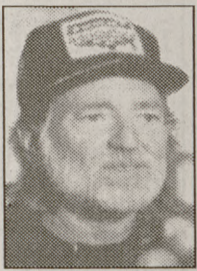


Willie Nelson, others to help Gov. Richards celebrate B-day

AUSTIN (AP) — The tickets are sold out and Willie Nelson is tuning up his guitar for a 60th birthday bash that's expected to raise some \$1.5 million for Gov. Ann Richards' re-election effort.

Nelson, Lyle Lovett, Nanci Griffith and Don Henley are among the Texas musicians scheduled to perform at the Friday night party that's to be hosted by author Larry L. King and actress Alfre Woodard, who starred in the movie "Passion Fish."



Nelson

While the governor won't be announcing for re-election at the bash, she will be putting the money it raises toward a 1994 campaign, spokesman Chuck McDonald said.

"There will be no announcement there. Obviously, this is the kickoff of her fund-raising efforts. The actual re-election announcement will be around the filing date" in December or early January, McDonald said. He said organizers hope to raise \$1.5 million or more.

But he said the political aspect was only one reason for the bash.

"It's just a big birthday party. We'll have a lot of fun," McDonald said.

Richards, elected governor in 1990, has indicated that she will bid to become the first governor to win re-election since Democrat Dolph Briscoe did so in 1974.

George W. Bush, managing partner of the Texas Rangers baseball team and son of the former president, is expected to seek the Republican nomination to challenge her.

Richards actually turned 60 on Sept. 1, completing one of her goals that day by obtaining her motorcycle drivers' license.

McDonald said "thousands" of tickets for Friday night's party ranged from \$25 up and went fast.

"This thing is totally sold out," he said.

Tubularman

By Boomer Cardinale



Fritch

By Critch

Hey Winnie! I think my first comic strip has been printed!



It should be here somewhere... oh, there it is!



No wonder! For some reason, they took out the panel with the topless go-go girls and the fat shirtless clown.



A&M tree experts find oak wilt on Capitol grounds

AUSTIN (AP) — A disease-stricken Spanish oak on the southwest grounds of the Capitol was removed Tuesday after tests at Texas A&M University showed that it had oak wilt.

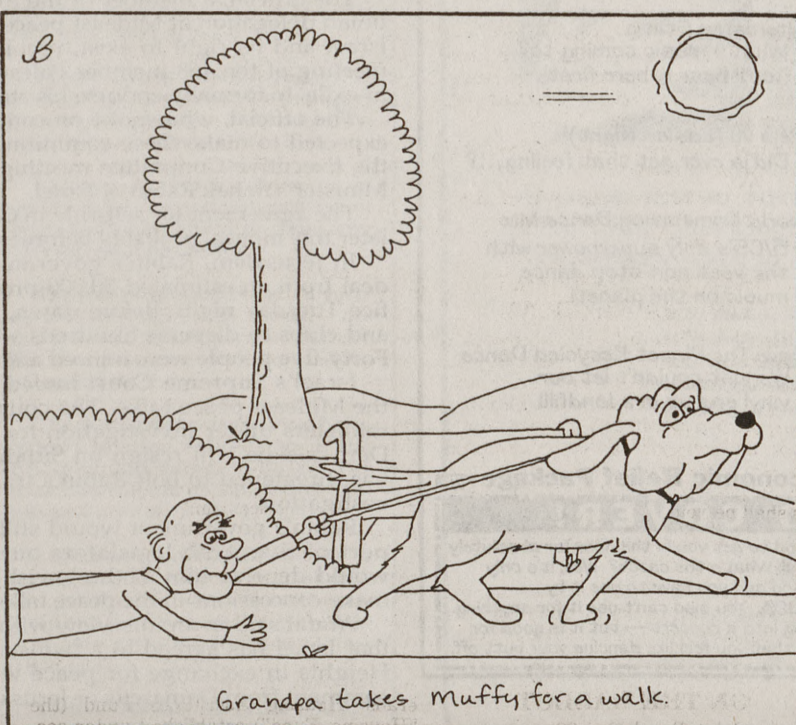
Oak wilt is a highly contagious disease that has stricken more than 10,000 trees in Austin in the past two decades.

Other Spanish oaks on the Capitol grounds will be monitored to see if they develop symptoms of oak wilt, said Jim Rooni, the city's coordinator of the oak wilt suppression program.

Tree experts describe oak wilt as the most serious tree disease Texas faces. About 90 centers of infestation have been reported throughout Austin. An infection center may consist of one tree or hundreds of trees.

Oak wilt can be spread by the transfer of spores from one tree to another — by insects, for example. But it is more commonly transferred directly through intertwining root systems.

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By Jason Brown

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