

Tuesday, January 29, 1991

The Battalion

## Seventy-three seconds of silence

### Americans commemorate tragedy of Challenger disaster

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Space center workers who will never forget where they were five years ago fell silent for 73 seconds Monday to honor the seven astronauts who died in the explosion of space shuttle Challenger.



McAuliffe

All activity at NASA's Kennedy Space Center halted at 11:38 a.m., the time of Challenger's final liftoff on Jan. 28, 1986. It exploded 73 seconds later over the Atlantic Ocean.

The dead included Christa McAuliffe, the Concord, N.H., schoolteacher who had planned live lessons from orbit for the nation's students. She was the

first ordinary American to venture into space.

At Concord High School, where McAuliffe taught, students and faculty also paused for a moment of silence. Five years ago, cheering students had jammed the school's auditorium watching the launch on television before their joy turned to horror.

At Firestone High School in Akron, Ohio, where astronaut Judith Resnik graduated in 1966, attentive students listened to a commemorative account of her life. "You could hear a pin drop," said Principal William Holk.

At the cape, Kennedy Space Center's director, Forrest McCartney, in a message televised throughout the launch site, asked employees as he has each anniversary to "remember and honor the crew of Challenger

and at the same time recommit ourselves to excellence in everything we do."

Thirteen missions have been accomplished safely since shuttle flights resumed in September 1988 and "these have been five years of accomplishment of which we can all be proud," McCartney said.

Workers stopped whatever they were doing and bent their heads in offices, cafeteria lines and on sidewalks. Security guards slowly lowered flags to half-staff.

No official observances were held at Johnson Space Center in Houston or at NASA headquarters in Washington. But NASA Administrator Richard Truly, in a written message to employees, said the seven would never be forgotten.

"It has been through your tireless efforts in the interim that we have profited from the im-

portant lessons we learned," Truly said.

A leak in a joint on Challenger's right solid rocket booster caused America's worst space disaster. The shuttle and booster have since been extensively redesigned.

Shuttle director Robert Crippen, a former astronaut, and about 100 people attended an observance at a granite memorial to the Challenger crew in Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia.

The adjoining grave of mission commander Francis "Dick" Scobee was decorated with a pot of zinnias and a single rose with a card from "Your wife, June, and the children." Crippen added a white carnation.

The other four Challenger crew members were Michael Smith, Ellison Onizuka, Ronald McNair and Gregory Jarvis.

## State revises policies concerning sex, abuse at schools for retarded

DALLAS (AP) — The rape and pregnancy of a profoundly retarded resident of the Lubbock State School has prompted the state to revise policies on sex and abuse at schools for the mentally retarded.

Debra Lynn Thomas, 33, who doctors say has the intellectual capacity of a 2-year-old, gave birth to a boy Jan. 1. Her brother-in-law, Jimmy Wooten, 40, was charged with rape. He has proclaimed his innocence.

Last week, the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation announced that it was changing its policies on sexual relations and investigations of sexual-abuse allegations in state schools.

The announcement came after 17 years of haggling in a Dallas-based federal lawsuit over treatment of state school residents.

A new "human sexuality policy" that prohibits sexual intercourse between unmarried residents of state schools and other state facilities for

the mentally retarded took effect Friday, MHMR Commissioner Dennis Jones said.

State schools also adopted a "corrective action plan" to improve medical treatment and care of residents, he said.

The policies were developed from the recommendations of a four-member review team appointed by the commissioner after Thomas was raped.

"I'm very happy that some good has come out of the tragedy of Debra Thomas," said Philadelphia lawyer David Ferleger, who represents Thomas and other state school residents in the federal lawsuit.

Thomas, who was a resident of the Lubbock State School when the crime occurred, has been placed in a private home under state supervision. Her baby was placed in the care of her sister, Dori Wooten, wife of Jimmy Wooten.

Jimmy Wooten is being held in the Lubbock Jail on \$250,000 bail.

## Police charge two Irving teens in slaying of four at Taco Bell

IRVING (AP) — Two teen-agers were charged Monday with capital murder in the slayings of four people who were gunned down execution-style in a restaurant freezer during a weekend robbery.

Mike Green, 17, and Jessy Carlos San Miguel, 19, both of Irving, were charged with one count each of capital murder. Three additional capital murder charges are expected to be filed against each on Tuesday, Irving police Capt. T.J. Hall said. They remained jailed without bail in Irving.

The bodies, including those of three employees, were discovered in a Taco Bell walk-in freezer after police officers stopped the driver of a pickup on suspicion of drunken driving early Saturday morning and spotted a take-out Taco Bell sack stuffed with cash.

Green worked at the restaurant part-time in this Dallas suburb. San Miguel, who was driving the truck when they were stopped by police, was out on bail facing trial on three burglary charges when the crime occurred.

Theresa Fraga, 16, of Irving, her cousin Frank Fraga, 23, of Dallas, restaurant manager Michael J. Phelan, 28, of Fort Worth and Fraga family friend Son Trong Nguyen, 35, of Irving, were fatally shot at the Taco Bell restaurant.

Nguyen was at the restaurant to pick up Fraga, who was several months pregnant and had a 1-year-old son.

The slayings bring to nine the number of people killed during late night shifts at restaurants or food stores in Dallas County since Dec. 4.

## Police seek information in multiple Bryan department store burglaries

Brazos County Crime Stoppers and the Bryan Police Department are asking for information about three separate burglaries at a Bryan department store.

During the week of Dec. 7-13, the downtown Bryan Woolworth store was broken into three times. In each case, the thieves entered the building by smashing in a glass door.

Once inside, the suspects grabbed several items before leaving the premises. Woolworth representatives report that several sewing machines were stolen along with several stereo radio-cassette players, a 20-



these items in the local area.

Five weeks ago these burglaries were featured as the crime of the week, since that time Crime Stoppers has received only one call regarding the offense. Investigators also have exhausted all leads.

inch television, 54 plaid flannel shirts and 20 wrist watches. Woolworth representatives estimate the store's loss to be more than \$6,500.

Bryan police detectives believe the same persons committed all three burglaries and these people have been attempting to sell or trade

If your call leads to an arrest and grand jury indictment, Crime Stoppers will pay you up to \$1,000 in cash. Crime Stoppers also pays cash for information on any felony crime or the location of a wanted fugitive.

So call Brazos County Crime Stoppers today at 775-TIPS.

# JESUS: THE GOOD SHEPHERD

I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. John 10:11

We are a group of faculty who are united by their common experience that Jesus Christ provides intellectually and spiritually satisfying answers to life's most important questions. We are available to students and faculty who might like to discuss such questions with us. We are FACULTY FRIENDS.

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