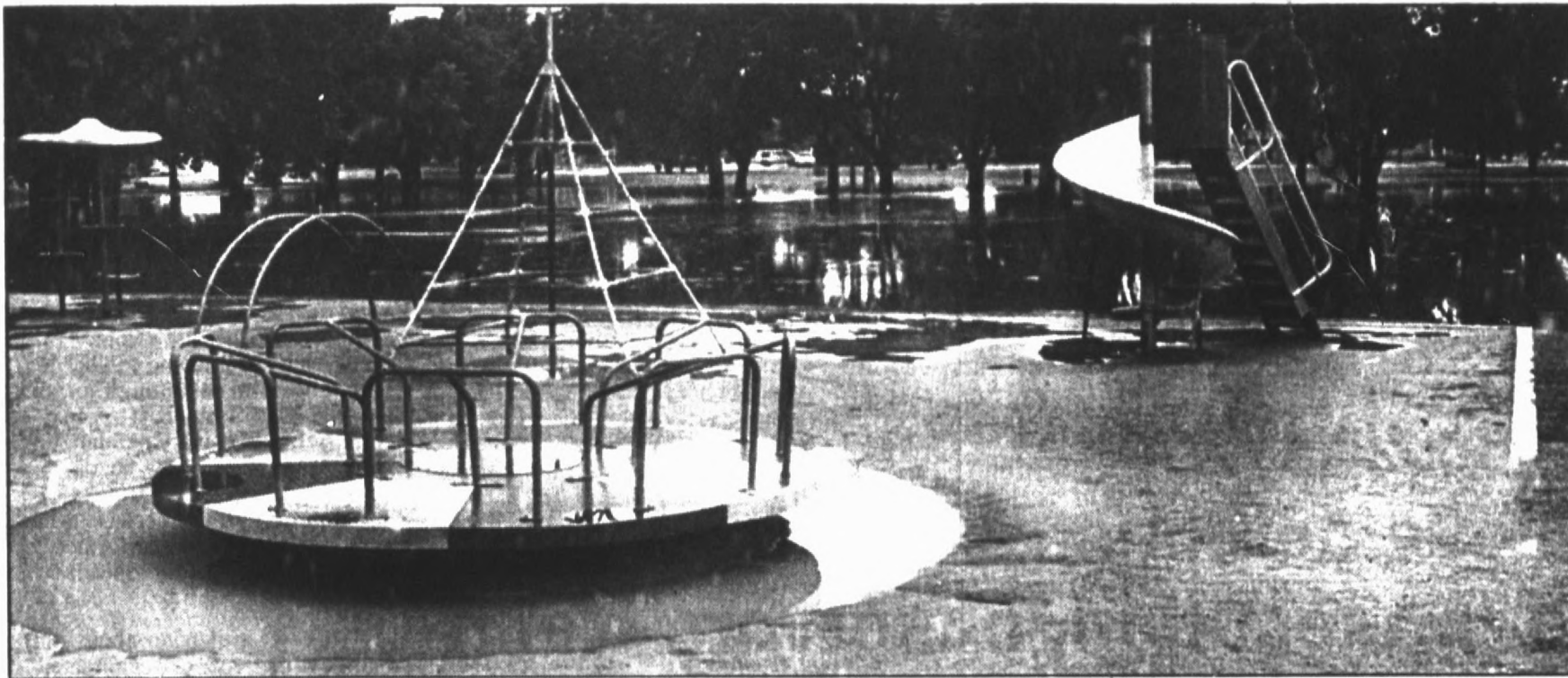


The Hereford Brand



Hustlin Hereford, home of Terry & Diane Beavers, 18 yrs. 94th Year, Vol. No. 251, Deaf Smith County, Texas 10 Pages 50 Cents



Lake Dameron Park?

Water runoff from a brief thunderstorm filled Dameron Park to near capacity Wednesday afternoon. The rains began in the central part of town shortly after noon and continued for just

a few minutes. The runoff flooded the park from the playground on the east to the playground on the west, leaving grass, volleyball courts and play areas under water. See related photo, Page 2.

Base realignment panel's ax falls on Kelly

By JOHN DIAMOND
Associated Press Writer
WASHINGTON (AP) - Rejecting an Air Force recommendation, the base closure commission voted today to close maintenance depots at Kelly Air Force Base, Texas, and McClellan Air Force Base, Calif.

As anxious senators and congressmen looked on, the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission said closing the two "air logistics centers" would save more money faster than the course recommended by the Air Force, which would have kept all five current repair depots open. The two 6-2 votes mean that Kelly in San Antonio would lose more than 13,000 jobs and McClellan in Sacramento would lose about 12,000. Roughly 5,000 jobs at Kelly associated with various air wings would be transferred to other bases in Texas. Most of the jobs that California and Texas will lose as a result of the vote would be transferred to the three

surviving Air Force maintenance depots: Hill Air Force Base, Utah; Robins Air Force Base, Ga., and Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. "There is excess capacity in the United States Air Force depot system," said commissioner Josue Robles Jr., a retired Army General. Robles, however, voted only to close McClellan, saying that to close two depots would leave the Air Force with no capacity to handle a wartime surge. California lawmakers said they

will urge President Clinton to reject the commission closure list, something that has not happened in the three previous base closure rounds. "For California, it's just a major hit," said Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif. "I think this list of base closures has been dramatically unfair to California." The Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission estimated the move would save the government \$3.5 billion over the next 20 years. An analysis by the commission staff found that Kelly had a poor rate of turnover on its repair work on huge C-5 transport aircraft. McClellan had low overall military value scores, according to commission staff documents.

DA planning to retry Reid

By GEORGIA TYLER
Staff Writer

A ruling by the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals probably will not deter further prosecution of a young woman convicted of murder in the death of her daughter in 1984.

Deaf Smith County Criminal District Attorney Roland Saul said the ruling Wednesday in the case of Tanya Thaxton Reid was not unexpected.

"But, we believe she's guilty. If it takes another trial, that's what we'll do," Saul said Thursday morning. "It's unfortunate that the conviction gets reversed, not on the basis of evidence, but on technicalities."

In February, the Seventh Court of Appeals, sitting in Amarillo, overturned the conviction of Reid and remanded the case to 222nd District Court. Saul filed a petition for review by the Court of Criminal Appeals, which was turned down Wednesday. Saul said Thursday that he will file a motion for re-hearing before the court within the 15-day time limit.

If his request again is turned down, he may ask the court to re-consider. Reid, 37, now being held in the Nat Neal Unit of Texas Department of Criminal Justice in Amarillo, may ask the court to set bond after Saul seeks the re-hearing.

The defendant was tried and convicted of murder in late 1993, sentenced to 62 years in prison and fined \$10,000.

The prosecution claimed in the trial that she caused the death of her eight-month-old daughter, Morgan Reid, by smothering or shaking. Testimony by expert witnesses alleged that Reid suffered from a condition known as Munchausen Syndrome by Proxy.

Reversal of the conviction by the Seventh Court of Appeals was based

on two points of error cited by the defendant in appeal documents.

The ruling said the lower court erred in refusing to grant a motion for change of venue. A second point was related to the prosecution's claim that the defendant's hands were a deadly weapon, used in commission of the crime.

Two other points of error cited in the appeal were not addressed by the appellate court.

Reid's attorneys filed a motion for change of venue just minutes before jury selection was to begin on Nov. 30, 1993. The prosecutor insisted the motion was not "timely filed" and entered no "controverting affidavit" on the motion.

Judge David Wesley Gulley denied the motion and jury selection proceeded.

On the second point of reversal, the prosecution claimed the defendant used her hands to smother her baby. The Seventh Court of Appeals ruled that there was not enough evidence that she used a deadly weapon in commission of the offense.

Reid said her baby, Morgan, suffered from periodic seizures and stopped breathing. Testimony by witnesses claimed the mother administered resuscitation before calling for medical help, on more than one occasion.

The prosecution said Reid caused the baby to stop breathing at the family home in Hereford. Morgan died on Feb. 8, 1984, after being taken to an Amarillo hospital.

No charges were filed against Reid at the time, but a Deaf Smith County Grand Jury indicted her in March 1993. At that time, she was serving a sentence, since completed, in an Iowa prison on a 1989 conviction for endangerment of a child, her son, Robert Reid.

Sale of fireworks to begin, but keep them out of town

By GARRY WESNER
Managing Editor
Beginning Saturday, fireworks vendors will open their stands to distribute a variety of popping, sparkling, whizzing and dazzling pyrotechnic treats to help in the celebration of Independence Day.

But before you go running out and buy fireworks to shoot off in your front yard, listen to Fire Marshal Jay Spain.

"Anyone I catch in possession of fireworks, their fireworks will be confiscated and they'll be issued a ticket," said Spain. That is because possession of fireworks inside the Hereford city limits is against the law -- and Spain said that includes anything that is defined as a firework, even sparklers.

There is only one approved fireworks-related event this year -- the July 4th Celebration at

Veteran's Park, at which the Deaf Smith County Chamber of Commerce will sponsor a fireworks display to close out the day-long activities.

Spain said the chamber has a permit for the display and it will be "shot off by professional, licensed pyrotechnic personnel." No fireworks will be allowed in the park for the Independence Day festivities, and anyone caught with them will be cited as well.

Spain said Hereford escaped Independence Day 1994 with no fireworks-related injuries that he knows of.

He investigated 41 reports of fireworks inside the city.

Last year there were 16 grass fires started by fireworks and one structure fire that was ignited by fireworks.

This year as last, Spain and the police department will be on the

lookout for illegal uses of fireworks in the city limits and will issue citations and confiscate fireworks.

Spain said individuals who use (See FIREWORKS, Page 2)

Chamber to host Fourth celebration

Everyone is invited to come along to Veteran's Park next month for the 1995 July 4th Celebration, co-sponsored by the Deaf Smith County Chamber of Commerce, the City of Hereford and Deaf Smith County.

A day full of activities will be on tap, including picnics, entertainment, a free watermelon feed and the annual climax -- a spectacular fireworks display.

The fireworks display is the only authorized show in the city of Hereford.

All local and area residents are encouraged to take part in the Independence Day activities. The chamber invites everyone to grab a picnic and bring the family to Veteran's Park for an old-fashioned day of eating and playing games in the park.

Several local organizations also will have booths offering food and drink items for sale.

The Chamber will provide free watermelon for everyone and those coming out can enjoy a full evening of entertainment by local and area performers.

The entertainment will continue until dark, at which time the biggest-ever fireworks display will begin.

The July 4th Celebration chairman for 1995 is Chamber President Wes Kleit, who is assisted by co-chairs Diane Beavers and Janis Nino.

The July 4th Celebration is made possible by the support of the entire community.

Donations in any amount to help make this event possible will be accepted at the chamber office, 701 N. Main, or by mailing gifts to July 4th Celebration, P.O. Box 192, Hereford, Texas 79045.

For more information, call the Chamber at 364-3333.

Teens who drink and drive focus of highway measure

By RANDOLPH E. SCHMID
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) - A \$13 billion highway bill before the Senate offers no leeway for underage drivers who drink but lets the states decide whether to ban open containers of alcohol in cars or to require motorcycle helmets.

Senators told of the deaths of parents as they wrangled in an often emotional debate Wednesday over the bill designating 159,886 miles of roads as the National Highway System. The measure retains federal rules calling for seat belt use and maintains the current national speed limit for large trucks and buses.

The Senate could complete action on the measure today, and House consideration is expected later this summer. A provision concerning wage levels for construction workers that had prompted a Democratic filibuster and a potential presidential veto was dropped from the measure.

Sen. Dale Bumpers, D-Ark., his voice shaking with emotion, told of the drunken driver who killed his father and mother.

Returning with a friend from looking at a spinach field, they came over a small rise and were struck head-on by a driver on their side of the road.

"Our neighbor was killed instantly, my mother died two days later and my father died five days later," Bumpers said. "You could not have more deliberately killed my father and mother than to get behind the wheel of a car roaring drunk."

A proposal by Sen. Robert Byrd, D-W.Va., to allow "zero tolerance" for underage drinking drivers, rather than applying adult intoxication standards to them, passed 64-36. Byrd noted that 24 states and the District of Columbia already have such laws.

Under zero tolerance, the alcohol standard for underage drivers would be 0.02 percent.

Fireworks Safety Tips

If you must use fireworks, the following safety tips are provided by the Texas Commission on Fire Protection to help make sure they are used as safely as possible:

- ★ Buy fireworks only from a licensed vendor. Vendors must obtain a license or permit from the State Fire Marshal's Office.
- ★ Know the law. Possession and use of fireworks is prohibited within the Hereford city limits.
- ★ Read and follow directions exactly. If you don't understand the instructions on the fireworks, don't take a chance by lighting it. NOTE: Federal law says all fireworks must have easy-to-read cautionary labels and instructions for proper use.
- ★ Only use fireworks outdoors, in a clear area away from houses and other flammable materials.
- ★ Keep a bucket of water nearby while setting off fireworks.
- ★ Never let children use fireworks.
- ★ Keep everyone a safe distance away from the area where fireworks are ignited. Watch children under 15 years old very closely.
- ★ Be sure that the fireworks will not contact or land on any potentially dangerous objects.
- ★ Never touch a firework after it has been lit. If the firework malfunctions, do not try to relight it or pick it up.
- ★ Never experiment with fireworks.
- ★ After you have finished lighting fireworks, cool the remains with water. Collect all used fireworks materials and put them in a metal container. Cover with water to reduce the chance of an accidental fire.



Ready, set, cook!

George Pacheco, left, and Joe Soliz make sure everything is ready for preparing food to be served at San Jose Jamaica scheduled to take place in Dameron Park this weekend. The event starts at 12 noon Sunday. Eight bands will provide entertainment and a "Pot of Gold" raffle will be held in which \$100 will be given away every hour for six hours.

Local Roundup

More thunderstorms in picture

With .79-inch of rain that was recorded at the KPAN office Wednesday, Hereford could pick up some more moisture Thursday night, a 40 percent chance, and Friday, a 30 percent chance, of thunderstorms. Low Thursday night is forecast for 60 to 65 degrees, with winds, 10-20, from the south, and the high Friday, in the middle 80s, with a south wind, 10-15 mph. The mercury reached a high of 86 degrees Wednesday. A 58-degree low reading was recorded during the noontime thunderstorm and again at 7 a.m. Thursday.

News Digest

WASHINGTON - The future of San Antonio's largest industrial employer hangs in the balance today, as does that of a neighboring Air Force base, as an independent base-closings panel begins a series of tough votes. The Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission today began final deliberations concerning the future of 177 defense installations nationwide, including eight in Texas.

ESTELLINE - Ray Barker sat at a shaded picnic table one recent morning watching U.S. 287 traffic zip through this tiny Panhandle town. Not everyone in Estelline - notoriously known as the state's speed-trap capital - condones the lead-footed impulse. But Barker, for one, likes the idea of giving Texas the option to raise its highway speed limits to 65 mph.

WASHINGTON - Scores of new Border Patrol agents, fortified fences and sophisticated equipment would be deployed on the Southwestern border to deter illegal crossers under a sweeping new House immigration reform bill.

WASHINGTON - The transition to a Republican Congress has been easy for Sen. Phil Gramm. He's still saying no, just like he did when Democrats ruled Capitol Hill and he was not yet a presidential candidate.

HOUSTON - A former president of the National Association of Radio Talk Show Hosts says presenting the group's free-speech award to G. Gordon Liddy "will diminish what this award stands for."

DENTON - Dianna Brandborg, who professes to be "a very private person," continues to make the front page and the 10 o'clock news because she feels some of the questions asked prospective jurors are irrelevant and too personal.

FORT WORTH - One of the state district judges who accepted Gov. George Bush's invitation to switch to the Republican party may find that he gets an opponent for his trouble.

DALLAS - An ambitious drug treatment program for Texas prison inmates has been cut to less than half of its envisioned size, officials say.

DALLAS - A federal judge's decision to transfer former Dallas minister Walker Railey's bankruptcy case to California is a "double-edged sword," lawyers for Railey's wife say.

Police, Emergency Reports

Thursday's emergency services reports contained the following information:

HEREFORD POLICE

Theft was reported in the 1100 block of West Park Avenue.

Theft of service was reported in the 500 block of North 25 Mile Avenue.

Harassment was reported in the 500 block of Schley.

Assault was reported in the 300 block of North 25 Mile Avenue.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 300 block of North 25 Mile Avenue.

Criminal trespass was reported in the 500 block of North 25 Mile Avenue.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 1500 block of West Park, where a plate glass window was damaged; and in the 600 block of Irving, where a glass door was damaged by a BB.

Burglary of a vehicle was reported, where shotguns and a rifle were taken.

Minor in possession of alcohol was reported in the 300 block of Fir.

A parking violation was reported in the 100 block of Aspen.

An intoxicated person was reported in the 800 block of South Texas.

Officers issued eight traffic citations.

There was one minor traffic accident with no injuries.

DEAF SMITH SHERIFF

A 34-year-old female was arrested for theft of service.

Burglary of a vehicle was reported.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Volunteer firefighters were called out at 9:27 a.m. to a structure fire at Sixth and Schley.

EMS

Report not available.

PATIENTS IN HOSPITAL

Angie J. DeGollado, Infant boy DeGollado, Infant boy Gonzalez, Paulita Gonzalez, Julian Luna III, Katherine McNair, A.N. McRight; Delia Ortiz, Esmeralda Ortiz, Infant boy Ortiz, Nadine Pipkin, Graciela Rojas, Infant boy Rojas, Cynthia Valenzuela, Infant girl Valenzuela and Ethel R. Viitow.

Estelline folks can provide close view on speed limits

By JEAN PAGEL
Associated Press Writer
ESTELLINE, Texas (AP) - Ray Barker sat at a shaded picnic table one recent morning watching U.S. 287 traffic zip through this tiny Panhandle town.

Not everyone in Estelline - notoriously known as the state's speed-trap capital - condones the lead-footed impulse.

But Barker, for one, likes the idea of giving Texas the option to raise its highway speed limits to 65 mph.

"It's good straight road," he said, gesturing to the highway that hits Amarillo 80 miles to the northwest. "People do it (65 mph) anyway."

The U.S. Senate voted 65-35 Tuesday to dump national speed limits for cars. Republican Sens. Phil Gramm and Kay Bailey Hutchison of Texas both supported the bill, which would let each state decide how fast motorists can take the highways.

Current law sets national limits for all vehicles of 55 mph on most roads and 65 mph on rural interstates.

U.S. Rep. Larry Combest, R-Lubbock, has introduced a similar bill pending before the House Transportation Committee.

He offered a litany of reasons



The rains came

This car plows through heavy rains Wednesday afternoon as it travels west on East Park Avenue during a sudden thunderstorm that swept through the central part of Hereford. An official 0.79 of an inch of rain was reported from the shower, which turned Park Avenue into a stream for a few minutes.

Glove demonstration is no help to prosecution, observers claim

By MICHAEL FLEEMAN
Associated Press Writer
LOS ANGELES (AP) - This time, they fit like a glove.

In a precisely planned demonstration Wednesday, prosecutors had O.J. Simpson put on a pair of gloves that matched the size and model of those found outside his mansion and near the bodies of his ex-wife and her friend.

Last week, he appeared to struggle while trying on the actual gloves that prosecutors say he wore to commit murder. Although the gloves slipped onto Simpson's hands in the second demonstration, legal analysts said prosecutors probably didn't recover much from their major blunder.

"With all the effort and strategy and game playing, I'm not convinced that it advanced the prosecution's case or in any way erased the impression left last week that the shrunken gloves did not fit," said Southwestern University law professor Robert Pugsley.

Said Loyola University law professor Stan Goldman: "It just makes the issue of the glove bigger and bigger."

The demonstration did make for good courtroom theater, however, a far cry from today's hearing on what kind of mathematical formulas to use in determining DNA matches of blood stains from different people. Testimony was to resume later in the day.

Also Wednesday, witnesses discussed Simpson's cellular phone calls to his girlfriend and her ties to pop singer Michael Bolton. And a judge in Kansas City, Mo., decided that Simpson's friend Marcus Allen can't be forced to testify in the murder trial.

Simpson says he was home alone on June 12, 1994, when Nicole Brown Simpson and friend Ronald Goldman were stabbed and slashed to death outside Ms. Simpson's condominium. Prosecutors are nearing the end of their case and could rest by next week.

In revisiting the great glove demonstration, prosecutors took no chances of repeating last week's debacle, which included Simpson muttering to the jury, "They don't fit."

Prosecutors accused Simpson of acting and said the gloves had shrunk from being soaked with blood. The defense said they didn't fit because they weren't his.

The second time, prosecutors used a new pair of size extra large brown leather gloves sent from the Philippines by the glove maker. Prosecutors also had two men from the district attorney's office try the gloves on their large hands. Just to make sure, prosecutors had glove expert Richard Rubin measure Simpson's hands.

Rubin, a former vice president of Aris Isotoner Inc., testified that the new gloves were a good fit.

But defense attorney Johnnie Cochran Jr. got Rubin to acknowledge that most American men could get their hands into the extra-large gloves and that they were bigger than the murder gloves.

As he left the courthouse, Cochran said the bloody evidence gloves "don't fit. You understand that? Don't fit. And they can never make them fit."

DNA experts have testified that blood from Simpson and both victims was found on the glove discovered on Simpson's estate. The defense says the glove was planted by a racist detective trying to frame Simpson.

Two other witnesses testified Wednesday:

- LuEllen Robertson, records custodian for AirTouch Cellular, documented six calls the day of the murders from Simpson's cellular phone to girlfriend Paula Barbieri's phone numbers in West Los Angeles and Florida. Robertson said the calls either weren't answered or only brief connection was made, suggesting a message was left on an answering machine. The last call was at 10:03 p.m.; prosecutors claim Ms. Simpson

Foster opponents say nomination has failed; Clinton holding out

By TERENCE HUNT
AP White House Correspondent
WASHINGTON (AP) - Barring a surprise, Dr. Henry Foster's nomination as surgeon general is on the verge of dying, riddled in a cross-fire of charges about abortion and Republican presidential politics. Opponents claimed victory today, while the White House maintained "we still have a shot."

After failing a preliminary Senate test Wednesday, Foster's last hope was a repeat vote today on whether to curtail debate on his nomination. The White House seemed glum about his prospects, after losing by three votes in the first round.

"It's still very tight," White House Chief of Staff Leon Panetta said today on ABC's "Good Morning America." "We've made a number of calls, the president's been in

contact with key members and we still have a shot here. It's still not over."

But Sen. Phil Gramm, R-Texas, who has been leading the fight against Foster, also was on network television at daybreak to proclaim the fight virtually over.

"I think on this high-profile vote, when people voted yesterday, they pretty well locked that vote into concrete. I don't see it moving. I don't see any evidence anybody's moving," Gramm said on Fox Television.

"Are we going to try for another vote? Yes, we are," President Clinton said after Wednesday's vote. "Do I know what the outcome will be? No, I don't. But I'm not through yet, and we're going to do our best to win it."

Foster's nomination, dangling since February, has become a lightning rod for attacks by anti-abortion groups because of his admission that he has performed 39 abortions during four decades in medicine.

"This is a debate about the qualifications of a candidate," Gramm said on "CBS This Morning," citing Foster's record, including some abortions. But Panetta, appearing on CNN, charged that the issue was really about "a very right-wing group in this country that is really trying to decide a woman's right to choose."

The White House - and even some Republicans - say Foster is being pummeled in the jockeying for the GOP presidential nomination, with Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole and Gramm leading the charge.

Foster, an obstetrician-gynecologist from Nashville, Tenn., pleaded for "the fairness that has been provided to previous nominations, the right to an up-or-down vote."

But Gramm and Dole, two GOP rivals, were determined to deny a straight vote, trying to kill the nomination through a parliamentary tactic.

Panel finds no reason to withhold documents

By MELISSA B. ROBINSON
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) - The full release of 16 documents on Lee Harvey Oswald, parts of which remain classified by the CIA, would not jeopardize intelligence agents or the country, an independent board has concluded.

After a classified briefing with the CIA, the Assassination Records Review Board said it found no evidence that releasing the complete documents would harm the nation or individuals whose names or pseudonyms would be revealed.

Rather, the documents should be fully released because of their significant historical interest, as they "involve core issues surrounding the CIA's records relating to Lee Harvey Oswald," according to a statement.

On Wednesday, the board notified President Clinton that its five members voted unanimously for full release. He has 30 days to make a final decision.

"They won't mean something to everyone," said Tom Samoluk, the board's spokesman, of the classified sections. "But they are pieces of the puzzle."

The documents relate mostly to the opening of Oswald's "201 file," which contains thousands of pages of CIA information on Oswald, and to certain issues connected with his visit to Mexico City in the fall of 1963, just weeks before Kennedy was assassinated, the board said.

The Warren Commission, in an investigation begun immediately after the assassination, concluded that

FIREWORKS

fireworks that cause fires can find their wallets lightened after the flames are extinguished.

"That person is responsible for any loss or damage" caused by a fireworks-triggered fire, and if there are any deaths or injuries, "they could be responsible for that," Spain said.

Spain said last year there were five stands that sold fireworks around Hereford.

Anyone operating a stand must have that stand licensed "and I will see to that," he said, "or they won't operate."

Before the stands open this weekend, Spain said he will inspect them and make sure they meet all local requirements and that there are no fire hazards present.

Although Spain said he has had no trouble with vendors in the past, "I will close the stand and confiscate the fireworks" if his conditions are not met.

Oswald acted alone in killing the president. That was contradicted by a House committee's 1978 finding that a conspiracy was probably at work.

While most of the information in the documents has been available to the public, the CIA has withheld many sections on the grounds that they would reveal an intelligence agent requiring protection, or an intelligence source or method still in use, according to the board.

Classified sections typically would contain names or code names, or operational or organizational information.

The vote marks the first instance since being sworn-in in April 1994 that the board has clashed with a government agency over the release of assassination-related documents.

Lottery

AUSTIN (AP) - Two winning tickets to a Lotto Texas jackpot Wednesday night estimated at \$4 million were sold in the town of Richland (population 320); about 70 miles south of Dallas, a spokesman for the Texas Lottery Commission said.

The winning numbers were 9, 17, 21, 24, 28 and 40.

Richland is about 15 miles south of Corsicana, a few miles west of Interstate 45.

The jackpot for Saturday night's drawing will again be approximately \$4 million, lottery officials said.

AUSTIN (AP) - The Pick 3 winning numbers drawn Wednesday by the Texas Lottery, in order:

7-3-6 (seven, three, six)

THE HEREFORD BRAND

The Hereford Brand (ISSN 045-680) is published daily except Sundays, Saturdays, July 4, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Day by The Hereford Brand, Inc., 2125 E. 28th St., Hereford, TX 76044. Second-class postage paid at the post office in Hereford, Texas.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Hereford Brand, P.O. Box 474, Hereford, TX 76044. SUBSCRIPTION RATES: Home delivery by carrier in Hereford, \$6.50 monthly by mail in Deaf Smith County for adjoining counties, \$8 a year; mail to other Texas areas, \$7.50 a year; outside Texas, \$10 a year.

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The Brand was established as a weekly in February, 1988, converted to a daily in 1990, to the issue weekly on July 4, 1995.

O.G. Henson
Murray Henson
Cathy Henson
Cathy Henson

Publisher
Adm. Mgr.
Editor
Circulation Mgr.

Obituaries

ANNA M. WILSON

June 10, 1995

Anna M. Wilson, 87, of Dumas, a former resident of Hereford, died June 10 in Dumas.

A memorial service will be held Friday at 1 p.m. in Hunt Memorial United Methodist Church in Dumas. Burial was June 16 in Clinton, Minn. Dumas arrangements were made by Morrison Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Wilson was born in Minnesota and married Harold T. Wilson in Ortonville, Minn. He died in 1975. She had been a den mother, school board member, active Rebekah Lodge member and senior citizens member. While living in Hereford from 1981 until about 1987, she was in the Green Thumb program at Hereford Senior Citizens. She was a Methodist.

Survivors are a daughter, Carolyn Orthon of Dumas; two sons, Robert Wilson of Riverfalls, Wis., and the Rev. Thomas Wilson of Buffalo Lake, Minn.; two sisters, a brother, 12 grandchildren, 27 great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren.

Memorials may be directed to Memorial Hospice, 225 E. Second, Dumas 79029.

Lifestyles

Hereford Toastmasters meet during regular morning, evening sessions

The evening meeting of Hereford Toastmasters was held Monday at the Hereford Community Center game room.

Presiding officer was Coleen Seright. Pat Varner led the pledge and L.V. Watts gave the invocation.

Steve Cortez was toastmaster; Jigger Rowland, timer and AH counter; and Sharon Cramer, grammarian.

Seright, as wordmaster, introduced the words podium and lectern.

Topicmaster was Cramer. Topic

speakers and their topics were Rowland-"What Do You Plan to Do at 65?"; Margaret Del Toro-"O.J. Simpson Couldn't Fit Gloves-Was It a Show?"; Watts-"Foods You'd Like to Binge On!" and Seright-"Have Surgery with Anesthesia or Something Else?"

Varner gave a speech titled "B-Appearance Only" and was evaluated by Del Toro. Rick Jackson gave a speech titled "The Dusty Demon" and was evaluated by Watts.

Seright gave the reading and

served as general evaluator. Jackson told the joke.

Varner was voted best speaker and Watts was voted best evaluator and topic speaker.

Guests were Adolfo Del Toro and Grace Varela.

The morning meeting was held Thursday at the Ranch House Restaurant with Nancy Griego presiding.

Linda Minchew was toastmaster; David Jury, timer; Dan Hall, AH counter; and Pat Varner, grammarian.

Art Gonzales introduced the word optimal and also served as topicmaster. Topic speakers and their topics were Dr. Milton Adams-"What To Do About Welfare and Minimum Wage" and Hall-"Situation on Prisons".

Speakers were Joe Weaver and Jigger Rowland. Weaver spoke on "Walking In Forgiveness" and was evaluated by Margaret Del Toro. Rowland spoke on "The Richest Man In Babylon" and was evaluated by Griego.

Dr. Adams gave the reading and Hall told the joke. Charles Minchew was general evaluator.

Joe Weaver was voted best speaker and Dr. Adams was voted best topic speakers. The vote for best evaluator resulted in a tie between Del Toro and Griego.

Adolfo Del Toro was a guest at the meeting.



Bridal shower held

Joni Hicks, second from right, bride-elect of Greg Hartman, was honored with a bridal shower at the home of Joyce Ward, right. Also pictured are Linda Hicks, second from left, mother of the bride-elect and Kristen Hicks, left, sister-in-law of the bride-elect.

Ward home site of bridal shower honoring bride-elect of Hartman

Joni Hicks, bride-elect of Greg Hartman, was honored with a bridal shower Tuesday at the home of Joyce Ward.

The couple will be married July 1. Greeting guests with the honor were her mother, Linda Hicks; her sister-in-law, Kristen Hicks; and hostess Joyce Ward.

Refreshments of angel food cake, strawberries, whipped cream, mint punch and coffee were served by the

hostesses. The serving table was covered with a white linen cloth, centered with an ivy filled basket accented with baby's breath and lighted by three tall blue candles. Table appointments were cut crystal. A set of stainless steel cookware

was the gift from hostesses Wanda Crownover, Linda Minchew, Micah Noland, Jan Dudley, Peggie Fox, Betty Wilcox, Carolyn Fry, Gail Binder, Maudette Smith, Marcie Ginn, Pat Lange, Jo Lee, Rhonda Johnson, Shirley Wilson, Ruth Knox, Leota Kelso, Patty Aichley and Ward.

Ann Landers

DEAR ANN LANDERS: A co-worker of mine told me recently that she has had psychic forewarning of catastrophes, some of which have happened to several acquaintances and friends. These incidents of clairvoyance leave her feeling frightened and disturbed, since they all have had to do with death and destruction.

"Gina" has had herself tested for psychic ability and scored high. She knows she is psychic but is so disturbed by her ability that she is now suppressing this talent. She frequently prays not to get any more forewarnings.

Is there some way Gina could develop her psychic ability so that she would "receive" good news about people or at least news that isn't exclusively bad?

Please give me some guidance so that I can help her. -- Detroit

DEAR DETROIT: I don't believe certain people can accurately predict catastrophes or anything else. The best they can do is guess.

Some folks get hunches, but they rarely tell you when their hunches don't materialize. I hope Gina will get counseling to deal with her anxieties about what she perceives as her "gift."

DEAR ANN LANDERS: You've printed many letters about lost pets, but I'd be interested in knowing how many pets are STOLEN out of their own backyards.

I am the proud owner of a 4-year-old terrier, Amie. She is lovable and feisty with mischievous coal black eyes and perky ears. A while back, I hooked Amie up to a rotating stake in the front yard so she could get some fresh air. A bit later, I noticed a man stooped over in our yard, unwinding Amie's chain.

When I approached him, he explained that Amie's leash was tangled and he was undoing it for her. He said his girlfriend loved dogs and he had already given her several. He remarked on how cute Amie was and left.

He may have had no ulterior

motives, but to this day, I still wonder what would have happened if I had not walked outside at that moment.

Please warn your pet-owning readers not to leave their pets unattended. There are people out there who will steal your pets without a second thought as to how much you cherish them or how heartbroken you will be when they are gone. -- Feeling Fortunate in Evansville, Ind.

DEAR EVANSVILLE: A word to the wise is sufficient. Thanks for yours.

DEAR ANN LANDERS: This is in regard to your column about physicians' illegible handwriting causing pharmacists to dispense the wrong medicine.

That problem was solved 15 years ago in Israel, where I worked as a foreign expert from 1970 to 1980. (The problem was magnified there because doctors came from all over the world.) There were several "mistakes," to put it delicately, due to the doctors' handwriting. Almost always, the pharmacists were blamed, so they advised the medical association that they would not fill any prescription unless it was printed.

The doctors balked, but the pharmacists kept their word--they simply stopped filling prescriptions that were not printed. End of problem. We now should do the same here. -- E.F., Seattle, Wash.

DEAR E.F.: Hooray for the pharmacists in Israel! How wonderful if pharmacists everywhere would do the same.

Gem of the Day (Credit Mark Twain): Be careful about reading health books. You may die of a misprint.

Forget to save some of your favorite Ann Landers columns? "Nuggets and Doozies" is the answer. Send a self-addressed, long, business-size envelope and a check or money order for \$5.25 (this includes postage and handling) to: Nuggets, c/o Ann Landers, P.O. Box 11562, Chicago, Ill. 60611-0562. (In Canada, send \$6.25.)

Class of 1970 to hold meeting

The Hereford High School class of 1970 will hold a reunion planning meeting June 26 at 7 p.m. at the Sirloin Stockade.

All local classmates are urged to attend.

Senior Citizens

LUNCH MENUS

THURSDAY-Italian spaghetti or chicken fillet, seasoned green beans, buttered carrots, tossed salad, fruit pudding.

FRIDAY-Fish Nuggets, potato supreme casserole, harvard beets, carrots and cabbage slaw, applesauce cake.

MONDAY-BBQ Mr. Ribb or brisket, pinto beans, potato salad, coleslaw, apricots.

TUESDAY-Chicken fried steak with gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, garden salad, meringue pie.

WEDNESDAY-Oven fried chicken, rice pilaf, green peas, fruit salad, tapioca pudding.

ACTIVITIES

THURSDAY-Stretch and flex 10-10:45 a.m., pool classes, oil painting 9-11 a.m., birthday social 6:30 p.m.

FRIDAY-Line dance 10-11 a.m., pool classes, Kings Manor Health Clinic 11 a.m.-1 p.m., "Texas" 5:15 p.m.

SATURDAY-Games 12-4 p.m.

MONDAY-Line dance 9-11 a.m., pool classes, doll classes 1-4:30 p.m.

TUESDAY-Stretch and flex 10-10:45 a.m., pool classes, Beltone 1-3 p.m.

WEDNESDAY-Stretch and flex 10-10:45 a.m., pool classes, ceramics 1:30 p.m.

If you cannot get rid of the family skeleton, you might as well make it dance.

—George Bernard Shaw

San Jose, TDH to sponsor clinic

Texas Department of Health and San Jose Catholic Church are sponsoring an "EPSDT Get Together" tonight from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at San Jose Catholic Church.

All Medicaid clients are invited to attend this Early Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatment clinic. Medical and dental check-ups and eye exams for children under 21 years-of-age will be discussed.

A free nursery will be provided and refreshments will be served.

For information contact Liz Agan at 364-2401.

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Repair work will begin Friday June 23rd on the exterior doors of Hereford State Bank's front entrance, and will subsequently affect customers wishing to make ATM transactions Friday evening. All repair work is expected to be completed on Friday.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause to our ATM customers.



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Hints from Heloise

Dear Heloise: How long does perfumed powder maintain its scent if the powder has never been opened?

Sometimes I have so many perfumed dusting powders on hand that I give them away as gifts. But I do not want to open them to find out if they have lost their scent. -- Anna Gliatta, N. Canton, Ohio

What a sensible question. We checked with a major manufacturer of fragrance and personal-care products who said that perfumed powder, if left unopened, can last for at least three years.

To ensure full potency, it's best to use the powder within 12 to 18 months.

To revive one, you might try mixing it with a new container of perfumed powder or giving it a spritz with the fragrance. -- Heloise

EXPERI-HINTS

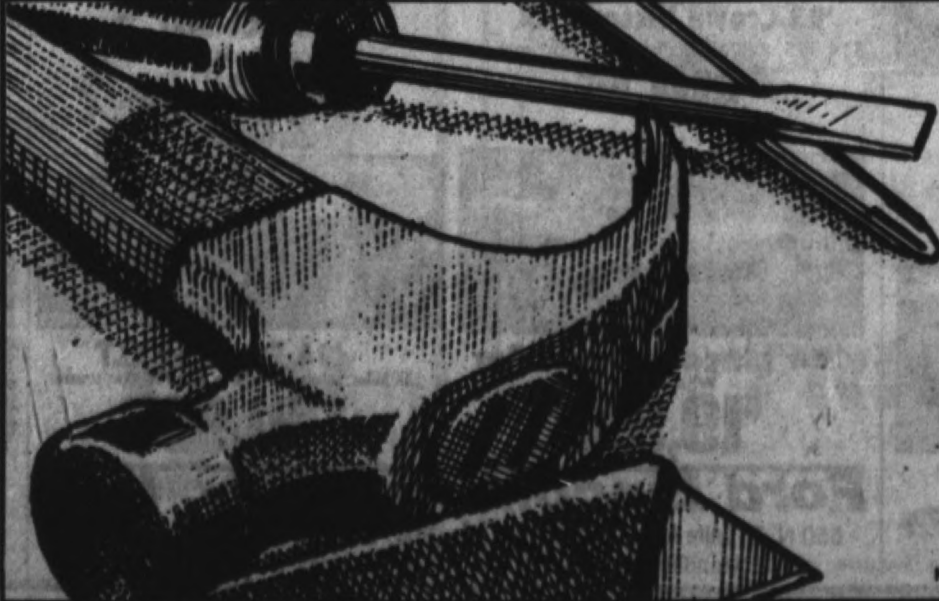
Dear Heloise: When the zipper broke on my husband's favorite shorts, he asked me to fix it. Since I didn't have a replacement available, I substituted self-gripping fabric tape. It worked out just fine.

It occurred to me that if it isn't already a done deal, this might be helpful to the elderly or the handicapped who can't cope with frustrating zippers. -- Freida Mason, Cape Coral, Fla.

BOX OF GOODIES

Dear Heloise: I want to pass along the following idea.

When sending a box of goodies to family members who live a long distance away, instead of using newspaper to pack the items in the box, use the school papers and spelling tests that your children (or grandchildren -- Heloise) bring home from school.



Sports

Raiders to return to Oakland

By DENNIS GEORGATOS
AP Sports Writer
OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) - The Los Angeles Raiders' possible return to Oakland might be more than a simple flirtation.
Radio reports say the team is ending its 13-year stay in Los Angeles. John Madden, the broadcaster and ex-Raiders coach - when the team played in Oakland - insists the move is coming. A league spokesman terms word of a "done deal" as "premature."
Through it all, Al Davis, the club's maverick owner, seems as puzzled as anyone.

However, league spokesman Joe Browne said "any discussion of a done deal is premature."
The NFL, clearly intent on preserving a presence in Los Angeles, wants to keep the Raiders in Southern California and possibly bring in a second franchise at some point. However, Davis has bucked the NFL in the past, and could do so again.
The Raiders overcame the NFL's attempt to block the move in 1982 by winning an antitrust suit in a legal battle that enriched Davis and cost the league about \$50 million in damages and attorney fees.

Oakland Coliseum officials said they still had not received definitive word on the Raiders' plans.
"First of all, I have had no confirmation from Al Davis or the Raiders that they're returning to Oakland," said Oakland Coliseum president George Vukasin. "I have not scheduled any special board meeting or press conference. We have a deal for Davis on the table that doesn't require any public funds, but I don't have any indication of which direction he's going."

"I don't know what's going on, so help me God," Davis said Wednesday from his Marina Del Rey home. "Everyone's doing a lot of things. This went on two weeks ago."
A move back to Oakland, the city the Raiders abandoned in 1982, would leave Los Angeles, the nation's second-largest television market, without an NFL team. Two months ago, the Rams' move from Anaheim to St. Louis was approved by the league.

Madden, who has remained close to Davis, declared on KNBR radio in San Francisco on Wednesday that the Raiders were returning to Oakland and an announcement was forthcoming. KCBS radio also reported the Raiders were returning.
A source close to the NFL later told The Associated Press the move back to Oakland was a "done deal."

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operate under next season.
"This is an absolute groundswell of dissatisfaction of players who believe it's no longer in their interest to have the union represent them," said Jeffrey Kessler, the lawyer who filed the NLRB petition. "They'd prefer to assert their rights before the league without being encumbered by the union."
Several agents said more than 100 players have signed notices saying they wish to decertify, and Kessler said the signatures will be filed today or Friday.

If the necessary signatures are filed, the NLRB would hold a hearing within two weeks on whether a decertification election should be held. If the NLRB calls for the election, a majority vote is necessary to dissolve the union.



Kids Inc. Minor softball champs

The Rockies recently completed an undefeated regular season (12-0) in the Kids Inc. Minor Softball League. The Rockies are (front row, left to right) Wendy Haun, Yesenia Aquillon, Veronica Garza, Amber Maes, Bianca Riley, Amanda Williams, (second row) Britni Finley, Emilee Williams, Jordan Davison, Abby Horrell, Belinda Moore, Kristen McGaw, Jami Riley, (back row) and coaches Sammy Davison and Bryan McGaw.

NBA owners, players reach labor deal

Players' effort to decertify union may cancel agreement

By WENDY E. LANE
AP Basketball Writer
NEW YORK (AP) - The NBA and its players have a labor deal. Now the arm-twisting and lobbying begin.

And that will be at least as hard as getting a new collective bargaining agreement was. To do it, the union will have to quiet dissent from one-third of the league's players, override the influence of high-powered agents and sell the deal to 27 player representatives.

Even if the deal is approved Friday when owners and players vote, a decertification effort launched by some of the game's most powerful agents could nullify it.

The NBA and the players association finalized their pact agreement about 9:30 p.m. Wednesday night, hours after Michael Jordan, Patrick Ewing and 15 other players filed a petition with the National Labor Relations Board to decertify the union. If the dissenting players accomplish their goal, the union would lose its authority to represent the players.

In announcing the agreement, NBA commissioner David Stern and Simon Gourdine, the union's

executive director, expressed confidence the deal would be ratified, and were sharply critical of the agent spearheading the decertification effort.

"A disgruntled lawyer, whose firm was terminated by the players association, filed the NLRB petition and Marc Fleisher, the self-proclaimed spokesman for the group, represents very few NBA players and seems interested only in ousting the union leadership that replaced his father," Stern said.

"I do not think that the rhetoric of a few people will keep owners and players, who have cooperated in making past agreements work, from considering the current one on its own merits."

Agents claim the six-year deal would be disastrous for players because it contains a rookie salary cap and luxury tax. The union leadership accuses the agents of giving players bad information and maintains the deal contains many favorable provisions - money from luxury boxes and international TV rights and free agency after three years.

"These agents have a fiduciary duty to their clients and have breached it," Gourdine said. "We've been working to correct the record. We're going to put on a strong lobbying effort and reach out to as many players as we can."

Twenty-one of the 27 players representatives must approve the agreement at their meeting Friday in the Chicago area. Owners, who will meet the same day in New York, will need a majority vote.

The dissenting players have until Friday to present to the NLRB proof that 30 percent of the union wants the NLRB to conduct a decertification election. There are 324 union members, meaning 98 are necessary to reach the 30 percent level.

If the union is decertified, it's unclear what system the NBA would

Liver rejecting Mantle

DALLAS (AP) - Mickey Mantle is experiencing "light organ rejection" of the liver he received earlier this month in a transplant operation, a spokeswoman at Baylor University Medical Center said early today.

Denise Kile Walton said such organ rejection is "common" and occurs in 65 percent of liver transplant recipients.

A news conference was to be held today by Baylor officials to explain the baseball Hall of Famer's

condition.
Walton said the conference would deal with a second liver biopsy performed on Wednesday to determine the source of some unusual test results.

The former New York Yankees star center fielder, who now lives in Dallas, received the liver transplant at Baylor on June 8.

At the time of the surgery, lead transplant surgeon Dr. Robert Goldstein said the new liver was draining properly.

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Astros nip Expos, finish 7-2 road trip

By The Associated Press
All that's left for the Houston Astros is to order those framed needlepoints that say "Road Sweet Road."

The Astros capped a 7-2 road trip Wednesday night with a 5-3 victory over the Montreal Expos. Combine that with a modest four-game road winning streak the last time they left Texas, and the Astros have won 11 of 13 away from home.

Factor in a current six-game losing streak at home, and you see why the Astrodome is not where they wish the schedule said they were heading.

"The guys were joking they'd wear their road grays at home," Houston manager Terry Collins said. "We just have to relax and have fun. We're capable of doing that."

The latest road win was keyed by the two hits and three RBIs of second-year catcher Tony Eusebio, who had been mired in a 2-for-21 slump on the Eastern trip, one of the few Astros not to have a great road trip.

The top four batters in the order were the hottest on the nine-game trip as rookie Brian Hunter hit .310, Craig Biggio .342, Jeff Bagwell .341 and Derek Bell .316.

Dodgers 10, Cardinals 1
Delino DeShields had a grand slam and Mike Piazza added a two-run home run in a seven-run second. Dave Hansen added a two-run homer the next inning for the visiting Dodgers, who have 12 homers in eight games and have won four of five to get to 26-26.

Tom Candiotti, winless in his four previous starts, allowed three hits over seven innings, striking out seven and walking one. He had a run-scoring single in the second after having been 2-for-20 with one RBI all season.

Rockies 6, Marlins 3

Jason Bates drove in two runs with a double and bases-loaded walk as Colorado snapped a five-game losing streak and avoided a three-game sweep at home.

Bill Swift (2-2) struck out seven, walked five and allowed three runs over five innings.

Padres 1, Cubs 0
Andy Benes' six-hit shutout was overshadowed by Steve Finley's base-running and fielding.

Finley and Ken Caminiti walked with two outs in the sixth. Caminiti was caught off first by catcher Rick Wilkins, and, while he was in the rundown, Finley scored.

Reds 3, Braves 1

John Smiley and two relievers combined on a three-hitter as the Reds snapped the Braves' seven-game winning streak and ended Tom Glavine's perfect record at Riverfront Stadium.

Smiley (6-1) allowed only Jeff Blauser's single leading off the fourth over seven innings before being lifted for a pinch hitter.

Giants 6, Pirates 5

Robby Thompson's suicide-squeeze bunt broke a ninth-inning tie and turned into a double as the Giants prevented Pittsburgh's first sweep of the season.

Tom Lampkin doubled off Jeff McCurry (0-2) to start the ninth and Darren Lewis bunted him over. Thompson then put down a perfectly placed bunt to easily score Lampkin, and he went to second as the Pirates left the base unprotected.

Phillies 6, Mets 2

Tom Marsh, called up when Lenny Dykstra was injured and starting in place of injured Gregg Jefferies, became the first Phillie to hit two homers in a game this season and doubled his career total.



Tourney winners

The West Texas Heat 12-under AAU girls' basketball team won the 2nd Panhandle Roundup Tournament, held last weekend in Amarillo. Members of the team are (front row, left to right) Dondi Richardson, Tori Walker, Leslie Torres, Randi Qualls, (back row) coach Jerry Walker, Angie Evers, Kyla May, Valerie Guzman, Kimberly Artho and coach Toby Torres.

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Astros trade for ex-Cub May

HOUSTON (AP) - The Houston Astros acquired outfielder Derrick May from the Milwaukee Brewers on Wednesday, in exchange for a minor league player to be named later.

May, a lefthanded hitter, hit .248 with one home run and nine RBI in 32 games with the Brewers this season.

May, son of former major leaguer Dave May, played 100 games for the Chicago Cubs last season and hit .284 with 51 RBI. May was the ninth overall pick by the Cubs in the 1986 free agent draft.

The Astros made room on the roster by sending pitcher Doug Brocail to Class AAA Tucson.

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Gaetti's 3-run shot haunts his ex-team

By The Associated Press
Gary Gaetti was booed in Anaheim when he played poorly for the California Angels. Now he is being booed there because he's playing great for Kansas City.

Gaetti was a flop in his two years with the Angels, hitting 12 homers with 48 RBIs in 456 at-bats in his last full season with them, in 1992.

This season, he has 14 homers and 40 RBIs in just 184 at-bats with the Royals, and he heard the boos again in California on Wednesday night with a three-run homer that lifted them to a 6-3 victory over the Angels.

"I'm glad I know how disliked I am here as a player," Gaetti said. "I'm happy to come back and be successful as a team. If I come back and go 0-for-4 and we win, then that's OK."

"I'm very happy because our manager has a lot of confidence in me, something I didn't have here (under former Angels manager Buck Rodgers)."

Gaetti's 14th homer put the Royals up 3-0 moments before Jon Nunnally hit the first of his two solo homers, capping a four-run fourth inning against Mike Bielecki (3-4).

Kansas City starter Tom Gordon (5-2) held the Angels to three runs on five hits and two walks in seven innings.

Tigers 1, Rangers 0

Texas and Detroit played the shortest game in the AL this season - exactly two hours - and Lou Whitaker hit the first home run allowed by Bob Tewksbury this year.

Felipe Lira (4-3) allowed five hits in eight innings before Juan Gonzalez doubled with one out in the ninth. Mike Henneman got the last two outs for his 11th save.

Tewksbury (5-3) had not allowed a homer in his first 61 1-3 innings with the Rangers when Whitaker

homered to right field in the first inning.

Yankees 2, Orioles 1
Andy Pettitte pitched six solid innings and Paul O'Neill and Bernie Williams homered as New York won at Baltimore, its first victory in 19 games when scoring fewer than four runs.

The Yankees, who managed only six hits, also won for just the fourth time in 26 games when they get less than 10 hits.

White Sox 5, Mariners 4

Chicago left 17 runners on base as Seattle walked 12 batters, but the White Sox managed to win on John Kruk's sacrifice fly in the 10th inning.

Tim Lincecum led off the 10th with a single off Bill Risle (1-1) and advanced to second on a wild pitch. Frank Thomas followed with a single to left, moving Raines to third.

Red Sox 3, Indians 1

Erik Hanson gave up four hits in eight innings as Boston handed Cleveland just its fourth loss in 18 games and beat the Indians for the first time in seven tries at Jacobs Field.

Cleveland also lost starting pitcher Orel Hershiser to a stiff lower back. Hershiser (5-3), who left after yielding a leadoff double to Mike Greenwell in the fourth inning, was listed as day-to-day.

Twins 3, Athletics 2

Rich Becker's RBI single in the ninth inning at Oakland gave Minnesota its first series victory of the season.

Brewers 10, Blue Jays 9

Jose Valentin's two-out grand slam in the ninth inning lifted Milwaukee to victory at Toronto.

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Special school includes class on pachyderm pedicure

By M.E. FREEMAN
Associated Press Writer
GUY, Ark. (AP) - Today's lesson: How to trim an elephant's toenails. Using a rasp, nippers and a hoof-cutting knife, 10 students from as far away as Australia are learning the finer points of pachyderm pedicure - part of a two-week elephant-handling school hosted by Scott and Heidi Riddle on their 33-acre elephant sanctuary in the Ozark foothills.

Unlike dog, cat or horse owners, who can go to bookstores or libraries for information on caring for their animals, elephant handlers find that information they need is harder to come by. At the Riddles', the elephant handlers can talk shop, exchange stories and ideas.

"Elephant handling is a dying

art," Scott Riddle said. "We have knowledge we'd like to share."

The farm has seven elephants. On this day the students are grooming Betty Boop - known as "Booper" - a 23-year-old, 8,000-pound female Asian elephant. Booper stands on a pair of stands shaped like inverted washtubs.

Her two front feet are on one tub, her back ones on the other, allowing the handlers to go under and around the elephant's feet.

Scott and Heidi take turns showing the shape of healthy nails and how to use tools and salves to create them.

Booper responds quietly and quickly to each command, getting off the tubs and back up as quietly as a cat getting on and off an easy chair. Excused from her duties for a few

moments, she wanders into the high grass, trunk swinging, seeking a snack. She returns at a call from Heidi.

Booper came to the Riddles from a circus, where an injury to her right hip prevented her from performing well. She also came with a tough reputation.

"She got down on top of one guy and rolled him around and put him in the hospital," Scott Riddle said.

"But now she knows the rules," he said. "She's nice - if you know the rules, too. You both have to know the rules. Elephants are highly intelligent, and dangerous animals when they're improperly trained or poorly handled."

Riddle has 30 years experience handling elephants, including work

at the Los Angeles Zoo and Ringling Bros.

He has never been seriously injured, but he says that without bravado: "They have the ability to take the sharp edges off your arrogance."

The Riddles' sanctuary is nestled among cattle and horse operations, with their white fencing or wire fencing to keep the stock in.

From a distance, the elephant paddock looks the same. Up close, the posts rise eight feet; the posts are sunk seven feet, to contain massive mammals. The fence, of welded railroad rails, encloses two acres, including a few trees and a pair of

mudholes - one man-made, the other elephant-made.

Guinea fowl, geese, ducks, chickens, cats and dogs run freely at the farm. The Riddles' three children - ages 4, 5, 7 - bound about.

The dorms are tarp-covered tents. The classroom is earth and sky.

This is the second year the school has been offered; students came from Canada, Japan, the Netherlands and England.

Ian Freeman of Melbourne, Australia, has worked with elephants for 15 years. He heard about the school through the Elephant Managers Association.

"It's a lot of use, because in

Australia, there are experienced people, but there just aren't that many. We don't have access to them. To come here and pick up some more techniques is a tremendous opportunity," Freeman said.

Lynn Polke joined the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus in 1980 after auditioning for a dancer's job; she said she was attending "to prove that I'm serious about elephants."

At Ringling Bros., she said, she "started at the top, and now I'm working my way down. I was an 'elephant empress' - one of the ladies who gracefully ride atop the elephants.

Study shows sex CAN make you go blind

By BRENDA C. COLEMAN
AP Medical Writer
CHICAGO (AP) - If love doesn't blind you, sex might. Vigorous sex can cause tiny blood vessels to break or delicate tissues at the back of the eyeball to tear, suddenly causing blurry vision, researchers say.

The researchers saw half a dozen patients with the problem and reported the findings in the June issue of the Archives of Ophthalmology, published by the American Medical Association.

"Maybe this gives us a physical explanation as to why there were some old wives' tales that certain sexual activities could result in blindness," said a co-author of the study, Dr. Neil M. Bressler of Johns Hopkins University.

"If that is true, it's temporary, and the prognosis is excellent," he added by telephone Tuesday from Baltimore.

The patients were five men and one woman, ages 24 to 53. Each

patient suffered a vision loss in one eye, ranging from mild blurriness to inability to count fingers at a distance of more than 6 inches.

Of the five patients who returned to the doctors for follow-up care, all got their vision back. Four needed no treatment. One patient required laser surgery to seal tiny rips in the tissues at the back of the eye and decrease the risk of permanent damage, the researchers said.

The patients' vision returned to normal within several weeks or months.

"We believe that loss of vision occurring during sexual activity must be a rare event," considering the small number of such cases and the frequency of sexual encounters, wrote the researchers, led by Dr. Thomas R. Friberg of the Eye and Ear Institute at the University of Pittsburgh.

The researchers said they wanted to alert eye doctors to the

phenomenon, however, since most ophthalmologists probably don't think to take a sexual history from a person with sudden vision loss.

And they also wanted to reassure the public that the problem - called valsalva retinopathy - usually isn't serious, Bressler said.

Valsalva retinopathy is usually associated with other forms of exertion, such as weightlifting, or with prolonged vomiting or severe coughing.

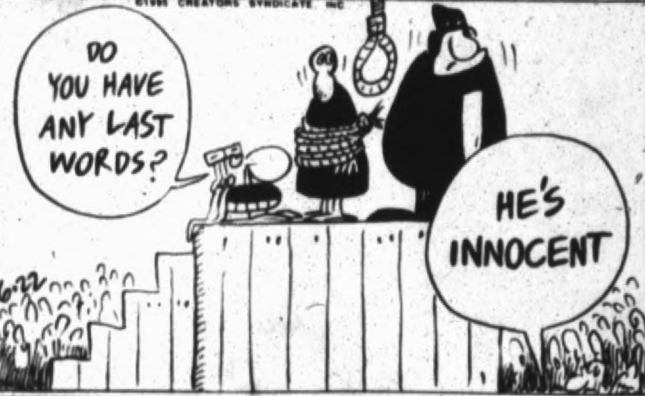
Dr. Wayne E. Fung, a spokesman for the American Academy of Ophthalmology, said the authors' observations are undoubtedly correct. But he noted it took three medical centers to come up with six subjects for the study.

"These conditions are not that common. Otherwise we'd hear a lot more about them," Fung said Tuesday by telephone from San Francisco, where he is an ophthalmologist at California Pacific Medical Center.

Comics

The Wizard of Id

by Brant Parker & Johnny Hart



Marvin

By Tom Armstrong



BLONDIE®

by Dean Young & Stan Drake



BEETLE BAILEY®

By Mort Walker



Barney Google and Snuffy Smith®

By Fred Lasswell



Television

THURSDAY JUNE 22

6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM
MMC	Sinbad	Movie: White Wolves Ami Dolenz 'PG'	Movie: The Fly Vincent Price ***	(-05) Movie: The Shadow Riders 'PG'						
News	Ent. Tonight	Mad-You	HopeGlori	Seinfeld	Friends	ER		News	(-35) Tonight Show	
MacNeil/Lehrer Newshour	Legendary Trails	Mystery!				W. Edwards Deming	Computer	Charlie Rose		
Boss?	Boss?	(-05) Movie: White Water Summer (1987) **	(-05) Movie: Medicine Man (1992) Sean Connery ***	Movie:						
News	Wh. Fortune	Movie: Past the Bleachers (1995) Barnard Hughes	Day One	News	(-35) Cheers	Nightline				
Lifestyle	Faith in Free	Joy-Music	Campbells	Tyler - A Real Hero	Invitation to Life	Stage Door	Cap-News	Midpoint		
Love Con.	Jeffersons	Major League Baseball Chicago Cubs at Houston Astros						News	Simon & Simon	
News	Coach	Burke's Law	Eye to Eye	48 Hours	News	(-35) Late Show				
Roseanne	M*A*S*H	Martin	Single	New York Undercover	Star Trek: Deep Space 9	M*A*S*H	Star Trek: Next Gener.			
Sportsctr.	Quest-Cup	Stanley Cup Playoffs: Finals Game 3 - Blackhawks vs. Devils or Flyers						Sportscenter	Baseball	
Waltons	Shade	Shade	Rescue 911	700 Club	Father Dowling Mysteries	Bonanza				
(5:00) Movie: Juggernaut	Movie: Dead On Matt McCoy	Movie: China Moon Ed Harris *** R	(-15) Movie: Sins of the Night ** R	(-15) Movie: Boiling Point Wesley Snipes						
Movie: P.C.U. Jeremy Pixon ** PG-13	Movie: Slaughter of the Innocents R	Comedy	(-15) Movie: Boiling Point Wesley Snipes	Movie: On Deadly Ground						
Movie: Made in America	Movie: My Girl 2 Dan Aykroyd *** PG	(-45) Movie: New Crime City Los Angeles 2020 R	Movie: On Deadly Ground							
American News	Legends of Country Music	Music City Tonight	Club Dance	News	Legends					
Bay. 2000	Next Step	World-Wide America	Movie Magic	Know Zone	Beyond 2000	World-Wide America	Movie Magic			
Rockford Files	Biography	John Denver: The Wildlife Concert	Law & Order	Biography						
Designing	Designing	Unsolved Mysteries	Movie: Deadly Matrimony (1992) Brian Dennehy **	Unsolved Mysteries	Mysteries					
Futbol	Press Box	Major League Baseball Chicago Cubs at Houston Astros	Press Box	This Week In NASCAR						
In the Heat of the Night	Movie: 2010 (1984) Roy Scheider, John Lithgow ***	Movie: Logan's Run (1976) Michael York ***								
Doug	Looney	Jeanie	Bewitched	I Love Lucy M.T. Moore	Taxi	Taxi	Newhart	Van Dyke	Dragnet	
Wings	Wings	Murder, She Wrote	Movie: Problem Child 2 (1991) John Ritter **	Wings	Wings	Quantum				
Agujetas Rosa	Maria Jose	Prisionera de Amor	Bienvenidos	Bienvenidos	Noticiero	P. Impacto	Veronica			
Day the Universe Changed	Great Battles of Civil War	This Century	Ancient World	Great Battles of Civil War	Century					
New Scooby Doo Movies	Flintstones	Jetsons	Bugs & Daffy	(-10) Tom and Jerry	New Scooby Doo Movies	Toon Heads				

FRIDAY JUNE 23

7 AM	7:30	8 AM	8:30	9 AM	9:30	10 AM	10:30	11 AM	11:30	12 PM
Pooch	Care Bears	Gummy B.	Pooch Cmr.	Dumbo	Fraggle	Pony Tales	Quack	Movie: No Dessert Dad		
Today				Gordon Elliott		Geraldo	Leeza	Our Lives		
Government	Government	Sesame Street		Lamb Chop	Storytime	Mr Rogers	Station	Barney	Puzzle Place	Taste of La.
Gilligan	Bewitched	Happy Days	3's Co.	Little House on the Prairie	(-05) Matlock	(-05) Perry Mason	Movie:			
Good Morning America				Live - Regis & Kathie Lee	Donahue	Little House on the Prairie	News			
Worship	Insights	Daily Mass	Teaching: Life	Just Parents	Cope	How Can I Live?	Search			
News		Griffith	Griffith	T.J. Hooker	Quincy	Geraldo	News			
(6:00) This Morning	Marilu	Jerry Springer	Price is Right	Young and the Restless						
Bobby	Sonic	Biker Mice	Animal	700 Club	K. Copeland	Family Ties	Dif. World	Murphy B.	Hunter	
Sportsctr.	Sportsctr.	In Motion	Getting Fit	Fitness Pros	Bodyshape	Sportsctr.	Sportsctr.	PGA Golf		
Kuxa	Prince Val.	Waltons	700 Club			Health Club	Make a Deal	Name-Tune	Music	
Movie: Race With the Devil Peter Fonda	Movie: Micki & Maude (1984) Dudley Moore, Amy Irving	Movie: Khartoum Charlton Heston ***								
Smoggies!	White Fang	Movie: The Last of His Tribe PG-13	Gang War: Little Rock	Movie: Coast to Coast Dyan Cannon PG	Movie:					
Movie: Somebody Up There Likes Me Paul Newman	Movie: Radio Flyer (1992) Elijah Wood, Joseph Mazzello	Movie: The Tinseltown Prince **								
(Off Air)		VideoMorning								
Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	Pet Con.	Cholesterol	Home	Start	Easy Does It	Home	Graham K.	Great Chefs	Cuisine
Lou Grant		Columbo				Remington Steele		Police Story	Rockford	
Baby Knows	Sisters	Living	Our Home	Biggers and Summers	Living	Our Home	Designing			
Get Fit	Bodies	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	Outdoors	Fishing	Texas	Squash	Baseball		
Scooby Dooby Doo		P. Panther	Bugs Bunny	Bugs Bunny	Knots Landing	Medical Center	CHiPs			
Weinerville	Gumby	Rugrats	Gnome	Muppets	Muppets	Allegre	Gullah	Eureka	Papa Beaver	Gnome
(6:00) Cartoon Express	MacGyver	Murder, She Wrote	Major Dad	Major Dad	Quantum Leap	Magnum				
Carusel	El Chavo	Cheerlito	Papa Solt.	Dr Perez	Mi Pequena Soledad	Pelligraso				
Rory and Me	Kitty Cats	Iris the Prof.	Magic Box	Zoobile	Iris the Prof.	Rory and Me	Kitty Cats	Caprials	Crafts & Co.	Chocolate
P. Pitstop	Wacky	(-10) Down Wit' Droopy D	But-Ghost	Scooby Doo	Fangface	Hair Bear	Smurfs	Smurfs	Hestchiff	

12:30	1 PM	1:30	2 PM	2:30	3 PM	3:30	4 PM	4:30	5 PM	5:30
Movie: Trading Mom Sissy Spacek PG	Adventures in Fantasy	Dinosaur!	Movie: The Love Bug (1969) Dean Jones, Michele Lee							
Our Lives	Another World	Jenny Jones	Oprah Winfrey	Maury Povich	Cops	NBC News				
Body Etc.	Legendary Trails	Art	Sit-Be Fit	Crawshaw	Reading	C. Sandiego	Science Guy	Imagineland	Couch	
Movie: When Dinosaurs Ruled the Earth	Flintstones	Scooby Doo	Scooby Doo	Brady B.	Saved-Bell	Saved-Bell	Gro. Pains	Griffith		
Rush L.	One Life to Live	General Hospital	Am. Journal	Sally	Edition	Jeopardy!	ABC News			
Priam	Accent	Faith 20	Script Alive!	Midpoint	Americana Sampler	Solid Rock V.D.O.	Alive	Parenting		
News	Perry Mason	Geraldo	Flintstones	Flintstones	Charles Perez	Saved-Bell	Dreams			
Bold & B.	As the World Turns	Guiding Light	Ricki Lake	Cur. Affair	Hard Copy	News	CBS News			
Hunter	Matlock	In the Heat of the Night	Tiny Toon	Taz-Mania	Animaniacs	Rangers	Full House	Fresh Pr.		
PGA Golf: Greater Hartford Open	Senior PGA Golf: Nationwide Championship	Sr. PGA	Inside PGA	Up Close	Sportsctr.					
Triv. Purs.	Spl! Sec.	Make a Deal	Stallion	Punky B.	I'm Telling	Masters	Max. Drive	My Dog	Rin Tin Tin	New Lasia
(-45) Movie: Ed and His Dead Mother **	(-15) Movie: Lawman Burt Lancaster *** PG	(-45) Movie: Wyatt Earp (1994) Kevin Costner, Dennis Quaid PG-13	Movie: Troll 2 Michael Stephenson **	Movie: Amore! Jack Scalia PG-13	Movie: Ordinary Magic Glenn Headly	Movie: Just 1 of Guys				
(12:00) VideoPM						Wildhorse Saloon	Club Dance			
Home	Start	Easy Does It	Home	Graham K.	Great Chefs	Cuisine	Wild Things	Underses	Wings	
Rockford	McCloud			Remington Steele	Lou Grant	Police Story				
Designing	Movie: Babycakes (1989) Ricki Lake, Craig Sheffer, **	Spenser: For Hire	Cagney & Lacey	Supermtk.	Shop-Drop					
(12:00) Baseball Colorado Silver Bullets vs. Capital Region All-Stars	Fuqby	Paid Prog.	Cycling	This Week In NASCAR						
CHiPs	How the West Was Won	Wild, Wild West	Mo.ia: Oregon Passage (1958) John Ericson **	Starkey and Hutch						
Lassie	Gumby	Tintin	Looney	Beetlejuice	Muppets	Temple	Looney	Clarissa	Salute	Rugrats
Magnum	Pyramid	Quicksilver	Press Luck	Scrabble	MacGyver	Knight Rider	Knight Rider			
Pelligraso	Paseo Gracia	Maria Celeste	Cristina	Primer Impacto	Dr Perez	Notic. Uni.				
Kitchen	Pesasant	YanCooks	Great Inns	Crafts & Co.	Caprials	Burger	Gardening	Furniture	Home Pro	Hometime
Fant. Max	(-10) World Famous Toons	San. Spits	San. Spits	Fantastic 4	Centurions	(-10) Godzilla	G-Force	Dynomutt		

6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM
Movie: Herbie Rides Again Helen Hayes	Movie: Herbie Goes to Monte Carlo Dean Jones ** G	Kenny Rogers: Going Home								
News	Ent. Tonight	Children's Hospital	Dateline	Homicide: Life	News	(-35) Tonight Show				
MacNeil/Lehrer Newshour	Wash. Week	Wall St.	Language of Life			Wait for God	Previews	(Off Air)		
Boss?	(-35) Major League Baseball New York Mets at Atlanta Braves	(-35) Movie: Dying Room Only (1973) Bliss								
News	Wh. Fortune	Fam. Mat.	Boy-World	Step by S.	Mr. Cooper	20/20	News	(-35) Cheers	Nightline	
Heart-Matter	Family	Life Choices	Man Alive	VISN Agenda	Family Enrichment Series	Gospel	Cap-News	Lawson Live		
Love Con.	Jeffersons	Major League Baseball Chicago Cubs at Houston Astros						News	Simon & Simon	
News	Coach	Diagnosis Murder	Due South	Picket Fences	News	(-35) Late Show				
Roseanne	M*A*S*H	Crypt Tales	Crypt Tales	X-Files	Sightings	M*A*S*H	Star Trek: Next Gener.			
Sportsctr.	Boxing			Auto Racing: NASCAR Supertruck Series	Baseball	Sportscenter	Baseball			
Waltons	Shade	Shade	Rescue 911	700 Club	Racing	Rescue 911	Bonanza			
Movie: Micki & Maude	Movie: Backbeat Sheryl Lee ** R	On the Set	Outer Limits	Movie: Wilbbord 2: Doorway						
(3-45) Movie: Wyatt Earp	Movie: Double Exposure Ron Periman	Gang War: Little Rock	Movie: The Ambulance Eric Roberts R	Dennis H.						
Movie: Just 1 of Guys	Movie: Being Mr. Bean Robin Williams ** PG-13	Movie: Major League II Charlie Sheen ** PG								
American News	Yearyear	Music City Tonight	Club Dance	News	Yearyear					
Bay. 2000	Next Step	Fangal	Wings Over Vietnam	Wild West	Fangal	Wings	Wings			
Rockford										

To Your Good Health

Residents complete gardening course

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: My son-in-law, of Turkish descent, has familial Mediterranean fever. From the age of 12, he had been having periodic and severe abdominal pains. It happened after periods of heavy physical activity. In fact, a sports physician diagnosed the illness finally. My son-in-law now seems under control with medicine. What is his prognosis? What about their children? My daughter is of Northern European descent. — E.K.

ANSWER: Familial Mediterranean fever, a rare disorder, is genetically passed on, most frequently in Semitic people of the Mediterranean area, although it's not exclusive to them.

Symptoms usually become apparent between ages 5 and 15, with episodic fevers and abdominal pains, sometimes chest and joint pains. It can happen weekly or as infrequently as once a year, episodes lasting a day or so.

Your son-in-law is fortunate to find the cause of his attacks: physical activity. Many never find a trigger.

A particularly dangerous feature of the disorder is amyloidosis, which you might recall me discussing separately. It is accumulation of a sticky protein — amyloid — in organs, affecting their function.

The drug colchicine prevents attacks and discourages amyloidosis. With medicine, your son-in-law's prognosis is good. That is why early diagnosis was so fortunate.

One of the worst aspects of familial Mediterranean fever is that it often goes unrecognized through life.

The chances of your daughter's offspring having the disease are not high. Usually children inherit the gene for it from both parents, and your daughter is not a likely carrier.

DEAR DOCTOR: I am 29, female, don't smoke or drink, yet have been annoyed by irregular heartbeats. A heart monitor showed premature

ventricular contractions. I have been given various drugs to stop the beats, but I still have them. How serious are they? My doctors don't seem to be too concerned. — L.W.

ANSWER: I would not worry unless you had other symptoms. Doctors usually find that treating premature beats with medicine can be more troubling than the phenomenon.

A premature ventricular contraction is actually a delayed beat whose pent-up force results in an unsettling thump in the chest. It is no threat.

Alcohol, caffeine and some decongestants can trigger the irregular beats.

Only chronic episodes of long strings of such beats raise the specter of trouble. You would have other symptoms from such episodes. Your timely examination would have produced hints of such problems as blocked arteries or heart disease.

Now, continued anxiety might be triggering the beats. We know that anxiety-driven adrenalin spurts actually cause such beats in some patients. For some people, only the assurance of a cardiologist allays anxiety.

Six Deaf Smith county residents completed the Texas Master Gardener Program as part of a joint effort of the Randall, Potter and Deaf Smith county offices of the Texas Agricultural Extension Service.

Those completing the 50 hour course were Cyndi Walker, Cal Garrett, Jan Furr, Ella Marie Veigel, Peggy Hyer and Carmen Flood.

The Texas Master Gardener program is an educational volunteer program offered by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service and is designed to increase the availability of horticultural information and improve the quality of life with horticultural projects.

The volunteers completed fifty hours of intense class room instruction by Texas Agricultural Extension Service Specialist, staff and local experts.

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Eat, drink and play games

Connie Sermino, left, and Melody Pacheco display ticket boxes which will be used at food and drink booths at the San Jose Jamaica. The event starts at noon Sunday in Dameron Park. In addition to food and drink booths, there will also be game booths and live entertainment. All proceeds will benefit the San Jose Community Education Center building fund.

Safety-conscious parents depend on security of infant car seats

By RICARDO GANDARIA
Austin American-Statesman

AUSTIN—Rachel Bergmann, a little over a week old, is fragile by any standard. Her safety-conscious parents, Shelli and Bill, will have to do many things to protect her from harm.

The best start was having Rachel properly secured in an infant car seat when she left Seton Hospital recently. "Car seats are absolutely crucial," says Shelli, who also has a 6-year-old son, Willie. "We don't even go a block without fastening the kids' belts."

Not that the Bergmanns had a choice when they took Rachel home. Many hospitals these days require parents to bring in their car seats when their babies are going home. Some hospitals, Seton included, also lend car seats to parents who don't have them.

With the recent recall of nearly 9 million cars because of potentially defective front seat belts, some parents are taking a closer look at the equipment they use to secure their children on the road. Are they using their car seats properly? How do they know if they've ever been recalled, especially if the seats are hand-me-downs?

Texas is not a model state for protecting children in vehicles. The state sets minimum safety standards based on age, not weight and height. It requires that children up to 2 years old be restrained in some manner, whether it's a car seat or a seat belt. Some parents have criticized those standards, contending that ones based on height and weight are safer.

In Florida, all children under 6 must be buckled. In Alaska, all children under 16 must be buckled. In Nevada, Rhode Island, Wisconsin, Oregon and Washington, all occupants in a vehicle are required to be in seat belts or car seats.

A loophole in the Texas law stems from the fact that it's geared for people riding in the front seat: All front-seat passengers must wear

restraints:

"Thus, you can have a 4-year-old standing in the back seat of a car, and you have not violated the law," says Stephanie Kristina with the Safe Rider program at the Texas Department of Health. "And you can have a 2-year-old in just the vehicle's seat belts."

Even when they use child restraints, Texans often are not using them the correct way.

According to a study conducted by the Texas Transportation Institute in 1994, 61 percent of Texas children were restrained in car seats or seat belts. However, two-thirds of the car seats in use were used incorrectly.

Kristina says a recent voluntary inspection of 60 Corpus Christi drivers found that only two parents had buckled up their children properly.

One need go no further than the state's fatality statistics for children 4 and under to realize the dangers of riding in vehicles. In 1994, 45 children who were unrestrained were killed in accidents. Twenty-two more who were restrained in some manner were also killed. Another 2,549 Texas children who were unrestrained were injured, as were 7,132 who were restrained in some manner.

While the state requires that children be in safety car seats up to age 2, the Safe Riders program has far more specific guidelines:

--Babies up to 20 pounds need to be in an infant car seat. Some seats are easily removed from seat belts, which secure them, and double as infant carriers. But some carriers on the market are for the sole purpose of carrying children around and are not to be used as car seats. It is also recommended that babies under 20 pounds or 26 inches face the rear of the vehicle. A child who faces the rear stands a better chance of escaping serious injury in a crash because the source of the crash is distributed throughout the back. If a child is facing forward, their neck--which is undeveloped--is extended

forward and could be seriously injured in an accident.

--Children between 20 and 40 pounds should use sturdier toddler seats.

--Children between 40 and 60 pounds should use belt-positioning booster seats, which are designed for the lap and shoulder belt to be used together to better protect a child in a crash.

--Children over 60 pounds are ready to use seat belts, which must fit snugly across the hip bones and not the child's tummy.

Kristina says parents have no clue what happens to unbelted children even in low-speed accidents.

"A parent won't be able to hold a child even during a 30-mile-per-hour crash, no matter how strong they are. If the child is not in a safety seat, it's like taking that child and dropping him from a two-story building," she says.

According to the Austin Safe Kids Coalition at Brackenridge Hospital, in a 20-mph collision, a 20-pound baby will be ripped from a belted adult's arms with a force of almost 400 pounds.

Figuring out car seats and understanding the manufacturer's manual can confuse parents, says Kristina.

"The instructions are difficult to read. The manufacturers are trying to get the parents to use the seat correctly, and are also trying to protect themselves for liability reasons," she says.

The other issue for parents, Kristina says, is that some car seats are incompatible with a vehicle's seat belt system.

"Vehicles are designed with belts for adult bodies. Put a safety seat there and it doesn't work," she says.

Automobile manufacturers are now offering built-in toddler car seats with some cars and vans. The seats, however, face forward and are not for infants.

It is the mark of a good action that it appears inevitable in retrospect.

—Robert Louis Stevenson

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'Freemen' bound by no law except their own courts

Montana group's weapons of choice are phony legal documents, truckloads of paper

EDITOR'S NOTE — Groups on America's fringes rail against a vague "New World Order." Now comes to light a group whose anti-government tactics seem to foment disorder. They call themselves Freemen. Law officers call them armed and dangerous. Lawyers call their maddening specialty paper terrorism.

By **JULES LOH**
AP Special Correspondent

ROUNDUP, Mont. (AP)—It hardly looks like "a headquarters of terrorism," but that's how one county attorney described it to a jury, and long before the Oklahoma bomb blasted the term into America's consciousness.

It is a log house out in the Bull Mountains south of here. It sits on 20 fenced acres, no neighbors within view. The only approach is a dirt road that twists 2.5 miles up to the head of a coulee burdened with thick pines and sandstone boulders.

This is not some rough-hewn log cabin. It is a house: four bedrooms, lights, water, TV. Also computers, faxes, laser printers and shortwave radio.

It's the home of Rodney Owen Skurdal, 42, and several of his guests. But Skurdal doesn't own the house. The Internal Revenue Service does. Skurdal and his guests, snug inside, are on the lam.

They call themselves Freemen. The sheriff calls them armed and dangerous.

Of the many fringe groups that have surfaced, or resurfaced, since the April carnage in Oklahoma—militias, constitutionalists, white supremacists—the Freemen seem to have escaped the national spotlight.

Which is surprising. In pursuit of their own vague goals, the Freemen's ideology embraces elements of all three.

They declare themselves as sovereigns, bound by no law other than their own Freemen's courts which their documents purport to derive their powers from snippets of the U.S. Constitution, the original handwritten Montana Constitution, the Magna Carta, the Bible and a U.S. Army training manual.

Under these rubrics they have posted \$1 million bounties on scores of public officials, subpoenaed others, threatened to hang lawyers, judges and sheriffs, placed liens on properties, floated bogus money orders, occupied a courthouse, raided a jail and declared war.

They are not so easily identified as, say, camouflaged militiamen tromping around the woods. But they are well armed and the Militia of Montana is an ally. The Freemen's weapons of choice, however, are truckloads of paper and concoctions of deceptively phony legal documents that lawyers call gibberish and one judge called "a bucket of snakes."

Their tactic is to overwhelm the legal system to the point of frustration, bully the law enforcement system to the point of fecklessness and clog the court system to the point of paralysis, all at exorbitant expense to the state.

This keeps law enforcement at bay while the Freemen avoid paying taxes and repaying debts, which appears to be a common motive among their ranks.

"A farmer loses a crop to drought, gets in over his head financially, and will not believe it is bad luck or his own fault," says Nick Murnion.

"The Freemen tell him it's the government's fault and he believes it." Murnion is the county attorney in Jordan, northeast of here, Montana's most isolated town, where the Freemen one day last year took over the Garfield County courthouse and staged a mock trial.

The tactic of paper terrorism, as Murnion calls it, has its effect. At least two of the people living with Skurdal in his federally owned retreat have felony warrants out for their arrest. Two others, heavily in debt to the federal land bank, are holed up at Grass Range in Garfield County.

A sixth was caught with a concealed gun here in Roundup last month, clapped in jail and released on \$10,000 bail. He has already violated the bail provisions but Musselshell County Attorney John Bohlman doesn't intend to re-arrest him.

"What's the use?" Bohlman said. "Why issue a warrant if it won't be served?"

The reason warrants are not served and fugitive Freemen like Skurdal and others are not brought in is called in these parts "Weaver Fever."

Three years ago an Idaho fugitive named Randall Weaver refused to show up for trial on a gunrunning charge and garrisoned himself in a mountaintop shack. The federal marshal sent to serve a warrant was killed. In the shootout that followed, Weaver's wife and teen-age son were also killed.

That incident, along with the siege of the Branch Davidian compound in Waco, Texas, have branded law officers as overreactive. "Weaver" and "Waco" have become rallying cries for anti-government militants throughout Montana and the West.

To some here, "overreaction" seems overstated. Last year a tax protester named Martin Beckman attracted 100 sympathizers to a "No More Wacos" rally in Billings to protest an IRS foreclosure on his property. It had been ordered seized back in 1974. It took 20 years to get Beckman out.

The IRS seized Skurdal's property July 15, 1993. It was put up for sale for \$29,000 but so far no one has bought it. So Skurdal stays. Musselshell County Sheriff G. Paul Smith has chosen caution over confrontation.

So has Sheriff Charles Phipps of Garfield County, where Skurdal and one of his boarders are also wanted, along with a Garfield rancher and his two sons and grandson. Fugitive Freemen. Federal marshals with fistfuls of tax-evasion warrants have held back as well in both counties.

"They know we know where they are," said Garfield County Attorney Murnion. "It's like they're saying, 'We're here, we have guns, and we know you're scared to come get us.'"

Said Bohlman: "I can understand caution, but the more these people get away with defiance the more it emboldens others. If somebody were to take an Army tank up to Skurdal's... well, why not? The IRS owns the place so it wouldn't be like taking his property."

Freeman defiance is not merely passive. When their \$1 million bounty posters appeared on fenceposts around the countryside naming scores of judges, lawmen, bankers and others, Sheriff Phipps called a Freeman and

asked whether he would get the money if he turned himself in.

"Yes," said a Freeman fugitive, William Stanton, "but you wouldn't be able to spend it."

"Why not?"

"Because we would try you and hang you."

The Freemen first came to Bohlman's notice in 1993 when he was in private practice and appointed to represent a man charged with speeding. "He told me he would lose in the county but win at the state level where they would recognize real law."

"I knew nothing about the Freemen. This guy had his own brief all ready to file. It was full of quotes and citations. I checked it out. I told him it was nonsense and asked him where he got it. All he would say was, 'It's all true, it's all real law.'"

"He believed that. But if we ignore him, as I did, and he files the brief and a court accepts it, we legitimize that belief."

There's the rub, says Vicki Knudsen of Roundup, who preceded Bohlman as county attorney. Frustration with the Freemen and their pseudolegal filings and threats encouraged her return to private practice.

"Our courts bend over backwards in pro se cases," she says. "Those are cases where a person defends himself. Our system tries to make sure poor people and people less sophisticated have access to the courts."

"Trouble is, once a court accepts one of these asinine Freemen things it's in the system. Everybody named in it becomes involved, has to respond. It's not funny. It's not romantic. It's scary."

At one point Skurdal and the Freemen had actions going in courts in all 56 counties in Montana. One of his cases required every federal judge in Montana to withdraw; a federal judge from Oregon was summoned to preside.

"Skurdal has managed to get his trash all the way to the state Supreme Court," Knudsen said. "Three times. Each time was over a damn traffic ticket. Can you believe it?"

Yes. In form if not substance, many Freeman documents appear at first glance passably genuine enough to fool an unsuspecting clerk. Which is why District Judge Peter Rapkoch called them "a bucket of snakes."

After they finally had been recognized throughout the state as coming from the same bucket, the judiciary, at length, instructed courts to dismiss every Skurdal document as frivolous unless signed by a licensed lawyer.

Whereupon Skurdal took to shipping his writs and such to out-of-state secretaries of state where they would be stamped, returned and re-enter Montana courts through the back door. Around they would go again.

Here's a sample of a typical Freeman confection. The excerpt is from a three-page single-spaced document claiming the Musselshell County sheriff has no authority to make arrests:

"This Common Law Affidavit/letter, of necessity, in Law, is true, correct and certain, being made in 'good faith', and pursuant to MCA, Rules of Evidence, Rule 202 (b) (1) and (11) ... 'We Must obey God rather than men.' Acts 5:29. ... teste meipso this 30th day of April..."

And so on, driving lawyers dizzy at what might be lurking within the arcane. Often the same phrases, whole sections, appear in different documents, plucked as needed from prepared discs.

Fighting back, Garfield attorney Murnion turned to his law books and found a statute, never before used, defining a crime called "criminal syndicalism," which includes advocating violence or terrorism in various forms. The Legislature, in turn, made it a felony punishable by 10 years in prison.

Last February Murnion won the first conviction under the statute. A 64-year-old rancher named William Stanton became the first Freeman sent to jail.

During the trial Murnion entered as evidence an 87-page document

signed by Stanton listing 157 allegations against Montanans found guilty in a supposed-Freemen's court. These included the judge, whom the defendant at one point ordered the sheriff to arrest.

The Freemen claim a high purpose than avoiding taxes and jail.

They claim to be setting up local governments, county by county, under authority derived from antiquity just as, they claim, America's original government developed.

But they say America's government is now corrupt. They reject it. One reason is because American women and blacks may vote and hold office, roles Freemen reserve for "free white men."

To demonstrate for doubters their system's validity, they take the trouble, for example, to publish their various writs and pronouncements as legal notices in the local Roundup Record-Tribune. The Freemen's supreme court is listed as the Skyrdal address.

A detailed diagram of how the Freemen organize their government and court system turned up recently in "Taking Aim," the publication of the Militia of Montana.

The article by MOM leader John Trochmann said that on a visit here last January the Freemen had shown him "the solution" to a problem that had bedeviled him for 10 years. Trochmann recommended that militiamen attend a recommended four-day seminar at Skyrdal's "to learn the concepts."

"Sometimes you'll see 15 or 20 cars parked along the road up there," said Ray Frasca, a retired trucker who raises llamas a mile down the coulee from Skyrdal. Frasca said he'd met Skyrdal, had a few beers with him at the Brandin' Iron Saloon on the highway.

"Don't hardly see Rodney anymore," Frasca said. "When he goes out in his front yard nowadays he has a pistol strapped on his hip."

Having learned the Freemen doctrine, lawmen believe Trochmann may have decided to return the favor.

The day after Stanton's sentencing, seven men, one of them militiaman Trochmann, showed up at the Roundup jail in two cars. They were armed with an arsenal of guns, a bundle of plastic-strip handcuffs and \$80,000 worth of currency and gold.

Ominously, one had in his pocket a hand-drawn map of the tiny town of Jordan, with Nick Murnion's house and office circled.

"The FBI had tipped me and Bohlman that something was up involving both of us and the judge," Murnion said. "We were ready. The sheriff stopped them but we had nothing serious to charge them with. I think they wanted to spring Stanton. His conviction hurt their credibility."

It also exposed two vintage Freeman schemes: fake liens and money orders.

For two years, Freeman filed legitimate-looking lien forms totaling millions against property owners all over central Montana. During the day or two until they were discovered as worthless, however, they were listed on bank computers as assets. During that period Freemen deposited phony money orders at another bank.

Stanton got caught last October when he misjudged the safe period after "depositing" \$3.8 million with Merrill Lynch and wrote a hot check for \$25,000 to pay his taxes.

"Those liens were really vicious," said Vicki Knudsen. "Most people didn't learn about them until they went to borrow money and were told there was a lien against their ranch. That happened."

"We got it straightened out," she said. "It wasn't funny."



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