

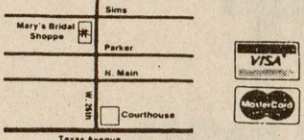
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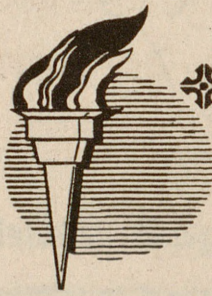
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**Pipeline explodes  
in Galveston area,  
injures 3 workers**

KEMAH (AP) — Three construction workers installing a pipeline were injured when an explosion ripped through a nearby butane line Wednesday, officials said.

A fire that followed the explosion was under control but continued to burn Wednesday afternoon, officials said. The area around the fire was evacuated and a nearby bridge connecting Kemah and Seabrook was closed.

Kemah police dispatcher David Haynes said a three-block area had been evacuated but he did not know how many people were involved. The area is not densely populated, he said.

The explosion occurred about 8 a.m. while a crew contracted by Amoco Pipeline Co. was installing a new pipeline, Amoco spokesman Guy Robinson said. The explosion occurred in a pipeline running parallel to the line the construction crew was working on.

"It's still burning," Robinson said Wednesday afternoon. "What's burning is what (butane) is left in the line."

Robinson said he did not know how long it would take to burn off all the butane left in the pipeline. The six-inch line owned by Amoco carries butane from Baytown to the company's refinery in Texas City.

"Somehow a leak developed and gas in the line ignited," he said.

Officials were not sure how the leak developed. Three workers were hurt and Robinson said he understood those injuries were burns. The three were employed by Woodson Construction Co. in Lafayette, La., but their names were not immediately released.

One worker was flown by helicopter to Hermann Hospital in Houston, where he was in serious condition, hospital spokesman Don Brown said.

Another worker was taken to an area hospital, but Amoco spokesman Greg Clock said he did not know which one it was or what his condition was. The third worker was treated at the scene.

Three local fire departments were called in to battle the blaze in Kemah, near Galveston Bay.

**Study: English system  
works better than plan  
of bilingual education**

EL PASO (AP) — Spanish-speaking children who are taught almost exclusively in English learn English faster and do better overall than students who are taught first in Spanish, a study indicates.

The El Paso Independent School District study of 2,500 children in first- through third-grade bilingual education classes show the English immersion program works, said Jeanne Saunders, EPISD director of research and evaluation.

The 3-year-old experiment has been extended another two years so officials can see how the students perform in regular classes, Saunders said Tuesday.

"The data says the bilingual immersion program does a better job of teaching English to students at an earlier level," Saunders said.

Students in the immersion program retain their Spanish and tend to do better on reading, language and math achievement tests than students in the traditional program, she said.

In traditional bilingual education, children are taught first in Spanish. The teacher then gradually introduces English until classes are taught solely in that language.

In the immersion program, most teaching is done in English from the start, although children may speak Spanish, she said.

The study has concluded that both groups do better than expected across the board, but that bilingual immersion appears to be a more effective way to teach English.

The Texas Education Agency granted the school district permission to try the dual approach to bilingual education.

El Paso school officials tried the immersion program in 18 elementary schools and left the traditional bilingual program intact at 18 other elementary schools.

Officials based the study's results on achievement test scores, interviews with principals and questionnaires from more than 500 teachers, Saunders said.

**Young baseball lover  
dies of cancer; family  
buries him in uniform**

AUSTIN (AP) — A 13-year-old Austin boy who died of cancer will be buried in the clothing he loved most — his baseball uniform.

"Baseball was that kid's life," said Melvin Driskill, president of the Pony League in which Hiro Nishimura played despite his cancer battle. "And he wouldn't quit."

After Thursday's funeral, Nishimura will be buried in his Capitol Aggregates team uniform and with his glove and two baseballs autographed by his teammates. The teammates, wearing their uniform jerseys, will be among the pallbearers.

Nishimura died early Monday at Seton Medical Center in Austin, ending a bout with lymphoma that began in 1982.

The eighth-grader played in his team's final baseball game in June, when his father and baseball coach, Mitsuyoshi "Sam" Nishimura, sent him in to pinch hit.

After starting the game at third base, Hiro grew tired from coughing after two innings and left to lie down on the dugout bench. But in the final inning, he urged his father and coach to put him back in the game.

"Daddy, let me pinch hit," his father recalled the boy saying. "This is the last game of the year."

The ailing player beat out an infield hit, but had to leave the game for a pinch runner, the elder Nishimura said.

The Nishimura family came to the United States from Japan in 1971 and soon became a fixture at Northwest Little League and Northwest Pony-Colt baseball fields.

The oldest son, Sato, set home-run records as a 12-year-old in the middle 1970s and later played for Austin McCallum High School. Hiro Nishimura's older sister, Miyo, made softball all-star teams.

Nishimura came to their games, spending most of his time chasing foul balls for free soft drinks. He began playing youth baseball at age 6, two years before doctors discovered the lymphoma.

He underwent cancer therapy at Houston's M.D. Anderson Hospital, including experimental drug therapy this year before he went to Seton.

Although he missed some games, he never missed a whole baseball season. He made the jump from Little League to Pony League in the spring.

**Council hires  
first woman  
to enforce law**

PAINT ROCK (AP) — The town of Paint Rock, population 256, wanted some respect when the City Council decided to start a police department.

And it's been getting that respect since May when the council hired the town's first law-woman.

Police Chief Tommie Atkinson is also the lone employee of the Paint Rock Police Department.

For a century, law and order in the Concho county seat has been the responsibility of the sheriff's department, which is headquartered here.

"People driving through Paint Rock have no respect for small towns — not just Paint Rock, but any small town," Mayor Billy Sims says.

Thus far, the biggest case worked by Atkinson (with help from the sheriff's department) was an \$8,000 drug bust in which one person was arrested.

Sheriff Ernest Skeen, whose job also includes collecting taxes, says he welcomes the help.

Because of major highways passing through the county, he says, his office receives many calls to be on the lookout for people wanted in neighboring counties.

One thing's for sure — Paint Rock is sold on its one-woman police department.

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