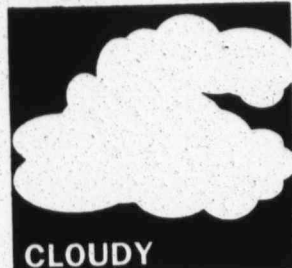


THURSDAY

January 22, 2004

WEATHER

Tonight:



CLOUDY

TONIGHT 42°-43° TOMORROW 56°-58°

BRIEFLY

BSISD-ALON open house

Big Spring Independent School District will hold an open house from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. today at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

During the last two weeks, Big Spring students have been delving into the world of crude oil refinery thanks to a BSISD-created curriculum about the Big Spring Refinery.

Units and products created during the study of this short course will be on display.

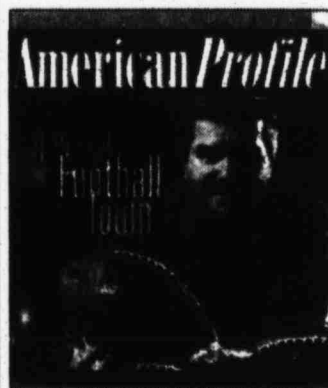
BSISD board to meet

Big Spring Independent School District Board of Trustees will continue its search for general legal representation when it meets at 5:15 p.m. today to visit with representatives of four state law firms.

Representatives from McWhorter, Cobb and Johnson of Lubbock; Underwood of Amarillo; Powell and Leon of Austin; and Bickerstaff, Heath of Austin are expected to give a brief presentation about their law firms services.

Trustees will meet at the high school board room, 707 11th Place.

THIS WEEKEND



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To reach us, please call 263-7331. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you miss your paper, please call 263-7335 before 7 p.m. on weekdays and 11 a.m. on Sunday.

No new leads in robbery of Western National Bank

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

Although the investigation into the Jan. 7 robbery of Western National Bank is ongoing, law enforcement officials say they are no closer to solving the crime.

"We really don't have anything new right now," said Big Spring Police Det. Phil Whitten, who is in charge of the local investigation. "We've followed up on several tips from Crimestoppers, but we really don't have anything outstanding at this time."

Whitten said there is still one piece of evidence from the robbery that could help investigators, but they are still waiting on it to be

"There's a very strong possibility that the Big Spring robbery is related to similar bank robberies that took place in Odessa and Fort Stockton."

Det. Phil Whitten,
Big Spring PD

analyzed.

"We have a fingerprint from the scene of the crime that we're waiting to be analyzed," said Whitten. "We'll have to wait and see if that offers up any new information."

An investigator with the Abilene branch of the FBI said federal agents are at a similar crossroad with the case, and discounted the speculation that the Jan. 7 robbery was tied to a similar bank robbery that took place in Midland two days later.

"We really don't have anything new at this time," the FBI official said. "There was a Crimestoppers piece aired on the robbery shortly after it happened, but we haven't received any more information."

"We don't believe the incident that occurred in Midland was related to the Big Spring bank robbery. Going by the descrip-

See **ROBBERY**, Page 3A



Newly appointed Chamber Board President John Weeks, center, began the arduous process of setting goals for 2004 during the board's meeting Wednesday. Also pictured are Chamber Executive Director Debbye ValVerde and Board Treasurer Mark Morgan.

Chamber directors to discuss possible term, board changes

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors held its first meeting of the new year Wednesday, discussing a number of issues, including future goals and the upcoming chamber banquet.

Newly appointed board president John Weeks said the meeting left him feeling confident in the group's ability to

make 2004 a year to remember.

"After the first meeting I feel very positive," said Weeks. "I feel like we have a great slate of officers and a super board to work with."

"The whole emphasis this year is going to be improving Big Spring's image and getting involved with the businesses, and helping them do better business. We're not working with the Conventions and Visitors Bureau and we don't

have the Dora Roberts Community Center under our roof anymore, so we'll be able to concentrate on making sure the chamber works harder for the businesses in Big Spring."

One of the goals that Weeks mentioned was to trim the number of board members down to compensate for the many pitfalls facing those wishing to serve, as well as the

See **CHAMBER**, Page 3A

HOUSING
Limestone Ridge second phase is a real possibility

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

As Limestone Ridge Apartments prepares to move into the second phase of its construction, another real estate development company is looking into the possibility of a similar venture in Big Spring.

Paul Pryor, executive director of the Crossroads Housing Development Corp., said he and Big Spring Mayor Russ McEwen met with Rick Deyoe, president of Realtex Development Corp. of Austin, discussing a project very similar to the Limestone Ridge Apartments.



PRYOR

"His company was interested in doing something very similar to the Limestone Ridge Apartments, but to my knowledge they didn't make the statewide deadline for the pre-application process," said Pryor. "The deadline passed, and I haven't seen any paperwork from the company."

"Each year there are several deadlines for the application you have to make. If they did not make the January deadline, which we would have to be notified if they were filing, then they'll have to wait until this time next year to file again."

Pryor said it can take anywhere between a year to 18 months of moving through the application and approval process before such a project will ever break ground.

"It can take more than a year before

See **HOUSING**, Page 3A

StraightWay message: Make the right choices

Hungerford youth group travels all across Texas

By LYNDEL MOODY

Staff Writer

A youthful, energetic drug prevention team was in Big Spring last week to spread the message about making the right choices and living the "StraightWay."

"They're nine young people and most of their parents were messed up on drugs," said StraightWay team leader Rebekah Kirschke. "They all have stories and stuff that they've gone through, but they themselves have made good choices."

Through music, dance, skits and personal testimonies, StraightWay team members relay the message that even in difficult situations when friends and family are making bad decisions, everyone can still make the right choices, Kirschke said.

"We have two different programs that we perform," she said. "One is

"The main heart of the message that we want to focus on is that you can have fun and there are people making good choices."

Rebekah Kirschke,
StraightWay team leader

centered more for junior high and high school. For the younger ones, we have puppets and just some funny things.

"Our program is more than giving statistics," Kirschke continued. "It's more on a personal level of talking about experiences that we have. We do all our own music. We're working on our third CD right now. These young people are very talented. We sing, dance, rap, write our own music. We also



StraightWay team members Carrie Dumoit, left, Wesley Gill and Rebekah Kirschke energize the crowd of Marcy Elementary students while relaying a message about making good choices. The drug prevention team based out of Hungerford visited six Big Spring schools during its two-day stay in the Crossroads area.

do some comedy and drama."

The program is based out of a drug rehabilitation center in Hungerford. Two StraightWay teams consisting of youths 14 to age 26 travel throughout

Texas during the school year.

Together, the teams visit an estimated 700,000 Texas school students each year.

"Usually as long as kids are in school, we're in the schools," Kirschke said.

"We try to do every month, two weeks on and two weeks off. April and October are usually the big drug-free months, so we're working the whole time."

See **CHOICES**, Page 3A

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Obituaries

J.M. Yater



J. M. Yater, 83, of Stanton, died on Wednesday, Jan. 21, 2004, in a Midland hospital. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, Jan. 23, 2004, at the First Baptist Church in Stanton with the Rev. David Harp pastor, officiating. Interment will follow at Evergreen Cemetery in Stanton.

The family will receive friends Thursday, Jan. 22, 2004, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the funeral home.

Mr. Yater was born on June 1, 1920, in Colorado City. He married Willa Jo Petree on June 1, 1979, in Stanton.

He came to Stanton as a small child in 1922 and lived there all his life. He was a teacher and principal in the Stanton Independent School District for 35 years until he retired in 1987. He also farmed many years.

He was a member of First Baptist Church of Stanton, the Masonic Lodge A.F. & A.M. the Stanton Chapter 3409 O.E.S. and the Texas State Teachers Association.

His survivors include his wife, Willa Jo Yater of Stanton; one son and daughter-in-law, John and Lisa Yater of Sycamore, Ill.; two daughters and sons-in-law, Nina and Edward Seal of Knoxville, Tenn., and Ann and Jim Shumate of LaGrange; two step daughters, Pam Hoppe and her husband Ed, of Austin, Patti Quinne and her husband Dan, of Stanton; his brother and sister-in-law, Carrol and Lyn Yater of Stanton; his sister-in-law, Bobbye Jean Yater of Stanton; 13 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, John Milton Yater and Nina Gertrude Myrick Yater and his brother, Travis Yater.

The family suggests memorials be made to the J.M. Yater Scholarship Fund, c/o First National Bank of Stanton, P.O. Box 10, Stanton 79782. Arrangements are under the direction of Gilbreath Funeral Home of Stanton. Online condolences can be made at www.npwelch.com.

Terri Montgomery



Terri Montgomery, 46, of Forsan, died on Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2004, in a local hospital. Graveside funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 22, 2004, at Trinity Memorial Park, with the Rev. Dennis Teeters, pastor of First Baptist Church, officiating.

Mrs. Montgomery was born on July 13, 1957, in Colorado City. She was a long-time resident of Forsan, having moved there as a young child with her family.

She attended Forsan schools and was a homemaker. She was a member of the First Baptist Church of Midland.

Survivors include her daughter, Samantha Montgomery of Forsan; her son, Anthony Montgomery of Forsan; four sisters, Sherry Newcomb of Guthrie, Okla., Brenda Rawls and Debbie Carter of Big Spring, and Vicki Thorpe of Odessa; and two grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Rusty and Margie Cleavenger; one sister, Toni Cleavenger and one brother, Zane Cleavenger.

Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring. Online condolences can be made at www.npwelch.com.

Richard Alan Wiseman

Richard Alan Wiseman, 55, of Benton, Calif., died Monday, Jan. 19, 2004. Interment will be held at Crestview Memorial Park in Wichita Falls.

Mr. Wiseman is survived by one sister, Kathryn Wiseman of Big Spring; three nephews, Caleb Hollingshead and Hampton Hollingshead of Big Spring and J. J. Hollingshead of Austin.

He was preceded in death by his father, Nathan Wiseman; his mother, Belva Longfellow Wiseman, and his younger brother, Jack Wiseman, all of Wichita Falls.

Norma Jean Phillips

Norma Jean Phillips of Hachita, N.M., died Jan. 20, 2004. Funeral arrangements are pending with Gilbreath Funeral Home of Stanton.

Support groups

THURSDAY

Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, 12 noon to 1 p.m.; Women's meeting; 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Non-Smoking closed discussion meeting, 8 to 9 p.m.

The Fibromyalgia Autoimmune Disease Support Group will meet only on the second Thursday of the month at noon at the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center. The group will no longer meet weekly.

Alzheimer's Support Group meets at 2 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month at The Texas State Veterans Home, 1809 North Highway 87. For more information call Orand Carroll 268-8387.

FRIDAY

AA open discussion meeting from noon to 1 p.m. at 605 Settles. Noon Open Big Book Study Meeting, 8 to 9 p.m.

SATURDAY

Open Discussion Meeting, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. Open Podium/Speakers Meeting 615 Settles 8 to 9 p.m. Open Birthday Night, No Smoking meeting the last Saturday of each month at 8 p.m.

SUNDAY

Alcoholics Anonymous meets from 11 a.m. to noon at 615 Settles. Open meeting 5 to 6 p.m.

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity from 8 a.m. Wednesday until 8 a.m. today:

• **SHANE ESTLS**, 21, of 5909 Interstate Highway 20 North Service Road, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of driving while license suspended.

• **DONALD WOOTEN**, 35, of Big Spring, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of public intoxication.

• **NICHOLAS READ**, 19, of 1900 E. 24th Street, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

• **NICK HERNANDEZ**, 25, of 710 N.W. Eighth Street, was arrested Thursday on a charge of driving while intoxicated-second offense.

• **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 1500 block of Fourth Street.

• **THEFT** was reported:
- in the 1200 block of 11th Place.
- in the 1100 block of Lamesa.
- in the 1500 block of Fourth Street.

Sheriff's report

The Howard County Sheriff's Office reported the following recent activity:

• **CATHERINE CARPENTER**, 54, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

• **ANTHONEY BRET GENNUSA**, 19, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for driving while intoxicated.

• **SHANE THOMAS ESTES**, 21, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license suspended.

• **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 6100 block of the Interstate Highway 20 North Service Road. Incident report was taken.

• **ANIMAL PROBLEM** was reported in the 500 block of S. Main Street. Deputy responded, owner was contacted.

• **BURGLARY OF A BUILDING** was reported in the 1700 block of Highway 350. Deputy responded, incident report was taken.

Take note

□ **THE CLASS OF 1974** is looking for the following classmates. If you know where they are please notify Carol Boyd at 432-263-0486 or e-mail Guy Teague at gntea@ddraytech.net: Kim Adams, Stanley Adams, Steve Adams, Terry Allison, Beverly Anderson, Jim Archer, Albert Arriols, Teresa Atkinson, Shirley Atwell, Vicki Axelrod, Blaz Bailon, Diane Baldock, Jackie Barber, Debra Barksdale, Joyce Bennett, Sherri Bertan, Terry Billingsley, John Bowers, Richard Brackeen, Donna Brewer, Kathy Bull, Sherry Burgess, Mary Burke, Greg Burris, Carla Carter, Cindy Cole, Paula Collins, Michael Conley, Karen Conley Melendez, Linda Curtis, Janice Danford, Cynthia D'Angelo, Pam Daniels, Kay Davis, Lorraine Davis, Jimmy Dean, Donna DeFlicht, Joyce DeFlicht, Rosalinda DeLeon, Cynthia Dennis, Wendell Dodson, James Dry, Pam Eisler, Dodie Evans, Cathy Ewing, Martha Eysen, Steve Ferrell, Sandra Floyd, Ramon Franco, Sheri Fry, Karen Fuller, Mary Gainus, Victor Garcia, Lonnie Gary, Raul Garza, Ricky Gilliland, Sandra Gleason, Susan Gleason Williams, Belinda Gomez, Evelyn Gomez, Anna Maria Gonzales, Garland Green, Janis Gregg, Sarah Haas, Donna Hale, Sue Harris, Terry Harris, June Hendrick Rhea, Adolpho Herrera, Cynthia Herron, Mitzi Hill, Tracy Hill, Babbette Huckaba, Debra Hurrington, Robert Jackson, Phil Johnson, Patricia Jordan, Calvin Juneke, Virginia Keathley, Matthew King, Patricia King, Kathy Kirksey, Ruth Knight, John Kushaney, Jeff Kuykendall, Barbara Landreth, Karen Lawler, John Lipscombe, Wayne Lister, Barry Loyd, Art Mackie, Rebecca Marin, Jerry Martin, Virginia Martinez, Beckie Mason, Susie McGuire, Mark McLeod, Walter McWhiter, Frances Meade, Patsy Medina, Henry Menchaca, Maria Mendoza, William Messenger, Jeff Miller, Ethel Minter, Barbara Morris, Paula Muskovin, Ronald Myrick, Marilyn Neill, Billy Nugent, Eva Palacios, Phil Parmenter, Vicki Patterson, Lana Perry Bruington, Iris Phillips, Randal Phillips, Cindy Phillips, Barbara Pierce, Carletta Pierce Roberts, Debrora Pineda, Cheri Polanco, Eunice Ramirez, Libby Reed, Tony Reidy, Robert Renteria, Jackie Richards, Linda Richardson, Earl Richlart, Daniel Rivera, Bennett Robb, Patti Robertson, Vicki Robertson Martin, James Robinson, Johnny Rodriguez, Jerry Rogers, Martha Rogers, Danny Rountree, Mary Rubio Fierro, Priscilla Rudd Horn, Esperanza Salazar, Irene Saldivar, Carol Scott, Patrice Sherrill Fivash, Rita Sherrill Yeats, Terri Sledge, Doug Smith, Rickey Smith, Dennis Stevens, Harlan Stewart, Leatreca Stewart, Linda Stewart, Sharon Thorp, Sheryl Tibbs Allen, Carolyn Toaz, Tiburico Trevino, Alice Trevino Hernandez, Robbie Tubb, Joyce Turner, Sarah Vigil, Ken Walton, Joe Watson, Debra Way, Randy Weaver, Debbie Wheeler, Cindy Whitaker Jorgenson, Gary White, Kenneth Wilcox, Jimmy Wiley, Julie Williams, Kenneth Williamson, Monte Wood.

Bulletin board

If you have items for the Bulletin board, contact the Herald news room at 263-7331 or email editor@bigspringherald.com

Today

Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room. Call 267-6479 for more information.

Gideon International, Big Spring Camp UH2060, meets at 7 a.m. at Herman's Restaurant.

The Coffee Club meets at 10 a.m. at Gale's.

American Legion Auxiliary meets at 6 p.m. at 3203 West Highway 80. Call 263-2404 for more information.

Masonic Lodge 1340 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 2101 Lancaster.

Arts, Craft and Quilting Club meets at 6 p.m. in Howard County Library, 500 South Main.

Friday

Spring City Senior Citizens country and western dance is held from 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. All area senior citizens are invited to attend.

AMBUCS meets at noon at La Posada.

Greater Big Spring Rotary meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room.

Signal Mt. Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at St. Mary's Episcopal Church. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281 for more information. Bring a lunch.

Saturday

Dance at 8:30 p.m. at the Eagles Lodge, 704 West Third.

Potton House, 200 Gregg, a restored historical home, is open from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. A one time admission fee of \$2 for adults and \$1 for children and senior citizens is encouraged.

Heritage Museum, 510 Scurry, is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Hangar 25 Air Museum, located in the McMahon-Wrinkle Airpark, is open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Sunday, 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Lottery

The winning Cash Five numbers drawn Wednesday by the Texas Lottery: 11-15-19-23-31

The winning numbers drawn in the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night: 05-23-24-31-40

Bonus Ball: 14
(five, twenty-three, twenty-four, thirty-one, forty; Bonus Ball: fourteen)
Estimated jackpot: \$60 million
Next Lotto Texas game: Saturday night.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 0-5-8

Weather

Tonight...Mostly cloudy. Lows in the lower 40s. Southwest winds around 10 mph.

Friday...Mostly cloudy. A 30 percent chance of rain in the afternoon. Highs in the upper 50s. Southwest winds 5 to 15 mph.

Friday night...Mostly cloudy. A chance of showers and isolated thunderstorms. Lows in the upper 40s. Southwest winds 5 to 10 mph. Chance of precipitation 40 percent.

Saturday...Windy. Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the upper 50s. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph becoming west 20 to 30 mph in the afternoon.

Saturday night through Sunday night...Windy. Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 40s. Highs in the upper 60s.

Monday...Breezy. Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 50s.

Monday night and Tuesday...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 30s. Highs in the mid 50s.

Tuesday night and Wednesday...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 30s. Highs in the upper 40s.

BIG SPRING HERALD

www.bigspringherald.com

Reflecting A Proud Community

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HENRY BACKES

NEWS

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NEWS BRIEFS

Anti-abortion forces target an old foe

NEW YORK (AP) — Energized by successes in Texas and Michigan, activists opposed to abortion are expanding aggressive campaigns against a favorite target — the Planned Parenthood Federation of America.

Activists hope the tactics that delayed construction of a new Planned Parenthood clinic in Austin, Texas, and helped shut down a clinic in Houghton, Mich., can be replicated across the country.

And, as the nation marks the 31st anniversary Thursday of the Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion, opponents of the procedure want to convince more state and local governments to cut off public funding that subsidizes some of Planned Parenthood's services for low-income clients.

"Our message is to fight them at the local level," said Jim Sedlak, executive director of STOPP International, a wing of the American Life League. His group is distributing a detailed memorandum advising supporters how to assist its mission of combatting Planned Parenthood.

"If you're talking about waging the war on them in Congress, they have a big advantage — we're not going to compete at the dollar level," Sedlak said. "But when you're talking about waging the war in the streets of any community — at the school board level, with local builders — we take that advantage away."

Senators propose immigration reform plan

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate's top Democrat joined a Republican colleague Wednesday in offering an immigration plan that would let the work of the prospect of legal residency for millions of people liv-

ing in the country illegally.

The plan by Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., and Sen. Chuck Hagel, R-Neb., also would increase spending on border security and tackle backlogs of immigrant visas that keep families separated.

The senators proposed that undocumented workers and their families living in the United States be given the chance to become "invested stakeholders" in the country by earning legal permanent residence through work.

Under the proposal, undocumented immigrants must have worked at least three years in the country and one more year after the legislation is enacted. They also must pass national security and criminal background checks, and they would be required to have lived in the United States at least five years prior to passage of the reforms.

They also would be required to have paid federal taxes, know English and U.S. civics, and pay a \$1,000 fine for having lived in the country illegally.

Perry heavily engaged in saving Texas bases

AUSTIN (AP) — Gov. Rick Perry on Wednesday told the Pentagon to expect a Texas blitzkrieg to keep the state's lucrative military installations from being shut down during next year's round of base closures.

In a letter to Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, Perry said Texas has a leg up on other locations for the military because of a variety of factors — open land for training, extensive transportation, desirable climate and a skilled civilian work force.

"I trust that I have properly conveyed to you our unyielding determination and unwavering commitment to be in the forefront of the military's transformation process," the governor wrote.

The letter was a response to the Pentagon's recent release of the criteria that the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission will use to determine win-

ners and losers.

Perry was even more straightforward when speaking to business journalists at the Capitol on Wednesday.

"Our effort will be very proactive and offensive," Perry said.

Judge OKs award against Halliburton, Ramco

HOUSTON (AP) — A judge has upheld a \$106 million jury award against Halliburton Co. and Ramco Oil in a lawsuit case filed by a Houston energy company four years ago.

In the lawsuit, Anglo-Dutch Petroleum International accused Houston-based Halliburton and Scotland-based Ramco of improperly disclosing the firm's plans to develop an oil field in Kazakhstan.

District Court Judge John Donovan made the decision Tuesday to uphold a \$70.4 million award granted by a jury last fall. He also added to the award about \$26 million in interest and \$9.8 million for attorneys' fees.

Halliburton plans to appeal the ruling on grounds that the judge "committed numerous errors calling for correction or reversal," said company spokeswoman Wendy Hall.

Trial on hold: woman accused of buying babies

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — The trial for a woman accused of operating an international baby-buying scheme has been delayed until this spring at the request of prosecutors.

State District Judge Elma T. Salinas Ender approved the request Wednesday and rescheduled Maria Dolores Bondoc's trial for April 12. Jury selection was to begin Jan. 26.

Roberto Ballis, first assistant district attorney for Webb County, said he asked for the delay because he needed more time to prepare for the case.

HOUSING

Continued from Page 1A

they can turn dirt," he said.

While the Realtex project has stalled, possibly for good, Pryor said growth at the Limestone Ridge Apartments is

under way.

"We had always planned for there to be a second phase for the project," he explained. "When we purchased the land, we bought seven acres and optioned another eight, so we always knew we would come back and build more."

The criteria to be able to expand isn't a simple one, Pryor said. The facility is required to prove itself on several different levels.

"There are several criteria we have to meet before we can actually begin construction on more apartments," Pryor said. "First, we have to

maintain 90 percent occupancy for 90 days, which we are currently doing. We also have to reach a point where we go from interim financing to permanent financing.

"Once we meet those criteria, we have to start the pre-application and application process all

over again. So it's going to be some time before we actually break ground on the second phase."

While a definite date to begin construction has not been set, Pryor said one thing is clear — the need for low income housing in the Big Spring area.

"We have a lot of housing here in Big Spring, but a lot of it doesn't meet housing quality standards," he said. "The need for additional housing is definitely there."

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at newsdesk@crcom.net

CHOICES

Continued from Page 1A

While touring, the youths keep a busy schedule of events. During Tuesday and Wednesday, the team held performances at all five Big Spring elementary schools and Goliad Intermediate School, held a concert at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church and engagements in Andrews.

"We do about four to five presentations a day," Kirschke said. "We're used to having to set up and tear down really, really quick. We also do concerts and youth rallies at night because our musical group has grown and become a thing in itself."

Started 21 years ago, the program has continued to grow, Kirschke said.

"They started out small, doing puppet shows for kids and it grew and grew and grew. Now, we are the largest drug prevention team in the state," she said.

While keeping up its hectic schedule, the group continues to focus on its message.

"The main heart of the message that we want to focus on is that you can have fun and there are people making good choices," she said. "These are young people who are still having fun and doing all these cool things because they made good choices."

Contact Staff Writer Lyndel Moody at 263-7331, ext. 234, or by e-mail at newsdesk@crcom.net

CHAMBER

Continued from Page 1A

smaller population in comparison to years long since past.

"We start losing board members through attrition," he said. "They start resigning for different reasons, people are moving out of Big Spring or changing their businesses. The town is not as big as it was back in the '70s when the board was set up to have as many members on it as we have now. "We feel like it would better serve the chamber to shrink the board down into a more palatable size, to be able to work better within the auspices of the chamber."

Weeks said the length of the chamber president's term, which currently stands at one year, is

another issue he'd like to see addressed in 2004.

"I don't feel like the chamber president has time to do anything," he said. "You get your feet wet in January and February, and in March you start feeling like you know what to do. Then all of a sudden it's September, and it's time to start thinking about someone else."

"No one is ever really able to fulfill their goals and objectives and feel like they've gotten anything accomplished. I, along with some of the board members, think it would be smart to lengthen that term to two years, so in that second year, we could expect more from the chamber president."

Weeks said he believes a two-year term will help alleviate some of the stresses associated with "half-achieved" goals.

"They will have their feet wet and know what they are doing," he said.

"It will also give them the chance to fulfill some of the goals that are set up. The goals are always great going in, but some of them are simply unattainable because of the time frame you are looking at. When the next president comes in, they change the goals and we start all over. We get half-achieved goals because of the length of time."

While the board concentrated on the coming year, Executive Director Debbye ValVerde said she is looking to the annual chamber banquet, which is slated for Feb. 10.

"The chamber is looking forward to working with the Big Spring Refinery on its 75th anniversary. It is going to be one of our biggest sponsors for the annual

banquet this year," said ValVerde. "Our guest speaker this year is going to be Paul Meek, who is a Fina retiree, past president of the chamber as well as a past man of the year. We're looking forward to hearing from him, as well as announcing our man and woman of the year for 2003."

ValVerde said chamber members will get the chance to show their enthusiasm for the annual event by decorating tables, something that was very popular last year. "We're encouraging our chamber members to decorate tables once again as well," she said. "It's \$100 per table, which includes four tickets. We've had a lot of fun in the past with the table decorations. It's really amazing what our members can do with them."

"The committee has chosen the man and woman of the year for 2003, and although it was a hard decision to make, we got it done."

So who are the man and woman of the year for 2003?

"You'll just have to come to the banquet to find out," she said with a grin.

ROBBERY

continued from Page 1A

tions and video surveillance, they don't appear to be the same subject. We really can't comment outside of that, however."

While the robbery doesn't appear to be tied to the Midland heist, Whitten said there is still a very strong chance it is related to several bank robberies that took place prior to the Western National Bank hold-up in Big Spring.

"There's a very strong possibility that the Big Spring robbery is related to similar bank robberies that took place in Odessa and Fort Stockton," said Whitten. "We don't have anything definitive from the FBI at this time, but we believe there's a good chance it's the same people."

According to police officials, the robbery took place at 11:30 a.m. on Jan.

7, when the suspect entered the bank, located at 607 Scurry, and displayed a note to the teller indicating that a robbery was taking place. The suspect then requested that the teller give him all of the \$100 and \$50 bills. The teller complied, and the suspect fled the bank traveling southbound on foot. No injuries were reported and no weapon

was used. Police have released the following description of the suspect: a Hispanic male, approximately 5 feet, 8 inches to 5 foot, 10 inches tall, weighing approximately 200 to 220 pounds with a black goatee mustache. The suspect was wearing a blue sweatshirt, blue pants and a Dallas Cowboys baseball cap. He was also wearing

black-rimmed plastic sunglasses.

If you have information on the crime, contact Whitten at 432-264-2554, or the Abilene FBI office at 325-677-6191. You can also call Crimestoppers at 263-TIPS (8477).

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at newsdesk@crcom.net

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EDITORIAL

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

-FIRST AMENDMENT

Opinions expressed on this page are those of the Editorial Board of the Big Spring Herald unless otherwise indicated.

Susanne Reed
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News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Hard sometimes
not to distrust
all government

It's hard sometimes not to mistrust, detest and abhor government. We're talking about any level of government due to the various activities of elected officials that fit in one of three baskets: Nonfeasance, misfeasance or malfeasance.

A recent story from Washington did little to pump up the public's confidence that government was invented to assist the citizens.

Federal auditors, the story stated, spent the equivalent of 47 days doctoring files to pass an internal review. The files were finagled apparently to hide examples of wasteful spending by federal employees, the kind of activities the auditors were supposed to catch.

Now, that's bad enough. But here's the two parts that normal-thinking taxpayers find incredible:

Part 1: The activities were discovered in 2001; the report detailing the shenanigans was released last week.

Part 2: The inspector's general report stated that reworking the books 'certainly violates the spirit and intent of government auditing standards and rules on ethical conduct.'

Two years to write a report? Doctoring books to hide governmental waste violates the spirit and intent of 'auditing standards.'

What is wrong with these people?

Why are those responsible for hiding the waste not in jail for perpetrating fraud on the American people?

Why are the names and pictures of those who wasted tax dollars and those that approved their actions not being publicized and why have they not been fired and suits filed to reclaim the losses?

Why did the inspector general's office, when going into a branch office to review files, give advance notice sufficient to allow massive overhauling of files?

Why have those in charge of investigating the entire fiasco and writing the report detailing the wrongdoings not been drummed out of the federal bureaucracy for incompetence? (One manager resigned before the report was issued and a second 'was punished'; but no details were given.)

Elected federal officials are proud of the fact that government does not run like a business ... unless one is talking about a business run by know-nothing bureaucrats, a middle-management force of bureaucratic clones and a staff ingrained with a don't-see-don't-tell mentality.

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A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

When we pray for each other, Lord, we lighten each others burdens.

Amen

The sacrificing of Dr. Judith Steinberg

Judy Dean, Dr. Judith Steinberg, Mrs. Howard Brush Dean III — whatever you call her — you can also call her the smartest woman in politics. Steinberg, a practicing internist, knows enough to want out.

Note how Steinberg has managed to navigate this grueling presidential primary having appeared next to hubby Howard Dean only twice — including Sunday's Iowa romp. She probably figures those were two days too many.

No slight meant to those hearty spouses who have slogged through Iowa stumping for their lesser halves, but what woman in her right mind would want to endure the thankless grind of a presidential campaign?

The men — the candidates are all men now that Carol Moseley Braun has dropped out — get to do all the talking. The wives are stuck nodding, waving, gazing up in adoration, smiling and looking as if they are paying attention.

And for what? For the chance to be America's usually vilified first lady.

Some women are naturals at the role: Think of Laura Bush or Jackie O. Others are not, and for them, the White House is no picnic. If they are political, and get involved, presidents' wives are cast into the role of dragon lady. Read: Nancy Reagan or Hillary Clinton. When they're not politically helpful, even if they helped their husbands win the White House, they're dismissed as neurotic. Read: Mary Todd Lincoln, Eleanor Roosevelt.

Thus, it was appealing that Howard Dean spared his wife the

ordeals of the campaign. For one thing, the fact that Dean married a politico-phobe — she only attended two of four inaugural balls when he was Vermont's governor — was proof he hadn't intended to run for the White House since childhood. Mrs. D's absence also showed that her husband respected his wife for who she was. It spoke well of the marriage that he didn't try to change her.

In fact, the nicest thing Howard Dean said through this whole messy race was: "Her goal is to be a good doctor and a good mom, and I think that is a pretty good goal. I do not intend to drag her around because I think I need her as a prop on the campaign trail."

Until Dean used Steinberg as a prop Sunday, there was reason to believe that there were things Howard Dean would not stoop to in order to win the election.

This "surprise" Iowa visit shows how easy the Dean Team is to sway. First, some Iowans ask where Judy Dean is. Then, New York Times columnist Maureen Dowd writes a column chiding the Deans for the wife's absence.

Insiders such as pollster John Zogby join the chorus. Then, Dean stumbles in the polls — because of Dean himself, not because of his wife — and his staff shifts into damage-control mode. Judy Dean then steps, as a veritable domina ex machina, from a campaign plane.

The whole thing was so choreographed that the campaign staff made it be known that Sen. Tom Harkin's wife, Ruth, had started the push to put Judy Dean on the hustings.

"I wanted to come here today and say thank you to the people of Iowa for being so kind and gracious to my husband, Howard Dean," Judy Dean announced.

But the look in her eyes said: "Please don't eat me."

Before Sunday, the Dean campaign was unpredictable: Husband campaigns solo; wife takes care of business at home; kids avoid the slimelight.

But if the distaff doctor stays on the campaign trail, it seems highly predictable, if unfair, that her next stop will be for a makeover.

Dowd, after all, took shots at Steinberg for looking "like a crunchy Vermont hippie, blithely uncoiffed, unadorned, unstyled." After the Iowa "surprise," a Democratic strategist quipped that Steinberg looks like Marilyn Quayle. Everyone will have an opinion as to how J.S.D. — a k a Judith Steinberg, a k a Judy Dean — should look.

By the time the campaign machinery is through with the Little Woman, it will have cranked out a regular Democratic Stepford wife — face-peeled, pearl-accessorized, blow-dried and career-suited. Deaniacs, who volunteered because Dean is "the only real person out there," as one young woman told CNN, will be scratching their heads and wondering where the real people went.

Instead, the Dean Team should use Judith Steinberg's reticence as a selling point. An apolitical wife, after all, means no repeats of some of the Dems' most painful campaign moments. Steinberg — the Dean Team could promise — won't go on "60 Minutes" to present a feminist's glossing over of her husband's philandering, a la Hillary Clinton. There will be no staged makeout at a Democratic National Committee convention, a la Al and Tipper Gore. The Dean Team instead can offer a Howard Dean who loves his wife too much to sacrifice her on the altar of the campaign gods.

That would be different.

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Note to Dean: Change your suit

If Howard Dean looks like he has been taking some lumps recently, it may not be politics, it may be his suit.

Dean wears the same suit day after day on the road, because he travels only with one suit. If he brought along a second suit, he says, he would have to carry a suit bag, and he will not carry a suit bag.

Since the suits are not that great looking to begin with — Dean says his clothes "ferment" in his closet at home — his staff has one imperative: Protect the fabric.

After a tarmac event in Little Rock, barbecue was served, a wind came up and half-filled paper plates of food began flying through the air. Dean's staff immediately surrounded him, holding up file folders, papers, posters, anything to keep the food from landing on him. "On the Dean campaign, saving the suit is Job One," a staffer said.

But what happens if his suit does get stained and he still has six days to go before he returns home? "In that case, I will be wearing a suit with a stain," Dean says.

Even clean, however, the suits often look a little lumpy. The pockets bulge and not with notes or policy papers. The candidate likes to hide cookies in there. He has a formidable sweet tooth (his personal pledge to lose 12 pounds over the holidays appears to have had all the success of an unfunded mandate), and though he claims that his favorite food is strawber-

ry milkshakes, his secret vice is gumdrops.

When he was governor of Vermont, the reception desk outside his ceremonial office in the capitol had a small drawer in which Dean hid his private gumdrop stash. He would go out to greet visiting dignitaries, slide open the drawer and pop a few in his mouth. One day, to his horror, he found the drawer empty. To the amazement of everyone, the governor stood there dipping his finger in the leftover sugar crystals and then licking them off.

His other obsession these days is quarters. Some suggest his entire campaign for president is a ruse to collect the new "State Quarters" from each of the 50 states. To date, he has every one that has been released except Arkansas. (The last quarter won't be released until 2008, when Dean will be either running for re-election or licking sugar off his fingers in obscurity.) He never collected coins as a child and says he is doing this "just for fun."

A mint condition 2003 Arkansas quarter is available on the internet for 57-cents, but anyone who thinks Howard Dean would pay 57 cents for a 25-cent piece, does not know Howard Dean.

"I am the cheapest S.O.B. you ever met," he says proudly. How cheap is he? He will not buy cable or satellite TV, even though this means his wife, Judy, must traipse down to his campaign headquarters in Burlington to watch him debate. (Sometimes she, like most of the rest of America, just skips them.)

He paints his own house. No big deal, you say? Consider that the very first union that endorsed him was the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades. So in

the future might he actually go out and hire a painter? "I doubt it," his campaign spokesperson, Tricia Enright, told me.

He fixes his own toilet and mows his own lawn (Judy tells people how she awoke one morning at 6:30 a.m. to see him out there mowing because he had promised to do so before getting back on the campaign trail.)

He is also a rabid recycler. He can often be found at his campaign headquarters, digging through the garbage and taking out the soda cans and newspapers that should have gone into the recycle bin.

At the end of a recent commercial flight, when the flight attendants were collecting armfuls of discarded newspapers, Dean asked them if they were going to be recycled.

No, he was informed, they were going to be tossed out.

So Dean took the newspapers, traveled around the country with them for the entire campaign trip, and then carried them back to Burlington where he recycled them.

He does not believe in fancy hotels. (His press corps, which is on expense account, does. This is yet another point of contention between them.) He doesn't order from room service. If you want to catch a glimpse of him, go down to the lobby of his hotel early in the morning. You will see him get off the elevator in a sweatshirt and sweatpants, and go over to the newsstand as soon as it opens so he can get his morning papers.

He does have his fun side, however.

"I usually wake up at 4 in the morning," he said recently, "and think about politics for three hours."

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The new Malibu

Chevy's mid-size sedan gets new look, ride for '04

The all-new Malibu is a very impressive mid-size sedan.

Completely redesigned as the first North American application of General Motors' Epsilon architecture, the mid-size sedan is firmer, quieter and as I mentioned, extremely impressive.

Developed with GM's Opel subsidiary in Germany, the 2004 Malibu offers more than just a new look and a new ride with a distinctive European feel.

The dual cockpit interior design offers a lot of standard features, which includes power driver's seat, tilt and telescoping steering column, power windows, power door locks, power mirrors and a driver information center integrated into the radio display that enables personalization of electrical features and 15 warning messages including low key-fob battery life, the possibility of ice forming on the road and an oil life monitor — just to name a few of the many features. Each model is also

equipped with electric power steering with variable assist for low- and high-speed steering maneuvers and power brakes.

Three front-wheel drive trim lines are available for the '04 model year — base, LS and LT.

Base models are equipped with an Ecotec 2.2-liter dual overhead cam I-4 engine (145 horsepower/155 lbs.-ft. torque). A 3.5-liter V-6 (200 horsepower/220 lbs.-ft. torque)

is standard on the LS and LT and optional on the base.

Both powerplants are mated to a four-speed automatic transmission with overdrive.

A 2004 Malibu LT was driven during a one-week test drive and performed exceptionally well during both in town and freeway driving.

Chevrolet has also grouped several optional packages, allowing Malibu buyers the ability to customize their vehicle to fit their needs.

Manufactured at GM's Kansas City assembly



The 2004 Chevrolet Malibu sedan.

ON THE ROAD



By Neal White

plant, standard safety features include dual stage airbags for front seat passengers, three-point safety belts for all occupants with pretensioners for front-seat passengers, four-wheel anti-lock brakes with traction control (standard on LS and LT models, optional on base), and LATCH child-seat attachment system.

Optional head curtain side-impact airbags are available, and each model is factory-equipped with the OnStar communication/safety system. All you have to do is activate the system at the time of purchase and pay a small monthly service fee.

As I've said many times before, OnStar is a terrific service. If you're in an accident and the airbags deploy, an OnStar operator calls the vehicle and

asks if you need assistance. If you don't respond, it sends emergency personnel to the vehicle's location. OnStar can help police track your vehicle if it's stolen, unlock your doors if you leave the keys inside, and help you find your way if lost.

And that's just a small sample of the many features OnStar provides.

With a base price starting around \$19,000, the new Malibu is well worth a test drive for those in the market for a mid-size sedan.

Neal White has been covering the automotive industry for more than 10 years and is affiliated with the Texas Auto Writers Association and the Midwest Automotive

THE NUTS AND BOLTS



MODEL:
2004 Chevrolet Malibu
Mid-size sedan
Front-wheel drive
5-passenger seating

PRICE RANGE:
\$19,000 - \$28,000

ENGINE:
2.2-L I-4 (145 hp)
3.5-L V-6 (200 hp)

TRANSMISSION:
4-speed automatic
EPA: 23 mph city/33 highway

BRAKES: ABS with traction control system
STEERING: Power-assist rack-and-pinion
SUSPENSION: Four-wheel independent

LENGTH: 188.3 inches
WHEELBASE: 106.3 inches
WEIGHT: 3,174 pounds
WIDTH: 69.9 inches
HEIGHT: 57.5 inches
TIRES: 15-inch (16-inch LT)

FUEL TANK: 16.6 gallons
CARGO CAP: 15.4 cubic feet

COMPETITORS: Toyota Camry, Honda Accord, Dodge Stratus, Mazda 6, Hyundai Sonata.

Media Association. neal.white@waxa-
Comments may be sent to hachiedaily@light.com.

Clever sleuth triumphs

The coinciding lives of two individuals are cleverly told in Stephen White's latest novel.

After finding a missing child, Kelda James becomes the FBI's up-and-coming star in the ranks of investigative agents.

Her first career as a certified public accountant was spent investigating fraud for a private firm, but she soon gravitated to the more intense and exciting life as a federal agent.

Because of her past skill and, or luck in solving a major crime, she was given an intriguing assignment in which the DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) on the murder instrument proved the innocence of a man on Death Row.

By chance Tom Clone, the freed prisoner, returns to live only a short distance from Kelda because of strange and unexplained attractions for each other, their lives become intertwined through various sources.

Stephen White's character of Alan Gregory makes a return appearance as Kelda's psychologist.

To make a more convoluted situation, he also agrees to take Tom as a client.

While Gregory understands that Kelda and

Herald Book Review

Tom have a connection, he is comfortable in maintaining the confidentiality of each — that is, until the police become interested in Tom's whereabouts.

The psychologist's mild concern becomes a major predicament as he learns confidential items from both clients that greatly impact their lives.

Normality returning to Tom's life ends when he finds his grandfather severely beaten by intruders. Within hours Tom disappears.

Even with the DNA evidence, many on the police force still believe Tom guilty of murder.

This lack of trust leads some officers to believe that Tom has perpetrated the violence on his grandfather.

Other officers more realistically understand that many citizens are not happy about having an ex-con in the neighborhood and may have attacked the older man as they sought to do harm to Tom.

Stephen White does a masterful job of creating a suspenseful story from the perspective of the main characters.

His smooth transitions from one person to another create both excitement and uncertainty.

White's books always have a unique twist in the plots which give the reader an unforeseen surprise as circumstances develop toward a resolution.

As in his previous novels, the action in White's latest story takes place in

Denver and Boulder, Colo. The author uses specific streets and buildings in both cities to identify where action occurs.

Unlike many authors of today, White is precise in his descriptions, and it is obvious he creates a background for his characters, about which he is quite knowledgeable.

The character of Alan Gregory has matured as he has appeared in continuing stories.

While his wife and child have played more important roles in other books, in "The Best Revenge" they are only fringe characters. However, author White makes sure to keep the reader updated about changes in their lives.

For much of this story the reader is continually confounded with the question of whose revenge might be enacted by whom.

It isn't until the last pages when the tension, suspicion, and anticipation build to an almost untenable level that the answers are made clear.

The story's resolution may not be to everyone's satisfaction, but the immediate question might be for every reader to decide how he or she might have changed the outcome. That's what makes the novel interesting.

"The Best Revenge" by Stephen White; Bantam Dell, New York, New York, 2003.

Pat Williams, a HERALD contributing columnist, is a former resident of Big Spring.

Read us online: bigspringherald.com

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2004 NEXTEL CUP PREVIEW: CHEVROLET TEAMS

Leading the pack

Chevrolet teams hope to repeat last year's dominance

By DAVID POOLE
Knight Ridder Newspapers

If anybody outside of board rooms in Detroit really paid attention to the manufacturers' championship in NASCAR's Nextel Cup Series, the clamor for changes in that points system would likely be deafening following the 2003 season.

Chevrolet routed its rivals in that race last year, with its cars winning 16 poles and 19 races in a 36-race season. Chevrolets led 5,985 laps last year, more than 56 percent of the 10,668 that were completed.

What Chevrolet didn't win, of course, was the driver's championship in the Cup series. While that went to Ford's Matt Kenseth, the next four finishers in the standings all drove Chevrolets, as did seven of the top 10 drivers in the final statistics.

That dominance led to another round of an age-old argument in stock-car racing. Did Chevrolet have an unfairly superior car that made its drivers look good, or did it have superior drivers and teams that made the Monte Carlo look that much stronger?

One fact that can't be argued is that four former champions — Jeff Gordon, Tony Stewart, Bobby Labonte and Terry Labonte — drive Chevys this year. And at least three others — Jimmie Johnson, Dale Earnhardt Jr. and Kevin Harvick — have to be included on any list of drivers with the potential to one day add Cup titles to their resumes.

Johnson was second, Gordon was fourth and Terry Labonte was 10th in last year's final standings, putting three Hendrick Motorsports teams among the top 10. While a repeat by Labonte, who's now 47, would seem improbable for 2004, there's absolutely no reason to doubt that Gordon, a four-time champion, and Johnson, who hasn't been out of the top 10 in the standings since the fourth week of his first season, won't be back in the thick of this year's title chase.

"At the end of the year, (crew chief) Robbie (Loomis) and I sat down and analyzed pretty much every race," Gordon said. "All in all I thought we did a great job. We just had a few things happen to us. A few of the small things were self-induced, but the majority of the things that kept us out of the championship were things we really couldn't control. We've had a lot of good luck for many years. Last year just wasn't our year."

Had NASCAR's new 10-race championship system been in place last year, Johnson would already have a championship on his resume. He finished second or third in each of the last six races and had nine top 10s, including a win at New Hampshire, in the final 10 events in 2003. But he fell 90 points short of erasing the big lead Kenseth had built up.

"I made some mistakes," Johnson said. "I was too aggressive early in the race a couple of times. I'm going to really work hard at not driving outside of my means and not take unneeded risks and be there all year long and hopefully be the champion."

"We had some failures and bad luck. If one of those races had been different, maybe we would have been the champions. But everybody looks back on their season and looks at a few



Drivers Kevin Harvick and Tony Stewart should be in the Nextel Cup title hunt this season.

things that changed the outcome. This coming season, we will try not to make those mistakes again."

Gordon, Johnson and Labonte will be joined in the Hendrick fleet this year by 20-year-old rookie Brian Vickers, who narrowly won the Busch Series title in a down-to-the-wire race last year. The even younger Kyle Busch, who won't be 19 until May, is also scheduled to drive in six Cup races this year while trying to follow Vickers as the Busch Series champion.

The big offseason story at Joe Gibbs Racing came off the track, with team owner Joe Gibbs reclaiming his former job as head coach of the NFL's Washington Redskins. Last year, Labonte and Stewart switched to Chevrolets in a move that snowballed into General Motors' decision to pull Pontiac out of the Cup series entirely.

Stewart finished seventh in the points with Labonte eighth in 2003, each winning a pair of races.

"Everyone thinks he has a shot at winning the championship," Stewart said. "Our team is doing the same thing everybody else is doing. We're all working hard to try to put ourselves in position to run for a championship title like we did two years ago. It's hard to say what's going to happen because you don't know how everyone else's programs are going to be compared to the way they were last year."

Johnny Sauter takes over in the No. 30 Chevrolet at Richard Childress Racing, with Robby Gordon returning in the No. 31 and Harvick, who finished fifth in the points last year, in the No. 29.

"Ryan (Newman) and Jimmie (Johnson) are getting married, so that should handicap them a little bit," Harvick joked.

"I think Ryan and Jimmie are probably two candidates (for the

title), and obviously Jeff Gordon. I think there are just a handful of people you can name every year for the most part."

Harvick would like to count himself in that number.

"We feel really good about our chances," said Harvick, who won the Brickyard 400 in 2003. "We've got a good plan and hopefully we can get off to a better start than we had last year. I think that's going to be the key to our whole season."

"We finished second (six times), and we could have won four or five races if things had gone differently. But all in all, last year was a great year. We just have to take that next little step. We don't have to take any more big steps."

Earnhardt Jr. believes his team at Dale Earnhardt Inc. is close to winning a title, as well. "I want to win a championship," he said. "To win one, and consider myself among all the other champions would be a great addition to my career. I want to win the Daytona 500. There are all kinds of goals. I'm having a good time driving and I've had a bad time driving. I'll take the good days over the bad days."

Michael Waltrip, Earnhardt Jr.'s DEI teammate, has won the Daytona 500 twice in the past three years and was fast again at pre-season testing this year. John Andretti will drive the No. 1 car for DEI at Daytona, with young Martin Truex Jr. scheduled to run seven others in it as that team drops to part-time status.

Tony Raines, impressive at times in an unsponsored Chevrolet for BACE Motorsports last season, returns in the No. 74 ride that still needs financial backing. Scott Riggs takes over in the No. 10 car and Joe Nemechek will drive the

No. 01 Chevys as MBV/MB2 switches over from Pontiac. Ricky Craven, who scored a memorable race victory at Darlington in the

No. 32 Pontiac last March, makes the same move as do Ward Burton, who moved over to the No. 0 team late in the 2003 season, and Kevin Lepage in the No. 4 car.

Jeff Gordon and the No. 24 team hope to win a fifth championship in 2004.



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POLL POSITION

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

Which Chevrolet driver has the best chance at being the inaugural Nextel Cup champion?

Cast your vote at:
www.thatracin.com

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION

Which Ford driver has the best chance at being the inaugural Nextel Cup champion?

Number of votes: 20,632

Driver	No. of votes	Percent
Kurt Busch	5,023	24.3%
Jeff Burton	4,819	23.4%
Ricky Rudd	3,368	16.3%
Matt Kenseth	2,117	10.3%
Mark Martin	2,106	10.2%
Dale Jarrett	1,707	8.3%
Someone else	876	4.2%
Elliott Sadler	389	1.9%
Greg Biffle	227	1.1%

RACIN' NOTES

NASCAR's 'Chase for the Championship' plan

The structure of the new points plan for the Nextel Cup Series, announced Jan. 20 during the Lowe's Motor Speedway Media Tour:

■ **Championship series:** There will a 10-race "Chase for the Championship" at the end of the season to determine the champion.

■ **Who's eligible:** The top 10 drivers in the standings after the first 26 races, along with any other driver within 400 points of the leader at that juncture, qualifies for the 10-race "Chase for the Championship." Everyone in the top 10 at the end of the season will get at least \$1 million from the points fund, with the champion getting at least \$5 million.

■ **A head start:** The driver in first place in the standings after the 26 races will begin the final 10-race "Chase for the Championship" with 5,050 points.

The second-place driver will start with 5,045, third with 5,040 and so on in five-point increments for all drivers who qualify.

■ **Winning counts a little more:** Last year, a first-place finish was worth 175 points and second place was worth 170. Leading a lap in a race and leading the most laps in a race overall were each worth five bonus points. Under the old system, if the driver finishing second in a race led the most laps that day, both he and the winner would get 180 points for that event (the winner earning bonus points for leading a lap).

This year, however, first place is worth 180 points, plus five points for leading a lap. Second place is still worth only 170. Bonus points remain the same. While a race runner-up could still earn 180 points if he leads the most laps in a race, he can't match the race winner's 185-point total. The maximum points a race winner can earn is 190 points.

Riggs ready for the heat

Scott Riggs, driving the No. 10 Chevrolets for MBV Racing this season, is looking forward to competing against Brian Vickers, Brendan Gaughan, Scott Wimmer, Kasey Kahne and Johnny Sauter for Nextel Cup rookie of the year honors.



Riggs

Riggs said the success of drivers like Ryan Newman and Jimmie Johnson in their recent rookie campaigns has "raised the bar" of expectations for first year drivers, but added he feels no pressure from that.

"The first thing I told these guys when we talked about pressure and being in tense situations is the fact that the only pressure I feel is what I put on myself," Riggs said. "Sometimes I push myself a little too hard, and when I do that is when I start trying to overdrive the race car. I guess my worst enemy is myself."

— David Poole

Nextel has big shoes to fill, much to learn, as Cup series sponsor

After a seven-month silence, here's what we learned Monday about the company taking over as title sponsor of NASCAR's top series, stepping into the biggest shoes anybody in stock-car racing has ever had to fill:

Nextel knows a great deal about the wireless communications business.

Racing? Not so much. At least not yet.

Nextel showed reporters on Monday a rough cut of a commercial from its forthcoming ad campaign, in which a narrator extolling stock-car racing's all-American virtues said a group of guys got together to form NASCAR in 1959. That meeting actually took place in 1947.

Picky? Sure, and God knows I make mistakes, too. But first impressions are important and the NASCAR world has been waiting a long time to form one.

Nextel elected to stay back completely after the June 19 announcement of the 10-year, \$750 million deal, allowing Winston to play out the final year of its

sponsorship. So there was a lot on the line when the folks behind that big check came out to face reporters on the opening day of the 2004 UAW-GM Motorsports Media Tour hosted by Lowe's Motor Speedway in Concord, N.C.

They spent most of their time talking about the business side of the Nextel-NASCAR deal, a part that's actually easy to understand.

Beginning Feb. 9, it will offer a line of NASCAR-themed phones featuring the colors and logos of the series itself and 10 of the sport's top drivers — the usual suspects like Jeff Gordon, Dale Earnhardt Jr. and Tony Stewart.

Nextel says it has only 5 percent of the 75 million fans NASCAR claims it has as customers. You don't need a marketing degree to see the upside in all of



DAVID POOLE

that.

To help make more calls made at the track on Nextel phones get through, the company has developed the NASCOW — the "cow" part is short for "cellular on wheels" — a 53-foot equipment-packed trailer that will be hauled to tracks to act as a base station.

Nextel also plans to provide race information — qualifying results; brief news items and so on — to customers who have phones equipped to receive such data. Down the road, its phones might even be able to carry audio from a race team's scanner down the line to a person who's not at the track.

Neato. But former series sponsor R.J. Reynolds Tobacco was more than a business partner — the NASCAR word is "stakeholder" — during its 33-year run. The people who ran that sponsorship were willing to stand up to NASCAR's

top brass and use the influence the millions of dollars it was spending in the sport brought with it.

Tim Donahue, Nextel's president and chief executive officer, led Monday's presentation and he's unquestionably a first-rate guy with the kind of spot-on sharpness you envy in people who've accomplished as much as he has.

But Donahue, when asked about NASCAR's new points plan, about what Nextel might have to say about moving the all-star race away from Charlotte after 2004 or about anything else tangentially involved in the competition side of the game, deferred to NASCAR. He wouldn't expect NASCAR to tell him how to run a wireless company, he said.

"We do a lot of sports and we get to meet a lot of the athletes across the whole spectrum," Donahue said. "I have never seen a sport where the people who are so involved in it and who are at the top of the sport care so much about the sport and its future versus themselves as an

individual. It is refreshing. I think like a lot of us at Nextel, they're regular, good folks."

True enough, but few regular folks can cut a \$75 million check each year and know it's going to clear. Money is power, but if Nextel is ever going to mature into the kind of partner Winston was for NASCAR, it will need to use that power to provide leadership.

One of NASCAR's greatest faults is that the people who run it sometimes convince themselves they've got all the answers. Over the past 33 years, R.J. Reynolds often reminded them — and sometimes not too subtly — how wrong they were about that.

"I think the NASCAR people understand and appreciate the fact that Nextel, as the series sponsor, should have a say in some of the issues that are outside the competition areas, especially," Donahue said Monday. "I really am not concerned at this point."

Sorry, sir, but I am.

S

In Br

Lady Steers return to play

The Big Spring School Lady Steers will action Friday. The Lady Steers and 0-4, will District 4-4A hosting the Lady Mustang girls' will be 6 p.m. The BSHS face Andrews

Hawks to face in Roswell

The Howard men's basketball will travel to N.M., today to Mexico Institute. The HC men 1-1, will begin 8:15 p.m.

YMCA swim spots available

The Big Spring Family YMCA team has open. To be eligible to participate as a swim team must be at least 12 years of age. The swim team will have two lessons in the pool with professional breathing. The team are responsible for annual USST membership, all entry equipment transportation, meals at meetings. For more information call Dolline 264-8252 or 264-

Ten Star all-star application

Application being accepted for Ten Star Summer Camp. Boys ages 10-19 are eligible. For more information call (704) 373-

BSHS swim 4-4A meet

Big Spring School Swim try and nail District 4-4A title on Friday. The team travels to Stockton.

Hawks to host the Coliseum

Howard County is holding a Coliseum Monday night. Hawks and H. Odessa Coliseum fans attention game wearing will be admitted. Also on the form are the water in School Junior Team. The perform its during halftime games. The Baptist Church Steve Moses Debbie Dunbar the national

BSJHS girls Andrews on

The Big Spring Junior High Lady Steers used their season opener when they Andrews Junior School Lady Steers. The two scheduled to at 5 p.m. in gym.

ON THE

Sports Broad...
Event, Time...
Hawks vs. NMMI, 8:15

IN BRIEF

Lady Steers, Steers return to play Friday

The Big Spring High School Lady Steers and Steers will return to action Friday.

The Lady Steers, 5-17 and 0-4, will continue District 4-4A play by hosting the Andrews Lady Mustangs. The girls' will begin play at 6 p.m.

The BSHS boys will face Andrews at 8 p.m.

Hawks to face NMMI in Roswell today

The Howard College men's basketball team will travel to Roswell, N.M., today to face New Mexico Military Institute.

The HC men, 11-4 and 1-1, will begin play at 8:15 p.m.

YMCA swim team spots available

The Big Spring Family YMCA swim team has positions open.

To be eligible to participate as a member of the swim team, athletes must be at least six years of age and able to swim two lengths of the pool with proper rotary breathing. Swimmers are responsible for annual USS registration, all entry fees and equipment and all transportation and meals at meets.

For more information call Dolline Budke at 264-8252 or 263-4505.

Ten Star seeking all-star applications

Applications are being accepted for the Ten Star All-Star Summer Basketball Camp. Boys and girls ages 10-19 are eligible.

For more information call (704) 373-0873.

BSHS swimmers face 4-4A meet on Friday

Big Spring High School swim team will try and nail down the District 4-4A swimming title on Friday when it travels to Fort Stockton.

Hawks to hold 'Pack the Coliseum' night

Howard College will be holding a "Pack the Coliseum" night on Monday when the Lady Hawks and Hawks host Odessa College. Any fans attending the game wearing red will be admitted free.

Also on tap to perform are the Sweetwater Intermediate School Jump Rope Team. The group will perform its routines during halftime of both games. The Trinity Baptist Church trio of Steve Moses, Tim and Debbie Dunn will sing the national anthem.

BSJHS girls to face Andrews on Monday

The Big Spring Junior High School Lady Steers will continue their basketball season on Monday when they host the Andrews Junior High School Lady Mustangs.

The two teams are scheduled to begin play at 5 p.m. in the BSJHS gym.

ON THE AIR

Sports Broadcast Schedule
Jan. 22
Event, Time Station
Hawks vs. NMMI, 8:15 p.m. 1490

Lady Kats remain unbeaten on 7-A play

By TOMMY WELLS
Sports Editor

Jessica Hoch and Leslie Jansa each pumped in 17 points and helped carry the Garden City Lady Kats to a crucial 53-33 road victory over the McCamey Badgers.

With the win, the Lady Kats put themselves right where they wanted to be heading into the final week of District 8-A play — fighting for the top spot. Garden City and Iraan are tied atop the

loop standings with 4-0 records heading into Friday's matchup.

The Lady Kats' defense made sure McCamey wouldn't be a factor in the game early Tuesday. Anchored by solid defensive play from Jansa, Megan Niehues and Anna Flores, Garden City limited the Lady Badgers to just two shots from the field in the first eight minutes.

The Lady Kats carried a 10-4 lead at the start of the second period.

Garden City, which improved

to 19-3 for the year, all but iced the win in the ensuing eight minutes. The Lady Kats reeled off a 19-5 run in the second and waltzed into the half with a commanding 29-9 cushion.

McCamey, third in the 8-A standings, managed to cut into Garden City's lead a bit in the third. The Lady Badgers pulled to within 18, at 36-18 with a 9-7 advantage in the frame.

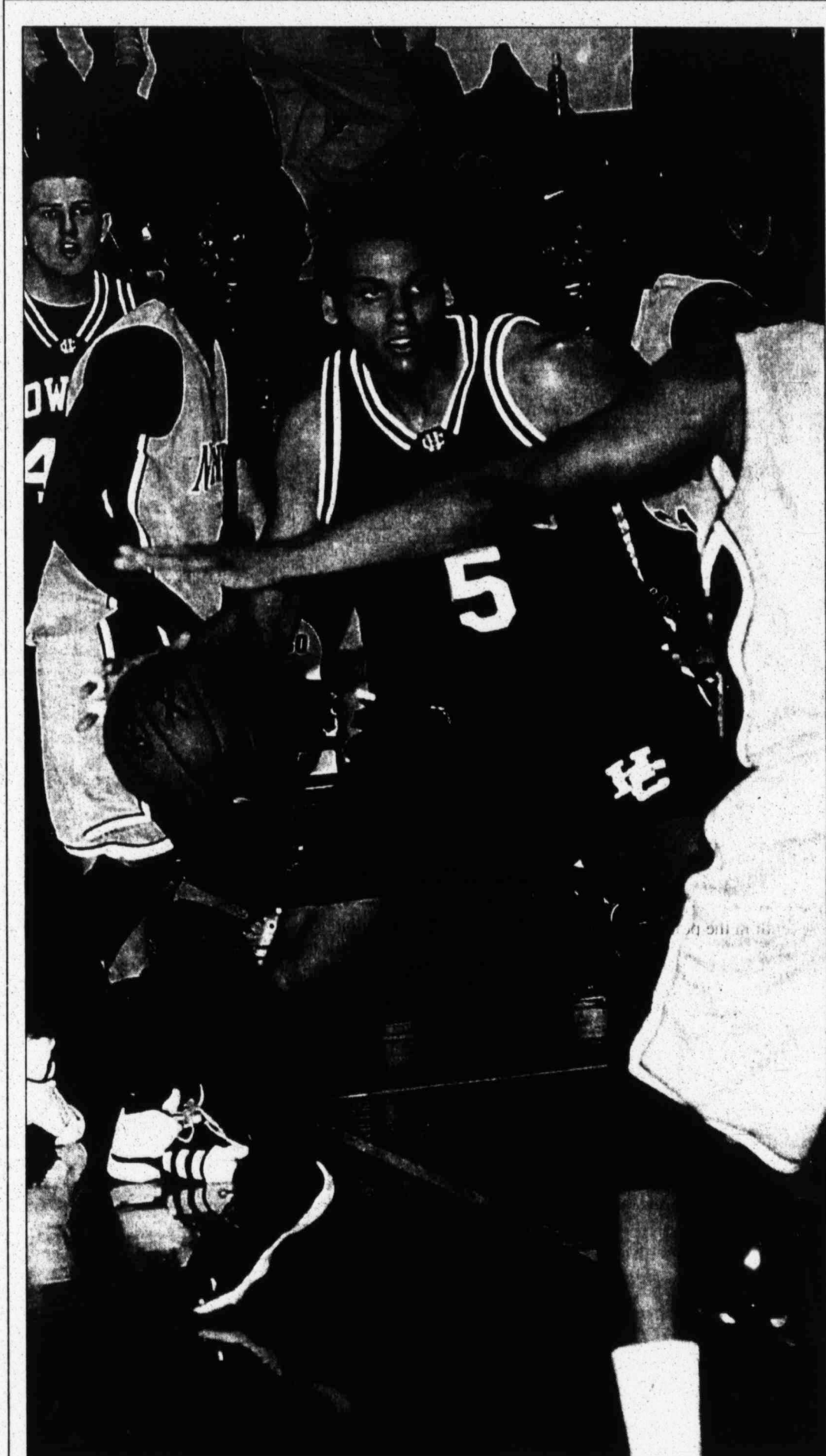
The Lady Kats regained the upper hand in the final period, however. Garden City, which

sank six three-pointers in the game, outscored McCamey by a 17-15 mark in the closing minutes.

Jansa led the GCHS three-point barrage, hitting four times from behind the arc. Hoch, who also collected a game-high nine rebounds, added two.

Niehues closed out the game as the Lady Kats' third-leading scorer by pushing in eight points. Amanda Henson added six.

Garden City will host Iraan Friday beginning at 6 p.m.



Howard College sophomore Jon Sykes dribbles inside against two New Mexico Junior College players Monday in the Hawks' 76-75 win. Sykes and the HC men travel to Roswell, N.M., today to face New Mexico Military Institute. The game will be broadcast live on KBST 1490 beginning at 8:15 p.m.

Eighth grade 'B' team rips Lady Tigers

By TOMMY WELLS
Sports Editor

The beat goes on for the Big Spring Junior High School Lady Steers' eighth grade B team.

Big Spring, behind the hot hands of Amber Simer and Hali Torres and a dominating effort on the glass by Meredith Morgan, nailed down yet another impressive win Monday afternoon by hammering out a 34-20 win over the Snyder Junior High School Lady Tigers.

Simer and Torres sparked the Lady Steers' offensive efforts. The two pumped in nine points apiece in Big Spring's 14-point victory.

Morgan collected more than half of the Lady Steers' 23 rebounds by pulling down 13. Torres and Samantha Boehringer accounted for the remaining 10 boards.

Simer and Torres weren't the only BSJHS scorers enjoying solid performances on offense. Clarissa Carrisalez finished the contest as the Lady Steers' third-leading scorer with eight points. Randy Phillips, Emily Slape, Morgan and Alejandra Garcia all pitched in two.

Rebels to host Abilene Friday

The Big Spring Rebels will make their second home appearance of the year Friday when they host the Abilene Force in Texas Professional Basketball League play.

The Rebels enter the showdown with a 1-1

record. Big Spring defeated defending TPBL champion San Angelo in its home opener last week.

The Rebels' bout with Abilene will start at 8 p.m. in the SouthWest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf gymnasium.

record. Big Spring defeated defending TPBL champion San Angelo in its home opener last week.

The Rebels' bout with Abilene will start at 8 p.m. in the SouthWest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf gymnasium.

Despite three points apiece from Shelbi Stewart, Courtney Strait and Breanne Downes the seventh grade A team dropped a 49-17 decision.

Honee Moore scored six points and Mirella Torres tallied four in the B team's 22-16 loss.

UT defensive ends coach steps down

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas defensive ends coach and recruiting coordinator Hardee McCrary resigned Wednesday after six years with the Longhorns.

His departure creates a second vacancy on head coach Mack Brown's staff. Defensive coordinator Carl Reese resigned Jan. 6.

In a statement released by the school, McCrary said the reason for his departure was a desire to spend more time with his family. He and his wife, Susan, have two young children. He has been a coach at the high school and college levels for 30 years.

"I've been on the road quite a bit and had to miss a lot of important times with them," McCrary said.

McCrary did not say what he intended to do next.

QB coach Sean Payton staying with Cowboys

IRVING (AP) — Sean Payton is staying with the Dallas Cowboys, making him the second high-ranking staffer to remain with the team after looking into a head coaching job elsewhere.

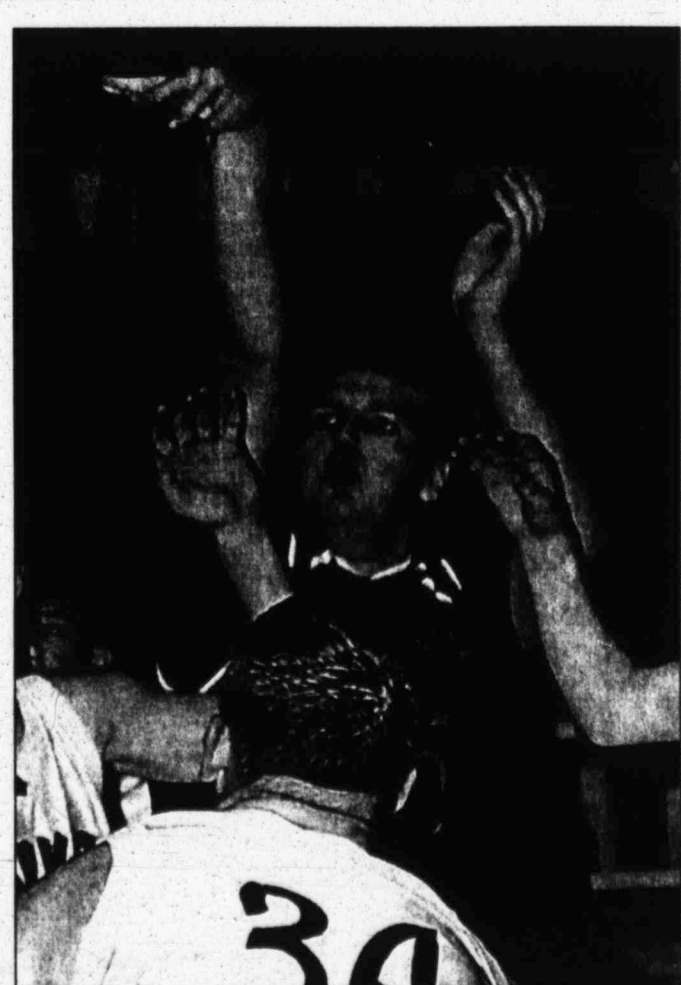
The Cowboys announced on their Web site Wednesday that Payton had decided to stay with the team rather than become coach of the Oakland Raiders. In California, Raiders owner Al Davis said the job was never offered, despite widespread reports that Payton had agreed to a deal.

"I don't think Sean Payton turned down the job because Sean Payton was never offered the job," Davis said in a rare interview with reporters. "Sean Payton has a lot of good credentials, but I don't know if that's the direction we're going." Regardless, it means

Bill Parcells will retain a key member of his offensive coaching staff. He'd already gotten defensive coordinator Mike Zimmer to stay after he received more money and added years to remain in Dallas rather than continue pursuing the coaching job at the University of Nebraska.

It wasn't immediately known whether Payton, who is Parcells' assistant head coach and quarterbacks coach, received a raise or an extension. Cowboys owner Jerry Jones was traveling back from the Senior Bowl in Mobile, Ala., and did not immediately return a telephone message.

Payton and Cowboys offensive coordinator Maurice Carthon were among the candidates to replace fired Raiders coach Bill Callahan, who eventually took the Nebraska job.



Isaac Brewer goes up for a shot during recent Coahoma Bulldogs' action. The Bulldogs downed Stanton Tuesday and improved to 10-10 overall and to 2-0 in District 3-2A.

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The Colorado River Municipal Water District has an opening for a Maintenance Worker in the Lake Thomas area. A CDL license and mechanical experience are helpful. District benefits include paid vacation and holidays, sick leave, retirement plan and group insurance. The District is an equal opportunity employer.

Applications are available at the District's office, 400 East 24th Street, Big Spring, Texas.

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160-bed Skilled Nursing Facility seeks dynamic Social Worker who desires to lead in a TEAM environment. Must be licensed by the State of Texas, utilized as Community/Family Support Coordinator along with evaluating resident's initial social history; conducting quarterly family support group meetings; and identification and utilization of existing Alzheimer's network with family with CQI/QA process a plus. Experience in Long Term Care desirable, but not mandatory. Salary will be commensurate with experience. Apply in confidence at Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez Texas State Veteran's Home Human Resources Dept.
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BY JOYCE JILLSON

The Aquarius moon is a highly inventive, original aspect that gives you a hand if you want to shine in a totally unique way. Your peak personal power kicks in when you go against the accepted norm, challenge established traditions and are open to what might have sounded like crazy talk just a few days ago. Brainstorming is lucky.

ARIES (March 21-April

Tomorrow's Horoscope

19). Everybody has a different meaning for success, but it's time for you to focus on your own definition and not worry about the opinions of others. Do you love, and are you loved? That is a great accomplishment.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Sometimes, it's hard to turn the other cheek and not retaliate with anger. That kind of quick-to-take-arms kind of approach will only fuel the fire. For peace of mind, take extra time to connect with an animal friend.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You may feel like you have been holding back in your relationship for fear of being hurt again. It's

time for major overhaul in your attitude when you ask yourself, "When is the other shoe going to drop?"

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Your instincts are good, but don't push the subject. If you force your partner to talk before he or she is ready, you both end up saying things you do not mean. Take responsibility for your own feelings.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Focus on ways to live a more fulfilled life. The question, "What do I want out of my life?" may seem too philosophical, but the answer has very practical applications. True love is waiting for you, but it won't wait forever.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Walk away from a heated discussion today, even when your opponent wants to keep stirring things up. If you need time to think, then take it. A simple "I'll get back to you in one minute" will do the trick.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You have all the resources at your disposal to create the love life of your dreams. One valuable tool toward getting who you want may not be in the usual place you go looking for help.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). A mighty oak tree is just a seed that held its ground. Don't give in to peer pressure when you stand alone in your singular opinion. It may feel lonesome, but it will be worth it when others see it your way.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Big ideas! Let those gems fly, and don't sit on a single one of them. One especially brilliant moment leads to a promising new source of revenue. However, do pass on an investment that sounds too good to be true.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your response to an afternoon event makes the difference between being seen as a winner or being seen as someone who would do what any average human would do. Resolve to be remarkable.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You start with your head, thinking about what you want to do and weighing the pros and cons before taking any action. Double-check phone numbers, addresses and the like before trying to make contact.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Not making a decision is sometimes the most detrimental choice you can make. Your career is simply not going to get to the next level without some serious hard work. It's time to face facts! Make a plan.

If you would like to write to Joyce Jillson, please go to www.creators.com and click on "Write the Author" on the Joyce Jillson page, or you may send her a postcard in the mail. To find out more about Joyce Jillson and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.



Joyce Jillson

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THE BIG SPRING HERALD
710 SCURRY

ANNIE'S MAILBOX
Dear Annie: One of my neighbors has a 7-year-old boy I'll call "Max." Max enjoys playing with my two children, but he is a very aggressive child. In fact, I think he's downright mean. He hits my children as well as breaks their toys.
The real problem is Max's mother. She cannot control him at all. Max bites and hits her. She is divorced, and it's apparent that Max is a very angry child. He has been tested for ADHD, but his mother isn't interested in putting him on medication or giving him therapy.
I am afraid that one day Max may hurt my children. I have tried telling the boy that he can't come over to play, but his mother sends him to my house anyway. What should I do?
— Concerned in New York
Dear Concerned: Talk to the mother directly. Inform her that Max is hitting your children and breaking their toys and you don't want him to play at your house. Try to be sympathetic, telling her you realize it must be difficult raising such an unhappy child, and suggest that medication and/or therapy sometimes can make a huge difference. Encourage her to do what's best for her son before his anti-social behavior isolates him from his peers completely and makes it impossible for the child to develop a healthy self-esteem.
Dear Annie: I'm 14 years old and have a little sister in the grade below me. "Jane" is very popular, and I'm not. Even my friends think she is prettier than I am. At home, Jane is the golden child. If I do something wrong, my parents will yell at me, but if Jane does the exact same thing, they won't say a word.
I love Jane a lot, but sometimes I feel more like her mother than her sister. The worst part is that Jane got a boyfriend a few weeks ago and I can't talk to her anymore. How can I get her to open up to me?
— Crying in Kansas
Dear Crying: You seem both resentful of Jane and desperate for her attention. It's hard to have Miss Popularity for a sister. If you want Jane to confide in you, let her know you are available and discreet,



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

but the rest is up to her. In the meantime, work on your own interests, and, as you get older, you will find that Jane's charisma is less of an issue. Hang in there.

Dear Annie: I am a 62-year-old woman. When I was 3 years old, my mother left me to be raised by my father's family. I didn't hear from her again until she sent a card for my 34th birthday. After that, we began corresponding fairly regularly, and visited each other two or three times.

Four years ago, my father passed away. My stepmother, who had been married to Dad for over 50 years, did not include my mother's name in the death notice. This upset my mother, who said I should have been more aggressive about seeing that this was taken care of. She became angry and has ignored me ever since.

For two years after my father's death, I sent cards and notes to my mother on special occasions, but I never received a reply, so I finally gave up. My preacher says to mend your differences, but I don't know how to do this. Do you have any suggestions?

— Sad in Florida
Dear Florida: This is not your fault. A woman who could abandon her child for 31 years, then cut off all contact because she wasn't listed in her ex-husband's death notice, does not sound mentally healthy. You have done everything possible to mend fences, but your mother is unwilling or unable to do her part. Since you are having such a hard time accepting the situation, please talk to your preacher or a counselor about ways to let this go.

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1992 Lincoln Town Car Signature Series, V-8, leather, fully loaded. One owner. 93K. Sale Price at \$5995.

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2003 Ford Taurus SES, Program car, V-6, keyless. Factory warranty. Low payments. 15K. Thre to choos from. Sale Priced at \$13,995.

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1999 Dodge Dakota. Regular cab - 4 cylinder, 5 speed, A/C, new tires, 58K. Low payments. Reduced to \$7,495.

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For Sale, 2003 Ford F-250, 4x4, 29,000 miles. \$29,500. Call 432-267-3126 from 8:00-5:00, 432-267-7648 after 5:00.

Very Fast 2001 Honda CBR 929 Red & Black, only 6100 miles, excellent condition, never been dropped, have over \$15,000 invested with too many extra's to list, asking \$8,000 OBO. Call 432-213-0814 or 268-9565

2000 Impala, CD player, AM/FM stereo, All power, air, One owner. Asking Price \$6950 with \$3000/down or Bank Financing.

1999 Ford Ranger. CD player, AM/FM stereo, air, cruise, tilt, 5 speed. One owner. Asking Price \$5950 with \$1500/down.

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2001 Plymouth Neon. Auto power, air, AM/FM stereo, Asking \$6950 with \$3000/down or Bank Financing.

1996 Buick Skylark. Auto power, air, CD, AM/FM stereo, cruise. Asking \$4950 with \$2000/down or Bank Financing

1994 Chevy Astro Van. Auto power, air. Asking \$3950 with \$1250/down or Bank Financing.

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2000 Ford Expedition Eddie Bauer. 5.4 L, V8, 6 disk CD, leather, grill guard, cap's chairs. Fully loaded. One Owner. Reduced to \$15,995.

2001 Ford F150 Supercab XLT. 4.6L - V8, Auto, PW, PL, CD, 60/40 seat, 45K. One Owner. Reduced to \$13,995.

2002 Ford F150 Supercrew Lariat. 5.4L - V8, Leather, CD, 34K. Reduced to \$21,995

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2001 Ford Escape XLT, V-6, PW, PL, CD, keyless. One owner. Only 25K. Sale priced at \$14,995.

1996 Chevy C1500 Silverado ext. cab, 305 V-8, auto, PW, PL, Alloy wheels, two-tone. Excellent condition. 96K. \$8,995.

1991 Chevy Lumina Euro, 4-dr, V-6, auto, PW, PL, One Owner dly. 49K actual miles.

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Clinical position available. CRT, RRT, LVN OR RN. DME experience preferred, but not necessary, medical benefits, salary neg. Send resume to: c/o Big Spring Herald, PO Box 1431/200, Big Spring, TX 79721.

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\$750.00 for RN's & \$500 for LVN's (Effective thru 1/31/04)
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12 Hour Shifts w/ 3 day weekends off every other weekend.
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Contact Human Resources Dept. Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez Texas State Veterans Home
1809 N. Hwy 87 Big Spring, Texas 79720
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Growing oil and gas firm seeks administrative assistant. Extensive word processing and spreadsheet experience required. Must be detail-oriented with exceptional organizational and multi-tasking skills. Salary commiserate with experience. Send resume to P.O.Box 831, Big Spring, TX 79721.

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Maintenance Position Available
The Colorado River Municipal Water District has an opening for a Maintenance Worker in the Lake Thomas area. A CDL, license and mechanical experience are helpful. District benefits include paid vacation and holidays, sick leave, retirement plan and group insurance. The District is an equal opportunity employer.

Applications are available at the District's office, 400 East 24th Street, Big Spring, Texas.

HELP WANTED

Director of Social Services
160-bed Skilled Nursing Facility
seeks dynamic Social Worker who desires to lead in a TEAM environment.
Must be licensed by the State of Texas, utilized as Support Coordinator along with evaluating resident's initial social history; conducting quarterly family support group meetings; and identification and utilization of existing Alzheimer's Net work and familiarity with CQI/QA process a plus. Experience in Long Term Care desirable, but not mandatory. Salary will be commensurate with experience. Apply in confidence at Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez Texas State Veterans' Home Human Resources Dept.
1809 N. Hwy 87 Big Spring, TX 79720 (432) 268-8387 or fax resume to (432) 268-9023
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Painting
Sherwin-Williams, a leader in the paint and coatings industry, has an opening at our Big Spring store for a (part-time) Sales Associate. In this position, you will assist customers, stock and price products, maintain store displays and tint and mix paint. (Position requires 20 to 25 hours per week.)
Here's what you get: Competitive salary, company-paid training, uniforms, employee discounts and growth opportunities.
Here's what you need: High school diploma or equivalent; ability to work all scheduled hours and valid driver's license.
Apply: Adam Mannis, Store Manager, Sherwin-Williams Assistant Manager, The Sherwin-Williams Company
2307 Scurry St. Big Spring, TX. 79720
Tel: (432) 263-7377
Fax: (432) 267-6595

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HELP WANTED

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RN/LVN for all shifts & RN coverage for the weekend. Call or come by at 1100 W. Broadway, Stanton, TX, or phone 432-756-2841 ask for Denise or Paula.
Store Mgr. & Keyholders Burke's Outlet in Big Spring 6 mos. Retail Exp. Preferred.
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Waitresses needed. Split shift. Must be 18. Monday-Saturday. Apply in person at Red Mesa Grill 2401 Gregg.
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PETS

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*On site Laundry Facilities
*Covered Picnic area with BBQ Grills
*Playground for the Kids
*Central Air & Heat

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425 Acres Mitchell County

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Si, no tiene credito o mal credito hableme al numero (432) 413-0549 Annette Sanchez

Tengo una casa de 2 recamaras y 1 baño

705 S. Lancaster Y otra de 1 recamara y 1 baño 1811 State St.

Beautiful 2/1, near college,

maintenance free, corner lot. Great Buy. \$30's. Call Home Realtors, 263-1284 or Shirley, 263-8729.

For Sale: 2 story, 3,000 sq. ft.,

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BY JOYCE JILLSON

The Aquarius moon is a highly inventive, original aspect that gives you a hand if you want to shine in a totally unique way. Your peak personal power kicks in when you go against the accepted norm, challenge established traditions and are open to what might have sounded like crazy talk just a few days ago. Brainstorming is lucky.

ARIES (March 21-April 19).



Joyce Jillson

Tomorrow's Horoscope

Everybody has a different meaning for success, but it's time for you to focus on your own definition and not worry about the opinions of others. Do you love, and are you loved? That is a great accomplishment.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Sometimes, it's hard to turn the other cheek and not retaliate with anger. That kind of quick-to-take-arms kind of approach will only fuel the fire. For peace of mind, take extra time to connect with an animal friend.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You may feel like you have been holding back in your relationship for fear of being hurt again. It's

time for major overhaul in your attitude when you ask yourself, "When is the other shoe going to drop?"

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Your instincts are good, but don't push the subject. If you force your partner to talk before he or she is ready, you both end up saying things you do not mean. Take responsibility for your own feelings.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Focus on ways to live a more fulfilled life. The question, "What do I want out of my life?" may seem too philosophical, but the answer has very practical applications. True love is waiting for you, but it won't wait forever.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Walk away from a heated discussion today, even when your opponent wants to keep stirring things up. If you need time to think, then take it. A simple "I'll get back to you in one minute" will do the trick.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You have all the resources at your disposal to create the love life of your dreams. One valuable tool toward getting who you want may not be in the usual place you go looking for help.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). A mighty oak tree is just a seed that held its ground. Don't give in to peer pressure when you stand alone in your singular opinion. It may feel lonesome, but it will be worth it when others see it your way.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Big ideas! Let those gems fly, and don't sit on a single one of them. One especially brilliant moment leads to a promising new source of revenue. However, do pass on an investment that sounds too good to be true.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your response to an afternoon event makes the difference between being seen as a winner or being seen as someone who would do what any average human would do. Resolve to be remarkable.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You start with your head, thinking about what you want to do and weighing the pros and cons before taking any action. Double-check phone numbers, addresses and the like before trying to make contact.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Not making a decision is sometimes the most detrimental choice you can make. Your career is simply not going to get to the next level without some serious hard work. It's time to face facts! Make a plan.

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REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

For Sale by Owner: 1706 Young - 2 Bdrm 1 bath. Owner will consider Financing. Call 432-466-0623

For Sale by Owner: \$3000/Down. 4 Bdrm, 1 bath. 1204 Lindberch. Call 830-385-1839

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New Construction Open House. Sat. - Sun. 1-6 pm or any time by appt. 1308 Marjijo. Call 432-520-9848.

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

Need a home? I can help, no credit, bad credit I will finance your home with a low down/payment. Please Call Annette Sanchez @ (432) 413-0549

1811 State 1 Bdrm 1 bath & 705 Lancaster 2 Bdrm 1 bath.

2908 Cherokee. 2 Bedroom, garage, fenced yard. \$12,000. No Owner Finance. 432-267-6667

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2 Spaces at Trinity Memorial Park, Garden of Lebanon, Lot 317. Reasonably Priced. Call 432-264-0860 after 3:00 p.m. No Later than 9:00 p.m.

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4 Family Sale: 4210 Theo, Sat. 8-4. Window unit A/C, freezer, vacuum cleaner, entertainment center, VCR.

Moving Sale. Lots of furniture, tools, mens jeans, baby items, and much more! Priced cheap to sell fast! Fri. & Sat. 8am.-1p.m. 1701 Morrison.

Inside Sale: 2101 Morrison Drive, Sat. 8-?. Everything must go. Lots of fishing stuff & much more.

MISCELLANEOUS

Antique Victorian solid oak dresser, 1800's. Mahogany corner china cabinet w/claw feet, walnut china cabinet. 432-267-1914.

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Gov't Postal Jobs Announcement #PS2479. Up to \$54,491 year. Now Hiring Select Areas. Free Call-Application Examination Information. Federal Benefits. 1-800-892-5549 ext. 92, 7 days

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THURSDAY

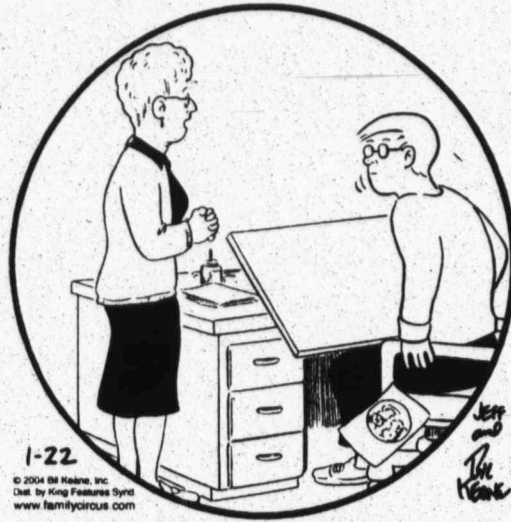
Table with 25 columns representing different TV channels (WFAA, KMD, UNI, etc.) and rows representing time slots (6:30, 7:00, etc.) listing various news, entertainment, and sports programs.

DENNIS THE MENACE



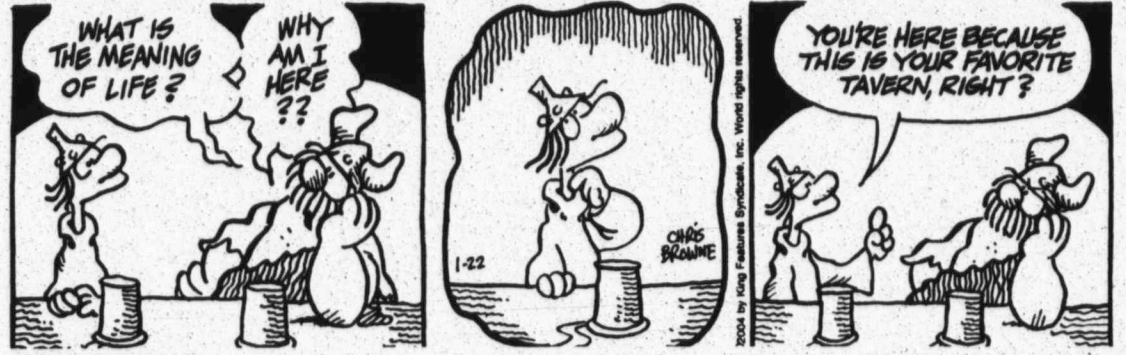
READY OR NOT... HERE I COME. I THINK WE SHOULD PLAY HIDE 'N SEEK AFTER THE SNOW MELTS.

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



My dear grandchildren told me about their improved finances and I got to thinking ...

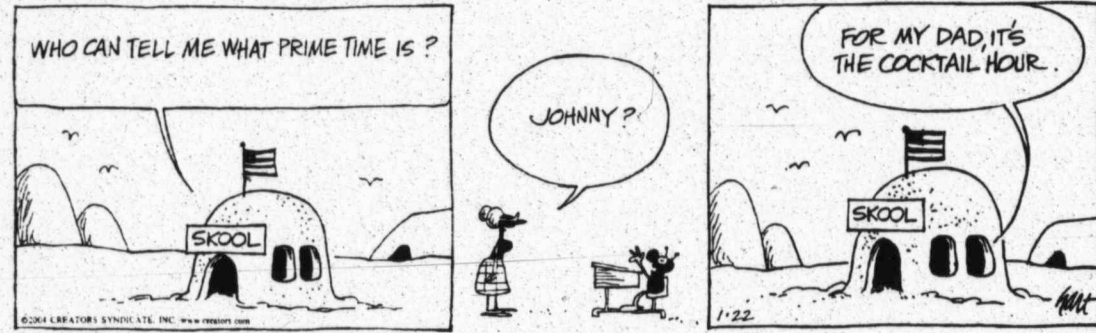
HAGAR



BLONDIE



BC



WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



HI AND LOIS



MR. HOUSEWIFE



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILEY



This Date In History

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Jan. 22, the 22nd day of 2004. There are 344 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On Jan. 22, 1973, the Supreme Court handed down its Roe v. Wade decision, which legalized abortion. On this date: In 1901, Britain's Queen Victoria died at age 82. In 1905, thousands of demonstrating Russian workers were fired on by Imperial army troops in St. Petersburg on what became known as "Red Sunday" or "Bloody Sunday." In 1917, President Wilson pleaded for an end to war in Europe, calling for "peace without victory." (By April, however, America also was at war.) In 1922, Pope Benedict XV died; he was succeeded by Pius XI. In 1938, Thornton Wilder's play "Our Town" was performed publicly for the first time, in Princeton, N.J. In 1944, during World War II, Allied forces began landing at Anzio, Italy. In 1957, suspected "Mad Bomber" George P. Metesky, accused of planting more than 30 explosive devices in the New York City area since 1940, was arrested in Waterbury, Conn. (He was later found mentally ill and committed to a mental hospital; he was released in 1973, and died in 1994 at age 90.) In 1968, the fast-paced comedy show "Rowan & Martin's Laugh-In" premiered on NBC. In 1973, former President Lyndon Johnson died at age 64. In 1998, Theodore Kaczynski pleaded guilty in Sacramento, Calif., to being the Unabomber in return for a sentence of life in prison without parole. Today's Birthdays:

Former Sen. Birch Bayh, D-Ind., is 76. Actress Piper Laurie is 72. Actor Seymour Cassel is 69. Author Joseph Wambaugh is 67. Actor John Hurt is 64. Country singer-musician Teddy Gentry (Alabama) is 52. Hockey Hall-of-Famer Mike Bossy is 47. Actress Linda Blair is 45. Actress Diane Lane is 39. Actor-rap DJ Jazzy Jeff is 39. Country singer Regina Nicks (Regina Regina) is 39. Actress Olivia d'Abo is 37. Rhythm and blues singer Marc Gay (Shai) is 35. Actor Balthazar Getty is 29. Actor Christopher Kennedy Masterson is 24. Pop singer Willa Ford is 23.

Answer to previous puzzle: RABID WASP, FISH ALENE INTO, JOLIE BIGSPENDER, MANA AVA LEES THEMET, TENFOLD CLAY, ERS TRAWLERS, MARNE THIN, ELIE EVAC SURED NAME, TIRE TKID IDLED, ADAMSRIID ONE, ETAS SNAILED, CROWN MAM EVA, HAND GOALTENDER, ACME ELLA SAINT, PEIER REED SYNTI

Newsday Crossword

CLEAN LIVING by Randall J. Hartman Edited by Stanley Newman

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Clues include: 1 Like Twiggy, 5 Proverb, 10 Wild guess, 14 Plumb, 15 Uses a kiln, 16 Sci-fi award, 17 Pub pints, 18 Small pests, 19 Go along with, 20 Mother of Solomon, 22 Dust particles, 23 Bartlett, for one, 24 Boxer's restraint, 26 Appoints, as to a duty, 29 Tick off, 30 Diamond figure, 33 Aware of, 34 '60s do, 35 tai, 36 Jungian topics, 37 Goes quickly, 39 Damage control, in politics, 40 Actress Sothorn, 41 Senior event, 42 Temper tantrum, 43 Hammarskjöld of the UN, 44 Part of rpm, 45 Used steel wool, 47 Duck, as an issue, 49 Lofty, 50 Tooth trouble, 52 Daily TV fare, 57 Caspian Sea feeder, 58 Slow tempo, 59 Soho streetcar, 60 Improv device, 61 Consumed, 62 Mixed bag, 63 Red veggie, 64 JFK director, 65 Cincinnati team, 66 Hunk of cheese, 67 Entertainer Falana, 68 Rapper born Tracy Marrow, 69 Places to slam dance, 70 Swift hound, 71 Roadside eateries, 72 Qatar resident, 73 Suggestion to overzealous fans, 74 Slalom curve, 75 Chases away, 76 Avid supporter, 77 The Morning Watch author, 78 Vienna Choir, 79 State flower of Utah, 80 Atlantic shark, 81 Misses the mark, 82 In front, 83 petition (protest, perhaps), 84 Light dessert, 85 "Remember the _!", 86 Longed, 87 Sharpshooter's skill, 88 Ginger's partner, 89 Sofa for two, 90 Michelangelo, for one, 91 Beseech, 92 Jam session feature, 93 Island, NY, 94 The Untouchables villain, 95 Man's man, 96 Dora, 97 Cleveland's lake, 98 Aware of, 99 Perry's creator, 100 Sudden attack, 101 Old Testament book, 102 Bandleader Brown.