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BIG SPRING

# HERALD

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## Highland South parade is Tuesday

By STEVE REAGAN  
 Staff Writer

Even kids deserve their own parade. The Highland South Fourth of July Parade, a local tradition for more than three decades, will allow local children to show they have as much red, white and blue spirit as any ol' grownup. At least 50 entries are expected for this year's parade, which will begin at 10 a.m. Tuesday at



STALLINGS

the corner of Highland and Robb streets in the Highland South Addition. Just about anyone can enter, said Linda Kaye Stallings, one of the event organizers. "It's open to the whole community," Stallings said. "Not just those who live in Highland South ... Last year, we had about 50 entries and every

year, we seem to get a little more, so I think it'll be in that range." Entrants are encouraged to be at the parade starting point at about 9:30 a.m. Decorating categories for the parade include: Bicycles; golf carts, wagons, horses, scooters, roller blades, strollers, dogs and other pets, walkers, children's battery-operated vehicles, motorized vehicles, mail boxes and houses. Four wheelers are allowed

only if an adult 18 years or older is driving, Stallings noted. Judging will be held about 10 minutes before the parade's start. The parade will wind down Highland Drive, from Robb to Goliad. Afterward, there will be refreshments and entertainment, and winners will be announced. Stallings said the parade, which has been a local mainstay since the early 1970s, is a

fun and family-friendly way to celebrate the Fourth of July. "I think, for most of the people ... it's a family tradition," she said. "Their kids were in it, and now their grandchildren are in it. It's just a lot of fun for everybody." For more information, contact Stallings at 267-8427 or Shayla Seymore at 213-1056. Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331, ext. 234 or by e-mail at reporter@bigspringherald.com.

## Better safe than sorry

### Fireworks safety is paramount

By THOMAS JENKINS  
 Staff Writer

As millions of Americans prepare for the July Fourth holiday, fireworks are sure to play some sort of role in the annual Independence Day celebration. And while they can offer a myriad of sights and sounds, from the largest productions put on by professional companies to the average backyard family gatherings, fireworks can be the best — and worst — part of the holiday, according to Big Spring Fire Marshall Carl Condray. "When things go wrong with fireworks, they typically go very wrong, very fast," said Condray. "Far faster than any fire protection can reliably respond. Fireworks are a classic attractive nuisance for children. If children are present to watch, they will be tempted to touch. Children can't move as fast as adults and can be badly hurt if they are too close to the fireworks, as they inevitably are at home firework displays." Condray said people wanting to have fun with fireworks this holiday should observe some simple rules to help keep themselves and their neighbors safe. The most obvious concern, according to Condray, is where you decide to "pop" your fireworks. "It is against the law to dis-



Nicole Baum (left) makes sure safety is in mind when selling fireworks at Mr.W's firework stand on S. Highway 87.

charge fireworks in the city limits," Condray reminds the public. "If you're going to light fireworks you need to find a place in the county that you have access to and have permission to be there, especially if it is on private property." Fireworks thrill-seekers planning to celebrate the holiday

with their collection of Roman candles, sparklers and other assorted explosive displays should also remember to keep a few simple tools around while lighting up the West Texas sky. "Make sure to have lots of water or a shovel where you can put out a fire," he said. "Discharge the fireworks on a

hard surface like a parking lot, something paved, concrete or on a dirt road. Light them on the ground and then quickly move away and don't let children light them." Condray said firework enthusiasts should scout out a path See FIREWORKS, Page 3A

## Pops Committee to honor past chairs

By JOHN A. MOSELEY  
 Managing Editor

When the 10th annual "Pops in the Park" concert and fireworks display gets under way Tuesday night at the Comanche Trail Park Amphitheater, months of hard work by dozens of people will come to fruition. The celebration's 10th anniversary will also mark what members of the Fourth of July Foundation organizing committee consider somewhat of a rite of passage. As a result, the committee has decided that in addition to honoring our community's military personnel currently serving in the armed forces and those that have served in the past, Tuesday night's show will also recognize a handful of people that played a pivotal role in making the celebration a mainstay in Big Spring's annual Independence Day observance. The committee will be honoring it's past chairpersons and one coordinator — people that Jan Hansen, now in her second year as co-chair of the committee, See POPS, Page 3A



HANSEN

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### To reach us:

Please call 263-7331. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you miss your paper, please call (432) 263-7335 before 7 p.m. weekdays and noon Sunday.

### 777 FUN RUN/WALK SET

Stanton High School Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) is sponsoring a "777s" 7K run/walk July 7 at 7:07 p.m. Entry fee is \$17 with pre-registration. The fee on the day of the event will be \$20. Activities will be held at 109 E. First in Stanton, behind the Martin County Hospital. Awards will be given for first through third places. There will be special awards for 7th, 17th, 27th place, etc. For more information, call Kathy Dunn at (432) 352-5791. Entry forms can be picked up at 109 E. First in Stanton.

### GREAT RACE COMING

The public is encouraged to welcome competitors in the Great Race, which will be making a lunch stop in Big Spring on Monday, July 9 at the Dora Roberts Community Center in Comanche Trail Park. The first car should arrive at the community center about 11:45 a.m. Lunch will be served to the public beginning at noon. Lunch tickets are \$10 each and will be available at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce or at the Convention and Visitors Bureau office at City Hall. Tickets must be purchased by Tuesday, July 3.

### CHAINING THEMSELVES?

REDMOND, Wash. (AP) — Seven dog lovers who oppose the chaining of pets spent part of the weekend tethered to dog houses and poles as their canine friends frolicked in an off-leash area of a park. "We do it for the animals because they can't speak for themselves and we want people to know that it is actually a form of cruelty," said Susan Hartland, who handed out fliers to passing dog owners Saturday while roped to a lawn stake. Hartland was in Marymoor Park as a representative for Dogs Deserve Better, the Pennsylvania-based group that organizes an annual event called "Unchain the 50." It was the fifth year for the protest.



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**FIREWORKS**

Continued from Page 1A

for the direction of the fireworks before igniting them and remember to use some commonsense while handling explosives.

"Don't ever hold the fireworks in your hand and don't point them at other people," Condray said. "Those things can backfire and they can catch your clothes on fire."

Firework duds — pieces that have been lit but don't explode — still present a danger and Condray recommends dumping them into a tub of water.

"Fireworks can be dangerous for long time after they've been discharged," he said.

"Sparklers also can stay hot for a long time," the fire marshal added. "They reach temperatures up to 1,800 degrees. Kids shouldn't touch the lit portion of the sparkler, throw them or play games with them."

While many area resi-

dents won't be able to resist the color and beauty of fireworks this July Fourth, Condray recommends skipping the live fireworks this year and instead enjoy the warmth of friends and family.

"I wish people would choose to celebrate by sitting around with the family, friends and loved ones instead of popping fireworks," said Condray. "But if you are going to celebrate with fireworks, please be careful."

Those who do decide to light fireworks will be held responsible if their New Year's fun gets out of hand, Condray warned.

"They are liable if they start a fire whether it was an accident or not," he said. "You light the fireworks intentionally and there's culpability. You're going to be held responsible for your actions."

Firework sales will continue until midnight on July 4.

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

**Efforts expand to bring sea water to faucets**

By LYNN BREZOSKY

Associated Press Writer

BROWNSVILLE — On a one-acre site alongside a string of docked shrimp boats and fronting the turquoise waters of the Brownsville ship channel is a \$2.2 million assembly of pipes, sheds, and whirring machinery — Texas' entree into making Gulf of Mexico sea water suitable to drink.

Plant operator Joel del Rio is its guardian, constantly checking the intake pumps, the pre-treatment filters, the discharge pond, and the long pipes of the desalination unit. In an occasional moment of truth, he opens a small spigot at the end of a fat pipe and fills a plastic glass in hopes the finished product will taste "like regular bottled water."

"Sea water," he said. "It's never gonna run out."

The plant is a pilot project for the state's first, \$150 million full-scale sea

water desalination plant slated for construction in 2010.

Desalting the sea water is expensive, mostly because of the energy involved in pushing water through layers and layers of filters to strain it. Current cost estimates run at about \$650 per acre foot (326,000 gallons), as opposed to \$200 for purifying fresh water. But a glimpse around the world shows that when water needs are crucial, governments and private investors ante up.

About two-thirds of the world's desalinated water is produced in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and North Africa, with the Persian Gulf getting some 60 percent of its drinking water through desalination. Perth, Australia, is looking to meet a third of its fresh water demand through desalination.

Israel in March showed off its plant at the Mediterranean port of Ashkelon, able to process 87 million gallons of

water a day. Singapore in 2005 opened a sea water desalination plant designed to meet at least 10 percent of the nation's water needs. General Electric Co. in May announced a \$220 million contract to build a plant in South Africa.

Global output is still relatively minute — less than 0.1 percent of all drinking water. But according to a recent report by Global Water Intelligence, the worldwide desalination industry is expected to grow 140 percent over the next decade, entailing \$25 billion in capital investment by 2010, or \$56 billion by 2015.

While the United States has hundreds of plants to purify brackish ground water, sea water desalination is just getting started. Tampa Bay's \$158 million sea water desalination plant opened in March after years of problems with design and a lawsuit with a contractor. Fawzi Karajeh, chief of

water recycling and desalination for the California Department of Water Resources, said the state is hoping to get about half a million acre feet of water a year from desalination. It seems a tiny portion of the state's yearly 70 million acre feet budget.

"You might think that, but every drop counts," he said. "In San Diego they think desalination could contribute up to 20 percent. Statewide it might be small, but for some regions it might be high."

In Texas, Gov. Rick Perry began pushing for Gulf of Mexico desalination in 2002, after a state water plan determined hundreds of communities could face water shortages in the next 50 years.

Texas leaders already have agreed to pour \$10 million more into the venture.

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Cordelia "Cordy" Munoz, 64, died Friday. Vigil Services will be at 7:00 PM Monday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral Mass will be at 11:00 AM Tuesday at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.

**POPS**

Continued from Page 1A

says worked "long and hard" to make the show what it is today.

Those honorees include founder and first chairperson Carrol Jennings; succeeding chairpersons Archie Kountz, Ben Bancroft, Linda Conway and Tim Blackshear; and Pam Welch, the long-time coordinator for the show.

"There's no question that we wouldn't have anything like the show we're going to see Tuesday night if it hadn't been for the efforts of these people," Hansen said. "Those of us serving on the committee now, as well as the entire community owe a debt of gratitude to these people. I'm reasonably sure nobody knows just what they went through except themselves, because there were years when it was very difficult to get this show done."

"Believe me, it's never easy getting everything organized for an event of this kind, but now that Pops in the Park is as well established as it is in our community, those of us on the committee have a lot easier time than they did," Hansen added. "They had much smaller budgets to work with and had a tougher time raising the money needed to put on the show in the early years. But somehow they always managed to pull it off and now this is an event the community looks forward to and lends its whole-hearted support to."

Only a handful of pledged donations for this year's show have yet to be received by the committee, and Hansen says she's certain enough money has been raised for the almost \$40,000 event.

"We're still getting some of the smaller donation checks," Hansen said, "and we really want to thank the people and businesses in our community. The community's response this year has been absolutely heart warming. I know I've said that before, but I don't know a better term for how the people of Big

Spring and Howard County have answered our requests for financial help."

Held every July 3, "Pops in the Park" features a performance by the Big Spring Symphony and Chorus, followed by a fireworks show that is coordinated with the symphony's patriotic music.

A crowd of 10,000 to 15,000 is expected to pack the amphitheater and spills over into the park and along U.S. Highway 87 as the concert and fireworks show are staged.

Donations making the concert and fireworks show possible come from local businesses and individuals, as well as corporate sponsorships. More importantly, they make it possible for organizers to open the gates for all comers free of charge.

"We always want to stress this is the community's celebration," Hansen said. "It's an opportunity to gather with friends and family at the park and join everyone in celebrating that we live in the greatest country on Earth."

"Nobody celebrates the Fourth of July holiday like Big Spring does. We always say that, but we're truly convinced it's true," she continued. "That's part of what makes this such a wonderful show — it brings visitors from outside our community. That's one of the real rewards from being a part of the organizing committee, getting a chance to look at what this community puts together. We should all take pride in that."

Symphony Conductor Dr. Keith Graumann's list of musical selections the Symphony and Chorus will perform during two segments of the concert begins with a performance of "Fanfare for the Common Man," followed

by "Stars and Stripes Forever," "To the Colors," "The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag," "The Star-Spangled Banner," "Salute to the Armed Forces," "Liberty Bell March," "Battle Hymn of the Republic," and "Over There."

The mood will change then with "A Cohan Salute," "A Broadway Celebration," "Best of the Beatles," "Billy Joel Medley," "Beach Boys Medley," "Fifth of Beehtoven," "Summon the Heroes," "Wind Beneath My Wings," "Let There Be Peace on Earth" and "America the Beautiful."

During the intermission, a video presentation honoring local men and women currently serving in the military, the symphony will return and perform "Hoe Down" before the fireworks show begins.

Selections for the fireworks show, Graumann said, will be "Radetzky March," "Washington Post March," "National Emblem March," "Star Trek Theme," "Star Wars Theme," "The Star-Spangled Banner," "You're a Grand Old Flag," "American Patrol," "1812 Overture" and "Stars and Stripes Forever."

The evening's entertainment will be opened by a local band, as Los Greengos — made up of Donnie Green, Keith McGuire, Ben Kilgore and Adrian Calvio — takes the stage at 6 p.m.

Presenters of the event include the Big Spring Herald, Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, the city of Big Spring, the Big Spring Symphony, Fiberod, KBYG, KBST and The Click Ranch — each providing donations of \$5,000 or more in funding or in-kind services.

For those unable to

serve as "Presenters," Hansen noted that the committee is also seeking support at different levels — "Stars and Stripes" sponsors that donate \$3,000 or more; "Texas Star" sponsors, donating \$2,000 or more; and "Rocket" sponsors, donating \$1,000 or more.

"Stars and Stripes" sponsors for the show are Fiber Glass Systems, H.E.B. and Robinson Drilling.

The lone "Texas Star" sponsor is the Wal-Mart Supercenter, which is featuring the evening's opening act, Los Greengos.

"Rocket" sponsors are Alon USA, the Worthy Company, the Settles Hotel Development Company, Medicine Center Pharmacy, Scenic Mountain Medical Center and Cornell Companies Inc.

"We're very excited that some of these major sponsors have increased their donations this year, plus some of them are new to the list in all the major categories," Hansen added. "We really want to thank those who support us, no matter how they are able to contribute. It is that support that has allowed us to expand and improve the show every year."

To contact Managing Editor John A. Moseley, call 263-7331, ext. 230, or e-mail him at editor@bigspringherald.com.

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