his dad says. "That's OK son, you just wait until you're on the lane outside of me, and you'll get yours."



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Film legend Marlon Brando dies at age 80; unforgettable in 'Godfather,' 'On the Waterfront'

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The words are pretty simple: "Stella!" and "I coulda been a contender ..." or even "The horror ... the horror ..."

But these lines, when spoken by Marlon Brando, revolutionized the way actors behaved onscreen and ignited a generation of performers to unleash their inner passion before the cameras.

Brando, who died at age 80 on Thursday, revolutionized Hollywood's image of a leading man playing street-tough, emotionally raw characters in "A Streetcar Named Desire" and "On the Waterfront" and then revived his career a generation later as the definitive Mafia don in "The Godfather."

"I was shocked and deeply saddened at the loss of the greatest acting genius of our time. What will we do without Marlon in this world?" said his "Godfather" co-star Al Pacino, one of the generation of stars influenced by his work.

Al Martino, who got shaken around by Brando as the singer Johnny Fontane in "The Godfather," said the actor was more than kind to him, especially since Martino lacked acting experience. But that didn't mean he went easy on the crooner.

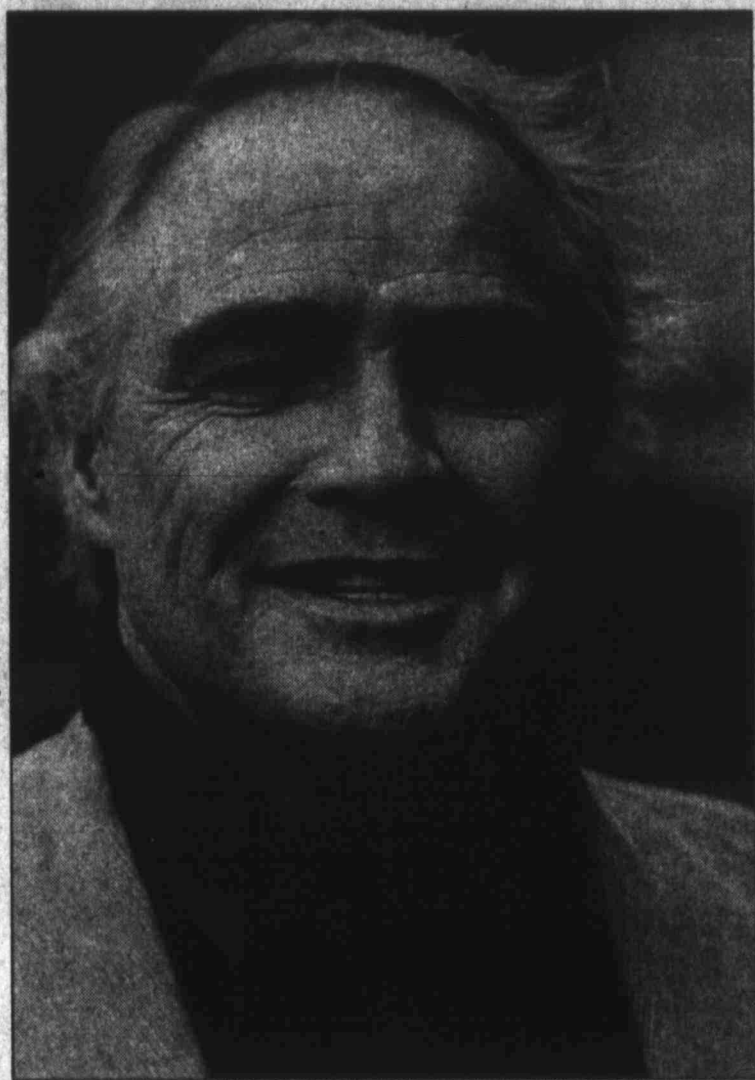
"The Method actor in Brando almost brought me to my knees. He slaps me and I tell you, my teeth shattered," Martino said.

Brando was the bridge between the heroic and upstanding screen purity of earlier stars such as Cary Grant, Gary Cooper and Henry Fonda and a generation of conflicted anti-heroes played by the likes of Robert De Niro, Jack Nicholson and Dustin Hoffman.

"He influenced more young actors of my generation than any actor," longtime friend and "Godfather" co-star James Caan said Friday. "Anyone who denies this never understood what it was all about."

The reclusive Brando died of lung failure at 6:30 p.m. Thursday at UCLA Medical Center, according to hospital spokeswoman Roxanne Moster.

"Marlon would hate the idea of people chiming in to give their comments about his death. All I'll say is that it makes me



Photo/Steve Wood/Express Syndication
Marlon Brando, who starred as Don Vito Corleone in "The Godfather," died at the age of 80 in Los Angeles Friday.

sad he's gone," "The Godfather" director Francis Ford Coppola said Friday.

Brando's attorney, David J. Seeley, said funeral arrangements would be private.

For generations of movie lovers, Brando was unforgettable — the embodiment of brutish Stanley Kowalski in 1951's "A Streetcar Named Desire," famously bellowing "STELLA!" at his estranged love with a mix of anguish and desire.

Then came his mixed-up, washed-up boxer Terry Malloy of 1954's "On the Waterfront," who laments throwing fights for his gangster brother with the line, "I coulda been a contender ... I coulda been somebody."

The key to Brando's craft was Method acting, a practice he learned by studying both with renowned teacher Stella Adler and at the Actors Studio in New York. The technique eschewed grandiose theatricality in favor of a deeper psychological approach, often through near-continuous rehearsal that led many actors to behave like their characters even when off-stage.

Brando's personally combative nature only increased as he grew older. It might best be

defined by his line from 1953's "The Wild One," in which Brando, playing a motorcycle gang leader, was asked what he's rebelling against.

"Whaddya got?" was his character's reply.

While his early roles were marked by an overt, almost predatory sexuality that made him a rebellious film icon, Brando let his good looks fade as he gained weight and became increasingly reclusive in later years.

He was pushy, difficult, temperamental and demanding and his preference for repeated takes came to be regarded as excessive and costly.

Even though the studios had written off the star in the early 1970s, he went on to create the iconic character of Don Vito Corleone in "The Godfather," which reinvigorated his career and earned him his second best-actor Oscar.

His first came years earlier for 1954's "On the Waterfront," and Brando showed up in a tuxedo and graciously accepted it.

But his stunt at the 1973 Oscar ceremony cemented his status as one of the movie industry's most bizarre talents. Brando sent a woman who identified herself as Sasheen Littlefeather to reject his "Godfather" trophy on his

behalf and read a diatribe about Hollywood's poor treatment of American Indians.

It was roundly booed and torpedoed much of the comeback good will his performance had earned among studio honchos.

Regardless of his personal peculiarities, nothing could diminish Brando's reputation as an actor of startling power and invention.

Brando's private life was tumultuous. His three wives were all pregnant when they married him.

He fathered at least nine children.

His family life turned tragic with his son's conviction for killing the boyfriend of his half-sister, Cheyenne Brando, in 1990. Five years later, Cheyenne committed suicide, never having gotten over her depression and the killing.

The native of Omaha, Neb., moved around the country throughout his youth. He was constantly being reprimanded for misbehavior at school, and had a talent for play-acting, both in elaborate pranks and in plays and recitations.

He took up the study of acting at 19 and appeared in numerous stage shows. His first film was director Stanley Kramer's "The Men" in 1950. To research the story of paraplegic war veterans, he spent a month in a veterans hospital.

His impact on screen acting was demonstrated

by Academy Award nominations as best actor in four successive years: as Kowalski in "A Streetcar Named Desire" (1951); as the Mexican revolutionary in "Viva Zapata!" (1952); as Marc Anthony in "Julius Caesar" (1953); and as Terry Malloy in "On the Waterfront" (1954). Besides his win for "The Godfather," he also had Oscar nominations for "Sayonara" (1957), "Last Tango in Paris" (1973) and "A Dry White Season" (1989).

Although he remained a leading star, Brando's career waned in the 1960s with a series of failures. Then came 1972's "The Godfather," which became an overwhelming critical and commercial success.

Brando's jowly, raspy-voiced Corleone became a film icon, down to the subtlest mannerisms: the

Mafia chief stroking a cat sweetly as he plotted violence, the contemplative brush of fingers against his bulldog jaw.

He maintained a working relationship with Coppola, who chose him for another memorable role, the insane Col. Kurtz in 1979's "Apocalypse Now," who uttered the line "The horror ... the horror."

Most of his later films were undistinguished. A hundred pounds heavier, he hired himself out at huge salaries for such commercial enterprises as "Superman" and "Christopher Columbus: The Discovery."

But the ceaseless spotlight never made him conform.

"I am myself," he once declared, "and if I have to hit my head against a brick wall to remain true to myself, I will do it."



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SANCTUARY

Continued from Page 10A

Ragan's friend Marilyn Magill, a Miami flight attendant, shoots photos for the newsletter and spends a weekend each month in one of the guest cabins, which have such intoxicatingly charming views of apes and Old Florida that if grouchy old Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings were typing away out here on the screened patio, she might be inspired to take a

slightly different approach with The Yearling.

"We know where a lot of these animals would be if it weren't for Patti," Magill says. "We want these guys to have a good life. We get to hang out with our friends, human and nonhuman."

The youngest nonhuman is 4-year-old Knuckles. Bred as an entertainment chimp, he has cerebral palsy, and on this morning another volunteer, occupational therapist Debbie Boldt — "What are you doing with

this old hand? Open it up. Yea!!!" — has him belly down on an exercise ball, unhappily stretching his weak left arm.

"When he first came here, he was terrified even of a three- or four-inch step. He'd start to cry," Ragan says. "We know he's never going to be normal. We just want to make sure he can get to the point where he can be with the other chimps."

A similar optimism cushions the center's eldest resident. Raised from infancy as the

chimp "daughter" of a Jacksonville, Fla., couple, 35-year-old Denyse arrived last Thanksgiving when the widowed husband could no longer care for her. She and Roger slowly are getting acquainted, and she may yet learn to live among what must be to her a strange new species, her own.

More stories: Thirty-one-year-old Toddy was caught in Africa and spent several years as a pet. "But as happens, when she got too big, they sold her,"

Ragan says, "and she went to several places, mostly private people who tried to keep her and couldn't." She ended up at a breeding compound. Chimps Butch, 32, and Chipper, 30, also wild-caught, worked in a circus, but when their trainer died, they were sent to a biomedical lab. After animal-welfare groups lobbied to have them retired, they ended up in a series of roadside zoos, confined to such small cages that when they arrived here, Butch could not walk, and Chipper

huddled in a fetal position or sat rocking, rocking.

Captive great apes can live for more than 60 years, and Ragan says she turns down more than she can take, "because we can't jeopardize the future of the animals that are here by getting too many." It costs more than \$10,000 a year just to keep each of these creatures fed, healthy and socialized. The center is supported by memberships and private donations and grants, and there is room for expansion as funds allow. Five more apes are expected this summer.

"We just take it step by step," Ragan says. "We're not building a Cadillac of sanctuaries here. We're building what we feel is required for the animals we have."

Pongo, the orangutan that started everything, turns 14 in August and is too big and strong for the hugs he and Ragan once shared.

"He didn't realize it until he was 9. I saw it in his eyes. Nothing aggressive happened, nothing bad, but he just knew that if he didn't want to let me go, he could just hold my hand. ..." Ragan is holding Knuckles' hand as she says this, and one day she will have to let it go, too.

"I think being in the right place at the right time is just happenstance, really," she says.

"When I ran my business, I wore expensive suits and had my hair done, had my nails done all the time, and now I'm in jeans, drive a 10-year-old Chevy truck, haven't had a manicure in years, and I've never been happier."



Pongo, left, and Chris, orangutans, rest in the elevated chute that runs around the preserve they call home. Both apes are residents at Patti Ragan's Center for Great Apes.

Photo/Marcie Cohn Band/Miami Herald

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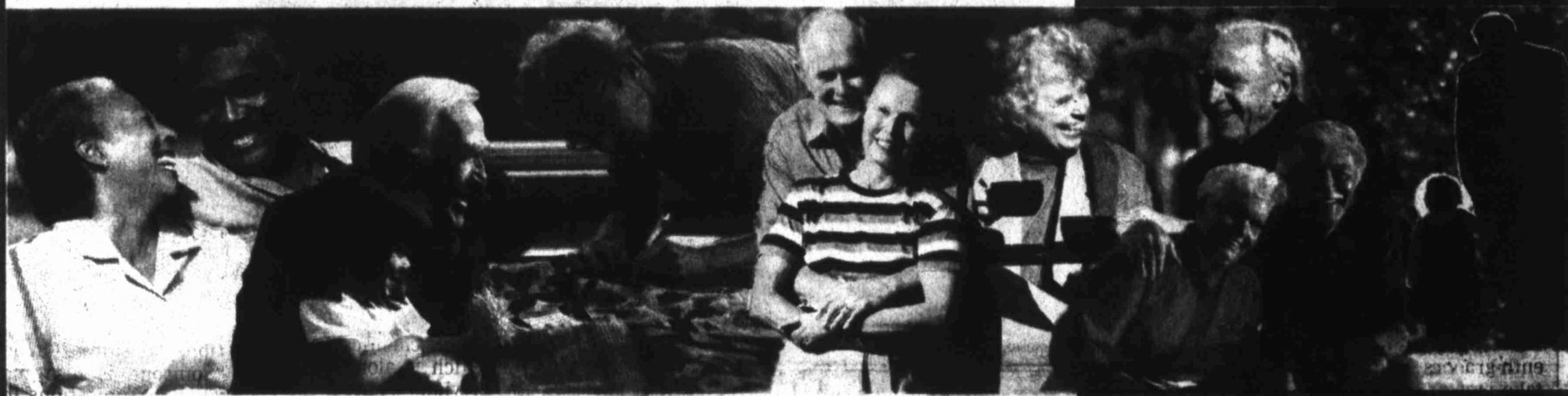


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IN BRIEF

Crossroads football sign-up dates set

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

Both football and cheerleading sign-ups will take place at the Big Spring Mall June 18 through July 17 on Fridays (5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.) and Saturdays (9 a.m. to 6 p.m.) only.

The league is for kindergarten through sixth grade.

The flag football league costs \$30, while football division 1 and 2 and cheerleading costs \$55 and \$65, respectively.

For more information, call Stacie or Robert at 432-268-8634.

BSISD announces volleyball events

Big Spring will hold a volleyball open gym on all Mondays and Thursdays for the summer from 6-8 p.m. at the junior high. All players in grades seven through 12 are invited to participate.

There will also be lifting and conditioning both Mondays and Thursdays after open gym from 8-9 p.m. The makeup days are every Wednesday from 8:30-9:30 p.m.

Two skills camps for incoming eighth- and ninth-graders and seventh-graders will also take place from 8 a.m. to noon in June and July at the junior high.

The first camp will take place June 28-July 2. Eighth- and ninth-graders will go from 8 a.m. to noon for \$75 and seventh-graders will go from 1-5 p.m. for \$50. The second camp is July 12 through July 16.

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

Steer football golf tournament set

The Big Spring Steer Football Booster Club has scheduled its third annual golf tournament for July 17 at the Big Spring Country Club.

The tournament will be a four-man scramble and begin its shotgun start at 8 a.m.

There is a \$75 entry fee, which includes a cart.

And, prizes will be paid for first through fourth place.

Big Spring native Bubba Franks will make a special guest appearance.

Franks is a three-time NFL pro bowler, former-college all-American with the University of Miami and current tight end for the Green Bay Packers.

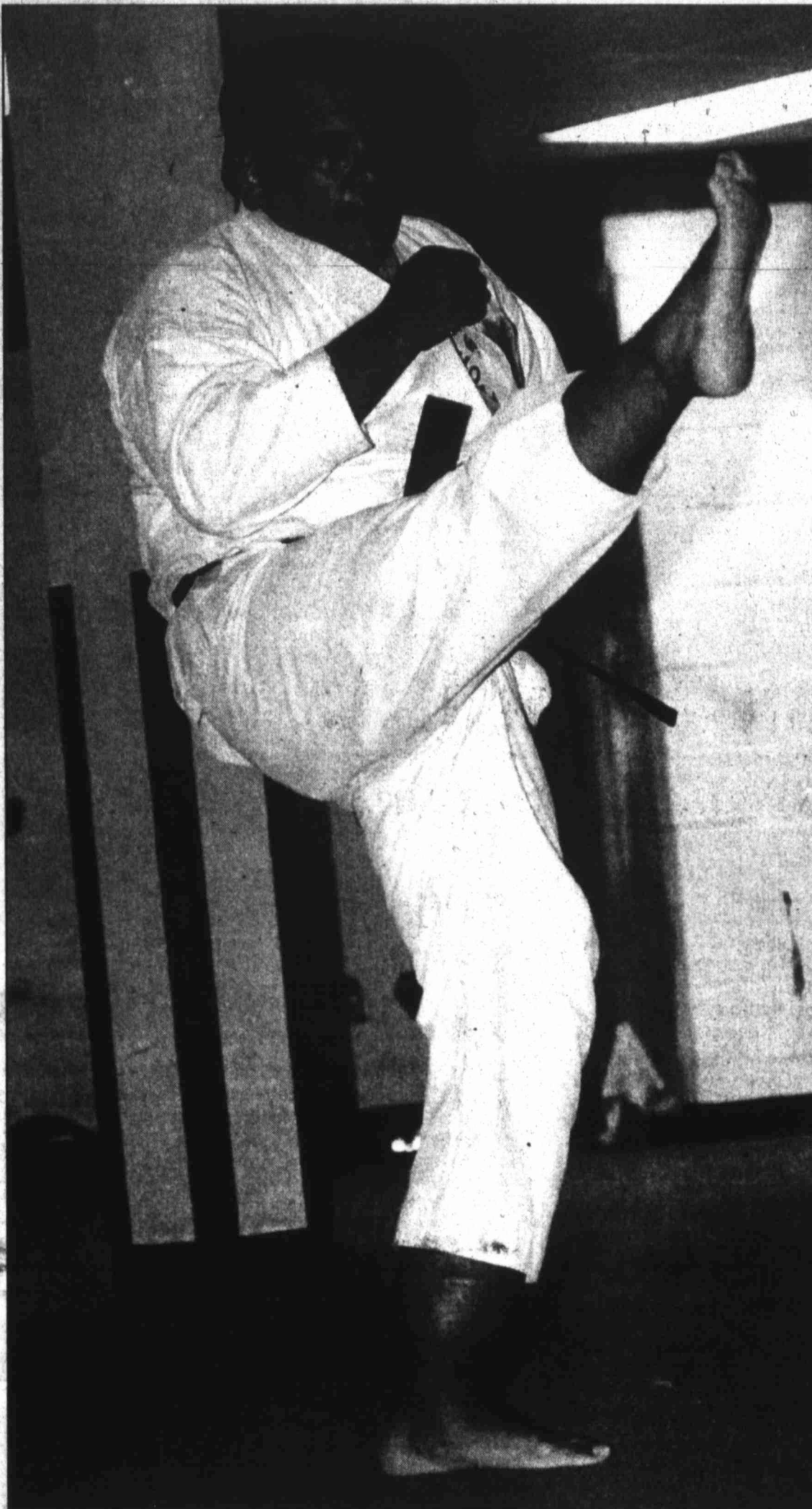
For more info., contact Randy Phillips at 432-264-6600 or Steve Jeter at 432-263-3670.

ON THE AIR

Sports Broadcast Schedule

Station	Time	Station	Time
Big Spring	7:00 p.m.	Big Spring	7:00 p.m.
Big Spring	7:00 p.m.	Big Spring	7:00 p.m.
Big Spring	7:00 p.m.	Big Spring	7:00 p.m.
Big Spring	7:00 p.m.	Big Spring	7:00 p.m.

YMCA Program Director teaches art of Isshinryu



YMCA Program Director Barry Barnett performs an exercise to his students during his Isshinryu Karate class at the YMCA Thursday night. The class takes place at 6:45 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday night. Barnett is a fifth-degree Isshinryu black belt.

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

It took Barry Barnett 27 years to find a job he actually liked.

What is his job you ask? He is the Program Director at the YMCA.

"I have had many jobs, but this one is the only one I have actually enjoyed," said Barnett.

Barnett's job as the YMCA's Program Director includes many duties. He runs the aquatics and youth and adult sports programs and also teaches a martial arts class called Isshinryu Karate every Tuesday and Thursday night to a class of approximately six students.

Barnett got the Program Director job by chance. He began working out at the YMCA a few years ago and found out about the job from the previous director, who was a student in Barnett's Isshinryu class. Barnett applied for the position and the rest, as they say, is history.

"It has worked out well for everybody, I think," said Barnett. "I am a people person. I wanted a real change from what I was doing before and this job satisfied that."

"It allows me to do things that I actually like doing."

Before coming to the YMCA, Barnett worked for Texaco for about 20 years. He worked in the gas plants and ran the analytical labs.

"Working in the labs gave me the experience in water chemical testing, which is along the lines of what I do here with the pools."

Barnett was also Director of the Harley Owners Group for nine years and is currently the Muscular Dystrophy Association telethon coordinator and has been for the past seven years.

Barnett has been studying martial arts for 24 years now and is 18 years into his study of

Isshinryu itself. He was taught Isshinryu by A.J. Advincula, who was a direct student of the man that founded the art. Advincula currently lives in San Diego and is the highest ranking American in the art of Isshinryu.

Barnett is a fifth degree Isshinryu black belt and a fourth degree in Escrima, which is also a martial arts style often studied in the twice weekly class.

"The classes teach fitness, yeah," said Barnett, "but more importantly than that, self confidence. And the style is a thing of body mechanics."

This martial arts style is simple and you don't have to be the world's strongest man to learn it.

"If I can't teach an 11-year-old kid something in the class, then I just don't teach it," said Barnett. "The style is very simple."

Barnett teaches a little bit of the Escrima style in his class, as well. The difference between Escrima and Isshinryu is that with Escrima you are taught to fight with and defend against a 26-inch rattan stick and Isshinryu just deals with the hands and feet.

The class has a core of six students on a regular basis, but Barnett has taught classes which range up to 20 students, which is the highest amount of students he will teach in one class.

"I prefer smaller groups because I like to give good individual instructions," said Barnett. "Someone is also more apt to ask questions in a smaller group, as well. And it is through questioning that much is learned."

The class takes place from 6:45 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays and is open to anyone above the age of 11. It costs \$15 a month for YMCA members and \$25 a

See ISSHINRYU, Page 4B

YMCA hires "Best" coach for gymnastics squad

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

The YMCA has hired a new gymnastics coach and, frankly, her name says it all. The best candidate for the job was Desiree Best, who accepted the position one month ago after applying two previous times and getting no luck.

"I put my resume in here three times before I actually got the job," said Best. "It took a lot of persistence on my part."

Best has been involved with gymnastics since she was three years old.

"I remember telling my dad to watch me when I was three as I did a flip off the couch," said Best. "And I have been doing it every since."

Best has been coaching gymnastics for 12 years. She began in junior high and continued to coach in high school.

She moved to Big Spring almost four years ago. Before coming to the YMCA, she was a waitress at Cowboys Restaurant for two years before taking a job at Midland Gymnastics Center.

Best worked in Midland for 11 months and has now been with the YMCA since June 7.

"I took the job because I like kids and working

with them," said Best. "The students are great and they have great personalities."

Best's team consists of six students. Julianna Rodriguez and Karina Alvarado are both level four gymnasts, while Abigail Fierro and Vanessa Alvarado are in level five.

Best also has a level six gymnast in Jodi Jones and a level seven gymnast in Caitlyn Jones.

The team's first competition will be sometime in September, said Best.

Kids may start gymnastics when they are in preschool, but they can't start competing until they reach the age of six or seven. They must also be a level four gymnast.

Best has also led a variety of classes, including cheer and stunt classes in Clear Lake.

She graduated from Alvin High School near Galveston. While at Alvin, Best was a four-time state qualifier and the team captain.

"Desiree appears to be very enthusiastic and a capable young lady," said YMCA Executive Director Pete Thiry. "We look forward to having her lead our program to new heights in both our instructional and competitive gymnastic programs."



YMCA gymnastics Coach Desiree Best assists Karina Alvarado during a tumbling exercise at the YMCA gymnastics room Thursday evening. Best has been the coach for just over a month now. Alvarado is one of Best's six students.

YMCA classes to form quickly

Special to the HERALD

Registration for gymnastics classes, swim lessons and martial arts classes is now taking place at the YMCA.

Gymnastic classes meet in two week sessions, four days per week. They include Kidnastics for preschoolers age five and younger, gymnastics and tumbling for boys and girls age six and older. The classes begin July 12.

Swim lessons meet in monthly sessions two days per week. The lessons include beginner classes for preschoolers and beginning and intermediate classes for school age children six and older. The classes take place at 6 p.m. and begin July 6.

The YMCA offers two forms of martial arts, as well. Tae Kwon Do classes meet Saturday mornings, while Isshinryu Karate classes meet Tuesday and Thursday evenings. These classes begin July 6, as well.

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

JULY 03 2004

South sneaks by North at all-Americas all-star game

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor

Trailing for much of the game, the South all-star team dug down deep in the fourth quarter and found a way to pull out a win against the North all-stars at the annual All-Americas girls basketball game, which was held in Garden City Friday night. The South team won the game, 63-62.

Both teams started off very slow in the game and neither team recorded any points until Garden City standout Jessica Hoch scored a layup two and a half minutes into the game.

While the South continued to struggle from the

floor, the North team rolled off seven straight points. Amanda Henson, also from Garden City, ended the North's mini run after going one-for-two from the foul line.

After 10 minutes of play, the North all-stars led a very low scoring game, 9-8. And from that point on, it was a back-and-forth affair.

Grady's Whitney Opeppard put the South up 10-9 at the start of the second quarter, but the North answered right back on the next possession with a long three-pointer.

The North carried its lead into the locker room. They led 32-29 over the

South after hitting a three-point shot as time expired. The North all-stars also led after three quarters, 45-43.

The fourth quarter went back-and-forth on every possession, as well.

Cully Jo Dawson, who took home MVP honors, tied the score with three and a half minutes to play after making the basket, getting fouled and hitting the clutch free throw. Dawson then gave the South its first lead of the game with an offensive put back with 1:39 to play.

However, the North all-stars answered with a three and took back the lead.

The South all-stars could have sealed the game late in the fourth quarter but free throws hurt its cause.

Whitney Opeppard of Grady finished with a game-high 16 points, but missed four free throws in the fourth quarter, including two with 1:06 to play that could have given the South the lead.

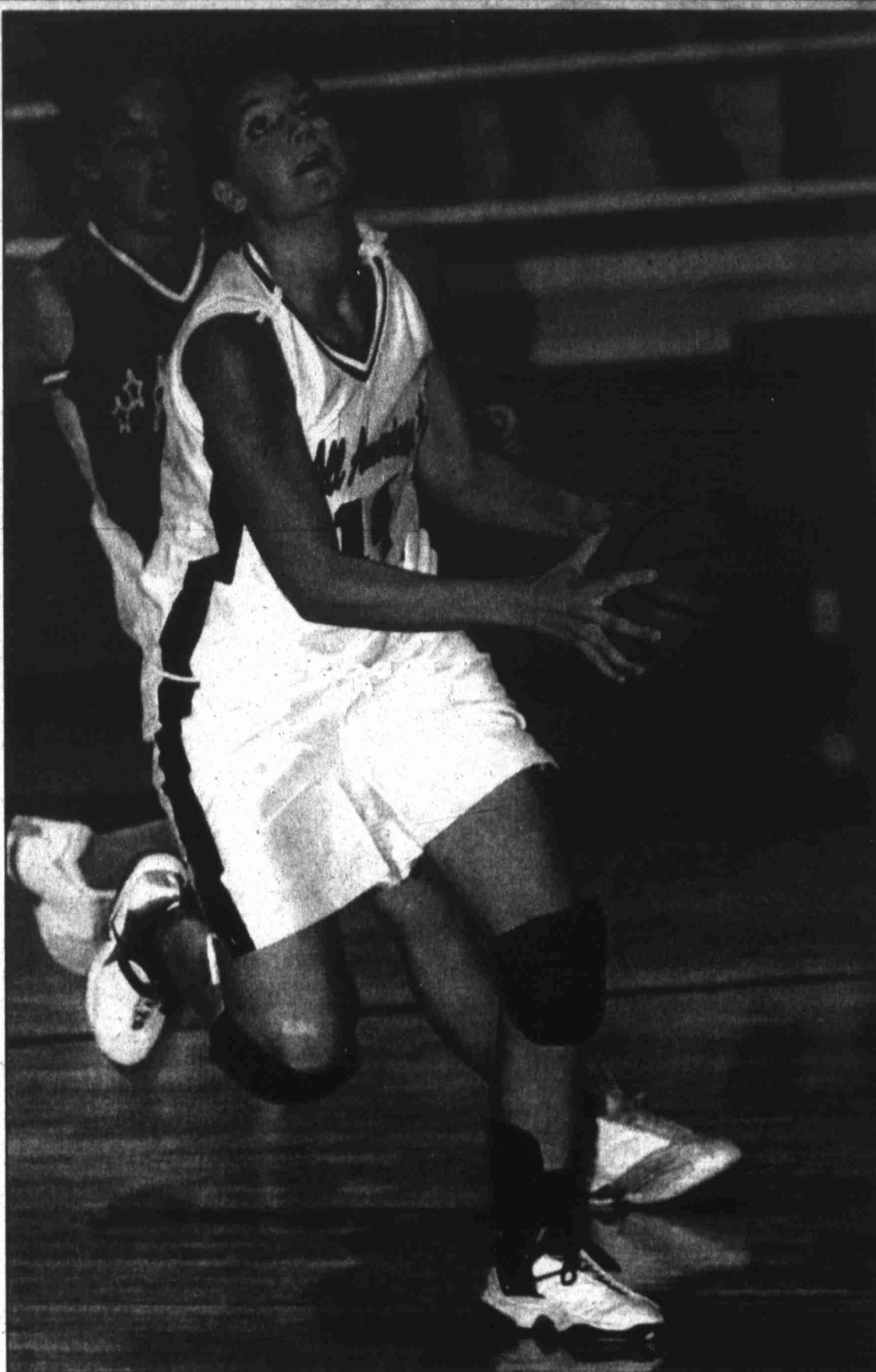
The North led 62-61 with 33 seconds left in the game, but fouled Dawson on the defensive end of the floor. Dawson sank both free throws to give her team a one-point advantage.

That would be enough as the defense, led by a Leslie Jansa steal, held the North all-stars on the other end to clinch the win. Jansa was one of four Garden City girls to play in the game.

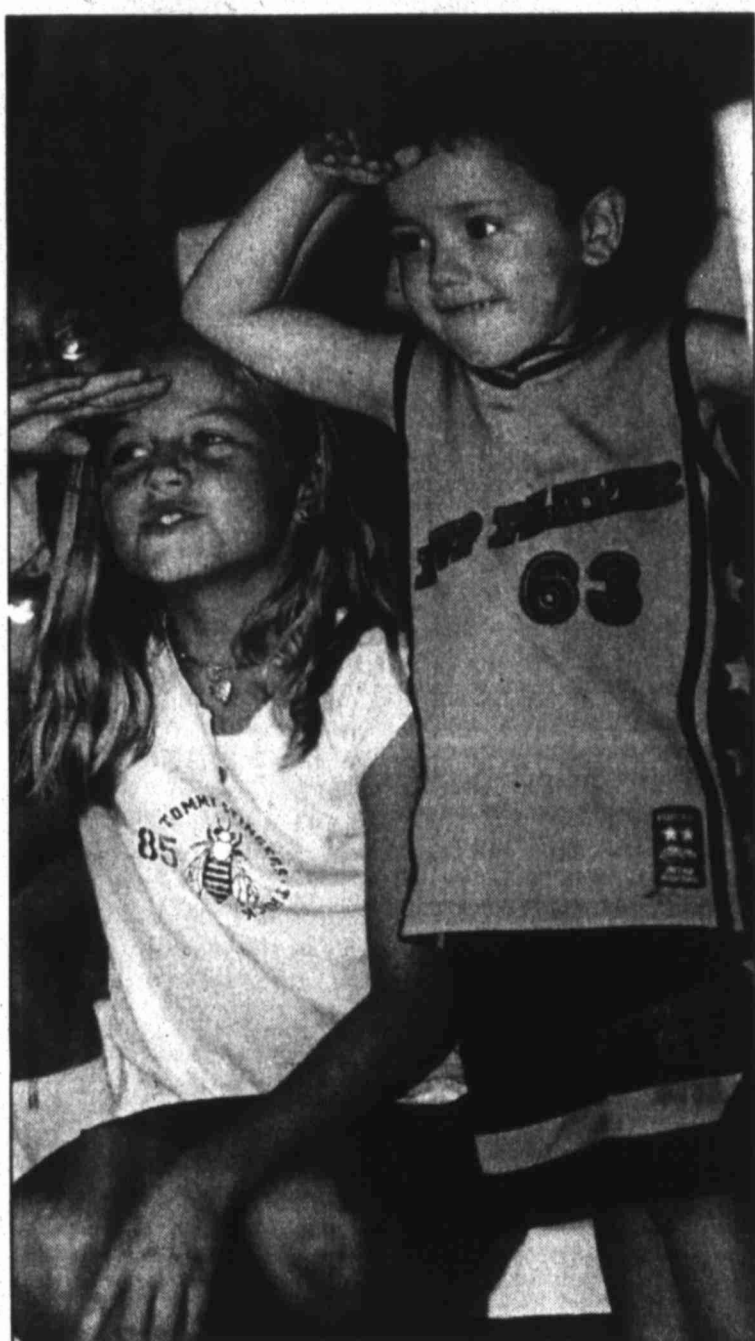
Dawson finished with 14 points, which included the game-winning free throws. Hoch, Henson and Jansa each had six points. Miranda Sradling and Lauren Franks, both of Grady pitched in with four each.

The North all-stars were led by Borden County's Menda James, Early's Kristen Coffey and Big Lake's Darci Owens. James scored a team-high 14 points despite fouling out, while Coffey and Owens each poured in 11.

Fort Davis' Suzanne Slover finished with eight points.



Garden City's Leslie Jansa gets fouled on the fast break attempt during the second half of the girls All-Americas basketball game in Garden City Friday night. Jansa's South team won the game 63-62. The game featured four players from Garden City and three from Grady. Jansa finished with six points and Grady's Whitney Opeppard scored a game-high 16 points.



Three-year-old Kobe Richardson and 10-year-old Britni Cook give a salute at the 2004 All-Americas boys game in Garden City Friday night. The South won the girls game by one point on Cully Jo Dawson's clutch free throws.

4th of July Special



Buy a new* subscription to the Big Spring Herald! Receive a flag kit. The kit includes a 3 x 5 ft. flag, 5 1/2 ft. pole, a decorative top, runner & mounting bracket.



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Martin County Hospital Fun Run 2004 5K Run/Walk

Friday Evening,
July 9, 2004 • 7:00 pm

We will start in the Back Parking
Lot of Martin County Hospital
Stanton, Texas

Fun for all ages!!

Proceeds from the race will go to the Dan Griffin Scholarship fund, which will provide scholarships to Martin County Residents choosing a career in a healthcare field.

Awards will be given for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places in the following age groups: 15 and under, 16-35, and 36+.

Cost is \$15.00 per entry before July 6th and \$18.00 on Race Day. (T-shirt is also included.)

Contact: Norma Garza 756-2816 or Kathy Dunn 756-3345 for more details.

Name: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Sex: M/F

Cost is \$15.00 per entry before July 6th and \$18.00 on Race Day (Includes T-shirt)
Mail to: Attention Norma PO Box 1209 Stanton, Texas 79782 Make Check Payable to Dan Griffin Scholarship

Circle T-Shirt Size: S M L XL Birthdate _____

In consideration of my entry, I hereby waive, release and forever discharge any and all rights and claims which I or my child may have or hereafter come to me or my child against the sponsors or the officials conducting this competition, for any and all injuries sited by me (or my child) participating in this event and do further certify that I am physically able to participate in this event.

Signature, or parent signature if under 18

IN BRIEF

Dates set for
Camp of Champions

Coach Ricky L. currently coach Big Spring School's Camp Champs at the Spring Training Center camp will run July 7.

The weekend camp is open to boys and females in fifth through eighth grades. For more information, call Coach at 432-269-3862 or 263-0519.

Forsan announces
Camp Buffalo

Forsan's Buffalo will run from 9 a.m. to noon, July 23.

The camp is for boys, grades through eighth, designed to teach skills and fundamentals of football, ball and strength conditioning.

The cost of the camp is \$40 per player, which includes a T-shirt.

For more information or to register, call Terry McDonald at 267-7445 or Thompson at 0099.

Martin County Hospital fun run

The Martin County Hospital will be holding a 5K fun run on July 9 at 7:00 p.m. in Stanton.

The race will start in the back parking lot of the hospital.

Proceeds from the race will go to the Dan Griffin Scholarship Fund.

Awards will be given for first, second and third place in three different age groups.

The cost is \$15.00 per entry before July 6 and \$18.00 on Race Day.

For more information, call Norma at 432-756-2816 or Kathy Dunn at 756-3345.

Big Spring Herald ragball tournament

The Big Spring Herald Softball Association will be holding a ragball tournament, a fund-raiser for the Big Spring Herald.

The tournament will be held on July 9, 10 and 11 at the Big Spring Herald Softball Field.

For more information, call Kathy Dunn at 432-3345.

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Fall semester

Call TSTC for more information on the program.

IN BRIEF

Dates set for Camp of Champs

Coach Ricky Long is currently conducting Big Spring High School's Camp for Champs at the Big Spring Athletic Training Center. The camp will run through July 7.

The weightlifting camp is open to males and females in grades fifth through eighth.

For more information, call Coach Long at 432-269-3862 or 432-263-0519.

Forsan announces

Camp Buffalo dates

Forsan's Camp Buffalo will run from 8 a.m. to noon, July 19-23.

The camp is for all boys grades five through eight and is designed to develop skills and fundamentals of football, basketball and strength conditioning.

The cost of the camp is \$40 per student, which includes a camp T-shirt.

For more information or to register, call Terry McDonald at 432-267-7445 or Tommy Thompson at 432-457-0099.

Martin County

Hospital fun run set

The Martin County Hospital will be holding a 5K fun run/walk July 9 at 7 p.m. in Stanton.

The race will start in the back parking lot of the hospital.

Proceeds from the race will go to the Dan Griffin Scholarship Fund.

Awards will be given for first, second and third place finishes in three different age groups.

The cost is \$15 before July 6 and \$18 on race day.

For more information, call Norma Garza at 432-756-2816 or Kathy Dunn at 432-756-3345.

Big Spring co-ed ragball toumey set

The Big Spring Girls Softball Association will be holding a co-ed ragball tournament as a fund-raiser for the Big Spring all-stars.

The tournament will be July 9, 10 and 11 and the team fee is \$125.

For more info, call Nicole at 432-264-2206.

Pribylas wins MVP, South all-stars still fall in All-Americans

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

Another entertaining game left the local South team on the short end of the stick Friday night in Garden City as the North all-star team, which had two players from Big Spring, defeated the South all-stars, 77-72.

The South scored the first nine points of the game and Borden County's Shane Tarleton contributed with the first five.

However, after the South's opening run, the North team got going and both teams were tied 14-14 after one quarter.

The North all-stars continued to surge in the second quarter as they built a four point lead at 26-22 with five minutes to go until halftime. They eventually pushed the lead to 11 before Grady's Jason Pribylas cut the margin to nine. Pribylas was the South's MVP of the game, as well.

The South would eventually cut into the lead before the break. They only trailed by four at halftime, 39-35.

Garden City's Blake Chudej hit a free throw with under four minutes to go in the third quarter to tie the score, but the North answered with six straight points of its own. They led 53-47 with 2:17 to play in the quarter.

Forsan's Josh Helmstettler scored five points in the game but four of those five points came at a crucial point. He hit a three-pointer and a free throw on consecutive possessions to cut the North margin to 53-52.

The score was tied 56-56

after three quarters.

The South got a dunk from Grady standout Brent Madison and two free throws by Grady's Nick Winford to even the score. In between those four points was also a North bucket.

Much like the girls contest, the fourth quarter was a back-and-forth affair.

Two Stoney Streety free throws gave the South its first lead since the first quarter. However, a three-point play at the other end for the North all-stars shifted the momentum back in its favor.

The North stretched its lead out a bit late in the fourth quarter. The South made a brief run inside of two minutes, however. Madison hit a three-pointer to cut the lead to four with 1:40 to play.

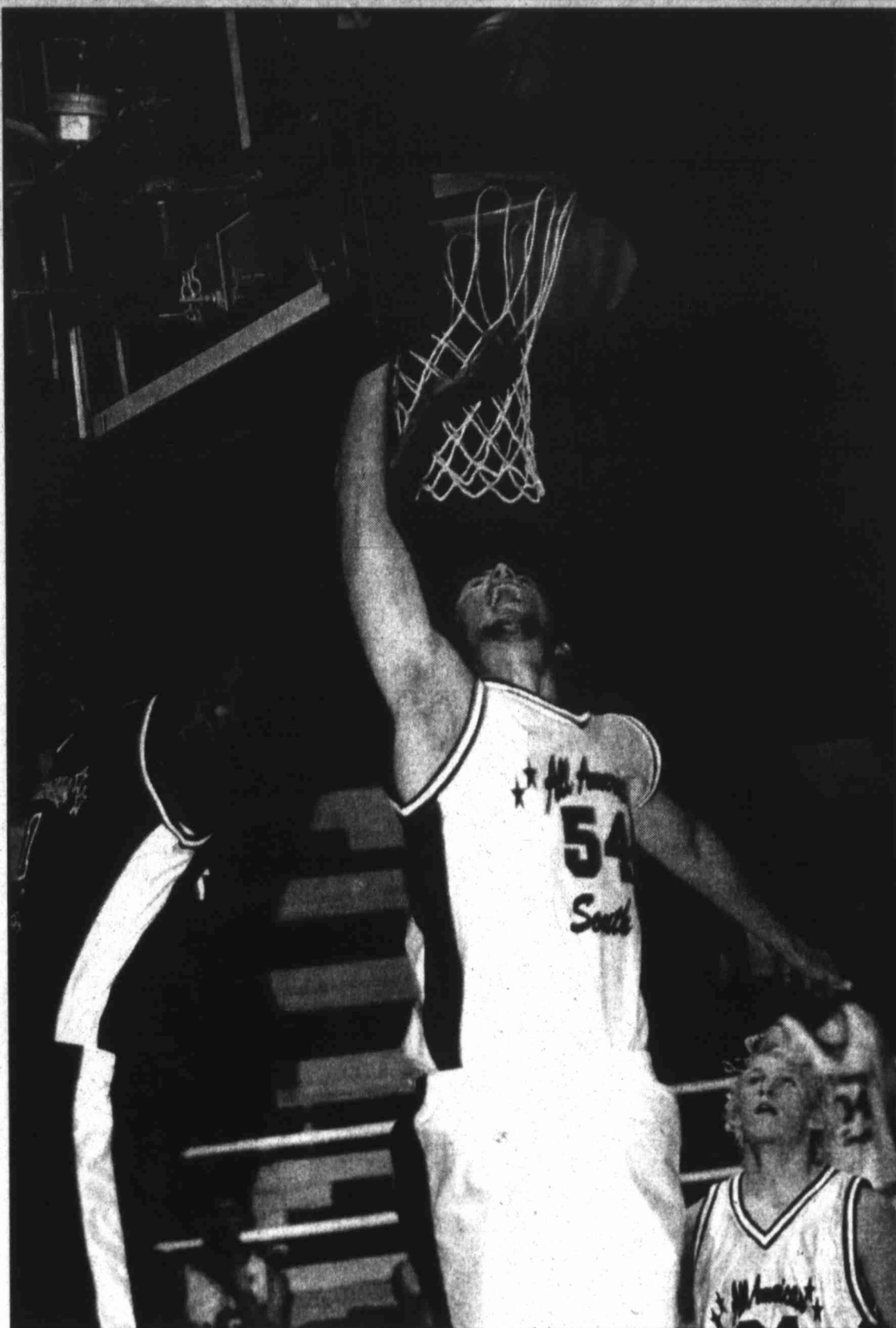
The South got as close as three, but the final advantage was five for the North all-stars as the buzzer sounded.

El Paso's Ryan O'Leary earned MVP honors for the North squad, finishing with 20 points and 11 rebounds.

Pribylas scored a team-high 16 points for the South. Streety and Water Valley's Thomas Tipton each finished with 10 points and Chudej pitched in with six points and several rebounds.

Aaron Marks of Aspermont and Amherst's A.J. Witherspoon scored 16 and 14 points, respectively, for the North.

Big Spring's Alvin Russel and C.J. Lawrey each contributed four points for the winning North squad.



Grady's Jason Pribylas of the South all-stars goes up strong for the layup during the second half of the 2004 All-Americans boys basketball game in Garden City Friday night. Pribylas scored 16 points in a losing cause and was the South's MVP. The North won the game 77-72.



Garden City Coach Cory Richardson, far right, who coached the South all-star team Friday night, talks to his team during a timeout at the All-Americans boys basketball game in Garden City. The South lost to the North all-stars, 77-72.

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ISSHINRYU

Continued from Page 1B

month for nonmembers.

Barnett adds, "If I can teach one kid to protect him or herself so they don't get kidnapped and end up on the side of a milk carton, then I have done my job."

Barnett and the YMCA also attends to Bauer Elementary during Bauer's extended day during the school year.

"It's just something in the afternoons that kids can do," said Barnett. "They do various activities during this time, but it is something good for the kids."

Besides teaching Isshinryu classes twice a week, Barnett stays pretty busy with his job. This summer, the YMCA is in charge of staffing three pools in Big Spring — the YMCA pool, the Big Spring Country Club pool and the city pool — and Barnett overlooks the lifeguards on a daily basis.

"Our normal staff during the school year is eight, but we have about 23 lifeguards in the summer so we can staff all three pools," said Barnett.

Barnett's youth and adult programs at the YMCA include youth basketball and adult volleyball and flag football.

"As you can see, the job is pretty busy, but it is fun," he added.

West Texas Shock captures fifth in district tournament

Special to the HERALD

The West Texas Shock took second place in the District 26 14-and-under softball tournament.

The Shock started off the tournament with a 1-0 win over the Midland Rip It, behind a strong pitching performance by Sonora's Heather Hughes. The game's outcome was not decided until the team's last at-bat.

Sonora's Meagan Craig came in to pinch hit and reached base on a mis-played hard shot to second. Coahoma's Krista Kerby followed with a slap up the middle sending Craig to third.

The next hitter, Winter's Camille Kruse, then sent another hit up the middle which then scored Craig.

The Shock's next game was a convincing 8-0 win over Alpine. Craig picked up the win on the mound as she gave up only four hits. The Shock collected eight hits in the game, six of which were doubles.

To get into the championship game, the Shock had to come from behind to beat Andrews in a tie-breaker, 4-3. Andrews struck in the first inning as they sent one runner across the plate.

However, the Shock answered with a run of their own in their half of the inning. Kirby led off with a single and then was able to score with two outs after singles by Hughes and Abilene's Chelsea Barker.

Andrews took the lead 3-1 in the fourth, but the Shock tied the score in their final at-bat and then

eventually won the game in the tie-breaker.

In the tie-breaker session, Kruse was placed on second to start the inning (tie-breaker rule) and then scored after Hughes delivered the game-winning single to left-center field.

The Shock lost to the Midland Flash in the championship round, 2-0 and 4-1.

In the first game, the Flash scored one run in the first and one in the third to seal the win. Craig gave up three hits and a walk and took the loss on the mound.

The Shock threatened offensively several times, but were unable to send anyone across the plate.

The Shock scored first in the second championship game. West Texas sent one across in the third inning. With two outs, Kerby placed a hit up the middle and moved to third on a single to center by Kruse. Bellar's single scored Kerby to put the Shock up 1-0.

Hughes entered the final inning on the mound with a 1-0 lead and a three-hitter in the works. However, the Flash scored four runs in their final at-bat to seal the win, 4-1.

The Shock's defensive players for the tournament were Higgins at third base, Kerby at first base and Doran in the outfield.

The Shock played in the ASA Class A 14-and-under tournament this past weekend, but scores were unavailable at press time. The Sonoma based



The "Matrix" is the 10-and-under all-stars softball team this year. Front row, from left: Breanna Hilario (Lady Horns), Marissa Islas (Red Hots), All Knight (Lady Horns), Key O'Brien (Mirage), Mercedes Chavera (Stix Chix) and Angelina Castillo (Red Hots). Back: Manager Stan Feaster (Lady Horns), Ashley Buzbee (Mirage), Cheyenne Galloway (Stix Chix), Belle Feaster (Lady Horns), Laura Mirage (Mirage), Coach Ed Ross (Lady Horns) and Valerie Ross (Lady Horns). Not pictured: Bethany Roach (Red Hots). Alternate: Kadisha Robinson (Red Hots).

Howard College Hawk Basketball Camp

When: July 26-30

Who: Third grade through high school

Where: Dorothy Garrett Coliseum

Cost: Day camper, \$120

Overnight campers, \$220

Registration: Campers will register at 9 a.m.

Monday, July 26 at Dorothy Garrett

Objectives: Teach fundamentals, discipline, sportsmanship, shooting, rebounding, passing, defense, ball handling and more

Food: Lunch is provided for day campers, but overnight campers will be provided breakfast, lunch and dinner

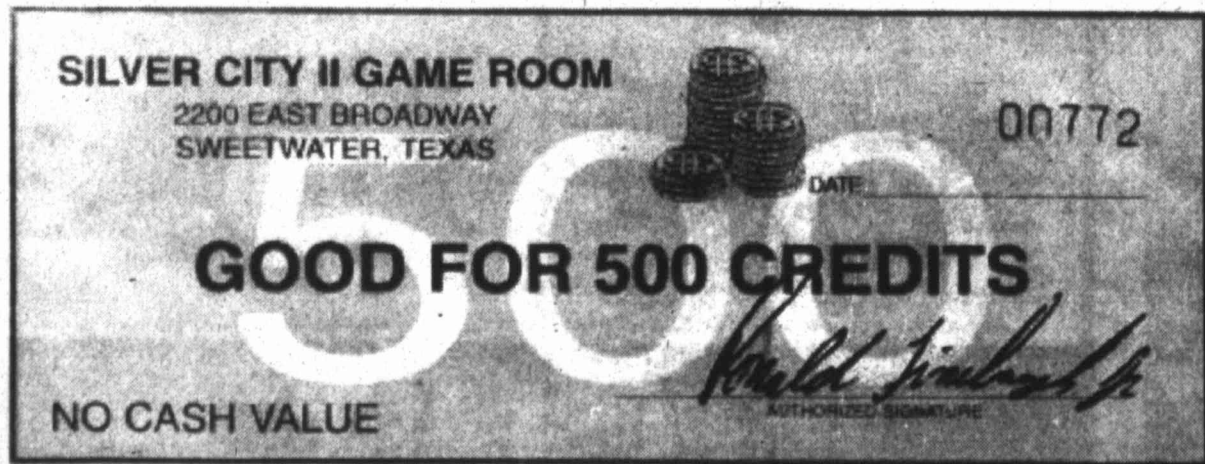
Staff: Howard head coach Mark Adams and assistant coach Jason Sautter

Silver City Game Room

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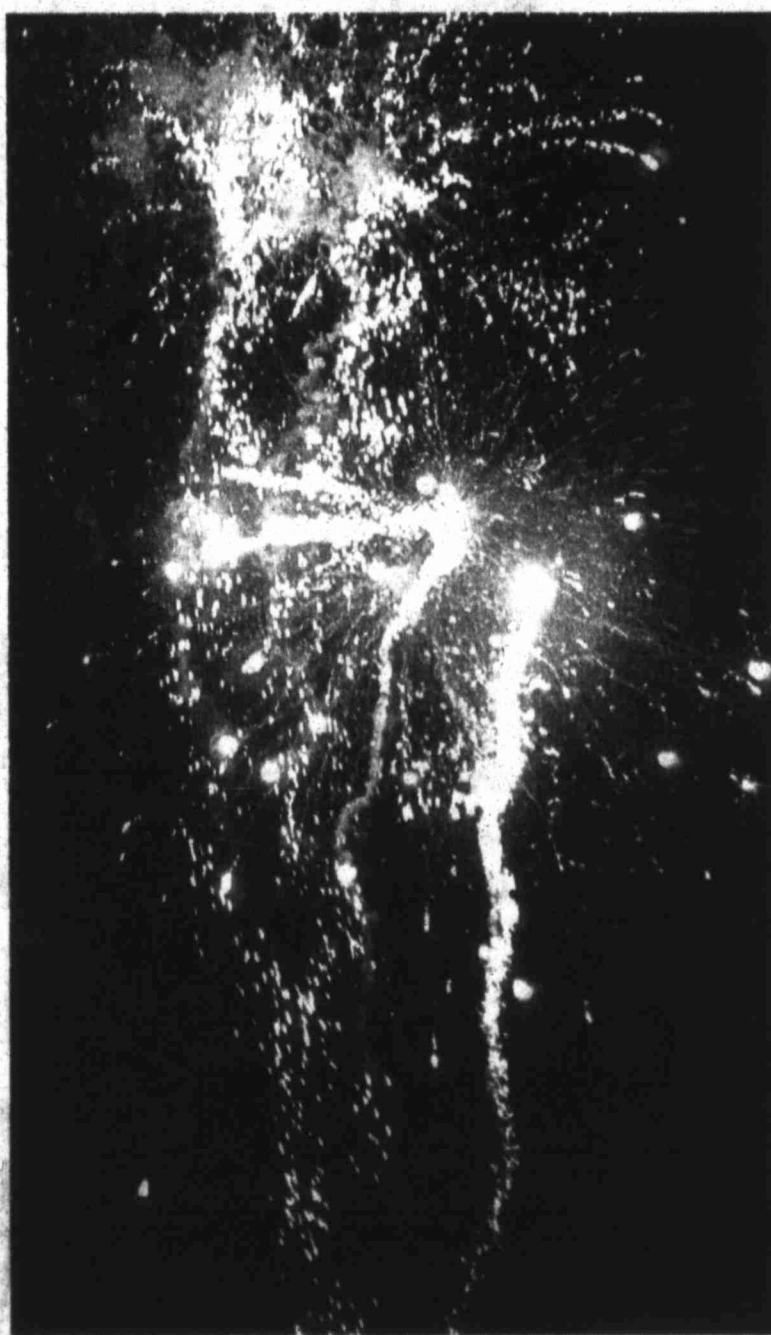
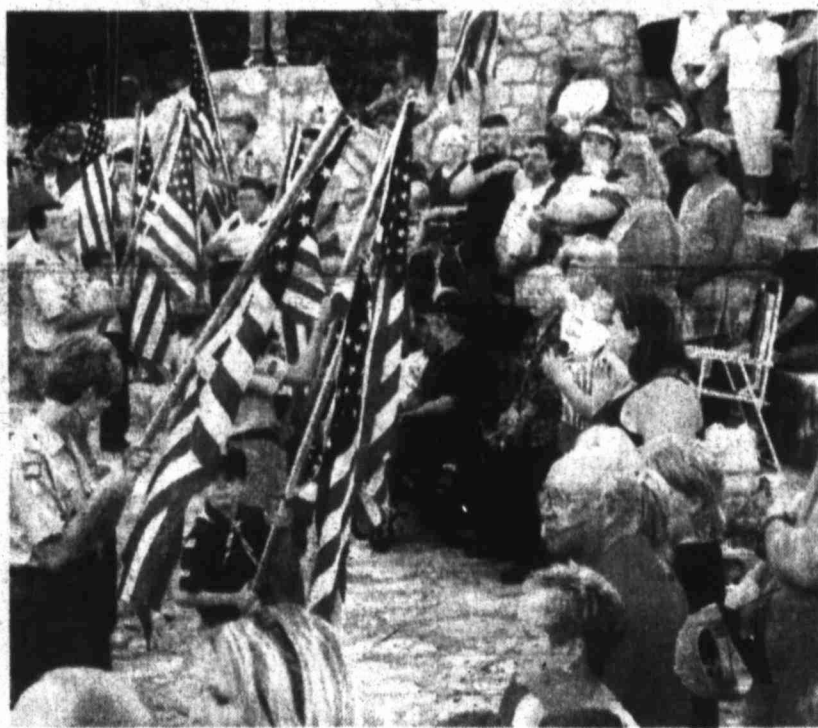
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BIG SPRING CELEBRATES

POPS IN THE PARK

Comanche Trail Amphitheater, Saturday
• 5 p.m. Enter in gate at Wasson Road/Belvedere opens
VIP permits enter in gate at Highway 87/Starlight Drive.
Dora Roberts Community Center shuttle service
enter in gate at Belvedere/Whipkey Road.
• 8:30 p.m. Big Spring Symphony and Chorale
Fireworks show

FUNTASTIC FOURTH CELEBRATION **Downtown Big Spring, Sunday**

• 10 a.m. — Gospel music
• 1 p.m. — Super Bravo, Battle of the Bands
Early Car, Motorcycle and Low-Rider Show
• 2 p.m. — X-Tremo, Battle of the Bands.
• 3 p.m. — Eztrano, Battle of the Bands
• 3:35 p.m. — Texas Pipeline, Battle of the Bands.
• 4:35 p.m. — Trey Austin Band, Battle of the Bands
• 5:05 p.m. — Seventh Addition, Battle of the Bands
• 6 p.m. — Patriotic Show
• 7 p.m. — Crimson Soul Battle of the Bands
• 8 p.m. — One Star Shy, Battle of the Bands
• 9 p.m. — Sour Hand, Battle of the Bands
• 10 p.m. — Battle of the Bands Awards
Laser light show.

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► Wedding

Stone and Draper marry in San Angelo

Brittany Stone of San Angelo, formerly of Big Spring, and Dayton Draper of San Angelo exchanged wedding vows on Saturday, May 22, 2004, at Glen Meadows Baptist Church with the Rev. Don Longoria of Sonora officiating.

John Irish, trumpeter and Diane Deatherage, organist, both of San Angelo, provided music for the service.

The wedding reception was held in the Banquet Ballroom of the Bentwood Country Club.

The groom's parents hosted a rehearsal dinner on the eve of the wedding at Lake Nazworthy, with a Hawaiian theme.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Steven Stone of Big Spring and the granddaughter of Anita and Richard Stone of Sand Springs and Helen and the late Henry Lasiter of Kingston, Okla. The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Draper of San Angelo and the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Draper of Sonora and Doxie Yarborough of San Angelo.

Giving in marriage by her father, the bride wore a scalloped, strapless, A-line gown with alencon lace, heavily adorned with bugle beads, embroidery and rhinestones, with a chapel-length train. The bride carried a

bouquet designed by Q.T. Coates of A Timeless Design in Big Spring.

The maid of honor was Annette Richardson of Big Spring. The bridesmaids were Leslie Combest of San Angelo, Misty Trevino and Heidi Robinson, both of Big Spring.

The flower girls were Kayli Sturgill and Hallie Walker, both of San Angelo, and Haley Ballard of Fort Worth. Mackenzie Stone of Greenwood registered the guests. Personal attendant was Kim Ballard of Fort Worth.

Ushers were Swade Draper of Sonora, John Goodman, Shane Barnes and Mike Socha, all of

San Angelo.

The bride is a 2001 graduate of Big Spring High School. She graduated from Angelo State University with a bachelor's degree in psychology and will start graduate school in the fall.

The groom is a 1999 graduate of Wall High School. He received a bachelor's degree in marketing in 2003 from Angelo State University. He is employed as an independent sales representative.

Following a wedding trip to the Hawaiian islands, Christmas Island and the Fanning islands, the couple will make their home in San Angelo.



Mrs. Brittany Stone (Dayton) Draper

► Anniversary

Pat and Gwen Ray celebrate 25 years wed

Pat and Gwen Ray will celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary on July 7, 2004.

They were both born in Big Spring. Pat met the former Gwen Sullivan in Big Spring.

They were married on July 7, 1979, in Crestview Baptist Church in Big Spring. They have four children, Rachel of Big Spring and Melissa, Jessica and Jonathon, of the home.

They have lived in Fort Worth, Texas City and Big Spring during their marriage.

Pat is pastor of Prairie View Baptist Church and a teacher at Goliad



Mr. and Mrs. Pat and Gwen Ray
Elementary School: Gwen is a substitute teacher.

► Engagement

Underwood and Dix to marry

Cassie Gene Underwood and David Ammons Dix, both of Fort Worth, will exchange wedding vows at 7 p.m. Sept. 18, 2004, at the First Baptist Church in Big Spring.

The bride is the daughter of Loyd and Pat Underwood of Big Spring and the granddaughter of Martha Saunders, also of Big Spring.

She obtained a bachelor of science degree in exercise and sports studies from Tarleton State University. She is employed by Kennedale Independent School District.

The groom is the son of Jerry Dix of Mineral Wells and Judy Seeley of Fort Worth. He is the grandson of Ethel Ammons of Abilene.

He obtained a bachelor of science degree in sports management from Texas Wesleyan. He is the owner of 3 Spurs Property Services.



Cassie Underwood and David Dix

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► Births

Xavier Zapata Jr., a boy, was born June 11, 2004, at 7:44 p.m. weighing 7 pounds, 9 ounces and was 20 inches long. His parents are Veronica Aguirre and Xavier Zapata. His grandparents are Tom Gutierrez Jr., of Big Spring, Pascuala A. Gonzalez and Victor Zapata of Midland and Margarita G. Zapata of Canton, Ohio.

Madysyn Valeigh Hillger, a girl, was born June 11, 2004, at 3:02 a.m. weighing 6 pounds, 8

ounces and was 19 inches long. Her mother is Amber Hillger. Her grandparents are David and Debbie Hillger of Big Spring and her great grandparents are Bob and Peggy Ballard, also of Big Spring.

Bryan Andrew Martinez, a boy, was born June 10, 2004, at 3:46 p.m. weighing 8 pounds, 8 ounces and was 21 inches long. His parents are Andrew and Sandra Martinez of Coahoma. His grandparents are Felix and Rosalinda Gonzales of

Big Spring, Pablo Martinez Sr. of Midland and the late Sabina Martinez.

Makenna Reese Valle, a girl, was born June 11, 2004, at 10:30 a.m. weighing 6 pounds, 6 ounces and was 19 1/2 inches long.

Her parents are Valerie Rios and Albert Valle. Her grandparents are the late Irma and Faustino Rios and Maria and Amado Valle Jr., of Big Spring. Her big brothers are Aron and Isaiah Rios.

ALL-AMERICAN BIRTHDAY SALE

4th Of July

Bang-Up Closeout Sale

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► Menu

SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER

MONDAY-Smothered steak, noodles, carrots, salad, milk, rolls, fruit.

TUESDAY-Bar-b-q sandwiches, potato salad, beans, milk, coconut pie.

WEDNESDAY-Chicken & dumplings, mixed vegetables, salad, milk, crackers, cake.

THURSDAY-Ham, sweet potatoes, green beans, salad, milk/rolls, apple crisp.

FRIDAY-Catfish, French fries, beans, coleslaw, milk, cornbread, fruit salad.

BU

Try

Livestock thriving a base exp

By MEGAN K

Special to the

Gary Jones very busy. Within one taken the Livestock A barely holdi above water business.



JONES

Big Spring Auction 20 becoming th he knew how success.

"There just local busine have enough in the area them. My are from Lubbock and have even e the Alpine Mexico area Jones crec his success in the cattle

"The guys to paying \$8 are now w \$850. It's a sell cattle," While the

Patricia Rob clothing for the Big Spr

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By KEN MO

Knight Ridde WASHING job growth s in June, an the econo may be losi

The eco 112,000 jobs far below W casts, and 235,000 inc and gains 300,000 jobs and April Department unemploym steady at 5.

Analysts against rea into one r noting tha has averag 211,000 a m first half of "We need this is a tr time event chief ec Commerce Cherry Hil

Trying to get your goat

Livestock auction thriving as seller base expands

By MEGAN KNIGHT

Special to the Herald

Gary Jones has been very busy.

Within one year he has taken the Big Spring Livestock Auction from barely holding its head above water to a thriving business.



JONES

"The sellers that were going to San Angelo are finding the local market just as competitive," Jones said.

Jones had worked for the Big Spring Livestock Auction 20 years before becoming the owner, and he knew how to make it a success.

"There just isn't enough local business. We don't have enough producers in the area to rely on them. My main sellers are from Merkel, Lubbock and Abilene. We have even expanded into the Alpine and New Mexico area," Jones said.

Jones credits some of his success to an upturn in the cattle market.

"The guys that are used to paying \$500 for a cow are now willing to pay \$850. It's a good time to sell cattle," Jones said.

While the cattle indus-



HERALD photo/Megan Knight

Boer and other meat-type goats are the hot livestock commodity at the Big Spring Livestock Auction, owned by Gary Jones. The facility is located at N. Birdwell and the north service road of Interstate 20.

try has made some improvement, the big change in the Big Spring Livestock Auction is the meat goat trade.

Jones said that they are selling 100 to 200 goats each week.

Local livestock producer and former County Extension Agent Don Richardson said, "I've been keeping my eye on the goat market, and this is one of the hottest around. People are pay-

ing more here in Big Spring than anywhere else right now."

The Big Spring Livestock Auction is every Friday at noon. For more information call 432-267-5881.

Take precautions when using an ATM

Special to the Herald

Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) have made our lives a lot easier. So what if you forget to go by the bank before closing time to get money for the weekend. No problem. Just zip into one of the ATMs in the area and access the money in your checking or savings account day or night. But always be aware of your surroundings and use safety precautions when using an ATM or debit card.

PULSE, the nation's leading independent financial industry-owned electronic funds network, offers several safety tips when using an ATM. Even though you've heard them before, it never hurts to have a refresher course. Remember the old adage: An ounce of prevention...

• Always observe the ATM surroundings before conducting a transaction.

• Block the view of others when using an ATM to make sure they cannot see your Personal Identification Number (PIN).

• Look for possible fraudulent devices attached to an ATM. If anything looks suspicious, go to another machine.

• Never allow a cashier or any other person to enter your PIN for you.

• Minimize time spent at an ATM by having your card ready.

• When using a drive-up ATM after dark, keep your doors locked, passenger windows rolled up and headlights on when

conducting your transaction.

• If using an ATM at night, try to take someone with you.

• Check your ATM receipts against your monthly bank statements, just as you do your cancelled checks.

• Don't store the magnetic strip on the back of your ATM card against the magnetic strip of another credit card in your purse or wallet. It will corrupt the strip and make your card unusable.

• If you think you are being followed after leaving an ATM, call 911 or look for a police officer.

• If you see overgrown shrubbery, poor lighting or other potential hazards at your bank's ATM, report it to your bank immediately.

• Your ATM card is the same as cash, so make sure you keep it in a safe place. Keep your PIN a secret and don't disclose confidential information about your card over the telephone or the Internet.

Ninety million Americans have ATM cards. According to PULSE, some 1.4 billion ATM or debit transactions will be conducted this year alone.

By following these safety precautions and using common sense, you can enjoy this convenience rather than becoming the latest crime statistic.

Compiled by Mae Beth Palone and provided as a public service by the Independent Bankers Association of Texas and the Community Bankers Education Foundation.

Local representatives attend TPEA convention in Austin

Special to the Herald

Woody Jumper, president for Chapter 52 of the Texas Public Employees Association (TPEA), and Gloria Feddersen, incoming president, attended the TPEA Convention in Austin.

Jumper received an award for being the top recruiter in the state — his second such award in two years. Also, Carla McCullough received a Top Hand award for her

work for the TPEA.

TPEA members worked on and voted to lobby with the Texas Legislature to get state workers a pay increase. They also worked against the privatization of state facilities and for a 13th check for retirees.

"We are working hard for all employees, not just the members," said Jumper. "There is strength in numbers. You join TPEA... we get stronger... the legislature listens."



Courtesy photo

Patricia Roberts, center, cuts the ribbon to officially open her store, Jazzy's, in the Big Spring Mall. The store features clothing for the infant to toddler as well as some maternity clothing. Joining her are family members and members of the Big Spring Ambassadors.

Slower job growth in June provokes some concern

By KEN MORITSUGU

Knight Ridder Newspapers

WASHINGTON — U.S. job growth slowed sharply in June, amid signs that the economic recovery may be losing steam.

The economy added 112,000 jobs last month, far below Wall Street forecasts, and down from a 235,000 increase in May and gains of more than 300,000 jobs in both March and April, the Labor Department said. The unemployment rate held steady at 5.6 percent.

Analysts cautioned against reading too much into one month's data, noting that job growth has averaged a healthy 211,000 a month over the first half of this year.

"We need to see whether this is a trend or a one-time event," Joel Naroff, chief economist at Commerce Bank in Cherry Hill, N.J., wrote

in an analysis for clients. "Hiccups happen. This may have been one."

The month-to-month seesaw served as a reminder that the economy remains an unpredictable issue in the presidential campaign. Democratic challenger John Kerry noted the fall-off in job growth and said many of the new jobs didn't pay well.

"Don't tell the people getting the second-rate jobs, that are working two and three jobs, that we can't do better," Kerry said Friday at a paper mill in Cloquet, Minn. "As wages are going down, your health-care costs are going up; your tuitions are going up; your bills are going up. Your gas prices are going up."

President Bush, speaking at the White House on the economy, noted that 1.5 million jobs have been



KRT photo/Saul Loeb

President George W. Bush makes remarks on the economy Friday at the White House in Washington, DC.

added since last August.

"We're witnessing steady growth," he said. "And that's important. We don't need boom-or-bust-type growth. We want just steady, consistent growth, so that our fellow citizens will be able to find a job."

The weak jobs report sent stocks down. Bonds rallied, driving interest rates down, because slower job growth suggests less inflationary pressure.

The slump in jobs was the latest in a series of disappointing economic reports, which have caused forecasters to ratchet down their estimates of how fast the economy grew this spring.

Merrill Lynch economists warned this week that growth could drop from a 3.9 percent annual pace in the first three months of the year to 2.5 percent in the April to

June quarter. The Commerce Department's first official estimate for second-quarter growth is due July 30.

Consumer spending, which accounts for two-thirds of the economy, appears to be growing more slowly. Vehicle sales fell sharply in June, and anecdotal evidence suggests a slowdown in retail sales growth.

On the business side, back-to-back drops in factory orders in April and May raised concern that spending by companies may not be picking up as quickly as had been hoped.

"It looks like we're coming into the second half of the year with a lot less momentum than we did in the first half," said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Economy.com, an analysis firm in West

See JOBS, Page 4C

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PUBLIC RECORDS

Hot Checks/Warrants issued:
Javier N. Alcantar, 1513 Scurry, Big Spring
Kerrie Lea Bhuiyan, 538 Westover Apt. 257, Big Spring
Carolyn E. Brown, 1203 Wilson, Big Spring
Chad Wayne Brown, 3901 Ave. O, Snyder
Amy N. Browne, 3901 Ave. O, Snyder
Loretta Rae Bryner, 2119 Zephyr, Ingleside
Virginia L. Buchanan, 4318 Wasson, Big Spring
Angela Burleson, 7647 Country Road 146, Snyder
Billy Michael Burns, 2608 26th Street, Snyder
Jesus Bustamante, 605 Nolan, Big Spring
Vanessa Malu Calderon, 538 Westover Apt. 232, Big Spring
Maria Campos, 751 Aqua Pesada, El Paso
Jamie Valdez Castillo, 1211 Wood, Big Spring
Krisna N. Rivera Castillo, 1113 Nickolasa, Colorado City
Mart R. Clem, 10911 Woodmeadow, Dallas
Charles Daniel Cook, W. Hwy 80 Apt. 157, Big Spring
Jennifer Rea Dugger, 6015 E. Midway Road, Big Spring
Kathi Duke, 327 Greason Street, Summerville, Ga.
Dan Duke, 621 N. Jefferson, San Angelo
Rachel Flores, 211 S. Convent, Stanton
Jimmie Todd Foster, 2506 Albrook, Big Spring
Kenneth Galindo, 6830 El Paso Dr., El Paso
Edwardo Gamez, 1605 Wasson Rd. apt. 26, Big Spring
Rosemary Garcia, 2605 Westridge, Snyder
Florescia Len Garza, PO Box 42, Lenora
Sherri Gent, 7009 Linderman, Big Spring
Christopher George, 215 S. Third Apt. 30, Laramie, Wyoming
Frank Gibbs, 1102 Hwy. 176 or 1907

Scurry, Big Spring
Ben Gonzales, 1208 Nolah, Big Spring
Billy Gonzales, 1212 S. Hannah Road, Hobbs N.M.
George Vernon Gonzales, 186 E. 16th Street, Big Spring
Herlinda Gonzales, 100 Circle Road, Big Spring
Bryan Hammonds, 603 Circle, Big Spring
David N. Hanaford, 2605 Oakland Blvd., Fort Worth
Erin Jean Hernandez, 2901 Runnels, Big Spring
Dawn Hartfield, 1316 Sycamore, Big Spring
Aaron Kyle Henderson, 2107 Carol, Big Spring
Ella Howell, 201 Merrick Rd. or 321 Longshore, Big Spring
James L. Jenkins Jr., 200 36th Street, Snyder
Michael M. Jewett, 1519 Sycamore, Big Spring
Danny Ray Johnson, 2601 N. Lynn, Lamesa
Erica Marie Letnax Johnston, 3100 Caldera Blvd Apt. 2314, Midland
Amber Lynn King, 701 E. 15th Street, Big Spring
Delfina Lopez, 2610 Ent, Big Spring
Judy Mata, 6309 E. Midway Road, Big Spring
James McGuire, 1910 E. 11th Place, Big Spring
Vaughn Lee Medina, 4000 W. Hwy. 80, Big Spring
Michael Lee Middleton, 2602 Carlton, Big Spring
Kaela Vanleet Mize, 1315 Tucson, Big Spring
Tammy Nicholson, 1104 Birdwell Lane, Big Spring
Felicia Ornelas, 405 N.W. Ninth Street, Big Spring
Arthur Ortega, 607 Bristlewood Cove, Cedar Park
Dandra Ortega, 2300 Camp Dr. Apt. 1, Midland
Erica Elaine Ortega, 214 Grimes, Big Spring
Jimmy Ray Pearce, PO Box 2981, Big Spring
Danny Gene Priest, 1418 W. FM 818 or 3701 Connally, Big Spring

Veronica Quinn, 4129 S. Polk, Abilene
Sierra Ramos, 1905 Wasson Road Apt. 20, Big Spring
Dennis Michael Richardson, 2201 S. Main, Big Spring
Evelyn Rodriguez, 5402 Lancaster, Odessa
Patricia Rodriguez, 2201 CR 31, Lamesa
Juan Romero, 805 Briggs, Barstow
Janie Salinas, 301 23rd Street, Big Spring
Judy Bernice Jewett Scott, 1519 Sycamore, Big Spring
Zachary Smith, 601 E. 16th, Big Spring
Allen Stanford, 774 E. 8th Street, Colorado City
John Paul White, 502 Circle / 4307 W. Hwy 818, Big Spring
David Yanez, 2507 Gunter, Big Spring
Teresa Josephine Zarate, 1105 W. Kentucky Ave., Midland
James Dean Zeigenbein, 9413 University, Odessa
Shuang Cheng Zhang, 1201 Gregg Street, Big Spring

District Court Filings:
City of Big Spring vs. Leslie Lloyd, other civil.
Jerry D. Bales vs. Commerce and Industry Insurance Company, injury or damages other.
Jack Conner vs. Gerald Bruce Witty, injury or damages with a motor vehicle.
Johnny Fender vs. Eugene J. Wright dba Quick-Way Express, injury or damages with a motor vehicle.
Jan Renee Sturtz vs. Steven E. Sturtz, divorce.

Marriage Licenses:
Dickie Dwayne Dodson, 27, and Julie Renee Cerdas, 25, both of Midland.
Duncan Joseph Sanchez, 20, and Beatrice Annette Gomez, 20, both of Big Spring.
Robbie Owen Rupard, 43, and Molly Elaine Cadenhead, 38, both of Big Spring.
Carlos Manuel Plata, 20, and Johanna Esquibel Martinez, 23, both of

Ackerly.
Jeremy John Miller, 26, and Tiffany Dawn Yeats, 24, both of Big Spring.
Rocky Alan Autry, 20, and Ashley Roseanne Guidry, 21, both of Big Spring.
Daniel Monez Viera, 16, and Kimberly Nicole Rios, 16, both of Big Spring.
Thomas Henry Hines, 57, and Inez Salazar, 50, both of Big Spring.
John David Kimberly, 31, and Gina Renee Garza, 33, both of Big Spring.
Jesus Bravo Jr., 26, and Sonya Bernadette Arguello, 25, both of Big Spring.

Warranty deeds:
Grantor: Charlie Morehead Burns
Grantee: Carol Morehead, Kay Honea and Jan Falkner
Property: Lots 7 through 15, Block 2, Original Town of Big Spring
Date Filed: June 23, 2004

Grantor: Charlie Morehead Burns
Grantee: Carol Morehead, Kay Honea and Jan Falkner
Property: Lots 1 through 6, Block 3, Original Town of Big Spring
Date Filed: June 23, 2004

Grantor: Charlie Morehead Burns
Grantee: Carol Morehead, Kay Honea and Jan Falkner
Property: 100-101 Johnson Street
Date Filed: June 23, 2004

Grantor: Mildred Rudd, Priscilla Horn, Cathey Jo Roman and Cindy Gale Herington
Grantee: Sonya Lusk
Property: Lot 2, Block 2, Edwards Heights
Date Filed: June 24, 2004

Grantor: Corrine Mittel Denton, Ralph Monaco, Jay C. Mittel, Jane W. Myers, Jackie L. Winn, Dolores C. Evans, Julie Camp, Patricia A. Evans, Diana L. Vise, Dennis R. Kennedy, Larry J. Kennedy, Daryl Zapata, Glenn E. Abernathy, S. Kristine Stewart, Jamie Estrada, Clayton Johnson, Linda Torkelson, Mary Therese Burschinger, Mary Lou Sullivan and Robert Evans

Grantor: Hayes Stripling Jr.
Property: The N/100 feet of the E/2 of Section 41, Block 32, T-1-N, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date Filed: June 24, 2004

Grantor: Thymos A. Welch Jr.
Grantee: Jose EW. Gonzales
Property: Lot 8, Block 11, Monticello Addition
Date Filed: June 28, 2004

Grantor: Doug Vickers
Grantee: Beacon Manufactured Housing Inc. - Roy R. Taylor
Property: The surface estate only in the 10.01 acre tract out of the NE/4 of Section 41, Block 32, T-1-S, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date Filed: June 28, 2004

Grantor: Roberto Vargas
Grantee: Roberto Clemente Vargas
Property: 116.5 acres out of the North part of Section 26, Block 33, T-2-S, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date Filed: June 29, 2004

Grantor: Thomas Haden
Grantee: Juan Garcia and Ida Garcia
Property: Lot 36, Block 16, Kentwood Addition No. 2
Date Filed: June 29, 2004

Grantor: Oneita Allen Sledge
Grantee: Jaime W. Salan and Cynthia L. Salan
Property: Lot 12, Block 7, North Belvue Addition
Date Filed: June 29, 2004

Grantor: Jimmy Crosby
Grantee: Robby Rupard
Property: Two tracts of land out of Section 17, Block 32, T-1-S, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date Filed: June 29, 2004

Warranty deeds with vendors in:
Grantor: Clark Dunnam and Lorie Dunnam
Grantee: Edwin R. Althof and Tamara K. Althof
Property: The S/2 of Lot 13 and all of Lot 14, Block 2, Kentwood Addition
Date Filed: June 23, 2004

Grantor: Charles F. Archer and Wanda K. Archer
Grantee: Ronnie Powers and Vicki Powers
Property: The N/15 feet of Lot 9 and all of Lot 10, Block 17, Brennd Addition
Date Filed: June 24, 2004

Grantor: Davin Kurt Coor and Jeannie Re Neer Coor
Grantee: Clark Dunnam and Lorie Dunnam
Property: A 0.294 acre tract out of Lots 27 and 28, Block 2, Amended Highland South Addition
Date Filed: June 24, 2004

Grantor: J.B. Cushing and Bonnie Cushing
Grantee: Dennis P. Schwartz
Property: A 2.06 acre tract out of the NE/4 of Section 1, Block 32, T-1-S, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date Filed: June 24, 2004

Grantor: Jason Sims and Jenny Sims
Grantee: Debra Ellis
Property: Lot 22, Block 3, Wasson Place Addition
Date Filed: June 25, 2004

Grantor: Kenneth R. Eubanks and Pat Eubanks
Grantee: L.B. Hodges
Property: Lot 3, Block 4, Wasson Place Addition
Date Filed: June 29, 2004

Grantor: Gary B. Donelson and Patricia Shanks
Grantee: Dennis P. Schwartz
Property: Lot 8, Block 15, Kentwood Addition No. 2
Date Filed: June 29, 2004

Grantor: Hayes Stripling Jr. and Dorothy Stripling
Grantee: Gary A. Bryant and Janet L. Bryant
Property: A 2.16 acre tract out of Section 24, Block 33, T-1-S, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date Filed: June 29, 2004

Younger car buyers have the advantage

By ALISSA SCHEPISI
KRWT News Service

Are young car buyers different than their older counterparts? Yes, in a variety of ways, according to car experts. In many ways, young car buyers are at an advantage. Auto manufacturers have begun investing millions of dollars, trying to win young car buyers' business. Here are some ways to use your youth to your advantage and to overcome the disadvantage of inexperience.

— You can spruce up your ride — with the car manufacturers' help. Auto manufacturers have caught on that many young car buyers want their car customized.

From a CD changer to rims, customizing makes a car uniquely your own — but it also invalidates your warranty, said Mark Perleberg, lead auto expert for NADA Guides. But now, manufacturers will build you a tricked-out car or will give you ideas as to how your car tune the model of your choice.

"You can customize your vehicle to make it uniquely your own, almost at point of purchase," said Brian Chee, editor of autobytel.com. "This phenomenon started with kids taking Honda Civics and customizing them. Automakers said 'Look at what they're doing to their cars. We need to get

on this train.'"

— Dealerships are willing to offer financing to young car buyers. That wasn't always the case, Perleberg said. In the 1970s, companies "weren't willing to finance kids. They weren't interested in that kind of business."

What has changed? "Manufacturers are more aware of future branding," Perleberg said. "They're willing to finance you because they're trying to build loyalty." Take the offer, but only if the rates are competitive.

— Use the Internet to your advantage. "You've gotta take a research-centered approach" to the car buying process, Chee

advises, and the Internet generation should do their research — where else? — on the Web. "The most significant difference between young car buyers and the older generation — their parents — is they would not think about buying a car without researching on the Internet first," Chee said. Dealers, in turn, expect young car buyers to be a much savvier car-buying bunch than other car buyers, who traditionally go to the car dealership to gather their information

and window shop. Take advantage of the wealth of information on the Internet, keep your expectations realistic, then head to the dealership. You'll feel more in control of negotiations when you and the dealer know you're well-informed.

— Examine the total cost of owning a particular vehicle. Some cars — including large SUVs and high-performance sports cars — carry higher insurance premiums and guzzle gas. Chee said some inexperienced dri-

vers may not be able to handle the power of high-performance cars, resulting in accidents or injury. Edmunds.com has a True Cost to Own feature that helps to calculate the five-year costs you may not have anticipated.

— Don't let your excitement cloud the decision-making process.

"Young car buyers have a tendency to want the first thing they see," Perleberg said. "The more excited you get, the less practical you become."

JOBS

Continued from Page 3C

Chester, Pa.

Several factors battered the economy this spring, Zandi said. He cited higher energy prices, rising interest rates, the fading impact of last year's income-tax cuts and increasing public anxiety about the situation in Iraq.

"There's no question we have lost steam," said Sung Won Sohn, chief economist at Wells Fargo bank in Minneapolis. "The question is whether we will continue to lose

steam or have better economic growth in the future."

A rebound in the job market is key, as more jobs would translate into more income, which is what would keep consumer spending growing.

In June, factory employment dropped by 11,000 jobs, a setback after four consecutive monthly gains totaling 75,000 positions. Construction, which had added 120,000 jobs in the previous three months, was unchanged.

Professional services, including lawyers, accountants, engineers and consultants, added 23,100 jobs. Health-care

employment rose by 18,200 jobs.

Restaurants and bars added 7,000 jobs. Retailers added 6,700 jobs, down from a 17,600 rise in May and a 24,100 increase in April.

Sohn expects the job market to bounce back, but he warned that the current economic weakness creates a period of vulnerability.

"The economy is losing momentum, and if we had an external shock — a terror attack before the election or a sharp increase in the price of oil that is sustained — that could do us in," he said.

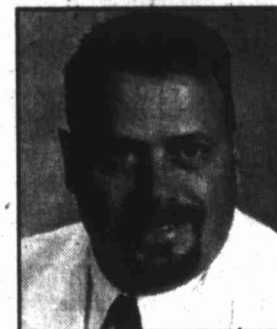


KURT KISER

GOOD NEWS
FOR BIG SPRING

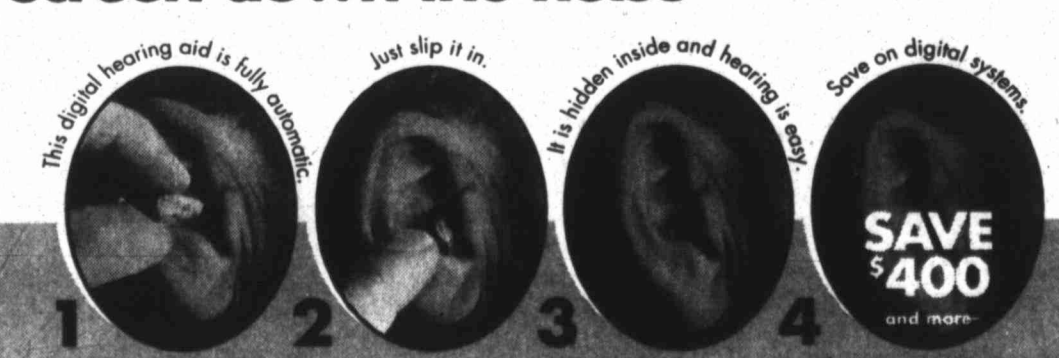
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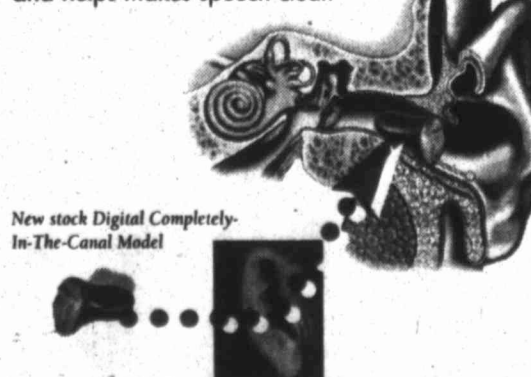


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ONE LOT at Trinity Memorial Park, Sharon Section, Lot 128 Space 4, \$1200.00 plus transfer fee. Call (928)532-1664.

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Full time positions.
Must be able to start immediately.
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IMMEDIATE OPENING for Executive Secretary/Contract Administrator. Legal experience helpful. Bring or mail resume to Price Construction, P.O. Box 1231, Big Spring, Tx 79721 or fax resume to (432)267-1694. EOE.

Help Wanted

AMERICAN STATE Bank is currently accepting applications for a Part-Time Teller in Big Spring. Qualified applicants should be available to work Monday - Saturday. Must be customer service oriented and have cash handling and sales experience. Apply at American State Bank, 1411 Gregg Street.

CITY OF Midland CDBG Program Specialist
The City of Midland is seeking a Community Development Block Grant Program Specialist to provide services and support related to the implementation of the City's CDBG program and housing programs. Applicants must have a high school diploma or equivalent and a minimum of two years experience in all phases of building a construction work or in a closely related field. A valid Texas driver's license is also required. Wages and hours: \$2288 - \$2600/month; Monday thru Friday; 8:00 am until 5:00 pm. Applications will be accepted at the City of Midland, 300 N. Lorraine Ste. 120, Midland, Texas 79702 until 5:00 pm on July 7, 2004. Faxed and/or emailed applications will not be accepted. A completed City of Midland Employment Application must accompany all resumes and may be downloaded from our website at www.ci.midland.tx.us. EOE.

DISABLED MAN seeks Aid for personal care services. Call Guy (432)267-6766.

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866-713-2778
Or 866-366-6361
CRST Malone

RECEPTIONIST help, good computer skills & phone personality. Be at work on Time. Preferred Non-Smoker. Send resume: c/o Big Spring Herald, PO Box 1431/221, Big Spring, TX 79721.

Help Wanted

Drivers TRANSPORT DRIVER
Rip Griffin Travel Center
Big Spring, Tx
Position requires CDL with Hazmat, 2 yrs verifiable exp (tanker preferred), & good driving record. Send resume or summary of qualifications to: rbarron@ripgriffin.com
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NOW ACCEPTING applications for:
1. CNA 7AM to 7PM at Mitchell County Hospital.
2. CNA for 7PM to 7AM at Mitchell County Hospital.
3. LVN 7PM to 7AM at Mitchell County Hospital.
4. RN 7PM to 7AM at Mitchell County Hospital
5. LVN for 7AM to 7PM at the Ware Medical Unit
These are full time positions with benefits. Contact Sandra Sullivan, Human Resources at (325)728-3431, ext 7105.

Help Wanted

RESTITRATION/ COLLECTION CLERK
Previous collection experience is preferred. Excellent Customer Service skills required. Computer skills a must. Sat.-Sun. 7a-7p & Tue.-Thurs. 12a-6a.
Scenic Mountain Medical Center,
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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER

is accepting applications for the following position. Successful candidate will be required to pass TDCJ security clearances.

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Veolia Water North America, the largest and fastest growing service provider of water and wastewater treatment systems, has an immediate opening for a processing operator at an industrial project located in Big Spring, Texas. This entry level position will be responsible for the operation of solid waste processing equipment, groundwater compliance monitoring, and minor maintenance.

The ideal candidate will have strong mechanical and troubleshooting skills, a commitment to safety and environmental excellence, and previous experience in an industrial environment. The successful candidate will be required to complete a 40 hour Hazwopper training course.

Veolia Water North America offers an excellent work environment and comprehensive benefits package. For confidential consideration, send or fax your resume to:

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The City of Big Spring is conducting a civil service entrance exam for the position of Firefighter/Paramedic on Saturday July 24, 2004. Qualified applicants must be at least 18 but under 36 years of age and must have a High School Diploma or equivalent. To apply and obtain further information contact the Personnel Department at 310 Nolan St. Big Spring, Tx 79720 or call 432-264-2346. Applications will be accepted until 5:00 pm Wednesday July 21, 2004. Preference given to applicants certifiable in Fire/EMS. The City of Big Spring is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Help Wanted

CITY OF Big Spring is accepting applications for Heavy Equipment operator in the landfill. For further information contact The Personnel Department at City Hall, 310 Nolan, Big Spring, TX 79720 or Call (432)264-2346. The City of Big Spring is EOE.

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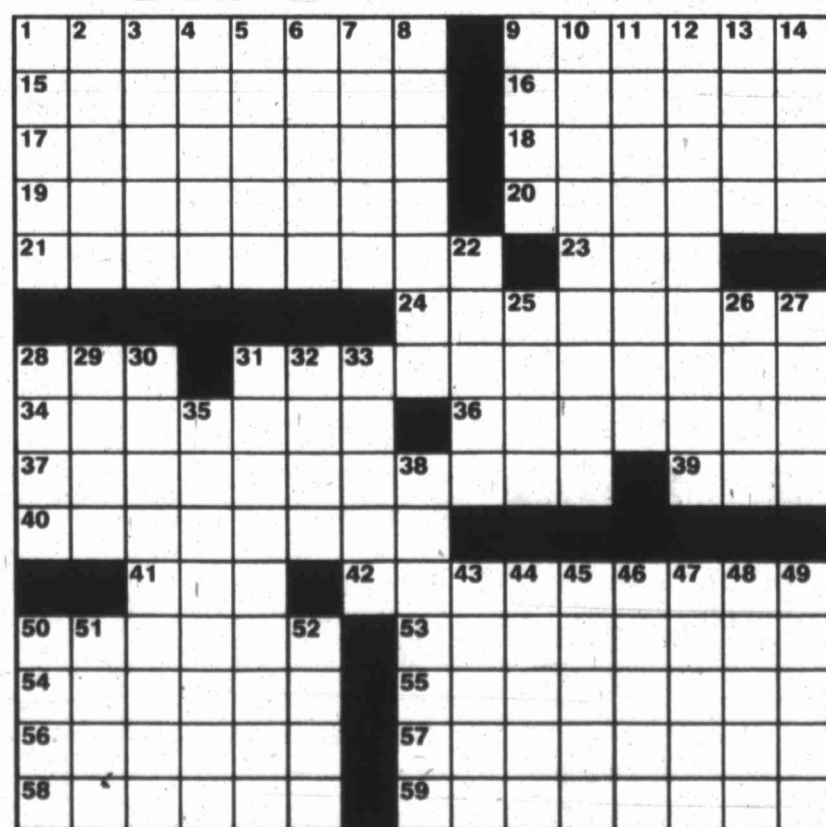
Newsday Crossword

SATURDAY STUMPER by S.N.
Edited by Stanley Newman

ACROSS

- 1 Head creations
- 9 It's below D
- 15 Integrated
- 16 *Poltergeist* director
- 17 Mix over
- 18 *Trail to San* (Autry film)
- 19 Bors' uncle
- 20 City south of Fort Myers
- 21 Charms
- 23 Unitary principle
- 24 Taking pot luck, maybe
- 28 Shade of gray
- 31 Rushed
- 34 Takes over
- 36 Clapping candidates
- 37 Sweater protectors
- 39 Stuck
- 40 Hit
- 41 Bunyan's blacksmith
- 42 Current controls
- 50 Release people
- 53 Frank
- 54 Change at Moose Jaw
- 55 Chant
- 56 Couples
- 57 Pencil product

- 58 Sneak protector
 - 59 Grammarian's bane
- DOWN**
- 1 His theme was "Sunrise-Serenade"
 - 2 City on the Allegheny
 - 3 Approach
 - 4 Onetime CBS owner
 - 5 Andretti rival
 - 6 Funds
 - 7 Join the club
 - 8 Pioneer, perhaps
 - 9 *The House Without a Key* hero
 - 10 Mozart selections
 - 11 '70s fashion
 - 12 "Sorry!"
 - 13 Odo
 - 14 MVB or JKP
 - 22 Overindulges
 - 25 Libel or slander
 - 26 Hungarian name
 - 27 Hotbed
 - 28 101 concepts
 - 29 Haggis ingredient
 - 30 Type of ferry
 - 31 Tricky business
 - 32 Pap's boy
 - 33 Last choice, often
 - 35 Attack
 - 38 I.B. Singer story
 - 43 Sony competitor
 - 44 Secret stuff
 - 45 Took
 - 46 Restorative
 - 47 Sultan subject
 - 48 They may be going
 - 49 Dog of the comics
 - 50 Speak up for
 - 51 *Miss* (gossipy autobiography)
 - 52 It won't hold water



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7/3/04



West Texas Centers has an opening for a Utilization Management Director. Position will be responsible for ongoing utilization review activities to include granting and denying authorizations for services. Position will report directly to the Chief Executive Officer. Position responsibilities include effective communication regarding utilization review operations, performance and problem resolution. Position will monitor service delivery and outcomes to ensure that services are appropriately utilized. Applicants must possess skills and abilities which demonstrate experience in evaluation, monitoring and assessment of complex, clinical data. This position will supervise both professional and paraprofessional staff, and must be able to develop and maintain strong working relationships. Position will require policy and procedure development skills.

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY JOYCE JILLSON

This Independence Day, Mercury, the planet of communication and travel, has begun an excursion of his own through the creative realm of Leo. This energy is channeled through top-notch performances of all kinds. Immediately, communication takes on new flair — expect some high-tech and bigger-than-life fireworks displays, too!

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You're the hub of the activities, as you know how to celebrate in a way that attracts a crowd. Networking on downtime gets you ahead; just be sure to find something genuinely interesting in others instead of pushing your own cause.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Though you're truly independent, you're also wise enough to realize that some of the rules were written to protect

you, and you'd be foolish not to follow them. Lots of creative fun is in store if you make it your priority.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Family is your pride and joy, but at the same time, it is driving you crazy. Temper time together with time apart, and you'll remain sane. Tonight, you're in the mood to play and be as free as a child.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). A solo mission this morning is an adventure — you'll be relaying the story to your family and friends later. A love relationship thrives if you are prepared to make a few course corrections along the way. Remain flexible.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Chemistry is critical to your relationships now, love and otherwise. If it's not clicking, there could be an elemental incompatibility. But when it's right, you feel like together you can rule the world. Enjoy fireworks with a sweetheart.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Optimistic stars help

you see the bright side, which outshines the rest. Try the clever idea that comes to mind. Hunches lead to extraordinary results. No matter how long it lasts, a romantic involvement is worth the experience.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You take charge, since feeling like a follower only limits your energy. Your special talent or service is much appreciated by everyone who is privileged enough to enjoy it. Be conscious of unspoken obligations.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Loved ones want so much to please you. Little things mean more because you are super-aware. When you pay close attention, you can predict the future. You're the safety monitor in your group and the designated driver, too.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There is no shortage of ideas about how to have fun. Challenge conventional attitudes — your fresh thoughts are needed. You shine in the eyes of family and friends. Now, what

must you do to impress yourself?

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're in an unusually dreamy mood. If you've been wondering endlessly where a relationship is going, you may keep on wondering unless you summon up the courage to ask. First impressions are reliable; let instinct rule.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Most of the day is spent preparing for friends, socializing and cleaning up the subsequent mess. Make sleep a priority, and you have more energy and stamina. If there is a legitimate short cut, you will find it.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Best intentions between friends are not enough. Action and follow-through count. You don't have to do a thing in romantic matters — everything comes to you. Heads turn when you make an entrance at a popular hot spot.

FORECAST FOR THE WEEK AHEAD: The Cancer sun continues to shed light on home base. The days are long and

hot, so when you've had enough of the ultraviolet rays, it's nice to be able to relax in your own private world. Mercury transits into Leo at the top of the week, promising to light our communication with more pizzazz. Information that also entertains is the best received. The color of words is important. Show your style in all you do, and be constantly working to refine it. There's also a great deal of boasting and bombastic behavior that comes with this transit, so be mindful. You wouldn't want to become an accidental offender. The Fourth of July will bring unique events this year as Leo emphasizes the creative aspects of the holiday. July 5 will be an official day off in observance of Independence Day, and under the Pisces moon, the focus will be on reviewing and clearing out any feelings that are stopping you from moving forward in life. The sun passes stern Saturn, the planet of lessons, on Thursday. If you can

teach others what you've learned, you reinforce to yourself that you truly know it.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Tom Cruise is currently celebrating his own Independence Day away from any significant other since his split from pal Penelope Cruz. Cancer guys put up a tough front when faced with life as a singleton. Many of them enjoy the time alone, but they love feeling like a part of a family. I predict that Cruise will make more public appearances this year with his family members and children instead.

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

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Annie's Mailbox®: Advice for those in need

Dear Readers: Today is Independence Day in the United States. Although there is no hard historical evidence, we generally credit Betsy Ross with sewing the first American flag with the stars-and-stripes design. (Her real name was Elizabeth Griscom Ross.) However, a professional Baltimore flagmaker, Mary Young Pickersgill, sewed the large flag that flew over Fort McHenry during the War of 1812 and inspired Francis Scott Key to write "The Star-Spangled Banner." Her flag now hangs in the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.

Here's more Americana. One of our readers sent us this list, written by Mark Rosenfelder. You can check out the full list, and additional lists about other countries, at his Web site, www.zompist.com.

If You're American ... You believe deep down in the First Amendment.

You know how baseball, basketball and American football are played. On the other hand (and unless you're under 20), you don't care that much for soccer.

You count yourself fortunate if you get three weeks of vacation a year.

You think of McDonald's, Burger King, KFC, etc., as cheap food.

You probably own a telephone and a TV. Your place is heated in the winter and has its own bathroom. You do your laundry in a machine.

You don't kill your own food.

A bathroom may not have a bathtub in it, but it certainly has a toilet.

You expect, as a matter of course, that the phones will work. Getting a new phone is routine.

You'd respect someone who speaks French, German or Japanese, but you very likely don't yourself speak them well enough to communicate.

You think a tax level of 30 percent is scandalously high.

A hotel room has a private bath.

You seriously expect to be able to transact business or deal with the government without paying bribes.

You count on excellent medical treatment. You know you're not going to

KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

die of cholera or other Third World diseases. You think dying at 65 would be a tragedy.

You're used to a wide variety of choices for almost anything you buy.

You still measure things in feet, pounds and gallons.

You stop at red lights even if nobody's around.

You don't care very much what family someone comes from.

You think of opera and ballet as rather elite entertainments.

You'd be hard-pressed to name the capitals or the leaders of all the nations of Europe.

You've left a message at the beep.

If you have an appointment, you'll mutter an excuse if you're five minutes late, and apologize profusely if it's 10 minutes. An hour late is almost inexcusable.

If you're talking to someone, you get uncomfortable if they approach closer than about 2 feet.

You take a strong court system for granted, even if you don't use it. You know that if you went into business and had problems with a customer, partner or supplier, you could take them to court.

You think most problems could be solved if only people would put aside their prejudices and work together.

Dear Annie: My husband passed away a few months ago, and per his wishes, there was no funeral. However, now his mother and I would like to have a memorial picnic and invite my husband's close friends, family and coworkers to spend a casual day remembering him.

Is there any particular etiquette regarding this type of memorial? We are thinking of serving barbecued chicken, hot dogs and salads, but it would be difficult to know how

much food we need because we don't know how many people will show up. Would it be appropriate to make this a "potluck" memorial for anyone who cares to bring a dish? How else can we make it special? — Texas

Dear Texas: The food selection is unimportant, although we aren't crazy about the "potluck" idea, mostly because it means the duties of hosting then belong to all attendees. Since this is your late husband's memorial, that seems inappropriate.

When you call to invite people, ask them to bring along their memories of your late husband. Also ask if they think they will be able to attend, and plan accordingly.

Dear Annie: I read the letter from "Sorry Daughter," who discovered a poem among her late mother's possessions that read, "If you ever loved me, tell me now." She said it broke her heart to think her mother felt unloved.

I grew up in a house where love was not expressed verbally. I, too, have had that poem in my wallet for many years. Now I think I will add a short explanation to it, so my daughters won't misunderstand when they find it later. I can count on one hand the number of times I told my mother that I loved her. It's been over 20 years since she died. If I were granted a day to spend with any person who ever lived, I would pick my mother, just so I could tell her that. — Peace to You

Dear Peace: That letter touched something in our readers. Here's more:

From Out East: I am a very shy person and would not think of writing to you until I saw the letter from "Sorry Daughter." I hope she will rethink why her mother kept that poem. I have had this same poem taped to my bedroom mirror for years. I cherish it and want my children to see it after I die because it shows them the happiness they brought me, and how sad my life would have been without their love. I love my children and their families beyond words and want them to know.

Midwest: My mother, who passed away 10 years ago, had the same poem on her refrigerator.

I always felt it was directed toward my father — a career military officer who found it impossible to verbally express his love for her. He was a caring husband, but even when faced with the message on the refrigerator, he could not go to her with the words she longed to hear before she died. I take comfort in believing that after her passing, she was able to see things from a different perspective and forgive him, as I have. I no longer have the poem, but would love to see it appear again in its entirety, since it seems to

mean so much to so many people.

Dear Midwest: That poem is called "The Time is Now." We do not know the author, but several readers asked us to print it. Here it is:

If you are ever going to love me, Love me now, while I can know

The sweet and tender feelings, Which from true affection flow.

Love me now, While I am living. Do not wait until I'm gone,

And then have it chiseled in marble, Sweet words on ice-cold stone.

If you have tender thoughts of me, Please,

tell me now,

If you wait until I am sleeping, Never to awaken,

There will be death between us, And I won't hear you then.

So, if you love me, even a little bit,

Let me know it while I am living, So I can treasure it.

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

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