

Greeley Tribune

TEARS IN HEAVEN

Seven die when shuttle disintegrates

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and **PAM EASTON**
Associated Press

High over Texas and just short of home, space shuttle Columbia fell to pieces Saturday, raining debris over hundreds of miles of countryside. Seven astronauts perished — a gut-wrenching loss for a country and world already staggered by tragedy.

The catastrophe occurred 39 miles above the Earth, in the last 16 minutes of the 16-day mission as the spaceship re-entered the atmosphere and glided in for a landing in Florida. In its horror and in its backdrop of a crystal blue sky, the day echoed one almost exactly 17 years before, when

the Challenger exploded.

“The Columbia is lost,” said President Bush, after he telephoned the families of the astronauts to console them.

“The same creator who names the stars also knows the names of the seven souls we mourn today,” Bush said, his eyes glistening. “The crew of the shuttle Columbia did not return safely to Earth but we can pray they are safely home.”

The search for the cause began immediately.

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THE CREW



Ilan
Ramon



William
McCool



David
Brown



Rick
Husband



Laurel
Clark



Kalpana
Chawla



Michael
Anderson

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