

Bastrop 13, Tivy 12
Ingram 26, Johnson City 24
Bandera 20, Comfort 0

Friday night football
La Pryor 35, Leakey 0

Junction 35, Harper 7
F'Burg 14, Boerne 9
CP vs. Thorndale, Sat.

LIFESTYLE Page 1C
Grandparents
The Times takes a look at their influence on 3 families

SUNDAY
Sept. 13, 1992

FRIDAYS
High: 85
Low: 65
Rainfall: .09

Kerrville Daily Times

Vol. 84 No. 138

Kerrville, Texas

30 Pages 75 Cents

County eyes tax rate hike

Commissioner says increase may be reduced

By MARGARET EDMONSON
Times Staff Writer

KERRVILLE — Kerr County commissioners are just around the corner of having to approve a tax increase, but at least one commissioner says that tax rate might not have to be as high as expected.

Commissioners learned late last month that to fund the county's proposed \$7.454 million budget, they will have to set a tax rate of 32.22 cents per \$100 valuation compared to last year's tax rate of 28.07 cents per \$100 valuation. That proposed rate will increase the tax bill on a \$50,000 home by almost \$20.

The court is scheduled to take public comment on the proposed rate during a hearing Wednesday at 10 a.m. in the courthouse.

Pct. 3 Commissioner Glenn Holckamp said county officials may be able to shave that proposed rate. While declining to elaborate on the details, Holckamp said this week, "We may have found some revenues that were inadvertently not

calculated, so we may be able to lower that figure some.

"I'm not satisfied with such a high tax rate,"

County Judge Bill Stacy said he would like to see the proposed tax rate lowered.

"I don't know whether we can or not," he said. "I came up with some cuts in the budget, but I was overruled. I asked other people to cut their budgets, and I tried to set an example, but it didn't go."

Commissioners were forced to budget an additional \$225,000 over last year's amount for out-of-county prisoner housing costs. The court also budgeted in a three percent cost-of-living raise for county employees, partly paid with personnel cuts in County Clerk Pat Dye's department. Several elected officials, not including the judge or commissioners, saw their salaries adjusted upward to compare with other counties of similar size and budgets.

The proposed 32-cent rate will let the county keep the same amount of money in the fund balance next year, County Auditor Tommy Tomlinson said.

Precinct 1 Commissioner Gordon Morgan said that if there was an opportunity to vote on a lesser tax rate, he probably would vote for it—depending on how the budget will be funded.

"Now, have I made up my mind? No," he said.



Workers from JC Excavation are busy making improvements to two of Kerrville's parks that lie along the scenic Guadalupe River. Concrete walkways should improve access to the river at the UGRA dam. (Times photo by Mark A. Stahl)

River parks nearly ready

KERRVILLE — City officials say although it is hard to pin down a final date, workers are nearing completion of park improvements to two of the city's riverside parks.

J.C. Excavation of Austin currently is adding spaces for picnic benches and concrete walkways to the city's park located next to the UGRA dam. Concrete slabs for

picnic benches also will be poured at the city park located off Coronado Drive.

Concrete walkways and steps at the UGRA dam will allow residents in the area access to the Guadalupe River without having to traverse the existing steep slopes. Workers also will install a cement foundation for a

playcourt.

Park improvements will cost the city about \$95,000 and the funding comes from a \$150,000 fund set up by the Upper Guadalupe River Authority. The UGRA gave the city the money with the stipulation they use it for improvement of the parks along the river.

Judge nixes aquifer plan

Ag interests win victory over TWC

AUSTIN (AP) — A state judge Friday knocked down a plan by the Texas Water Commission to limit pumping from the Edwards Aquifer.

State District Judge Pete Lowry granted a summary judgment to farm interests opposed to the measure that the Water Commission adopted Wednesday.

Commission Chairman John Hall criticized Lowry's decision, saying, "Water is too valuable a resource to leave to chance. It needs to be deliberately managed."

Hall says the aquifer, which is the primary water source to 1.5 million people in San Antonio and the surrounding area, is an underground stream and can be regulated like other surface waters.

But farmers contend that the water under their land is theirs and cannot be regulated.

Lowry ruled that the commission could not declare the aquifer a stream and regulate it.

"The Texas Water Commission's actions were illegal," said S.M. Tros, president of the Texas Farm Bureau. "As of today, the Edwards is by law, an aquifer—not a river—and not subject to state regulation."

Texas Agriculture Commissioner Rick Perry declared, "People: 1. Water Commission 0."

Perry said the commission "became so fixated with their power grab, they forgot about the law."

But Hall said most people drawing water from the aquifer, including the cities of San Antonio and San Marcos, supported the pumping limits.

And, he added, that without a management plan, users of the aquifer face a possible federal takeover of the underground water source.

A lawsuit by environmentalists has demanded that federal authorities require enough spring flows into the aquifer to protect endangered species. Hall said this would reduce pumping from the aquifer much more than the Water Commission's proposal.

Couple, critters head to space

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Endeavour roared from its launch pad today and embarked on a research mission with the first married couple in space, first black woman in space, first Japanese to fly on a U.S. spaceship and all kinds of critters.

The 100-ton shuttle lifted off promptly at 10:23 a.m. It vaulted through a clear sky as it arched over the Atlantic Ocean and headed up along the East Coast with seven astronauts.

Tucked safely inside Endeavour — a space-age Noah's Ark — were two fish, four frogs, 180 hermits, 7,600 flies and 50 fertilized chicken eggs.

The twin solid rocket boosters dropped off two minutes into the flight as planned. Then, 6 1/2 minutes later, the shuttle reached a 187-mile-high orbit on the thrust of three liquid-fueled engines.

Vice President Dan Quayle, head of the National Space Council, and wife, Marilyn, and children Benjamin and Conine were among the estimated 15,000 visitors at Kennedy Space Center who witnessed NASA's 50th shuttle launch.

"On behalf of the president and all Americans, we just wish you and your crew good luck and Godspeed. We know it's going to be great."

(Continued on Page 2A)

Big line-up seen for jubilee, festival

Heritage music fest, Jimmy Rodgers tribute opens Friday

By MARGARET EDMONSON
Times Staff Writer

KERRVILLE — The sounds of Texas music will ring through the hills next weekend at Kerrville and Schreiner College host the Texas Heritage Music Festival and 11th Annual Jimmie Rodgers Jubilee.

The music festival featuring local talent as well as big name stars such as Flaco Jimenez, Fish Hinojosa and Townes Van Zandt will run next weekend, Friday-Sunday. The festival includes some of the finest performers in Texas music and a tribute to Jimmie Rodgers, the country and western performer who made his home in the Hill Country.

Kathleen Hudson, executive director of the Texas Heritage Music Foundation, said the festival and jubilee is really a community event.

"We'll be showcasing a lot of local talent — Dusty Briches (Bandera), Rusty Cox (Fredericksburg), Billy Sheffield (Kerrville), Della Blue (Bandera), Lantico Blue (Seguin), Jimmie Lee Jones (Kerrville) and others," she said. "I was asked to do this at the Sunken Gardens, but I wanted to do this for the community and Schreiner College and to do something for the local musicians."



Chuck Jones, left, gets an autograph from musician Roy Harper at the 1991 Jimmie Rodgers Jubilee held at Schreiner College. (Times file photo)

Hill Country Badweiser, Rio Grande Publishing, and 20 other local businesses, along with the Turner Foundation in Houston, have donated to the Texas Music Heritage Festival. Other sponsors include KRVU, Coca-Cola, Kerrville Music Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Inn of the Hills.

The festival grew out of the annual tribute to Rodgers which was celebrated near his Sept. 8 birthday. This year, the festival begins a day early, on Thursday, in Austin at La Zona Rosa at 7 p.m. with a tribute to the cowboy in song and poetry. Don Hodgeth of Kerrville, Buck Ramsey from Amarillo and Andy Wil-

kinson from Lubbock will sing songs and tell stories.

On Friday, the festival comes back to Kerrville for another new event in the festival — a Texas Music Seminar to be held at Schreiner College from 2 to 4 p.m. Ramsey will read a paper on "Cowboy Lingo" while Glen Allyn will be reading from his unfinished book on Jimmie Rodgers.

Rodgers' grandsons, Jimmie Dale Court, will open Saturday's packed card beginning at noon. Music lovers of all kinds are sure to find something to like — blues by Sheffield, Della Blue and Jimmie's Texas Blues country music by Fellows, Jones and Stewart Crawford; or Tejano by Fritz Montegucho, Eusebio Padua, Danny Cortez and an evening dance with Flaco Jimenez, Allyn will perform traditional music.

A children's show with Hodgeth and Ramsey will begin at 5:30 p.m. along with a yodeling contest.

Featured songwriters on Sunday will be Hinojosa and Townes Van Zandt. Hinojosa has an album scheduled to be released on Sept. 20 on Rounder Records while Van Zandt's

writing, as Hudson described it, "is sharp enough to cut some new corners in your mind." The Texas artist has written such numbers as "Fanchos and Lefty," "I Needed You," "Mr. Mud and Mr. Gold," in addition to two songs for the Cowboy Junkies.

Of course the festival would not be complete without a tribute to Jimmie Rodgers. From noon to 3 p.m. on Sunday, jubilee veterans will be coming from as far away as Louisiana, Tennessee and North Carolina to pay tribute to Rodgers' contributions to country music. Scheduled performers are Van Williams, Roy Harper, Tom Swartzell, John Lilly and Brian Rhodes.

"This eclectic show has something for everyone. We want to showcase the diverse traditions in Texas music as well as pay homage to Jimmie Rodgers," Hudson said.

Rodgers built Blue Yodeler's Paradise in Kerrville before his death in 1935. The jubilee began when Henry Young of Temple, Texas, met Mike and Kashi Walker, and the organizers made plans for what is now a Hill Country tradition.

"Now the show occurs over a four-day period, involves over 20 businesses in the area as sponsors and produces a scholarship fund," Hudson said.

The scholarship is awarded each year to a college student who studies music, Hudson explained.

Tickets are available at Johnny's Texaco on Junction Highway and at the festival office at the Inn of the Hills for \$5 a day or \$10 for a three-day pass. Student tickets are free.



Bandera was happy, Comfort was sad, and Tivy was frustrated in Friday night football action.

1B and 2B

Bible verse
"Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips." Psalm 141:3

Inside

Ann Landers..... 6A
Bridge..... 6A
Classified..... 1-60
Comics..... 6A
Commentary..... 5A
Crossword..... 6A
Editorials..... 4A
Entertainment..... 6C
Horoscope..... 6A
Lifestyle..... 1-5C
Obituaries..... 7A
Recent's Page..... 6D
Sports..... 1-3B
Stocks..... 5B
Weather..... 2A