

In Advance

Renaissance festival offers surprises

By Fiona Soltes
Staff Writer

The 14th annual Texas Renaissance Festival, opening this weekend and running through Nov. 13, is offering many new surprises this year, Betty Haring, festival public relations director, says.

"The festival has a different flavor than in years past," Haring says.

"We've got more street activity and added entertainment in the village."

Haring says visitors are likely to see Nostradamus, Robin Hood, pirates, tightrope walkers and a gypsy band.

They also can visit Noble House, a new Greco-Roman structure displaying the treasures Marco Polo brought back from the Orient.

Knights and horsemen all have new costumes this year, Haring says.

But even with the new addi-

tions to the festival, Haring says all of the old favorites will still be around also.

She says that visitors' favorite attractions include mud wrestlers, jousting matches, drama productions on five stages, games such as Jacob's Ladder and a dart toss, and the food.

"This year, we've got the traditional turkey legs, corn on the cob, steak-on-a-stake and apple dumplings," Haring says.

"But we've added boudin, a Louisiana-type sausage, seafood gumbo and fish and chips. There's also Italian and Chinese food, in a total of 42 shops."

Haring says she expects record attendance this year.

"Last year, in seven weekends, we had 204,000 people come through the gate," she says. "But this year, advance ticket sales have been phenomenal."

Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$6 for children 5 to 12 years old. Children under 5 are free.

A&M professor unlocks secret to violin

By Staci Finch
Staff Writer

The Stradivarius violin is considered the greatest violin ever made. The secret of the instrument's exquisite construction has long been thought to have died with the creator, Antonio Stradivari, in the late 1700s.

However, a biology professor at Texas A&M is changing all that.

Dr. Joseph Nagyvary believes he has unlocked the secret to creating the beautiful sound the Stradivarius violins are famous for.

He will show the evidence in his presentation, "Decoding the Stradivarius — The Scientific Proof" tonight at 7:30 in 201 MSC.

The presentation will be followed by a recital by Houston violinist Yung Hui Tuan.

"I am going to give a popular science account of what we have found in the study of the cellos and violins made by Stradivari," Nagyvary said.

"I am also going to show how the methods Stradivari used can be reproduced and demonstrate some of those models," he said.

Nagyvary said the secret of the violins' sound is not only in the shape, which has been copied

many times over, but in several other aspects as well.

"The differences in the Stradivarius violins and others is in the seasoning of the wood and in the varnish making," he said. "Much of the discussion will focus on the making of the varnish."

Although many have tried to solve the mystery of the Stradivarius violin construction, Nagyvary, by applying modern science methods, has come closer than anyone, and is confident he can reproduce the quality of the previously unequaled violin.

This confidence has been translated into a \$274,000 grant from the Texas Advanced Technology Program to produce new violins of concert hall quality.

Nagyvary said, "The grant is the largest ever awarded for the study of a musical instrument."

"Undergraduate students who want to work with me are getting the details thought out and we are progressing right along."

"The production of these high-quality violins will bring a lot of prestige to Texas in music circles," he said. "Also, this grant provides undergraduates in several different disciplines the opportunity to learn about a method that has been a mystery for over a hundred years."

Regents will meet Friday, Saturday

The Texas A&M University Board of Regents will have its first regular meetings of the fall semester Friday at 1:30 p.m. and Saturday at 8:30 a.m. in the Regents Annex of the Memorial Student Center.

Items on the Board's agenda for Friday include authorization for the chartering of the Technology Transfer Company by the Texas Engineering Experiment Station, authorization to revise A&M admission policies and a report by the Committee for Academic Campuses relating to Food Services.

The Executive Committee also

will meet on Friday and will hear a briefing on the Management Information System's Project.

The Telecommunications Project also will be discussed.

Other business on the Board's agenda for Saturday includes the following:

- A report on the Offshore Technology Center Award.
- Consideration of the possible purchase of equipment for the College of Engineering at Prairie View A&M.
- The installation of an automated library system at Prairie View A&M.
- A report on the Transportation Research Center Award.

Seminar will discuss moral beliefs

The Department of Philosophy will sponsor a colloquium on "The Fixation of Moral Belief" today from 3:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m. in 401 Rudder Tower.

George Harris, a philosophy professor at William and Mary College, who is working on his doctorate at the University of Texas, will be the featured speaker.

"We chose him because he is one of the brighter young philo-

sophers in America," Dr. Jonathan Kvanvig, philosophy professor and chairman of the colloquium series, said. "He has done much work in ethics."

This series is the third colloquium in a series of 14 sessions designed to have other philosophy professors examine the Texas A&M philosophy department.

"These programs are aimed at the development of the department," Kvanvig said.

Handicapped receive riding lessons

The Horsemen's Association will teach handicapped children and adults about balance and coordination by giving free riding lessons this weekend.

They will learn about caring for horses and practice balance by riding through a course marked with cones.

The rides will last from 8 a.m. until noon Saturday at the Freeman Arena on FM 2818. Another session will be held Oct. 15.

Fifteen people, ages 3 to 24, can participate in each session.

Each year the Horsemen's Association contacts the special education coordinators in College Station and Bryan. The coordinators distribute permission slips to special education teachers. Any student who returns the slip can join the class.

Clements sends help to Monterrey

AUSTIN (AP) — Gov. Bill Clements said Wednesday his office is providing state assistance to Monterrey, Mexico, which still is struggling to cope with damage caused by Hurricane Gilbert.

"We're doing all that we can to see that Monterrey recovers quickly from this terrible tragedy," Clements said. "I'm pleased that state government has responded so effectively and swiftly to the needs of the people affected by Hurricane Gilbert."

Clements authorized Department of Public Safety transportation for a

team of volunteers who were dispatched to Monterrey to help in search efforts for people believed trapped in the rubble of a collapsed condominium. Authorization was made late Tuesday night, according to the governor's office.

The five-man, three-dog search team was provided by a non-profit association based in North Richland Hills known as Children, Education Search and Rescue, the governor's office said.

The condominium's foundation apparently was weakened by high

Girl informs police of attack before death

HOUSTON (AP) — A dying 15-year-old girl was able to tell police the name of the man who attacked her and fatally wounded her 3-year-old cousin, police said.

Houston Police Detective Dennis Gafford said of Sandra Charles, "she could speak very little, (but) she managed to give us her first name and the suspect's first name . . . We were able to develop a suspect through that."

Charles, an eighth-grader at Paul Revere Middle School, and her cousin, Marcell Taylor, were found about 11:40 p.m. Monday lying near a wooded pathway behind a restaurant in west Houston.

The boy was dead at the scene from two stab wounds to the chest and a stab wound to the back of the head, Gafford said.

Charles, suffering from stab wounds to the neck and chest, was rushed to West Houston Medical Center and then taken to Ben Taub Hospital, where she died a short time later.

Preston Hughes III, 22, a convicted sex offender, has admitted killing the two, but he claims the killings were the result of a mistaken identity, investigators said.

Hughes told police he was walking through a wooded lot behind his apartment when he felt as though someone was following him, Gafford said. "He's just saying that it was a mistaken identity and they ended up getting stabbed."

"He's putting up a defense that it was an accidental thing. He thought somebody had come up behind him, and he decided to attack first instead of being attacked," Detective Ted Bloyd said.

Hughes told police he had been drinking earlier Monday and was intoxicated at the time of the attack, investigators said.

Hughes was charged Tuesday with capital murder and is being held without bail.

Juvenile goes to trial as adult in murder case

RICHMOND, Texas (AP) — A 16-year-old youth who defense attorneys described as shy, sensitive and willing to please was certified to stand trial as an adult on a capital murder charge in the slaying of a popular high school football star.

As with all juveniles certified to stand trial as adults in capital murder cases, James Garcia faces a life sentence if convicted of the July 14 slaying of Paul Brandon Elledge, 17.

Investigators said Elledge was killed in a plot to steal his truck stereo.

Garcia, a former football player at Clements High School in Sugar Land, and Timothy Acklen, 16, are accused of slaying Elledge. Acklen was certified as an adult earlier this month and is in the Fort Bend County Jail awaiting a bond hearing.

Assistant District Attorney Alan Small said the district attorney's office probably would request a bond of \$200,000 for Garcia.

In a tense Fort Bend County courtroom packed with the families of both Garcia and the victim, defense witnesses Tuesday portrayed Garcia as a loving, responsible child who often baby-sat younger children and held several part-time jobs.

"I think James should not be certified," testified LaVerne Turner, a preschool coordinator for Sugar Creek Baptist Church, where Garcia's mother works. "I think it would be a crime if he were. I think he has a lot to offer."

Sophomore English teacher Jane Gregory said Garcia was outgoing, friendly and very cooperative in school. "James was what I consider a real good kid," she said.

A defense-hired psychologist testified that during her interviews with Garcia, he displayed remorse and sadness about Elledge's death.

Prosecutors depicted Garcia as a mature and sophisticated person who knew right from wrong and was an accomplice in a premeditated murder.

"This is the same loving child that was carrying a gun on July 14 and was with Timothy Acklen when Brandon Elledge was murdered," Small said. "This is a premeditated murder."

winds and heavy rains spawned by the hurricane.

DPS flew the team to Laredo, where they were picked up and flown to Monterrey in the jet of Jorge Trevino, governor of the Mexican state of Nuevo Leon, the governor's office said. The team began work about 2 a.m. Wednesday.

Earlier this week, the Texas Department of Highways and Public Transportation stationed six trucks in Monterrey to help deliver drinking water to sections of the city, Clements' office said.

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PUBLIC NOTICE
BRIEF EXPLANATORY STATEMENTS
OF PROPOSED
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS
GENERAL ELECTION
NOVEMBER 8, 1988

**PROPOSITION NO. 1
ON THE BALLOT**
Senate Joint Resolution 8 proposes a constitutional amendment providing that when the federal government reimburses the state for expenditures of state funds dedicated to acquiring rights-of-way and for constructing, maintaining, and policing public roadways, such federal funds must also be used for those purposes.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows:
"The constitutional amendment and/or clarification providing that federal reimbursement of state highway dedicated funds are themselves dedicated for the purpose of acquiring rights-of-way and constructing, maintaining, and policing public roadways."

**PROPOSITION NO. 2
ON THE BALLOT**
House Joint Resolution 2 proposes a constitutional amendment to establish an economic stabilization fund in the state treasury. The fund would consist of one half of the unencumbered balance of general revenues at the end of a biennium and three fourths of the difference between the net oil and gas production taxes received in a fiscal year and the net oil and gas production taxes received in the 1987 fiscal year. During any fiscal biennium, the amount in the economic stabilization fund could not exceed 10% of the total deposited in general revenue in the preceding biennium.

The state comptroller and the state treasurer could decide to transfer monies from the fund into the general revenue fund to alleviate a temporary cash shortage in general revenue. The legislature could make appropriations from the fund on approval by a three fifths vote of each house to make up the difference between anticipated general revenue and appropriations. On approval of two thirds of the members of each house of the legislature, the legislature could appropriate monies from the fund for any purpose.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows:
"The constitutional amendment establishing an economic stabilization fund in the state treasury to be used to offset unforeseen shortfalls in revenue."

**PROPOSITION NO. 3
ON THE BALLOT**
House Joint Resolution 5 proposes a constitutional amendment that establishes the Texas growth fund. All investments of the Texas growth fund must be directly related to furthering economic growth and employment opportunities in Texas. At least 50 percent of the fund must be invested in equity and/or debt security for the initial construction, expansion, or modernization of business or industrial facilities in Texas. Not more than ten percent of the fund may be invested in venture capital investments. Of the funds available for venture capital investments, not more than 25 percent may be invested unilaterally, and the remaining investments must be matched at least equally by funds from other sources. The Texas

growth fund will be managed by a board of trustees consisting of four members appointed by the Governor and one member from and elected by the membership of each of the following: The Board of Regents of the University of Texas System; The Board of Regents of the Texas A&M System; The Board of Trustees of the Teacher's Retirement System of Texas; The Board of Trustees of the Employee's Retirement System of Texas; and the State Board of Education. The trustees may set the investment policy of the fund, enter into investment contracts, and take any action necessary for the creation, administration, and protection of the fund. The amendment authorizes the Board of Regents of the University of Texas System and the State Board of Education, in managing the permanent university fund and the permanent school fund, to acquire, exchange, sell, supervise, manage, or retain any kind of investment, including investments in the Texas growth fund. The fund will be phased out after the tenth anniversary of its creation, but the Legislature may create a second growth fund by a two thirds vote of each house.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows:
"The constitutional amendment to provide for the investment of the permanent university fund, the permanent school fund, and public employee retirement systems in the Texas growth fund created by the amendment, which will directly create, retain, and expand job opportunity and economic growth in Texas."

Estos son los informes explicatorios sobre las enmiendas propuestas a la constitución que aparecerán en la boleta el día 8 de noviembre de 1988. Si usted no ha recibido una copia de los informes en español, podrá obtener una gratis por llamar al 1/800/252/8683 o por escribir al Secretario de Estado, P.O. Box 12060, Austin, Texas 78711.

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