



BIG SPRING

HERALD

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At the Crossroads of West Texas

50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 WEEKEND

THURSDAY

February 5, 2004

WEATHER

Tonight:



TONIGHT 29°-31° TOMORROW 46°-49°

BRIEFLY

Democrat Club

The Howard County Democratic Club will meet tonight at 7 at their new headquarters located at 300 N. Gregg Street.

The public is invited. Refreshments will be served.

Goliad PTA

Goliad Intermediate School Parent/Teacher Association will host a program over practical tips to help children succeed inside and outside the classroom.

Sharon Goldblatt, Texas PTA Region IV vice president, will present the program entitled "10 Tips, One Reason, Your Child's Happiness," which is set for Friday from noon to 1 p.m. at the school.

Parents are asked to RSVP with the school by calling 264-4111.

Bring a sack lunch. Drinks and desserts will be provided.

COMING

THIS WEEKEND



American Profile

Entertainer Naomi Judd shares what she's learned on her decade-long sojourn of self-discovery in her new book, Naomi's Breakthrough Guide: 20 Choices to Transform Your Life.

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Phone communications improved at Big Spring High

By LYNDEL MOODY Staff Writer

That frustrating feeling of not being able to reach someone at Big Spring High School may become a distant memory, thanks to a new automated phone system installed last week.

According to Principal Mike Ritchey, the system's installation was a much-needed change.

"Our phone system is about 20



RITCHEY

years old," Ritchey said. "All the calls were being received through a centrally located system and then distributed out to all the departments."

"What was happening was the calls were bottlenecking in the system," Ritchey continued.

"Rather than giving parents a busy signal, the calls continued to ring, so people would call the central office and say they couldn't get the high school to answer."

On average, school receptionist Ocoee Moore said she fielded 250 calls per day at the main switchboard.

"Prior to this new system, how

See PHONES, Page 3A

BSHS phone options

- 0 - Spanish
3 - attendance office
4 - assistant principals' office
5 - principal's office
6 - registrar
7 - counseling department
8 - band hall
9 - athletics



State Senate District 31 hopeful Kel Seliger, R-Amarillo, discusses the coming runoff election with local Texas Department of Transportation employee Johnny Moore during a meet and greet event at the Dora Roberts Community Center Wednesday afternoon.

Seliger touts experience as West Texas city leader

By THOMAS JENKINS Staff Writer

Economic development and lowering taxes were the resume Texas Senate District 31 hopeful Kel Seliger brought to Big Spring Wednesday, as he met with local residents at the Dora Roberts Community Center.

Seliger, who will face off against Kirk Edwards, R-Odessa, in a runoff election for the seat's unexpired term on Feb. 17, told the audience he can bring a great deal of experience to the office thanks to his years as mayor of Amarillo and his time growing up in Borger.

"One of the central features of our community was the community college," said Seliger. "Frank Phillips College is an exceptional institution and continues to do in that area what Howard College does here, so young people can

See SELIGER, Page 3A

Statistics show hike in local crime

By THOMAS JENKINS Staff Writer

While area residents spent a great deal of time struggling with the declining economic climate in 2003, it's apparent the Big Spring Police Department had its hands full as well.

Statistics released by the BSPD this week show

a definite increase in both violent and non-violent crimes in 2003 when compared to 2002.

Police Chief Lonnie Smith said there were plenty of contributing factors for the increase, including a sluggish economy and, of all things, education of the public.

"I think the economy may have played a part in the increases," said Smith. "If people want something and can't afford it, some of them are going to just go out and steal it."

"With some of the violent crimes, such as sexual assault, it's possible the numbers are up because people have more confidence in us and our ability to help them, and are coming forward and reporting crimes that would have normally gone unreported."

Smith said many of the robberies, which are considered a violent crime, started out as simple thefts, but because of physical contact with the victims, ended up in the realm of more serious charges.

See CRIME, Page 3A

"We're currently developing a strategy to combat those problem areas."



Police Chief Lonnie Smith

Preparing for the worst

Coahoma emergency crew gets much-needed equipment

By THOMAS JENKINS Staff Writer

A little more than two years after Americans found out how fragile their country is in the face of terrorism, funding from the federal government is putting much-needed equipment in the hands of local emergency responders.

After going through an assessment process and several local committees, Big Spring Police Lt. Terry Chamness said the city of Coahoma received emergency equipment Tuesday, part of a Domestic Preparedness Grant designed to help communities prepare for the worst.

Once the committee knew what Coahoma emergency responders needed to do the job safely, Chamness said it was simply a matter of ordering the materials and getting them.

"Coahoma Emergency Medical Services and Fire Department told us they needed generators, disposable backboards and other items to fulfill the needs of their community," he said. "That's what we're giving to them today. These supplies include blood pressure cuffs, stethoscopes, blankets, goggles, masks and other things of that nature."

"If something is an air-

"The cost of these supplies makes it extremely important that we get this type of funding."



Big Spring Police Lt. Terry Chamness tries on a specialized breathing mask while Coahoma EMS Director Kelly Overton looks on. Coahoma received emergency response supplies Monday as part of the federal program designed to prepare communities for disaster situations. The program is funded by the Homeland Security Department.

borne problem, we're giving them these masks to protect the responders so they have protection while they're out there. That way we can sit back and know we're ready and know we have the equipment to get the job done." Chamness said the funding came as a result of

recent assessments of the area communities, which were required by the federal government shortly after the Sept. 11, 2001, tragedy.

"The Emergency Management for Howard County, which covers Big Spring, Coahoma and Forsan, was required by

the government to do an assessment of the cities," he said. "That assessment was done almost two years ago, and we looked at what we have and what we need."

"From that assessment, the government, through See COAHOMA, Page 3A

FEB 05 2004

Obituaries

Hazel Lee Corning Eppler



Hazel Lee Corning Eppler, 71, precious angel and friend to us all, went on to be with the Lord Monday, Feb. 2, 2004, after a long battle with cancer.

A celebration of Hazel's life will take place at 2:30 p.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel. The family will receive friends from 4 p.m. until 6 p.m. Thursday, at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Hazel was born on June 22, 1932, in Brownfield. She is the daughter of Jasper Corning and Lois Russell Corning. She spent the majority of her years in Big Spring. She graduated from Big Spring High School at the age of 16.

She married James H. Eppler on Nov. 11, 1949. He preceded her in death on Dec. 31, 1999.

For many years, Hazel used her smart business sense and loving hands to create masterful coiffures for many Big Spring residents at her beauty shop "Chateau de Coiffures" in the old Highland Mall.

She spent the little spare time she had in front of a canvas, fashioning beautiful oil paintings to sell. Hazel was the queen of multi-tasking in the kitchen. She could prepare the perfect country breakfast in a matter of minutes.

She met each holiday with great excitement and energy, even danced in the kitchen while preparing a bountiful meal including several entrees, more than enough sides and at least four desserts.

Her smile and quick wit made any occasion worth the wait. Hazel approached all of life's situations in a loving, giving manner, selflessly tending to the comfort and well being of others, with nary a thought of how the outcome might affect her. She was a member of Trinity Baptist Church.

She is survived by two daughters, Brenda Eppler Barr of Austin and Debra Eppler LeGrande and her husband Randy of Ardmore, Okla.; two sons, Byron Eppler of Big Spring and Douglas Eppler and his wife Diane of Austin; one sister, Melba Dement of Mississippi.

She had a deep and abiding love and understanding for her grandchildren, Scott Wilson, Sara, Jason and Jamie LeGrande, Andrea Barr, Stewart Barr and his wife Stephanie, Jason Eppler and his wife Storm, Jared Eppler, Megan and Caleb Eppler, and her three great-grandchildren, Erik Barr, Ravi and Mina Eppler.

She is also survived by one aunt, Nellie Alexander of Big Spring; several cousins including Faye Cunningham, Ray Russell and his wife Sue of Big Spring.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by one son, Paul Eppler, and her first grandchild, Michael Wilson.

Pallbearers will be Max Coffee, Bill Carlile, Rob Cook, Tony Shafer, Terry Shafer and Mark Barr.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersandsmith.com

Paid obituary

LaVerne McDuffitt



LaVerne McDuffitt, 68, of Big Spring, died on Wednesday, Feb. 4, 2004, at her residence. Graveside funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, Feb. 6, 2004, at Trinity Memorial Park, with the Rev. Joe Torres officiating.

She was born on Oct. 6, 1935, in Munday and married John McDuffitt Sr. on Aug. 4, 1953, in Midland. She was a Baptist.

Survivors include her husband, John McDuffitt Sr. of Big Spring; two sons, John McDuffitt Jr. of Palestine and Sonny McDuffitt of Big Spring; two daughters, Mary Forshee of Big Spring and Joyce O'Rear of San Angelo; one brother, John Henry Woodrum of Breckinridge; and eight grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents and six brothers.

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

Marcella Adams Carter



Marcella Adams Carter, 80, of Big Spring died Sunday evening, Feb. 1, 2004, at Mountain View Lodge.

Funeral Services will be held at 11 a.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel with the Rev. Randy Cotton, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, officiating. Burial will be at Trinity Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 5 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

She was born Dec. 31, 1923, at Ardmore, Okla. She was the daughter of William Henry Adams and Grace Huey Adams.

She married Robert Cleo Carter on March 8, 1941, in Big Spring. He preceded her in death on November 20, 1962.

Mrs. Carter lived most of her life in Howard County. She went to Richland School. She worked at the Crystal Cafe in the 1950s and Mary's Cafe and Rainbow Inn in the 1960s. Mrs. Carter was a Baptist.

She is survived by two daughters, Beverly Yarbar and her husband Richard of Big Spring and Cheryl Click and her husband Glenn of Coahoma; two sons, Ronnie Carter and Roger Carter, both of Big Spring; one sister, Winnona Hobson of Cushing, Okla.; one brother, Henry Adams of Big Spring; 18 grandchildren; 24 great-grandchildren; a number of nieces and nephews.

In addition to her husband and parents she was preceded in death by one daughter, Gloria Ely; two grandsons, Dusty Preas and Wesley Ely; four brothers and one sister.

Pallbearers will be Gene Adams, Bill Bowers, Larry Adams, Ritchie Yarbar, Steve Adams and Luke Yarbar.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersandsmith.com.

Paid obituary

Mary Hicks

Mary Hicks, 85, died Wednesday morning, Feb. 4, 2004, at her home. Graveside services were 10 a.m. Thursday at Trinity Memorial Park with the Rev. Doug Shelley, Pastor of Eastside Baptist Church, officiating.

She was born Dec. 21, 1918, at Liberty County. She was the daughter of Dock Crawford and Annie Laura Valentine Crawford.

She married Log Hicks in 1939 in George West. He preceded her in death on May 4, 1995. Mrs. Hicks was a Baptist and a homemaker. She had been a resident of Howard County 42 years, coming from Midland.

She is survived by one daughter, Lois Hicks of Big Spring, and a special friend, Christine James of Big Spring.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by one brother, Leroy Crawford.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersandsmith.com.

Laura "LaFaye" Boubek



Laura "LaFaye" Boubek, 67, died Tuesday, Feb. 3, 2004, in Medical Center Hospital in Odessa. Funeral Services will be at 1 p.m. Saturday at Myers & Smith Chapel with Ralph Anderson of Birdwell Lane Church of Christ, officiating. Burial will be at Trinity Memorial Park.

She was born Oct. 12, 1936, in Winters. She had been a resident of Big Spring since 1969. She graduated from Howard College.

She worked at the Big Spring State Hospital for more than 20 years, first as a counselor and later administrative assistant in the chapel. She was a member of the Birdwell Lane Church of Christ.

She is survived by two daughters, Kris Moore of Big Spring and Sandra Evans of Baytown; father, Nolan Stanley of Midland; two brothers, Marcus Stanley of Midland and Lynn Dale Stanley of Hutto; and seven grandsons.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersandsmith.com.

Police blotter

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

• **JUAN OLIVAREZ**, 21, of 3006 Cherokee St. was arrested Tuesday on two warrants.

• **SARAH DUNLAP**, 19, of 206 Davis Road was arrested today on a charge of minor in consumption.

• **THEFT** was reported in the 1900 block of South Runnels Street, the 1700 block of FM 700, the 400 block of Birdwell, the 700 block of Gregg and the 200 block of FM 700.

• **ASSAULT CAUSING BODILY INJURY** as reported in the 1500 block of Stadium.

• **BURGLARY OF A BUILDING** was reported in the 1800 block of Scurry and the 300 block of 18th Street.

• **ASSAULT CLASS C FAMILY VIOLENCE** was reported in the 2400 block of Morrison and the 400 block of Fourth Street.

• **ASSAULT BY THREAT** was reported in the 2900 block of Highway 80.

Sheriff's report

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

• **TONY LEON JETTON**, 34, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of disorderly conduct fighting.

• **LONNIE RAY CLANTON**, 54, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of public intoxication.

• **DENISE KAYLA HORTON**, 40, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of unauthorized use of a vehicle.

• **BRYON PATRICK PAYNE**, 18, was taken to the county jail Wednesday after being arrested by Big Spring police officers on a charge of assault causing bodily injury.

• **AGUSTIN FIERRO JR.**, 37, was taken to the county jail Wednesday by Big Spring police officers after being arrested on a charge of driving while intoxicated, third offense.

• **RETTA JOYCE CRAWFORD**, 47, was arrested Wednesday on a warrant for contempt of court and disobedience of a court order.

• **MARCO LOPEZ**, 22, was arrested on a warrant for driving while intoxicated.

• **DARREL WILLIAM GORDON**, 62, was arrested Wednesday on a warrant for driving while intoxicated, third offense or more.

• **PAUL VIERA**, 18, was arrested Wednesday on a warrant for bailsmen off bond, evading arrest.

• **JOHNNY RAY DUPRE**, 34, was arrested Wednesday on a warrant for fraudulently obtaining unemployment benefits.

• **STALKING** as reported twice in the 300 block of East 16th Street.

• **WANTED PERSON** was reported in the 500 block of East FM 700 and at the VA Medical Center.

Velva Williams

Velva Williams, 59, of Big Spring, died on Tuesday, Feb. 3, 2004, at her residence. Graveside funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, Feb. 6, 2004 at Mt. Olive Memorial Park with the Rev. Ken Childress, officiating.

She was born on March 15, 1944, in Big Spring and married Richard Williams in Baytown. He preceded her in death in 1996.

Survivors include her son, Charles Robinson of Big Spring; one sister, Thelma Gibbs of Midland; two brothers, Marion Bebee of Big Spring and Virgil Bebee of Antonito, Colo., and three grandchildren.

She was also preceded in death by her parents and a brother.

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

Wilma Faye Parr

Wilma Faye Parr, 81, of Sebastian, Fla., formerly of Big Spring, died on Jan. 29, 2004.

Her funeral service was held at 6 p.m. Monday, Feb. 2, 2004, at the Strunk Funeral Home in Sebastian, Fla. Graveside service was held at 2 p.m. today, Feb. 5, 2004, in Fairy Cemetery of Hico. Arrangements were under the direction of Rutledge-Jones Funeral Home of Hico.

Mrs. Parr was born Wilma Faye Wright in 1922 in Van Zandt County. She married Jess (Jake) Trantham in 1939. He preceded her in death in 1977. She then married C.C. (Doc) Parr in 1984. He preceded her in death in 1992.

She was a former resident of Hico. She was a member of the First Baptist Church of Wabasso and the Senior Citizens of Sebastian, Fla.

She is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Jake and Linda Trantham; two grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

The family suggest memorials may be made to the First Baptist Church of Wabasso, P.O. Box 246, Wabasso, Fla., 32970.

Bulletin board

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

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.

Weather

Tonight...Mostly cloudy. Lows around 30. North winds 10 to 15 mph.

Friday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 40s. North winds 10 to 15 mph.

Friday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 20s. East winds 10 to 15 mph.

Saturday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 50s. Southwest winds around 10 mph.

Saturday night through Sunday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 30s. Highs in the lower 50s.

Monday...Mostly cloudy. Highs in the upper 50s.

Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wednesday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 4-13-18-20-31.
Number matching five of five: 1.
Prize per winner: \$43,515.
Winning tickets sold in: Houston.
Next Cash 5 drawing: Thursday night.

...

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 14-20-30-37-44. Bonus Ball: 44.

Number matching five of five, plus Bonus Ball: None.

Estimated jackpot for Saturday night drawing: \$5 million.

...

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 5-9-4

BIG SPRING HERALD

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SELIGER

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SELIGER

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get their college education and work, and hopefully find something there in the community where they grew up."

Seliger said he feels very strongly about his time as mayor of Amarillo, where he learned the importance of economic development and the distinct role it plays in the success of any city, regardless of size.

"The central focus of my time as mayor was economic development," he explained. "The 1980s were really tough on Big Spring and the Permian Basin, and they were tough on the Panhandle. It was clear that we had the cornerstone of a really good and vibrant economy because of agriculture, oil and gas. But we needed to diversify that economy so we weren't completely dependent on commodity fluctuations. We did that with a lot of different things.

"Everyone has heard about the big helicopter

plant in Amarillo and we're very proud of it, but what people don't know a lot about is that the leading manufacturer of replacement cushions for patio furniture has a plant in Amarillo. It's not big, but big opportunities come along very seldom."

Seliger also touted the reduction of taxes during his tenure in Amarillo, saying it's more productive to put money in the pockets of the people than to continually grow big government.

"Some of the most important things that I did when I was a city commissioner and mayor was reduce our taxes from just over 40 cents per \$100 valuation to 27 cents," said Seliger. "More importantly, while I was mayor, we kept them low. And when I left office in 1991, they were just a little over 29 cents."

"The important tool that one takes from that is a strong sense of priorities — what the government must provide and what it maybe shouldn't provide. Tax policy should revolve around not how much money people will toler-

ate giving up, but how much must the government have, leaving as much money in people's bank accounts as absolutely possible."

Seliger's visit to Big Spring came only days after accusations of unethical behavior between himself and fellow Republican Edwards turned into a political mudslinging match, something the Amarillo man called regretful.

"My personal feelings about those accusations are the same about all things that are said and aren't true," he said. "It's dishonest and it's not a good way to campaign. The push poll was particularly regrettable, not just because it was negative and dishonest, but because everything in the race had been very positive and issue-oriented up to that point, and it's a shame to depart from that."

Seliger filed a complaint with the Texas Ethics Commission on Monday, accusing Edwards of illegally hiding expenditures the Odessa candidate made for consulting and

"negative push polling." In turn, Edwards said Seliger is in violation of Texas ethics laws for missing the Jan. 15 deadline to file his campaign's personal financial statement, which found its way to the ethics commission on Monday.

When asked if he thought the worst of the attacks between himself and Edwards were over, Seliger seemed less than optimistic.

"If someone is willing to not only sling mud, but to say things that simply aren't true, then they probably don't know when to stop either," he said.

Early voting in the runoff is slated for Feb. 9-13. The District 31 seat became vacant in January when long time State Sen. Teel Bivins stepped down, citing his nomination as ambassador to Sweden and family issues as the reasons for his departure.

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at citydesk@bigspringherald.com

CRIME

Continued from Page 1A

"A lot of times it was nothing more than a beer run or something of that nature," he said. "However, once they knock someone down or hit them, it becomes a robbery."

"With a lot of these statistics you have to look at the actual number they've increased, because the percentages can be misleading. With the robberies we had 20 in 2003, opposed to 8 in 2002. That's 12 more robberies, but when you look at the percentage and see it's a 150 percent increase, it makes it sound like more than it is."

Smith said he and his staff are taking the overall increase very seriously and are looking at different ways to curb the troubled areas.

"These numbers can sort of bounce around from year to year," explained Smith. "Certain areas will be up one year, and then back down the next. We're currently developing a strategy to combat those problem areas."

"I hope the citizens don't find these statistics alarming. They will increase and decrease from year to year, but what it all comes down to is developing a strategy to reduce them."

Among the statistics, murders remained unchanged with one in both years; sexual assaults rose 62 percent, with 21 reported in 2003; robberies jumped 150 percent compared to the pre-

vious year, with 20 incidents netting \$14,509; burglary was up 23 percent, carrying a \$470,555 price tag, more than twice 2002's total of \$224,203; larceny stayed relatively steady with only a 2 percent increase; the number of vehicles stolen fell 21 percent with 41 reports, 32 of which were recovered; and criminal mischief rose 16 percent, with 496 reports totaling \$250,571 in damages.

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at citydesk@bigspringherald.com

COAHOMA

Continued from Page 1A

the office of Homeland Security, is sending money through what is called the Domestic Preparedness Grant. Through those funds we got together a group from the local Emergency Planning Committee and took a core committee of first responders and asked them what they needed."

Chamness said the funds the government has dealt out may be as a result of terrorism, but that hasn't stopped local officials from reaping the benefits that could arise in a non-terroristic disaster.

"Most of the money we're receiving is because of terrorism," said Chamness, "but as a community we're also looking at it as a way to prepare for other situations. We're trying to make sure the citizens in Coahoma, because of its proximity to ALON USA and other

possible hazards, has the necessary equipment to respond in the event of an accident.

"The cost of these supplies makes it extremely important that we get this type of funding. We started with \$122,000 from 2002 and 2003 funds, and through that we're getting whatever the needs of the community are. We are trying to meet everyone's needs and each group put in their wish lists, so we're trying to make sure everyone gets what they need."

Coahoma EMS Director Kelly Overton said the equipment will help Coahoma prepare for the more common glitches as well as the unthinkable.

"We've needed these generators for several years now," she said. "Not just for terrorist situations, but for medical situations everyday. If we lose electricity, which can happen at any time, we have people that are on machines and this will keep them going until we can get power restored."

"The goggles and masks

will allow us to get out there and take care of the patient without being in danger ourselves. It's going to be very important."

While Coahoma may be the last place you would expect to be the target of terrorism, Overton said there are other dangerous situations moving through the small city on a daily basis.

"We have a lot to look at these days," she said. "We have the threat of terrorism to look at, there's hazardous material coming down the Interstate and the trains coming through carrying chemicals, not to mention the H2S wells out in the oil field. This will really help protect our people while they're out there."

Chamness said the funding will also help the Big Spring Police Department and Howard County Sheriff's Office protect its first responders.

"It's so important," he said. "Take your police department and sheriff's department. We have no filters for breathing

masks and no goggles readily available to them. If we have some sort of airborne pathogen out there that could be harmful, there's no way for them to protect themselves. They will be out there and responding, but at serious risk."

"The filters we're getting now are the best, so it will protect them against everything. We want to make sure all of the first responders have the latest and best equipment."

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PHONES

Continued from Page 1A

many calls were not being answered?" Ritchey questioned. "This was an ongoing problem and we needed to be proactive in handling it."

This new system offers callers the ability to directly access seven departments as well as provide the high school fax number and the option to stay on the line for the receptionist.

Spanish-speaking callers have the option of hearing the message in Spanish.

"It makes it easier for people to get through," Moore said. "The calls are not stacking up so much."

Ritchey said he hopes the new system will help increase parent and community communication with the school.

"We needed to be more accessible to the community and parents," Ritchey said. "This is also helpful to us because our receptionist doesn't have

to field 100 percent of the calls."

After working out a few bugs, Ritchey said the new system seems to be functioning well.

"We encourage parents and the community to continue to give us some feedback to help work out the faults in the system," Ritchey added.

Contact Staff Writer Lyndel Moody at 263-7331, ext. 234, or by e-mail at reporter@bigspringherald.com

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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
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Don't forget your tickets for annual chamber banquet

Time is running out to get tickets for Tuesday's Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce banquet. Get yours now. The deadline is 3 p.m. Friday.

This year's banquet celebrates some notable anniversaries — the chamber's 85th year of serving the Crossroads as well as the Big Spring Refinery's 75th year. Fittingly, the key speaker will be Paul Meek, past chamber president and Man of the Year, and a Fina retiree.

Highlights of the banquet will include naming of the Man and Woman of the Year, as well as the Business of the Year and Customer Service Employee Award of the Year. Those latter two awards, new for this banquet, will be selected from the businesses and employees chosen as monthly winners in 2003.

The banquet will be held at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. A meal will be provided. Tickets are \$20 each and available at the chamber office, 215 W. Third. You can still reserve a ticket by calling 263-7641. But again, do so quickly. Chamber Executive Director Debbye ValVerde said tickets have been going quickly. Time and space are running out.

We hope you will come out and join us as we salute the chamber of commerce and those staff members and officers, board members and volunteers who have worked so hard to make it a success.

ADDRESSES

• GEORGE W. BUSH
President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Texas 31st District
401 Austin, Suite 101
Big Spring, 79720.
Phone: 268-9909; (915)
563-0031, (915) 682-
0455, (512) 463-0131.

• JOHN CORNYN
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4305
Phone: 202-224-2934

• PETE LANEY
Representative
Texas 85th District
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, 78768
Phone: (512) 463-0604

• RANDY NEUGEBAUER
U.S. Representative (19th
Cong. District)
1026 Longworth House
Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
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HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

OFFICE — 264-2200.
BEN LOCKHART, COUNTY
JUDGE — Home: 263-4155;
Office: 264-2202.
EMMA BROWN — Home:
267-2649.
JERRY KILGORE — 263-
0724; Work (Jerry's
Barbers): 267-5471.

• RICK PERRY
Governor
State Capitol, Room 2S.1
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, 78711
Phone: (512) 463-2000

BILL CROOKER — Home:
263-2566.
GARY SIMER — Home:
263-0269; Work
(Ponderosa Nursery): 263-
4441.

• KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON
U.S. Senator
703 Hart Office Building
Washington, 20510
Phone: 202-224-5922

• TEEL BIVINS
Senator

LETTERS POLICY

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

- Limit your letters to no more than 300 words.
- Sign your letter.
- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
- Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to jmoseley@crcom.net

Heads should roll at CBS and MTV

Howard Dean stepped into the culture wars this week by proclaiming as "silly" a Federal Communications Commission (FCC) investigation of the on-air smut that passed for halftime entertainment at this year's Super Bowl. "There's a great many far worse things on television that you can inadvertently turn on when you happen to be cruising through cable at regular viewing hours," Dean said from the campaign trail. He didn't explain how he would know, however, since he and his wife have repeatedly told us that they don't subscribe to cable television.

Apparently, Dr. Dean didn't see Janet Jackson's exposed breast on network TV either — but an estimated 99 million other Americans did, along with viewers in 229 countries, including China. And one of them was FCC chairman Michael Powell.

"Like millions of Americans," Powell said, "my family and I gathered around the television for a celebration. Instead that celebration was tainted by a classless, crass and deplorable stunt. Our nation's children, parents and citizens deserve better." Powell promised an investigation of whether CBS violated its federal license by airing indecent material over the public airwaves — which is very different than airing

raunchy material over cable or satellite channels to which viewers must actively subscribe. The FCC has no role to play in policing the latter, but they can, by federal law, punish broadcasters who violate the rules when it comes to misusing the airwaves.

It's easy enough to shrug off the publicity stunt by Jackson and co-performer Justin Timberlake, who ripped off Jackson's bra cup at the conclusion of his song "Rock Your Body," as he sang, "I'm gonna have you naked by the end of this song." Like so many "entertainers" today — Britney Spears, Christina Aguilera, Lil' Kim, to name only a few — these performers display more skin than musical talent. Their aim is to shock and arouse their audiences, while making millions of dollars in the process. And the Super Bowl extravaganza was a perfect showcase for this new genre of sexualized sleaze.

As Powell observed in a Washington Post interview, Jackson's exposed mammary "wasn't even the most offensive part ... The whole performance was onstage copulation." Indeed, the choreography looked like it was borrowed from some porn film, and even before Timberlake ripped open her bodice, Jackson's dominatrix outfit looked more suited to an S&M flick than broadcast television.

And the other "stars" were no better. There was Nelly grabbing his crotch — a move made famous in pop music by Janet's infamous brother Michael, who now faces charges for alleged child molestation. And Kid Rock, who wore an

American flag as a poncho while he passed on his best wishes to the "hookers all tricken' out in Hollywood." All of this is pretty standard fare for cable's MTV, which produced the offensive show, but it pushes the envelope yet further when it comes to family entertainment over the public airwaves.

Hollywood seems intent on pushing its corrupt values into American homes, whether we like it or not. Nudity, profane and vulgar language, promiscuous sex and obscene violence are Hollywood staples — there is hardly a movie made today that doesn't include all or many of these elements, and television fare isn't much better. A whole generation of young people has been raised on a steady diet of this foul stuff, and we will all pay the consequences.

Maybe Howard Dean doesn't think our country is any the worse for it, but there are plenty of Americans who are fed up. Heads should roll at CBS and MTV, both owned by media giant Viacom, for foisting this crude act on us. And the NFL should decide whether it is promoting the game of football or soft-core porn with its Super Bowl half-time "entertainment." Apologies just don't cut it.

To find out more about Linda Chavez and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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LINDA CHAVEZ



GOP's 'Pucker Factor' - Bush credibility

The Republican high command ought to be ecstatic over John Kerry's ascent toward the Democratic presidential nomination. His political profile should reassure George W. Bush's supporters: Massachusetts upper class, Vietnam antiwar protester, Mike Dukakis's lieutenant governor, Teddy Kennedy's protege, 95 percent liberal voter. Yet, ever since Kerry won in New Hampshire, Republican concern about President Bush's re-election has grown.

"I can see the pucker factor," said one GOP operative, meaning that he and his colleagues are confronting another Bush possibly becoming another one-term president. Predictably, Republicans reacted to Sen. Kerry's success by pasting the liberal label on him. Why, then, are their faces puckered?

First, because Kerry is an elusive target. Dukakis's old running mate showed in the hours after he was declared the New Hampshire winner that he is no Dukakis. Second, because Bush may be facing the bane of incumbent presidents: lack of credibility. That malady caused Harry Truman and Lyndon Johnson not to seek another term and helped defeat Jimmy Carter and the senior George Bush for re-election.

All four of those one-term presidents were plagued by primary election opposition in their own party, a burden that George W. Bush does not bear. No 20th-century president unopposed for renom-

ination was denied another term. Nevertheless, Bush is reeling from a double blow to his credibility.

Failure to find weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, a political accident waiting to happen, became the first punch last week when resigned weapons inspector David Kay testified to Congress. The follow-up blow was the White House revelation that the new Medicare plan will cost one-third more than the president predicted (just as conservatives warned).

These setbacks for Bush followed the most ineffective State of the Union address in recent years by a president whose previous efforts were able to utilize that event. He submitted to the bureaucratic methods that turned the speech into a laundry list. His staff permitted the former baseball team owner to further clutter the speech with an irrelevant discourse about players using steroids. In the two weeks since then, the president has not seemed energized on the campaign trail.

Since nobody wants to say the emperor wears no clothes, worried Republican operatives talk not about raising up Bush but bringing down Kerry. Republican National Chairman Ed Gillespie, given the assignment of rolling out Kerry's liberal record, has come under private criticism by his GOP colleagues. They knock Gillespie, not for trying, but for failing to clearly expose Kerry as a compulsive liberal.

It's not easy. A few minutes after the television networks declared Kerry the New Hampshire winner, the senator said: "I've been a hunter all my life, and I'm a gun owner, and I've never thought of going hunting with an AK-47. I believe in the Second

Amendment." When I told a Bush activist about these pro-gun comments, he wondered whether Kerry ever would say that publicly. In fact, he did make that statement publicly over CNN.

Kerry was answering a question by Judy Woodruff about his 20-year liberal voting record in the Senate. "We're going to have a heck of a good debate in this country," he said, adding to his gun comments, "and look, if balancing the budget is called liberal in America, let's go."

Most worrisome to Republicans is Kerry's war hero image while, in the words of one prominent Bush supporter, "our guy was drinking beer in Alabama" (where actually he was working on a losing Senate Republican campaign in 1972). Republicans are trying to negate Kerry's heroism with his postwar peace activism, but that approach is not working. In an interview with Kerry in New Hampshire, I asked if he ever regretted throwing away his medals (Silver Star, Bronze Star, Purple Heart). There was no regret, but he hastened to add: "I threw away my ribbons, not my medals."

This may be a case where the liberal is a sufficiently agile dodger to blur his past, and the Republicans must rely on George W. Bush. On Friday, White House spokesman Scott McClellan bridled at the thought of the president suffering a deficiency in credibility. But that in truth is the biggest problem he faces today.

To find out more about Robert D. Novak and read his past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com.

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BY JOYCE J
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Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY JOYCE JILLSON

Some people get irritated at all of the attention mugging that goes on during the Leo moon. It's true that sensible types get more than their share of drama and feel forced to participate, though they know that they'll feel the fool when comes the chance to see this day in retrospect. Still, there's no way to stay completely out of it. So lighten up.



Joyce Jillson

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You're ready to take a risk — you have little to lose and your happiness to gain. Don't do what you think you should do instead of what you love. Let nothing pull you off track from what you are genuinely attracted to.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Spontaneous decisions are lucky. Abandon old projects for something fresh. Your career flourishes with the influx of beginner's luck. Personal life is the focus tonight. Stop catering to friends who are low in appreciation.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You aim to hit the target dead on, so even if you revel in the journey, you are nonetheless moving forward with alarming

speed. The arrival of a relative or friend provides a refreshing, new perspective on life.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Stressed? The stars encourage you to find ways to make things easier on yourself. You have the power to change what you don't like, and there is no excuse not to. Those who start bold and new get plenty of support.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Make a silent agreement to be a willing student, and then, relax, and let the world reveal its lessons. Regarding career, the right person for the job is you. All you need is a chance. Try and remember why you ever left the situation.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). System and order will be hard to maintain in this day of revolution-like activity — unsettling for someone as organized as you, but don't resist, as it's a waste of energy. Everyone has a bout of bad behavior now and then.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). If you want to be a good friend, be available to listen, but don't ask questions. If you want to attract romance, be mysteriously unavailable. Continue personal artistic endeavors, as they are important to progress in other areas.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). It all depends on how

you want to be. You'll achieve subtle gains through subtle moves — outstanding gains through remarkable moves. The biggest thing standing between you and a fortune is a thought.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Look around you to see how your ambitions fit into the big picture. Helping someone powerful will in turn have a strong effect on advancing your own goals. The relationship of money to romance is a focus.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Simple things like a walk in the park are better than anything that can be bought. Educational and career possibilities are numerous and quite confusing, too. Sort through it all; you'll make something of the mess.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Love is crazy. One look can change everything. Take a risk you would not have taken yesterday. At work, you could help someone save face, which will be remembered. A struggle leads to clarity about what you really want.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Your special project may be close to your heart, but others have never even heard of it. Use your public profile to help get your message out. Funding arrives just

in time for something you want to do.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I think I've met my prince, after never being married or even close to anyone, special. How can I be sure? I have no good relationships to compare this to, though I think it feels right. His birthday is Dec. 31, 1947, and mine is Sept. 19, 1948."

Sun signs Virgo and Capricorn are famous for losing their well-known cool over each other. Your lunar sympathies are compatible, as you both have moon in the fire sign Aries. I suspect you've spent much more energy on creating a career than on nurturing love in your life, so you doubt your ability to attract someone who can enhance your emotional world. This man is deeply in need of your Mars in Scorpio ability to help him tap deep reservoirs of affection that he hides in order to protect his fragile image of himself as the lover. His Mars in Capricorn next to his sun has enough energy to keep up with your non-stop Virgo fussing, and the remarkable connections between those two charts don't end there. You'll travel, and you'll never lack for conversation as long as you're together. On paper, it looks like smooth sailing

into the sunset!

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Jennifer Jason Leigh used her power as an actress to become an independent filmmaker. Her film "The Anniversary Party" was a digital film that utilized cutting edge technology — extremely lucky for Aquarius. As the sign of the future and new ideas, Aquarius attracts help from those rare individuals who always seem to know everything about a new

technology the day after it comes out!

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.

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Coastliners a difficult read but worthwhile one

Coastliners. Joanne Harris. HarperCollins Publisher, Inc., New York, New York. 2002.

Book Review

After living in Paris for 10 years, Madeleine returns home to Le Devin, an island off the coast of France. Madeleine's early family life was unhappy, and it was in this emotionally sad situation that Madeleine and her mother left the family home to take up residence in the mainland city. Madeleine made a living as best she could by selling her paintings, but none of her efforts seemed to please her mother.



PAT WILLIAMS

When death finally took the older woman, Madeleine was drawn back to the island even though she had heard nothing from her father since her departure.

Madeleine's arrival in the small village on the north end of the island drew little attention. While a few old friends warmly greeted her, she found her father depressed and uncommunicative; he refused to acknowledge her presence in his home.

The constant bitterness and competition between Madeleine's home village and the community to the south had grown in her absence, and the resentments among the inhabitants had increased. Madeleine felt compelled to do something positive to improve the situation, and in her attempt to provide both the impetus and method, she found a somewhat willing helper in a mysterious stranger who had made a temporary home among the residents.

With much prodding and a tremendous amount of hard work, the north coast inhabitants created physical changes along the coastline that in time caused good things to happen.

Joanne Harris, author

of the popular novel Chocolat, explores not only Madeleine's wisdom in returning home, but the complicated emotional ties she tentatively forms with the island people, as well as with her long-estranged father. In many ways, Harris uses the same theme as her other novels: a stranger in the midst of a troubled population and the changes that are wrought by a persistent belief in a good outcome.

Madeleine's character is rather intriguing; much of her life she has been rejected by her father, is estranged from her sister, and had a somewhat bitter relationship with her mother; yet from the pages she emanates the impression of strength. As the story progresses, Madeleine exhibits a yearning for acceptance and love, but she is often disappointed. This complex situation is one that propels the reader to go forward into the story; while there is no wild suspense, the story presents a desire for resolution that provides the motivation.

This definitely isn't a book that would be considered "fast reading." In the beginning there seemed to be an abundance of characters, most with confusing names and identities. The storyline of Coastliners was difficult to follow, but as the reader becomes acquainted with Madeleine, it is a bit easier to ignore the various French terms and titles and become enmeshed into the action of the characters.

Harris creatively uses the confusion of spirituality and superstition as she molds this unique tale. While the story has a somewhat dark mood, there is an underlying sense of hope and optimism that Harris weaves into the lives of those who deal with the inevitable adversities of the sea.

Pat Williams
January 18, 2004

Annie's Mailbox: Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: I'm a father and single parent. My young adult daughter has Down syndrome, as does a male friend of hers, "Randy." Each month, there is a dance for the mentally disabled in our area. Usually, Randy's mother and I alternate driving them to and from the dance. Last month, when Randy came to the door to get my daughter, I noticed a horrible odor, but I didn't say anything. When I picked the kids up from the dance, the smell in the car was so bad that my daughter let down her car window.

After some hesitation, I called Randy's mother and told her about the odor. She said, "OK," but soon called me back, saying there was something seriously wrong with me and our 23-year friendship was over. Should I have kept my mouth shut? — Confidential in Connecticut

Dear Confidential: You did nothing wrong. Let's hope this woman simply was having a stressful day. It would be a shame to lose a 23-year friendship because she was too embarrassed to understand that you were trying to help her son. Please phone her and give her a chance to reconsider her harsh reaction.

Dear Annie: This is for "Losing It in California," who is caring for her husband's 4-year-old niece. The child's mother drops the girl off with friends or relatives and doesn't bother to pick her up. "Losing" wants to protect the child.

Please tell her to draw up a simple power of attorney. This will give her temporary custody of the child and allow her to make decisions about medical care, education and discipline whenever the girl isn't with her mother. Mom should sign it in front of a notary. In fact, it's a good idea for any relative who fre-



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

quently cares for a child to have such a power of attorney in case of emergency. You can get the forms from a lawyer or download them from the Internet. — Mom in All but Name

Dear Mom: Thank you for the excellent suggestion. Readers, take note.

Dear Annie: This is in response to "Miffed in Minnesota," the tall and muscular woman who often was mistaken for a man. You suggested she wear makeup, earrings and dresses. Her question was not, "How can I look more feminine?" but, "What is the best way to handle these rude people?"

You should have told her to simply say, "I prefer to be called Ms. So-and-So, thank you." Why would you take a muscular woman and put dangling earrings, makeup and a skirt on her? Do you want people to think she is a cross-dresser? I am sure if "Miffed" felt comfortable wearing those things, she would already be doing so. — Still a Fan of Yours in Memphis

Dear Memphis: We're glad you're still a fan. "Miffed" said she is embarrassed when mistaken for a man and it wreaks havoc with her

self-confidence. It sounded as if she would like to appear more recognizably feminine, hence our advice. You are correct, however, that she should learn to be comfortable in her own skin, and we should have emphasized that. Many readers wanted to help. Read on:

From Texas: "Miffed in Minnesota" needs to adjust her attitude, not her appearance. I, too, am a tall female. People are not looking closely when they call me "sir" and are truly embarrassed when they realize their mistake. I used to get miffed, but now I smile and say, "Actually, I'm a ma'am." It gives us both a laugh and doesn't ruin anyone's day. Mistakes happen. Get over it.

New Hampshire: I'm a 60-year-old female couch potato with short hair on my head and long hair on my legs. I like men's pants because I can buy waist and inseam sizes. I like men's shoes because I don't have to squeeze my feet into them. I'm not about to buy cosmetics or jewelry. My parents, my husband and my children love and respect me. I don't need validation from anyone, much less store clerks.

Oakland: Women come in all shapes and sizes. How dare you tell her to try makeup? That kind of thinking has repressed women for generations. You should have told her she is beautiful as is, and the problem is narrow-minded, ignorant people who need to stop making assumptions. This is why young girls are anorexic and bulimic. Our culture tells them they need to be prettier and thinner.

Arizona: I'm only 5 feet 4, but gender-free, outdoorsy clothes are enough

for people to assume I'm male. My reaction is to pause, which alone gets their attention, and smile. Once they take a closer look, they apologize. I always wear lipstick, eye shadow and earrings, but the person actually has to look at me to notice.

Florida: "Miffed" shouldn't be surprised she is mistaken for a man. How many 6-foot-tall muscular women do most people see? I'm only 5 feet 7, but my shoulders are wider than my hips, so people assume I'm male. A feminine hairdo and an eye-catching hair ornament work wonders to change all that.

Michigan: I am 5 feet 9, athletic and muscular, and wear my hair short. When I was younger, comments like, "Why is that boy wearing earrings?" hurt my feelings considerably. The best boost to her self-confidence is to forget these people and take stock in those who see her as the statuesque and beautiful woman she is.

University of Vermont: Makeup and feminine clothes are the trappings of the "effeminate mystique." My partner and I are mistaken for men, and we are neither ultra feminine, nor truly masculine-looking. We don't become angry. We just smile and point out the error. Why should "Miffed" do something against her natural state to ensure that others don't make mistakes? Worse, if she wears makeup and feminine clothes, some idiot homophobe might confuse her for a drag queen.

To find out more about Annie's Mailbox, visit www.creators.com. © 2004 CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.

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FEBRUARY 5, 2004

The new Durango

Dodge redesigns popular SUV, adding comfort, Hemi power

The redesigned Dodge Durango may be the most pleasant surprise of the 2004 model year.

Already impressed with the popular-selling SUV, I was expecting the redesign to be mostly cosmetic — new Hemi engine notwithstanding.

In all honesty, when the Dodge marketing guys said this was a completely redesigned SUV from the ground up, I didn't take it literally.

But they weren't kidding.

The 2004 Durango is a remarkable machine.

Yes, there are a lot of cosmetic changes on the 04 model, but what impressed me most was the ride and handling, as well as how remarkably quiet the cabin was as you're driving down the road.

In addition to being seven inches longer, three inches wider and more than three inches taller than last year's model, the new Durango's suspension system is just phenomenal.

It also has a new chassis, designed specifically for this vehicle.

With gas-charged monotube shocks and a live

axle rear suspension system, the Durango delivers an exceptionally smooth ride on the highway.

Driving is believing, and the new Durango is certainly worth a test drive for anyone in the market for a full-size or large-size sport utility vehicle.

I couldn't believe how much room there was on the inside — above average head, shoulder and hip room for both front and rear seat passengers.

And yes, the test

vehicle was equipped with the optional Hemi Magnum V-8 engine (335 horsepower/370 lb.-ft. torque) requiring mid-level (87-89 octane) gasoline.

The base powerplant is a 3.7-liter V-6 (210 horsepower/235 lb.-ft. torque) requiring regular unleaded gasoline. Consumers also have the option of a 4.7-liter Magnum V-8 engine (230 horsepower/290 lb.-ft. torque) also requiring regular unleaded gasoline.

Two automatic transmissions are available — a four-speed with overdrive or a five-speed.



The 2004 Dodge Durango

It has a towing capacity of up to 8,950 pounds (w/Hemi).

With seating available for up to seven passengers (with the optional Fold and Tumble third row seat), the new Durango is available in both rear-wheel and four-wheel drive configurations.

The rear doors also open 84 degrees, which makes it a lot easier to get in and out of the back seat.

It is available in three trim levels — ST, SLT and Limited, with SLT and Limited models featuring two-tone leather interiors.

I have nothing but praise for the new Durango, which I feel exceeds its billing as offering customers more of everything — more space, more power, more comfort, more capacity.

Dodge has also added a long list of comfort and

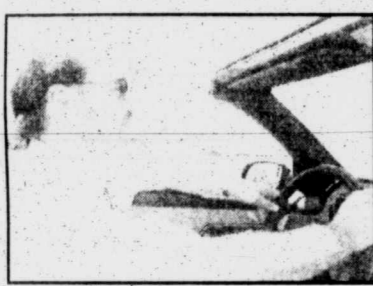
convenience options, which include a factory installed DVD system with wireless headsets that can play MP3 and game systems, a 384 watt stereo system with rear subwoofer, and Sirius satellite radio.

Buyers can also opt for the UConnect hands-free communications system with Bluetooth technology.

I give the 2004 Dodge Durango an enthusiastic recommendation. It is well worth a test drive for anyone looking for an SUV.

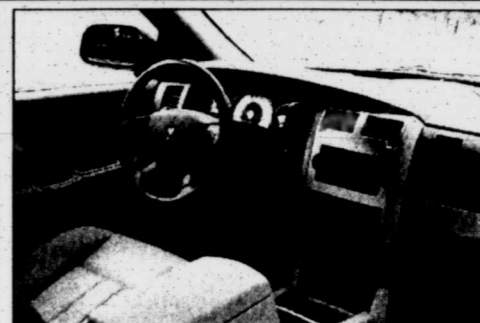
Neal White has been covering the automotive industry for more than 10 years and is affiliated with the Texas Auto Writers Association and the Midwest Automotive Media Association. Comments may be sent to Neal at neal.white@waxahachiedaily.com.

ON THE ROAD



By NEAL WHITE

THE NUTS AND BOLTS



STEERING:

Power rack-and-pinion

TURNING CIR.: 37.5-feet

SUSPENSION:

Upper and lower

'A' arms (front), live

axle, link coil with

Watt's linkage

(rear)

and gas-charged

monotube shocks.

LENGTH:

200.8 inches

WHEELBASE:

119.2 inches

WEIGHT:

4,830 pounds (2WD w/4.7 V-

8)

WIDTH: 76 inches

HEIGHT: 74.3 inches

HEAD ROOM: 40.8 inches

(Front) 39.2 inches (2nd and

3rd rows)

TIRES: 17-inch

FUEL TANK: 27 gallons

CARGO CAP.: 20.1/68.4/

102.4 cubic ft. (behind third

row/second row/first row)

MODEL:

2004 Dodge Durango

Rear-wheel drive

Four-wheel drive

5-, 7-passenger seating

PRICE RANGE:

\$27,000 - \$40,000

ENGINE:

3.7-L V-6 (210 hp/235 torque)

4.7-L V-8 (230 hp/290 torque)

5.7-L Hemi V-8

(335 hp/370 torque)

TRANSMISSION:

4-speed automatic

5-speed automatic

EPA: 16 mph city/21 mph

highway (V-6)

BRAKES: Vinted

disc with ABS



A LITTLE EGG

Once, there was a little egg lying on the ground in a farmer's pasture.

The little egg was all by himself and he didn't know who he was. His parents had already left him to grow up all alone as a lot of birds and animals do.

"I wonder who I am and what my name is," thought the little egg.

Ho looked around and saw a bird perching in the treetop. "I hope I am not a bird. Look at the bird. All he is doing is eating those hard seeds from the bushes, and they don't look very good. I hope I am not a bird!" thought the little egg.

Then he saw a beautiful horse. "I hope I am a horse. He is eating that tender green grass and the farmer brushes his coat and makes him look so nice. But horses don't come from eggs, so who am I?" thought the little egg.

Then he saw a cow. "I hope I am a cow. Look at those beautiful eyes she has. And they get to stand in the shade all day and chew their cud. They also make beautiful moosic with their deep voices. But cows don't come from eggs, so I can't be a cow. I hope that I am not a bird!" thought the little egg.

He saw a pig playing in the mud. "I hope I am a pig. Look at all the fun he is having playing in that mud. I hope I am a pig. But pigs don't come from eggs, so who am I?" thought the little egg.

Then it happened!

The egg's shell started to open. "What is happening to me?" the little egg said. He broke all the way open and came out of the eggshell. He could walk! What am I? He walked very well so he went down to the farmers barn. He found a mirror sitting next to a big haystack and then he looked at himself for the first time. "Oh No!" he shouted, "I am a bird!"

The little bird grew up eating those hard seeds which to his surprise tasted pretty good.

Then he realized that he could fly!

"Wow! Look at all of the beautiful things that I can see from way up here," he said. He could see things that all of the animals on the ground would never see.

The horse saw him flying way up there in the sky. The cow saw him, flying safely anywhere he wanted to go. The pig saw him and wished that he could fly, too.

THE END



Howard County Library

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264-2260

Fax: 264-2263

Library Hours:

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Sat. 8 am-1 pm

www.howard-county.lib.tx.us



S

Realig

By TOMMY WE

Sports Editor

When the Interscholastic Association held its biennial meeting Monday, a few athletes were left scrambling for their non-district spots when team drop games or moved into their

Two of the area's biggest championships and Garden City were forced to non-district spots when the UIL moved Class 2A to Class

Haw

to me

Frank

Phillip

By TOMMY WE

Sports Editor

Make no mistake, it, there are fewer row's left for the College Hawks head into tonight's showdown with Phillips College men at Dorothy Coliseum.

Coming off a win to Midland Monday night, the find themselves needs of a win Frank Phillips is keep their hopes a top four finish Western Junior Athletic Conference. A win over Plainmen would plish two things HC men.

First, it would them erase the of Monday's head into the series of the WJCAC high note.

Secondly, it would the Hawks head to Frank Phillips conference on January. The reeled off an 11- in the second claimed a 87-82

Howard College is led by the play Goff, Jon Sykes Story, enters match with a 13- and tied for third WJCAC race with Phillips. Both 4-3 in loop action

The Howard Lady Hawks wing to add to the success when the the court tonight the Lady Phillips Howard can make tie for fourth beat FPC for the time this season

A win would the Lady Hawks this year — eclip team's win total ago.

Howard enters game at 10-13 Frank Phillips 1-5.

NFL alter

showcas

HONOLULU The NFL is chartering Pro Bowl's halftime show because of Jackson's brazen incident at the Bowl. Singer Jay-Z was dumped from the program for the all-Sunday after the Sync member Timberlake's st Jackson at the onship game.

The new Pro B

Realignment forces locals to change schedules

By TOMMY WELLS

Sports Editor

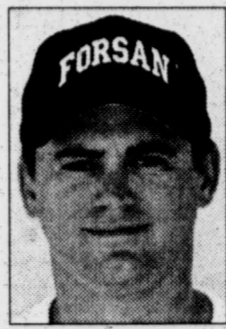
When the University Interscholastic League announced its biennial realignment Monday, a few area coaches were left scrambling to fill holes in their non-district schedules created when teams were forced to drop games or, in some cases, moved into their districts.

Two of the area schools making the biggest change were Forsan and Garden City. The Buffaloes were forced to rearrange their non-district slate dramatically when the UIL moved them from Class 2A to Class A and placed

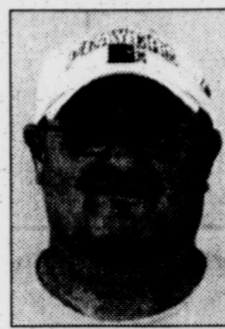
them in a seven-team district.

Having just three non-district dates to fill, Forsan head coach Tommy Thompson did what most Texas coaches did. He filled the dates as quickly as possible in order not to be left out in the cold.

"We scrambled to fill it quickly," said Thompson, who was saddened to see the Buffs' long-



THOMPSON



BUTLER

standing rivalries with Coahoma and Stanton come to a halt. "We had to drop two games that we really would have liked to play because the dates didn't work for either

around," he said.

Despite losing rivalries with Coahoma and Stanton, Thompson said his players seemed to take the news of their drop to 1A in stride.

"They seem to be excited about it," he said. "I think it will be a great opportunity for us because it is going to put us in a super competitive district.

"I'm trying to keep them (the players) realistic about this," he added. "Just because we're dropping down doesn't mean we're going to go out and win. We're going to have to work our tails off to play with the Roscoes and

See **CHANGES**, Page 2B

IN BRIEF

Lady Steers to face faculty in first bout

The Big Spring Lady Steers will unofficially open their 2004 season with a "Meet the Lady Steers" rag ball game against the Big Spring High School faculty at 2 p.m. Saturday at the Lady Steers Softball Complex.

The BSSH softball boosters will also be holding a hamburger feed at noon as a fundraiser. Persons purchasing a \$5 meal ticket will automatically be entered into a "Big Spring Steers" quilt giveaway.

Tickets for the event can be purchased from any BSSH player or from Kay Cook at the high school ATC.

Little League officials set to meet Feb. 8

Big Spring Little League officials will hold a community meeting Sunday to elect officers and coaches for the 2004 season.

The meeting is scheduled to begin at 3:30 p.m. at the Howard County Library building.

Persons interested in an office or serving as coaches should attend the meeting.

HC men, women to host Frank Phillips

The Howard College men's basketball team will host Frank Phillips College today in the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

The HC men, 13-6 and 3-2, will begin play at 8 p.m. The HC women will begin their WJCAC encounter at 6 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.

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

BSCGA to hold membership drive

The Big Spring Chicano Golf Association will be holding its annual membership drive on Feb. 15 at the Comanche Trail Golf Course.

For more information contact Billy Pineda after 8 p.m. at 264-7116.

BSCC to hold 4-man scramble on Feb. 28

The Big Spring Country Club will hold a 4-Person Scramble on Feb. 28-29 beginning with a 1 p.m. shotgun start on both days. Entry fee is \$75 per player plus golf cart. Private carts are welcome.

For more information call (432) 267-5354.

ON THE AIR

Sports Broadcast Schedule

Event, Time, Station
Feb. 8
Lady Hawks vs. Frank Phillips, 5:45 p.m., 1490
Hawks vs. Frank Phillips, 7:50 p.m., 1490

Hawks to meet Frank Phillips

By TOMMY WELLS

Sports Editor

Make no mistake about it, there are few tomorrow's left for the Howard College Hawks as they head into tonight's showdown with the Frank Phillips College Plainsmen at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

Coming off a tough loss to Midland College Monday night, the Hawks find themselves in dire needs of a win over Frank Phillips in order to keep their hopes alive for a top four finish in the Western Junior College Athletic Conference race. A win over the Plainsmen would accomplish two things for the HC men.

First, it would help them erase the memories of Monday's loss and head into the second half of the WJCAC slate on a high note.

Secondly, it would help the Hawks heal emotionally from a stunning loss to Frank Phillips in their conference opener in January. The Plainsmen reeled off an 11-0 run late in the second half and claimed a 87-82 win.

Howard College, which is led by the play of Steve Goff, Jon Sykes and Steve Story, enters today's match with a 13-6 record and tied for third in the WJCAC race with Frank Phillips. Both teams are 4-3 in loop action.

The Howard College Lady Hawks will be trying to add to their recent success when they take to the court tonight against the Lady Plainsmen. Howard can move into a tie for fourth should it beat FPC for the second time this season.

A win would also give the Lady Hawks 11 wins this year — eclipsing the team's win total of a year ago.

Howard enters the game at 10-13 and 2-4. Frank Phillips is 7-10 and 1-5.

Taking the Next Step



Coahoma's Kelby Kemper became the first area football standout to sign with a college scholarship deal Wednesday when he inked with Midwestern State University. Looking on were Coahoma head coach Robert Wood and Bill and Laura Kemper.

Coahoma standout first Crossroads star to sign college football deal

By TOMMY WELLS

Sports Editor

COAHOMA — Kelby Kemper is taking his game to the next level.

The Coahoma High School standout became the first Crossroads area football player to sign a collegiate scholarship Wednesday afternoon when he inked a deal to play next fall at Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls.

"I'm excited about going there," said Kemper, who turned down invitations from Texas Tech and Rice. "It's a great place. They run the offense I feel comfortable in so I feel like it was the best fit for me."

Kemper, who overcame a painful hip injury that ended his junior season early, was among the top receivers in the state. The 6-foot-3, 220-pound receiver hauled in 93 receptions for 1,925 yards and 26 touchdowns, and was named the District 3-2A most valuable player.

"Kelby wanted to play some more and this is a great opportunity for him," said Coahoma head coach

Robert Wood. "I'm happy for him because he earned this, and because he's excited about this."

"We're all excited and proud of him for getting a chance to play at the next level and continue his education," he added.

Kemper, a second-team all-state pick, was one of the area's most recruited athletes, receiving looks from Texas Tech, Rice, Abilene Christian, Angelo State, Southern Arkansas, Tarleton State and West Texas A&M.

Midwestern State projects Kemper to be one of the Tribe's outside receivers — possibly even this season.

Texas Tech and Rice both issued invitations to the son of Bill and Laura Kemper to attend camp and try to earn a walk-on roster spot. Both schools said he could have earned scholarships next fall if he managed to make the team.

"It was nice to hear from them (the Division I schools)," said Kemper, who owns the school's all-time mark for receptions and

receiving yards in a single season. "Midwestern Just had the best deal for me. I can go there to play football and stay with my sister."

A three-sports standout at Coahoma, he will be joining former Howard College softball standout Kortney Kemper at the Lone State Conference school. She was an all-conference pick at catcher last season for the Lady Hawks.

At Midwestern, Kemper will be joining an MSU squad that nearly reached the playoffs a year ago. The Indians posted a 7-4 record under head coach Bill Maskill in 2003.

"I really feel good about going there," said Kemper, who made the 3-2A all-district first-team roster at wide receiver, safety and punter. "They school and their facilities are great. Even their uniforms are nice if you get down to it."

The Midwestern State University campus served as the Dallas Cowboys' preseason camp for five years prior to this season when Dallas moved to San Antonio.

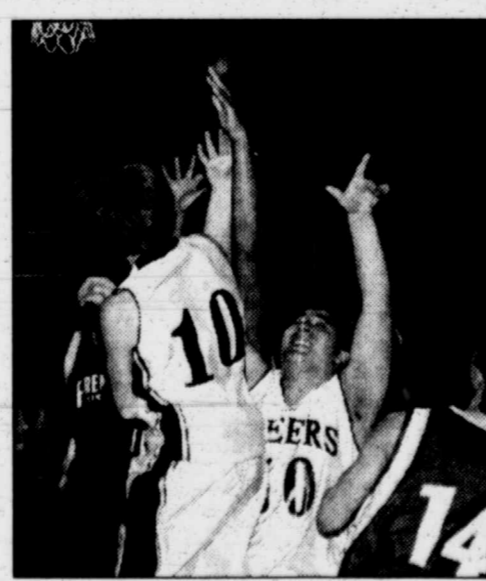
NFL alters Pro Bowl halftime showcase, drops rock acts

HONOLULU (AP) — The NFL is changing the Pro Bowl's halftime show because of Janet Jackson's breast-baring incident at the Super Bowl. Singer JC Chasez was dumped from the program for the all-star game Sunday after fellow 'N Sync member Justin Timberlake's stunt with Jackson at the championship game.

The new Pro Bowl half-

time plan includes hula dancers, drummers, conch shell blowers and local singers.

Timberlake ripped off a piece of Jackson's outfit, exposing one of her breasts covered only with a "nipple shield" during the halftime show Sunday. Jackson issued an apology Monday night, saying it was a last-minute stunt that went awry.



Herald Photo/Tommy Wells
Big Spring's Brandon Gross (10) and Jeremy Cerda attempt to block a shot in Tuesday's game against Frenship. The Steers are scheduled to host Estacado Friday at the Steer Gym.

WUSA to hold three tourneys this summer

WASHINGTON (AP) — As many as three soccer tournaments will be organized by the WUSA, which folded last year but hopes to relaunch in 2005.

U.S. national team stars Mia Hamm, Brandi Chastain and Abby Wambach will play in the four-team June tournaments. Venues will be announced by the end of February.

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NFL has more pressing matters than Super Bowl peep show

By FILIP BONDY

NEW YORK (KRT) — Three days after the halftime peep show, grainy visions of Janet Jackson's right breast have not disturbed my sleep, my eating schedule or my moral compass. The black strip that now follows her everywhere, however, is really beginning to bug me.

During its sudden, unexpected appearance at halftime of the Super Bowl, the offending breast (anatomically speaking, a series of milk-producing glands surrounded by fatty tissue and flesh) took up about one-hundredth of my television screen. It might have been a dust ball, floating down from the top of the console. I probably wouldn't have noticed it at all if newspaper and TV reports hadn't blown up the object to "Everything You Ever Wanted To Know about Sex..." proportions, even while decrying its vulgarity.

Janet's breast deeply disturbs both the FCC and Paul Tagliabue. And while I can't pretend to understand Tagliabue's sense of shame (I am no puritan. The Mayflower is not my vessel of choice), I applaud the commissioner's inclination to repent for the sad, immoral state of the NFL.

I can help. As another football season ends, here are 10 things Tagliabue really ought to be embarrassed about, that have nothing to do with Ms. Jackson's chest. He may begin apologizing at his convenience.

• GLORIFICATION OF VIOLENCE: The NFL punctuates its own TV ads and its highlights with vicious, blind-side tackles, amplifying the concussive moment of impact through close-up camera work and thudding volume. While the game's guardians prosecute with relish all rebellious end-zone celebra-

tions, they don't come down as hard on linemen and defensive backs who injure quarterbacks or wide receivers.

• THE WASHINGTON REDSKINS: The single-most offensive nickname in America — racist by nature and doubly despicable when linked to our nation's capital. The band, the fans and the whole ugly scene at FedEx Field make Janet's breast a welcome, Rainbow-Coalition sight by contrast.

• UNFAIR LABOR PRACTICES: The only big-time pro league with no guaranteed contracts for its players, the NFL demands freakish, gigantic bodies that are more susceptible to injury. Unskilled hulks are disposed of quickly, like cattle. While this policy does wonders for parity and profits, it dehumanizes players and creates an insecure work environment that always favors management, while discouraging any strike talk.

• COMMERCIAL EXPLOITATION OF MILITARY AND SPACE CONQUESTS: What was that cheesy walking-on-the-moon stuff about before the Super Bowl on Sunday? And back when the Giants were in Super Bowl XXXV, poor Sting found himself rehearsing for a halftime show next to Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf.

• RACIAL HIRING PRACTICES: In his 2003 Racial and Gender Report Card, Dr. Richard Lapchick at the Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sports gave the NFL a "D" and noted, "The league in all positions showed significant declines for both race and gender. It had the lowest combined grade in all the sports covered in the report."

So what does Tagliabue do? He refuses to extend the so-called "Rooney Rule" to front-office hiring, which would have required an interview of a minority candidate for all

management positions.

• RADIO SIGNALS INSIDE THE HELMETS OF QUARTERBACKS: This remains one of the most bizarre evolutions in all sports, and an electronic symbol of how coaches have stolen the game from the players. It is unthinkable that such a thing could ever happen in baseball, basketball, hockey, soccer or any other professional team sport not involving a race car.

• CHEERLEADERS: Janet Jackson manipulated the halftime occasion for her own enrichment, knowing sex and controversy sell. She'll make millions off her new album. In exchange, Tagliabue got ratings from her performance. Seems like a fair trade.

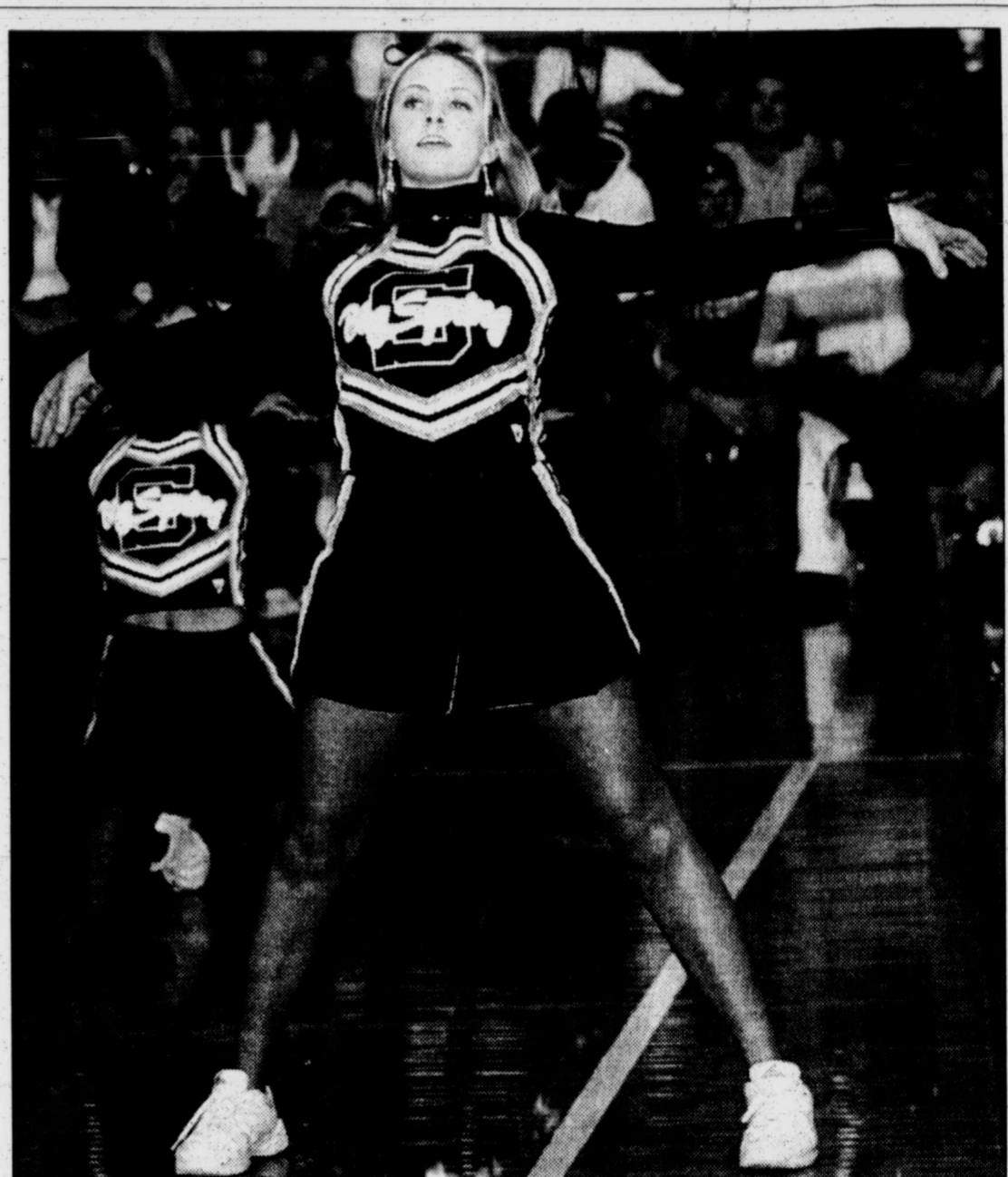
Now compare this to the raw deal received by underpaid and scantily clad professional cheerleaders, freezing along the sidelines. They promote NFL product with their bodies, and have no albums to sell.

• A HOMOPHOBIC CLUB PRESIDENT: Somehow, Matt Millen is still president of the Detroit Lions, even after he screamed a vile word at Chiefs wide receiver Johnnie Morton. What sort of message does this send about tolerance to those children supposedly ruined for life by Janet?

• EROSION OF REFERENCE POWERS THROUGH REPLAY REVIEWS: If the NFL cares so much about perfect equity, why skew its schedules?

• ALL OTHER SUPER BOWL HALFTIMES, PRE-BREAST: These shows were never exemplary of good taste or solid production values. It's amazing, actually, that Britney Spears didn't think of Janet's stunt three years ago.

Big mistake. Now Janet is queen of TiVo, and nobody is watching Britney kiss Madonna anymore.



Ashton Evans performs a step during the Big Spring High School cheerleaders' halftime routine Tuesday at the Steer Gym. The BSHS squad will make its final appearance at home in support of the Big Spring Lady Steers Friday. The Lady Steers will close out their 2003-2004 home slate against Lubbock Estacado.

Memphis upsets sixth-ranked Louisville

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — Rodney Carney scored 19 points and keyed a second-half rally, helping Memphis upset No. 6 Louisville 62-58 Wednesday night.

The short-handed Cardinals lost their second in a row, both since coach Rick Pitino returned from a two-day medical leave. They had won 16 in a row before falling to Marquette.

Louisville (16-3, 6-2 Conference USA) played without injured starters

Taquan Dean and reserve Nouha Diakite. Garcia, the team's leading scorer at 15.8 points per game, was out with an ankle injury.

Memphis (15-4, 6-2) overcame a nine-point deficit in the second half and won its sixth in a row. The Tigers shot only 39 percent, but had four players score in double figures.

Larry O'Bannon led Louisville with 26 points. He had the Cardinals' only six points on a 3-pointer and three free

throws — in the final nine minutes.

No. 4 Pittsburgh 71 St. John's 51

PITTSBURGH (AP) Chris Taft scored 15 points to help Pittsburgh rout St. John's for the Panthers' school-record 17th home win of the season.

The Panthers (21-1, 7-1 Big East) have won 39 consecutive home games and are 33-0 at the Petersen Events Center.

Jaron Brown added 13 points, and Chevon Troutman had 11.

Nowitzki scores 28 in Mavs' 113-104 win

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Dirk Nowitzki's 28 points and 11 rebounds led the Dallas Mavericks to a 113-104 victory over New Orleans Wednesday night, extending the Hornets' losing streak to four games.

Michael Finley scored 22 and banked in a 3-pointer from nearly 30 feet that all but put the game away, putting Dallas ahead 101-92 with

about 2 1/2 minutes left. Steve Nash added 18 points and 12 assists as the Mavericks won for the 11th time in 13 games.

Darrell Armstrong led New Orleans with 27 points. He hit five 3-pointers, including two early in the fourth quarter to keep New Orleans in the game. One day after being selected to his first All-Star game, Jamaal Magloire had 23 points

and 12 rebounds. Jamal Mashburn scored 19 but shot 4-of-17 in the first three quarters.

Dallas reserve Antawn Jamison's ability to get open inside frustrated the Hornets in the final period. He scored four inside baskets in the quarter as part of his 17 points.

With the victory over Charlotte, Dallas improved to 10-14 on the road.

CHANGES

Continued from Page 1B

Robys." The Buffs will have numbers in their favors, however. Of all the schools placed in the District 10-A field, the Forsan has the largest enrollment — about five more than Winters.

Forsan's 2004 non-district schedule will feature bouts with Iraan, Hawley and Christoval.

Coahoma head coach Robert Wood was also forced to rework his non-district slate after two teams he was slated to play — Sonora and Ozona — were forced to cancel dates when they were placed into a large district.

"We had to fill two dates," said Wood, who guided the Bulldogs to their second district crown in 30 years last fall. "Ozona and Sonora were placed in an eight-team district and couldn't play us so we picked up Jim

Ned and Clyde." Jim Ned advanced to the state finals last season.

Perhaps no team faced as big a change as Garden City. The Bearkats will face only one team they played a year ago — and that team (Robert Lee) will be in their district.

The reason for the change? Garden City will be playing six-man football this coming year.

The scheduling issue wasn't a major obstacle for head coach Ken Hoskins, however. He had the Bearkats' non-district slate prepared months ago.

Among the Bearkats' first five games will be Grandfalls-Royalty, Ira, Sanderson, El Paso Jesus Chapel and Midland Trinity.

Garden City, which is making its first foray into six-man action since the 1960s, is scheduled to face Robert Lee, Water Valley, Veribest, Paint Rock and Blackwell in loop action next year.

"I think it's a pretty good draw for us," said Koskins, who led Whitharral to the 2001 state six-man championship.

Sands and Grady both suffered a minimal hit in redistricting. The Wildcats and Mustangs were forced to fill one date when Welman-Union replaced long-time rival Borden County in their district.

One team that didn't receive any last-minute shocks from the redistricting process was the Big Spring Steers.

"We kind of expected what happened," said Big Spring head coach Dwight Butler, who saw Plainview replace Levelland in District 4-4A. "We picked up a school to replace Plainview a while back so it wasn't a problem for us."

To replace Plainview on its non-district schedule, Big Spring agreed to play Lubbock High School.

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By DAVID I Knight Riddle

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Matt Kenseth defend their

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Matt Kenseth anything le him.

"With all the que asked in the last thr should know everyt me," said Kenseth, to Daytona (Fla.) In Speedway's Speedy champion of NASC

When Kenseth w championship last so points race from the son's end. He was u points at one stage a with one race left, al last at Homestead-M the finale and still be by 90 points.

Because he was c Kenseth had plenty o the additional attenti this year as the reign doesn't mean, howev ed who he is or what

That's Racin'

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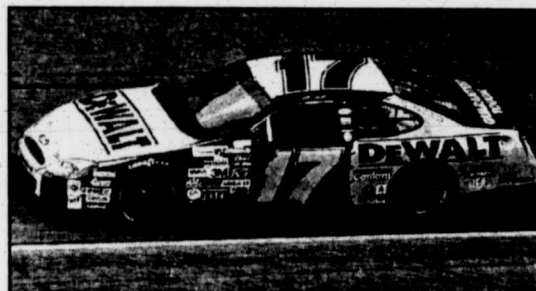
Go online and check out www.thatstracin.com for the latest information and news on stock-car racing, updated daily.

Racing rankings

By DAVID POOLE
Knight Ridder Newspapers

That's Racin' ranks the top-40 Nextel Cup teams of the 2004 season. Rankings are based on the team's status as the 2004 season begins and its likelihood of success:

- Ryan Newman (car No. 12):** A lot of people wondered why he didn't win the championship with eight victories in 2003. Nobody will have to wonder this year. Last year's final team ranking: 2.
- Jimmie Johnson (car No. 48):** New points format figures to be ideal for this group. It seems like the team has been in the top 10 longer than Duke has (in college basketball). Last year's final team ranking: 3.
- Kevin Harvick (car No. 29):** Give Harvick a sniff of title contention with 10 races left and he'll be hard to handle. Last year's final team ranking: 5.
- Tony Stewart (car No. 20):** He's as talented as anybody driving any kind of race car in the world today. Last year's final team ranking: 7.
- Matt Kenseth (car No. 17):** Disrespect for the 2003 champ? Perhaps, but on paper he's just not the man to beat. Last year's final team ranking: 1.



STEPHEN M. DOWELL/KRKT
Matt Kenseth and the No. 17 team hope to defend their series title this season.

- Jeff Gordon (car No. 24):** No longer the precocious young hot shot but make no mistake — he's still pretty good. Last year's final team ranking: 8.
- Dale Earnhardt Jr. (car No. 8):** He's slid a few spots as cracks began to show in the DEI palace walls in recent weeks. Last year's final team ranking: 4.
- Kurt Busch (car No. 97):** Season could go either way. He could contend for championship or slip out of the top 10. Last year's final team ranking: 10.
- Bobby Labonte (car No. 18):** He could be worth watching if he makes the championship chase cut. Last year's final team ranking: 9.
- Jamie McMurray (car No. 42):** If there's going to be a breakout star this season, here's our pick for whom that will be. Last year's final team ranking: 11.
- Mark Martin (car No. 6):** One of several veterans hoping a new season's clean slate helps him get back on track. Last year's final team ranking: 20.
- Jeremy Mayfield (car No. 13):** Midway of last season he seemed on the way out, now he's Everham Motorsports' top dog. Last year's final team ranking: 19.
- Rusty Wallace (car No. 2):** He championed the push for smaller spoilers and softer tires. Can he make hay with them? Last year's final team ranking: 15.
- Dale Jarrett (car No. 88):** You get the feeling things can't go as badly as they did last year. Or can they? Last year's final team ranking: 22.
- Michael Waltrip (car No. 15):** If there were really internal turmoil at DEI, the effects would show up first with this team. Last year's final team ranking: 14.



Wallace

Rating the top teams before the start of the Nextel Cup's first season



RALPH LAUER/KRKT
After winning eight races last season, Ryan Newman tops the '04 preseason rankings.

- Greg Biffle (car No. 16):** Didn't seem like the world's happiest camper at times in 2003 but has promise. Last year's final team ranking: 18.
- Jeff Burton (car No. 99):** This team and driver having no sponsor is an ominous sign of the sport's overall health. Last year's final team ranking: 16.
- Brian Vickers (car No. 25):** Rookie race could be a good one, but Hendrick team backing gives him a decided edge. Last year's final team ranking: 29.
- Sterling Marlin (car No. 40):** Seeking to shake bad luck — and bad results — that made 2003 a largely miserable year. Last year's final team ranking: 17.
- Terry Labonte (car No. 5):** Found some magic to make the top 10 last season. It'd be a neater trick if he can do it again. Last year's final team ranking: 12.

21 Robby Gordon (car No. 31): Could wind up much higher if Richard Childress Racing has its act together. Last year's final team ranking: 19.

22 Ricky Rudd (car No. 21): It'll be interesting to see what this team's move to Charlotte, N.C., will do to its chemistry. Last year's final team ranking: 24.



Rudd

23 Elliott Sadler (car No. 38): Last year's struggles have to be put in the past. This team needs some success in 2004. Last year's final team ranking: 22.

24 Kasey Kahne (car No. 9): How will the rookie fit on a team that was one of sport's strongest down the stretch last year? Last year's final team ranking: 6.

25 Brendan Gaughan (car No. 77): Gaughan gets to step up from the Trucks series into a Cup team that's now part of Penske stable. Last year's final team ranking: 28.

26 Ricky Craven (car No. 32): This team does nice job of clearing the hurdles placed in front of single-car teams. Last year's final team ranking: 31.



Nemechek

27 Joe Nemechek (car No. 01): Nemechek has an army of supporters in a ride Jerry Nadeau someday wants to get back. Last year's final team ranking: 27.

28 Ward Burton (car No. 0): Burton has higher expectations out of this team than we do, so a surprise is possible. Last year's final team ranking: 25.

29 Johnny Sauter (car No. 30): Rookie Sauter was clearly the plan B when Jeff Burton decided not to take this ride. Last year's final team ranking: 38.

30 Scott Riggs (car No. 10): Riggs had his Busch Series moments. Team gets fresh start after Johnny Benson era. Last year's final team ranking: 32.

31 Jeff Green (car No. 43): Petty Enterprises still has a long way to go on its long road back to respectability. Last year's final team ranking: 39.

32 Casey Mears (car No. 41): Team owner Chip Ganassi thinks this is a top-20 team. We think that's being optimistic. Last year's final team ranking: 36.

33 Bill Elliott (car No. 91): If this team were going to show up every week, we'd have Elliott near the top 10. Last year's final team ranking: Not ranked.

34 Ken Schrader (car No. 49): Sponsorship deal came together in the nick of time and could help this team do more. Last year's final team ranking: 35.

35 Scott Wimmer (car No. 22): Drunken driving charge against Wimmer puts black cloud over this team from the start. Last year's final team ranking: 30.

36 Kevin Lepage (car No. 4): Lately, Morgan-McClure team seems like it's running uphill in mud wearing skis. Last year's final team ranking: 40.

37 Kyle Petty (car No. 45): At least it'll be a big year off the track with the opening of the Victory Junction Gang Camp. Last year's final team ranking: Not ranked.

38 Jimmy Spencer (car No. 7): This team won't be around long without a sponsor. Toyota is probably not a candidate. Last year's final team ranking: 21.

39 Tony Raines (car No. 74): Sponsorship issues also call into question the future of a team that overachieved last year. Last year's final team ranking: 26.

40 Larry Foyt (car No. 14): Yet another team that opens the year with little more than a big dose of uncertainty. Last year's final team ranking: Not ranked.

POLL POSITION

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

Who'll win the poll for the Daytona 500?

Cast your vote at:

www.thatstracin.com

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION

Who will win the inaugural Nextel Cup rookie of the year award?

Number of votes: 10,104

Driver	No. of votes	Percent
Scott Riggs	4,377	43.3%
Brian Vickers	2,836	28.1%
Kasey Kahne	1,128	11.2%
Brendan Gaughan	1,059	10.5%
Johnny Sauter	449	4.4%
Scott Wimmer	255	2.5%

RACIN' NOTES

Record purse set for this year's Daytona 500

The 46th annual Daytona 500, the biggest and most prestigious race in the NASCAR Nextel Cup Series, will boast the biggest purse in the history of stock-car racing.

The posted awards for this year's Daytona 500 on Sunday, Feb. 15, are \$15,972,513, an increase of nearly \$2 million from last year's posted awards. The posted awards for last year's Daytona 500, won by Michael Waltrip, were \$14,030,129.

The first driver to take the checkered flag in the Daytona 500 will pocket a minimum of \$1,391,730. The second-, third-, fourth- and fifth-place finishers will receive a minimum of \$986,325, \$693,550, \$541,750 and \$413,950, respectively. The last-place finisher in the Daytona 500 will earn a minimum of \$177,058.

BAM finds sponsor for No. 49 Dodge race team

On Monday, Schwan's Home Service — a unit of The Schwan Food Co. — announced a multiyear sponsorship deal with BAM Racing's No. 49 Dodge and veteran driver Ken Schrader in the NASCAR Nextel Cup Series.



Schrader

The Schwan Food Co.'s line of consumer brands include Schwan's, Red Baron and Mrs. Smiths.

"We are very excited to have one of the best-known names in the food industry join us as we work towards our first pole, our first race victory and our first championship as a team," said team owner Beth Ann Morgenthau.

"We are excited to be associated again with NASCAR and Mr. Schrader, who drove Schwan's No. 90 Red Baron Thunderbird in the late 1980s," said Lenny Pippin, president and CEO of The Schwan Food Co. "We are seeing a groundswell of excitement about this partnership among Schwan's Home Service's millions of customer families across the United States who believe that Schwan and BAM have the potential to be a major force in the Nextel Cup Series."

Schrader said he was looking forward to being associated with the company once again in his racing career.

"It's been about 15 years since I raced for Red Baron Pizza, but our friendship has remained strong and we always hoped to work with Schwan's again. This is a great opportunity for all of us, and it adds another chapter to a great sponsor-driver relationship," Schrader said.

— That'sRacin.com



Schwan's Food Co. is the new sponsor for BAM Racing's No. 49 Dodge Intrepid team.

Cup champion Kenseth focuses on racing, not what others think

Matt Kenseth can't believe there's anything left for anybody to ask him.

"With all the questions I've been asked in the last three months everybody should know everything there is about me," said Kenseth, who this week heads to Daytona (Fla.) International Speedway's Speedweeks as reigning champion of NASCAR's top series.

When Kenseth won the Winston Cup championship last season, he led the points race from the fourth race until season's end. He was up by nearly 500 points at one stage and clinched the title with one race left, allowing him to finish last at Homestead-Miami Speedway in the finale and still beat Jimmie Johnson by 90 points.

Because he was out front for so long, Kenseth had plenty of time to get used to the additional attention he'll get early this year as the reigning champion. That doesn't mean, however, that he's adjusted who he is or what he has to say to

appease any expectations others might have for someone in his position.

"I think there are quieter people out there than me who talk less than I do or that might be harder to get to know than I am," Kenseth said. "There are probably people that are a lot more outgoing than I am, too. I don't know."

"I never worried about what the outside people really thought of me. I didn't go out and try to get attention. I didn't go out and try not to get attention. I go to the racetrack and try to do the best job I can. The reason I'm here is because I'm a race-car driver and that's what I try to do the best is figure out how to make our cars as fast as we can and try to run the best we can. I feel like that's my job and that's what I try to do."



DAVID POOLE

Kenseth is not flashy. He doesn't give good sound bites. He has a dry wit, but doesn't yuck it up for the cameras. When there's a rain delay, he's not going to be the guy who invites the network boys into his motorhome for some wacky hijinks.

Because of that, and because he kept such a stranglehold on the points lead last season, he's going to have to keep answering

questions about whether NASCAR's new "Chase for the Championship" points system for the 2004 Nextel Cup series is in direct response to Kenseth's championship.

Kenseth doesn't really know how to answer. At times, he's felt that's true and, at times, he's been convinced it's not. He could try to look at it as a compliment — if they have to change the rules to stop you from succeeding, that's a pretty strong statement. Or, he could

consider it an insult and allow that to provide motivation for 2004.

Kenseth won only once last year, at Las Vegas. That's a fact, and so is the fact that Ryan Newman won eight times. Nobody seems to have a problem remembering that data, but nobody ever seems to remember the fact that Kenseth finished ahead of Newman more times than Newman finished ahead of Kenseth last year.

In 2002, Kenseth led the Cup series with five victories but Tony Stewart won the championship. You don't hear much about that, either. If Kenseth wanted to, he could work up a good complex about all of that.

Instead, Kenseth just goes to work. "When we went into last year, we didn't purposely go in and say, 'We don't want to win the most races in the series,'" he said. "That wasn't the plan."

"In 2002 when we won those races, a lot of things went right for us. Like Ryan Newman winning those eight races, that

easily could have been a three-race or four-race win season for him, but circumstances went his way in other races.

"He did a great job and his crew did a great job, but ... things fell just right for them to win those races and that's the way we were in 2002. We ran really good and were competitive and led laps and ran up front, but also when it came to winning races, we had things kind of go our way."

"We just kind of had a lot of things work out right, whereas last year ... we had chances to win races, but we just didn't capitalize on them last year as well as we did the year before."

"Everybody thinks we did different things and raced different but we really didn't."

And Kenseth won't be any different this year, whether he wins a lot of races or dominates the points race. But until somebody takes the title away from him, he is still NASCAR's champion.

Nobody can question that.

FEBRUARY 2004

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EDWARD'S HEIGHTS AREA. 3 Bedroom 2 bath w/pool. \$1250.00 month (w/pool & yard maintenance). Pets O.K., Smoking Outside Only. \$1000.00 Deposit required. Call (432) 517-0038.

LARGE CLEAN 1 bdrm 1 bath. \$250/mo. \$150/Deposit. No Bills Paid. Call (432)264-6611

Real Estate for Rent

Real Estate for Rent

MIDWAY AREA, small 2 Bedroom Mobile Home. \$300/mo. \$150/Deposit. Washer/ Dryer, CH/A. HUD approved. Call (432)393-5585 or 270-3928.

NEW OWNERSHIP 1 & 2 Bdrm. Apt. Homes. Starting @ \$335/mo. 24 Hr. Maint. on sit. **ADVANTUS PL. APTS.** 3304 W. Hwy. 80. Call (432)267-4217

OFFICE/ WAREHOUSE. 1800 sq. ft. 1307 B. Gregg St. \$400/month + deposit. Call Westex Auto Parts @ (432)263-5000.

RENT TO OWN: Large 4 Bdrm 2 bath. Newly Remodeled. A must see. Call The Pierce Group (432)264-6611

Real Estate for Sale

\$1,000 TOTAL Move in Cost. On each remaining 3 New homes on 1300 Block of Marijo. Reasonably good credit required, Down payment assistance and lowered interest rates to Qualified Buyer. No Payments till Feb. 2004. Call now (432)520-9848 Cameo Investments Inc.

20 ACRES, 3-bedrooms, 2-living areas, 2-1/4 baths, formal dining, fireplace and pool. Call Home Realtors for details 263-1284 or Charles Smith, agent 466-1613 MLS#51051

2908 CHEROKEE. 2 Bedroom, garage, fenced. \$2,000. No HOA. Call (432)267-6667

705 S. Lancaster. Cheaper than a storage building! Cash Price \$4,900. or \$500 down, \$94/mo. for 84 mos. Call (512)826-2553.

ANDA EN busca de una casa? Si, no tiene credito o mal credito hableme al numero (432)413-0549 Annette Sanchez. Tengo una casa de 2 recamaras y 1 bano 705 S Lancaster Y otra de 1 recamara y 1 bano 1811 State St.

DOUBLEWIDE TRAILER on 6.76 acres, w/two water wells in Forsan School District. 3/2 Home, six stall horse barn, round pen, roping arena, w/lights. Call (432)267-4132

FOR SALE BY OWNER Owner Financing Provided. Low down payment, low monthly. 3 Bdrm, 1 bath. Updated Kitchen & bath. 1103 Sycamore. Call (432)425-9994.

Real Estate for Sale

FOR SALE by owner: 1706 Young. 2 Bdrm. 1 bath. Owner will consider Financing. Call (432)466-0623

FOR SALE: 2 story, 3,000 sq. ft., downtown office building. Would be ideal for Doctor's Office. Call (432)267-3126

HUD FORECLOSURE! 3 Bedroom home. Buy for \$8600! For listings call 800-719-3001 ext. F906

"MINI RANCH" - 38 acres near city limits. Fenced, barn, pens, bath/ utility. \$60's. Call Doris, Home Realtors at (432) 263-6525 or 270-8920

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.

NEW CONSTRUCTION Open House. Sat.-Sun. 1-6 pm. or any time by appt. 1308 Marijo. Call (432)520-9848.

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500 W. 4TH 267-7424

1990 HARLEY Davidson XLH 1200 Sportster needs work. \$3000 OBO. Call (432)267-1080 or 816-7759

1995 JAYCO Eagle 5th Wheel. Model #263RKSO. Great Condition, many up grades. Super slide. \$9500. Must See. Call (432)353-4296 or 432-517-0207.

1999 GMC 4x4 Suburbans. New tires, leather, rear A/C, 3rd seat, all options, Hwy. miles. Clean, 105k - \$12,100 & 120k - \$11,800. **1997 Chevy Suburban** 4x4, 3rd seat, rear A/C. Extra Clean. 133k Hwy miles, \$9,300. Call (432)353-4422.

EDDIE BAUER, 1995 pick-up (Two tone Red); 4 Speed with overdrive, 65k. Clean. Good Condition. \$4500 Firm. Call (432)466-0227 leave message after 5 pm.

EXTRA NICE 1990 Chevrolet Silverado red & silver, 115,000 miles. \$5,500. firm Call (432)264-5045 or (432)816-9480. Can be seen at Howard College Coliseum.

FOR SALE 2000 VW Beetle, Limited Edition, turbo, 5-speed, leather, 6 CD changer. 432-267-7021 or 263-4909.

FOR SALE, red 2003 Ford F-250, 4x4, 29,000 miles. Reduce for quick sale, \$26,500. Located 600 Main. Call 432-267-3126, from 8:00-5:00, 432-267-7648 after 5:00.

Legals

West Texas Centers for MHRM will be accepting bids for 6 used vehicles that are being sold as is with no warranty. To inspect vehicles and for bidding information packet contact Jeff Janca Purchasing Agent at 264-2650 extension 231. Bids will be opened on February 17, 2004. #4109 February 5, 6, 8, 2004

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
CLERK OF THE COURT:
COLLEEN BARTON,
DISTRICT CLERK
P.O. BOX 2138
BIG SPRING, TX 79721-2138
PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY
John T. Ferguson,
WEAVER & FERGUSON, P.C.
P.O. Drawer 1750
Big Spring, TX 79721-1750

NOTICE TO DEFENDANTS: "You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of forty-two (42) days after the date of issuance of this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you"
TO: JANET G. GRESHAM, and her heirs or devisees, known or unknown, if she is deceased.
You and each of you are hereby commanded to appear and answer before the 118th Judicial District Court in the 118th District Court Building in Big Spring, Howard County, Texas, at or before 10:00 a.m. on the first Monday after the expiration of forty-two (42) days from the date of issuance hereof, being at or before 10:00 a.m. on Monday, the 15th day of March, 2004, then and there to answer the petition of L.E. OPPERMANN, in Cause No. 43,400, styled "L.E. OPPERMANN vs. JANET G. GRESHAM, et al." wherein the said L.E. OPPERMANN is Plaintiff, and the said JANET G. GRESHAM and her heirs or devisees, known or unknown, if she is deceased, are Defendants. The said petition, filed on the 30th day of January, 2004, discloses that the nature of said suit is as follows:
This suit is brought to have a re-

Legals

ceiver appointed under the provisions of § 64.091 and § 64.093 of the Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code for undivided mineral interest owned by the Defendants in the following described land in Howard County, Texas:

The W. 10 acres of NE/4 of Section 10, Block 34, T-1-N, T&P Ry. Co. Survey

And to execute oil and gas leases and take such other action deemed necessary under the provisions of said statute.

If this citation is not served within ninety (90) days after date of its issuance, it shall be returned unserved.

ISSUED AND GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF SAID COURT on this the 30th day of January, 2004, at Big Spring, Howard County, Texas
COLLEEN BARTON, District Clerk
118th Judicial District Court,
Howard County, Texas
By: Priscilla Ginnett, Deputy
#4106 February 5, 12, 19, 26, 2004

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

CLERK OF THE COURT:
COLLEEN BARTON, DISTRICT CLERK

P.O. BOX 2138
BIG SPRING, TX 79721-2138
PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY:

John T. Ferguson,
WEAVER & FERGUSON, P.C.
P.O. Drawer 1750

Big Spring, TX 79721-1750

NOTICE TO DEFENDENTS: "You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of forty-two (42) days after the date of issuance of this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you."

TO: VIVIAN E. POWELL STEWART and WILLIAM J. WEAVER and MARJORIE WEAVER, Individually and as Independent Executrix of the Estate of William J. Weaver, THE UNKNOWN DEVISEES OF WILLIAM J. WEAVER, and, if any of such persons are deceased, the heirs and devisees, known or unknown, of each of such persons who are deceased.

You and each of you are hereby commanded to appear and answer before the 118th Judicial District Court in the 118th District Court Building in Big Spring, Howard County, Texas, at or before 10:00 a.m. on the first Monday, after the expiration of forty-two (42) days from the date of issuance hereof, being at or before 10:00 a.m. on Monday, the 15th day of March, 2004, then and there to answer the petition of L.E. OPPERMANN, in Cause No. 43401, styled "L.E. OPPERMANN vs. VIVIAN E. POWELL STEWART, ET AL" wherein the said L.E. OPPERMANN is Plaintiff, and the said VIVIAN E. POWELL STEWART and WILLIAM J. WEAVER and MARJORIE WEAVER, Individually and as Independent Executrix of the Estate of William J. Weaver, THE UNKNOWN DEVISEES OF WILLIAM J. WEAVER, any if any of such persons are deceased, the heirs and devisees, known or unknown, of each of such persons who are deceased, are Defendants. The said petition, filed on the 30th day of January, 2004, discloses, that the nature of said suit is as follows:

This suit is brought to have a receiver appointed under the provisions of § 64.091 and § 64.093 of the Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code for undivided mineral interest owned by the Defendants in the following described lands in Howard County, Texas:

W/2 Section 10, Block 34, T-1-N, T & P Ry. Co. Survey

And to execute oil and gas leases and take such other action deemed necessary under the provisions of said statute.

If this citation is not served within ninety (90) days after date of its issuance, it shall be returned unserved.

ISSUED AND GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF SAID COURT on this the 30th day of January, 2004, at Big Spring, Howard County, Texas.

COLLEEN BARTON, District Clerk
118th Judicial District Court,
Howard County, Texas
By Priscilla Ginnett,
Deputy
#4105 February 5, 12, 19 & 26,
2004

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Write one word on each line:

Up to 25 words: ___ Sunday Only \$19.50 ___ One weekday only \$12.25 ___ Two Consecutive Days \$16.50 ___ Three Consecutive days \$20.25 ___ Four Consecutive Days \$23.50 ___ Five Consecutive Days \$25.75 ___ Six Consecutive Days \$27.00 ___ Two weeks \$51.00 ___ Three Weeks \$64.50 ___ Four weeks \$75.00 ___ Garage Sales (3 days) \$16.75
Each add'l word 20-cents per word per day

Enhancements Price per word for entire run: ___ Bolded \$1.50 ___ Centering \$1.00 ___ Italics \$1.00
Price for entire run: ___ Blind Box \$10 ___ Photo \$4.00 ___ Graphics \$1.00 ___ Logos \$1.00

Prices Include placement on internet at www.bigspringherald.com

Start Date _____ Classification: _____

DEADLINES:

12 noon Fri. for Sunday; 4:15 Fri. for Monday; 12 noon Mon. for Tues; 12 noon Tues. for Wed.; 12 noon Wed. for Thurs.; 12 noon Thurs. for Fri.

CLASSIFICATIONS:

Announcements; Business Opportunity; Cemetery Lots; Financial; Garage Sales; Help Wanted; Instruction; Items for Sale; Jobs Wanted; Lost and Found; Miscellaneous.; Mobile Homes; National Ads; On the Farm; Pets; Public Notice; Real Estate for Rent; Real Estate for Sale; Services Offered; Vehicles; Legals

Enclosed is \$ _____ Cash ___ Money Order ___ Check

___ Credit Card# _____

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BIG SPRING HERALD

THURSDAY

	WFAA (2)	KMID (3)	UNI (4)	KPEJ (5)	KOSA (7)	KTLE (8)	KWES (9)	WTBS (11)	KMLM (12)	KOCV (13)	DISC (20)	AMC (21)	TNT (23)	BET (26)	DISN (27)	ESPN2 (28)	ESPN (29)	USA (30)	TMC (250)
6 PM	News (CC)	News	Spanish	King of the Hill	News Ent Tonight	Pason de Gavanes	News Friends (CC)	Joe McGee	Update Israel	News-Lehr	New Detectives-Forensic	Movie: Bend of	NBA Tip-Off	Live BET.com	Sister, Sister	Women's College	NFL Live	JAG (CC)	(CC)
7 PM	News	News	Spanish	Tru Calling (CC)	Survivor: All-Stars (CC)	Amor Descarado	Friends (CC)	Update Israel	Update Israel	West Tex Jimi World	Dirty Jobs (CC)	Movie: Bend of	Basketball Lakers at	Parkers (CC)	Movie: Leave It	NHL Hockey	Law & Order: Special Victims	Movie: Har's War (CC)	
8 PM	News	News	Spanish	My Big Fat Obnoxious	CSI: Crime Scene	El Alma Herida	Apprentice (CC)	Light of the Southwest	Light of the Southwest	Frontline (CC)	Dirty Jobs (CC)	Movie: Bend of	76ers	106 & Park Prime	College Basketball	Wings at Colorado	Movie: E.T. the		
9 PM	News	News	Spanish	70s Show	Without a Trace (CC)	Mujeres Apasionadas	ER (CC)	10 Movie: The Gilt	10 Movie: The Gilt	Secrets of the Pharaohs	More Than Human	Movie: Shenandoah	NBA Basketball	Comicview	Sister, Sister	Duke at North Carolina	Avalanche SportsCenter	Terrestrial (CC)	05 Movie: CQ (CC)
10 PM	News	News	Spanish	70s Show	Without a Trace (CC)	Mujeres Apasionadas	ER (CC)	10 Movie: The Gilt	10 Movie: The Gilt	Secrets of the Pharaohs	More Than Human	Movie: Shenandoah	NBA Basketball	Comicview	Sister, Sister	Duke at North Carolina	Avalanche SportsCenter	Terrestrial (CC)	05 Movie: CQ (CC)
11 PM	News	News	Spanish	70s Show	Without a Trace (CC)	Mujeres Apasionadas	ER (CC)	10 Movie: The Gilt	10 Movie: The Gilt	Secrets of the Pharaohs	More Than Human	Movie: Shenandoah	NBA Basketball	Comicview	Sister, Sister	Duke at North Carolina	Avalanche SportsCenter	Terrestrial (CC)	05 Movie: CQ (CC)
12 AM	News	News	Spanish	70s Show	Without a Trace (CC)	Mujeres Apasionadas	ER (CC)	10 Movie: The Gilt	10 Movie: The Gilt	Secrets of the Pharaohs	More Than Human	Movie: Shenandoah	NBA Basketball	Comicview	Sister, Sister	Duke at North Carolina	Avalanche SportsCenter	Terrestrial (CC)	05 Movie: CQ (CC)

DENNIS THE MENACE



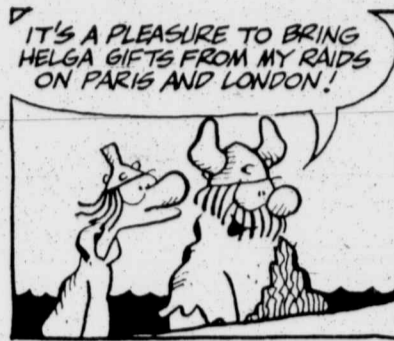
"DID YOU GUYS KNOW THE POWER WENT OFF?"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"How can they fit all those dollars on this one piece of paper?"

HAGAR



"IT'S A PLEASURE TO BRING HELGA GIFTS FROM MY RAIDS ON PARIS AND LONDON!"



"SHE ALWAYS MAKES ME FEEL SO WELCOME!"

BLONDIE



"I'VE BEEN IN THE UPHOLSTERY BUSINESS FOR 20 YEARS..."

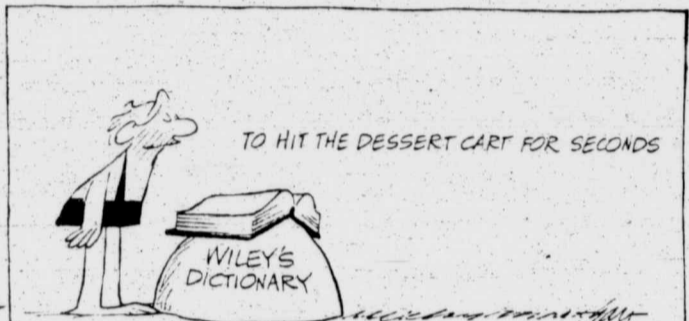
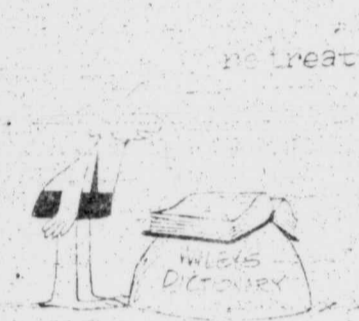


"AND THIS IS THE FIRST TIME..."



"THAT I EVER HAD TO LEAVE A CUSTOMER A LOANER"

BC



TO HIT THE DESSERT CART FOR SECONDS

WIZARD OF ID



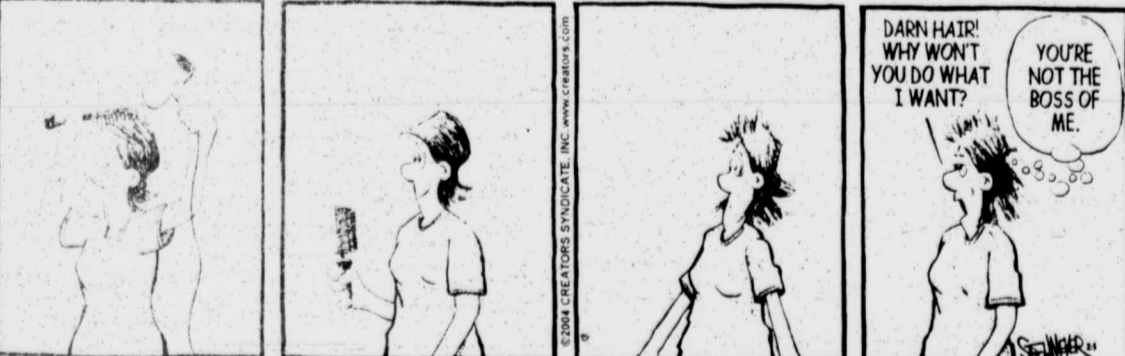
AGNES



HI AND LOIS



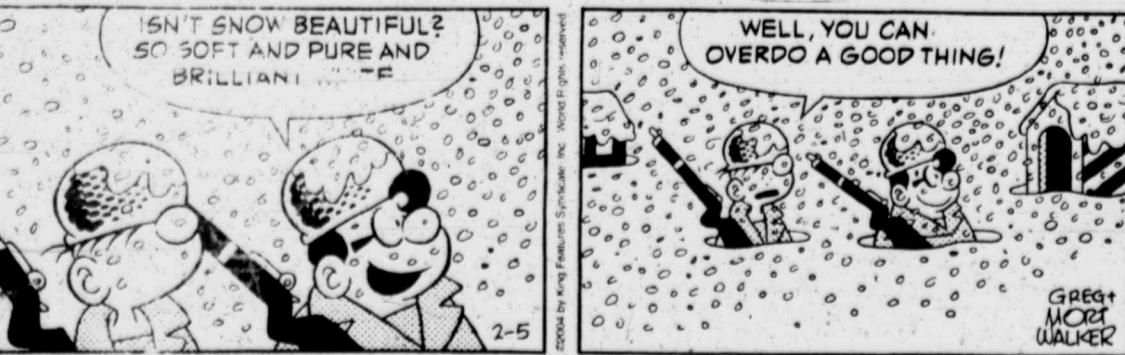
MR. HOUSEWIFE



SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Feb. 5, the 36th day of 2004. There are 330 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 5, 1937, President Franklin Roosevelt proposed increasing the number of justices on the Supreme Court; critics accused Roosevelt of attempting to "pack" the high court.

On this date: In 1631, the founder of Rhode Island, Roger Williams, and his wife arrived in Boston from England.

In 1783, Sweden recognized the independence of the United States.

In 1881, Phoenix was incorporated.

In 1917, Congress passed, over President Wilson's

veto, an immigration act severely curtailing the influx of Asians.

In 1917, Mexico's constitution was adopted.

In 1958, Gamel Abdel Nasser was formally nominated to become the first president of the new United Arab Republic.

In 1962, French President Charles De Gaulle called for Algeria's independence.

In 1973, services were held at Arlington National Cemetery for Army Lt. Col. William B. Nolde, the last American soldier killed before the Vietnam cease-fire.

In 1981, a military jury in North Carolina convicted Marine Pfc. Robert Garwood of collaborating with the enemy while a prisoner of war in Vietnam.

In 1983, former Nazi Gestapo official Klaus Barbie, expelled from Bolivia, was brought to Lyon, France, to stand trial. (He was convicted and sentenced to life in prison; he died in 1991.)

Today's Birthdays: Comedian-actor Red

Buttons is 85. The Reverend Andrew M. Greeley is 76. Baseball Hall-of-Famer Hank Aaron is 70. Actor Stuart Damon is 67. Financial writer Jane Bryant Quinn is 65. Television producer-writer Stephen J. Cannell is 63. Actor David Selby is 63. Singer-songwriter Barrett Strong is 63. Football Hall-of-Famer Roger Staubach is 62. Singer Cory Wells (Three Dog Night) is 62. Movie director Michael Mann is 61. Singer Al Kooper is 60. Actress Charlotte Rampling is 58. Actress Barbara Hershey is 56. Actor Christopher Guest is 56.

Answer to previous puzzle

CASED	MOAN	SHED
OGLER	ALTO	MORE
DAILYBREAD	ARIA	
ATM	DAY	LEARNER
SEEPED	SLANT	
INONE	LOCKUP	
CEDE	FARM	NOISE
ALEC	FIRES	OTTO
SLEET	LANE	KEAN
HEROIC	TUTTI	
FLARE	SHEARS	
ELECTRO	MAR	TAE
DATA	SWEETIE	PIEK
NICK	ODOR	FLASK
ACHE	NYSE	TIRES

Newsday Crossword

IN PIECES by Randall J. Hartman
Edited by Stanley Newman

- | | | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| ACROSS | 69 Like El Capitan's sides | 13 Parts of a match | 40 Small whirlpool |
| 1 Mosey along | 70 Family member, briefly | 18 Meal made of leftovers | 41 Takes over for |
| 6 Vietnam holiday | 71 ERA and RBI | 24 Louisville Slugger wood | 45 Soaked |
| 9 Broadway turkeys | DOWN | 26 Mathematician Descartes | 47 "Forget about it!" |
| 14 Bob and Liddy | 1 Discom-bobulate | 28 Andes beast | 48 Moves quickly |
| 15 Opp. of WNW | 2 Eel | 29 Medal of Honor recipient | 49 Pack down |
| 16 Actress Zellweger | 3 English chap | 30 Economist Smith | 52 Advance soldier |
| 17 Fire | 4 See 12 Down | 31 Quote | 53 Abdul of pop |
| 19 All thumbs | 5 Superlative suffix | 32 Extremely sharp | 54 Balance-sheet item |
| 20 With 43 Across, Buffalo's water | 6 Cut molars | 33 Cartel founded in 1960 | 55 Garden intruders |
| 21 Working hard | 7 Actor Morales | 34 Andes land | 56 Home of the Cyclones |
| 22 Medicinal quantities | 8 Woven goods | 35 Type of mutual fund: Abbr. | 57 Pub projectile |
| 23 Stuff and nonsense | 9 Part of TGIF | 36 It's measured | 58 Racer Luyendyk |
| 25 401(k) alternative | 10 Carson's successor | | 59 Of ___ and Men |
| 27 '70s star of Charlie's Angels | 11 Change for a fin | | 61 Bangkok resident |
| 33 TV talk host | 12 With 4 Down, | | 65 Lots of mins. |
| 37 Author Deighton | | | |
| 38 Carmela on The Sopranos | | | |
| 39 Look closely | | | |
| 40 Shake an Etch-A-Sketch | | | |
| 42 Have status | | | |
| 43 See 20 Across | | | |
| 44 Rep. opponent | | | |
| 45 LPGA members | | | |
| 46 Assembled from various sources | | | |
| 50 Thimble | | | |
| Theatre name | | | |
| 51 One being used | | | |
| 56 Singer Oleta | | | |
| 60 Energy source | | | |
| 62 Soda quantity | | | |
| 63 Singer Lanza | | | |
| 64 Beer restaurant | | | |
| 66 Writer Jong | | | |
| 67 Have brunch | | | |
| 68 Sat on a throne | | | |

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