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**\$179<sup>00</sup>/mo. for a 2 bedroom apt.\***

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505 Harvey Rd, CS; 409-693-7184 for more details.

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patios & balconies  
ask mgr. about newly  
remodeled apts.  
walking distance to shopping and  
eating establishments  
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24 hr maint.  
2 swimming pools & sunning decks  
shuttle route  
patios & balconies  
volleyball facility

walking distance to shopping  
and eating establishments.  
dishwashers  
2 entries into most homes  
24 hour management

**TRAVIS HOUSE APTS.**  
505 Harvey Rd, 693-7184  
Office Hours are M&W 1 p.m. - 8 p.m.  
T,Th, and F: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
Sat: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

\* special provisions apply

## Police free girl held hostage for nine hours

HOUSTON (AP) — A man held a 10-year-old girl hostage in her apartment for nine hours before police freed her early Tuesday by shooting the man with a stun gun.

The suspect, Donald Ray Harris, 35, claiming to have a gun, held Natalie Brown in a bedroom closet of the apartment in southwest Houston after her mother, Juanita Brown, came home just before 5 p.m. Monday and found the man there.

The man threatened Brown but she managed to leave and call police.

When police arrived they found Harris and the girl, a fourth-grader, barricaded in a bedroom of the second-floor apartment.

Uniformed officers got inside the apartment but didn't go into the bedroom for fear that the man had a weapon and would harm the girl. Officers called the SWAT team and the apartments adjacent to the Brown residence were evacuated.

Officers, still in the apartment, could hear sounds coming from the bedroom and SWAT negotiators talked to Harris but were unable to persuade him to surrender.

Harris claimed he had a pistol but no guns were found when he finally was subdued and arrested, Houston police spokesman Dan Turner said.

About 1:45 a.m., police entered a bathroom adjacent to the bedroom and then entered the bedroom only to find the man and child in a closet.

"Apparently, the suspect heard a noise because he came out of the closet," Turner said. "At that time they found the girl was in no immediate danger and they were able to stun him with the Taser (gun), rendering him momentarily motionless."

## Corporation OKs buyout of store chain

DALLAS (AP) — Southland Corp. shareholders Tuesday approved a \$4.9 billion leveraged buyout, putting the world's largest convenience store chain in private hands.

The buyout by the company's founding Thompson family is expected to be closed Tuesday, Southland spokesman Markeeta McNatt said. Approximately 150 people attended Tuesday's 10-minute shareholders' meeting. The approval followed the pricing of \$2.2 billion high-yield junk bonds. The buyout also involves bank loans of \$2.6 billion, McNatt said.

On Monday, Goldman, Sachs & Co. and Salomon Brothers Inc., the Thompson's investment bankers, said they priced \$2.2 billion in high-risk, high-yield, junk bonds needed to complete financing.

Sale of the bonds was announced Tuesday, McNatt said. The company will receive \$1.5 billion from the bond sale.

The Thompson family controlled 73 percent of the common shares before Tuesday's meeting, after acquiring them this summer through the purchase of 66 percent of common stock. The family also bought 97 percent of outstanding preferred shares this summer.

In the merger, each outstanding share of Southland common stock will be converted to the right to receive \$61.32 and 0.6672 of a share of a new series of preferred stock. Each share of a series of Southland's preferred stock will be cancelled and exchanged for the right to receive \$90.27, the company said.

Goldman, Sachs and Salomon Brothers had struggled for more than a month to find buyers for the debt issue.

The offering, which was amended three times, had met resistance from many potential investors, who worried that the value of the company's assets may have fallen sharply after the stock market collapse and that the company would be unable to pay off the debt.

## What's up

Wednesday

**SPORT PARACHUTE CLUB:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 302 Rudder.

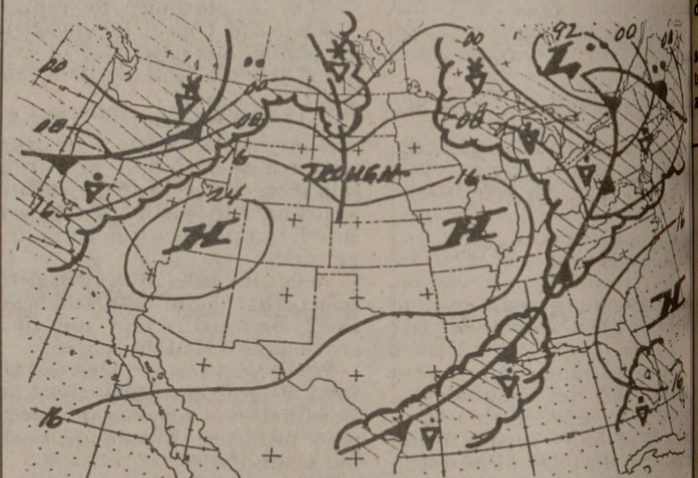
**AGGIE SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY:** will meet at 8:30 p.m. in 402 Rudder.

Thursday

**PHI KAPPA PHI HONOR SOCIETY:** Scholarship applications for graduate study are available in 219 Engineering Physics Building. For more information contact Dr. Thomas Kozik at 845-2410.

Items for What's Up should be submitted to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, no less than three working days before desired publication date.

## Weather Watch



Key:

- Lightning
- Rain
- Ice Pellets
- Fog
- Snow
- Rain Shower
- Thunderstorm
- Drizzle
- Freezing Rain

Sunset Today: 5:23 p.m.

Sunrise Thursday: 7:11 a.m.

**Map Discussion:** The weak cool front that passed Bryan-College Station last evening will be paralleling the Texas coast with widely scattered showers ahead of the system. Elsewhere, a deep low pressure system and associated fronts in Quebec will produce rain and snow activity from the western Great Lakes to New England and southward to the higher elevations of eastern Tennessee. The front in the Pacific Northwest is less active than the systems of the past week, producing light showers.

**Forecast:**

**Today:** Partly cloudy and mild with a high temperature of 63 degrees and northerly winds of 10 to 16 mph.

**Tonight:** Expect increasing cloudiness and cool. The minimum temperature Thursday morning will be near 40. Winds north at seven mph.

**Thursday:** Mostly cloudy and cool. Maximum temperature 56 degrees, with northeasterly winds of eight to 14 mph and a slight chance of an isolated shower.

Prepared by: Charlie Brent  
Staff Meteorologist  
A&M Department of Meteorology

## Father faces 90-year term for smothering his children

WAXAHACHIE (AP) — A former upholstery worker who said he feared his two young children would grow up to resemble him or his estranged wife faces 90 years in prison for smothering them.

Jimmy Ray Franks, 24, a high school dropout living in Palmer, an Ellis County community south of Dallas, was sentenced Monday after pleading guilty to two murder charges in return for the dismissal of capital charges that carried a possible death penalty.

Ellis County District Judge Gene Knize sentenced Franks to two 90-year terms to be served concurrently. District Attorney Mary Lou Shipley said she agreed to drop the capital murder charges for a guilty plea to murder because Franks had no other history of violence.

Defense attorney Ron Bunch portrayed Franks as a caring young father troubled by a failed marriage and apprehensive about the future of his 2-year-old son, Jeremy, and 4-year-old daughter, Tammy.

The children were suffocated during their sleep the night of Dec. 20, authorities said.

Two days later, the bodies were found in trash bags hidden in a thicket of honeysuckle growing along a road in Ellis County.

Franks first reported his children were missing, but later, as he grew suspicious, Franks gave a statement and led authorities to the bodies.

In an interview following his sentencing, Franks told the *Morning News* that the children haunt his sleep in a recurring nightmare with a white bear and pleasant dreams of the boy and girl dancing. He said his waking hours are dominated by thoughts of his children.

He told the newspaper he killed the children he loved because he described as a fear that would "turn out like me or my mother."

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