



BIG SPRING

HERALD

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At the Crossroads of West Texas

50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 WEEKEND

THURSDAY

May 6, 2004

WEATHER

Tonight:



PARTLY CLOUDY

TONIGHT TOMORROW 31°-33° 62°-63°

BRIEFLY

Chamber to sponsor Business After Hours

Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce will sponsor Business After Hours from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. today at Rip Griffin's Truck/Travel Center.

Door prizes will be awarded and refreshments will be provided.

Business After Hours is a program specifically designed to encourage networking and to showcase sponsors. There is no charge to attend.

National Day of Prayer event to be held tonight

Prayer, testimony and spiritual music will fill the Big Spring Municipal Auditorium as the community comes together at 7 tonight to observe the National Day of Prayer.

The Rev. Sam Segundo, pastor of Family Faith Victory; Howard County Commissioner Bill Crooker; local businessman Allan Johnson; Big Spring Mayor Russ McEwen; and Big Spring Police Chief Lonnie Smith are slated to participate.

Local law enforcement will also be honored by Howard County Sheriff Dale L. Walker to recognize National Law Enforcement Week.

COMING THIS WEEKEND



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

Network director to announce decision on Big Spring VA

By LYNDEL MOODY Staff Writer

Almost 10 months of anticipation over the Big Spring VA Medical Center could come to an end Friday as Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Anthony J. Principi plans to announce his final decision concerning VA medical services.

Patricia McKelm, Veterans Integrated

Service Network (VISN) director, has scheduled a press conference Friday on Principi's announcement.

"She is going to give a brief statement and then accept questions from the media," said Iva Jo Hanslik, Big Spring VA Hospital community relations coordinator.

Principi's decision could set in motion events that could impact the Big

Friday's schedule

1 p.m. — Department of Veteran's Affairs Secretary Anthony J. Principi will announce his decisions regarding facilities nationwide in Las Vegas, Nev.

2:30 p.m. — VISN director Patricia McKelm will hold a press conference at the Big Spring VA Medical Center.

Spring VA Hospital's existence.

The Big Spring VAMC press conference is set for 2:30 p.m. following the scheduled announcement by Principi which is to be held at 1 p.m. in Las Vegas.

The original Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) plan released in early August recommended a feasibility study to

research the possibility of closing the Big Spring facility and developing a critical access hospital in the Midland/Odessa area.

The plan also called for the closure of 13 VA facilities across the nation, including the hospital in Waco.

The August announcement spawned a grassroots effort supported by

See VAMC, Page 3A

Dog chaining decried

Panel wants city council to consider tethering ban

By THOMAS JENKINS Staff Writer

The controversy over the tethering or "chaining" of dogs that is currently working its way through the U.S. at a fever pitch seems poised to do the same in Big Spring, as a proposed ordinance banning this type of confinement faces the city council.

On a recommendation made by Police Chief Lonnie Smith, the Big Spring Animal Control Committee began looking at the possibility of an ordinance that would effectively ban the chaining or tethering of dogs as a means of non-temporary confinement.

Committee chairperson Melanie Gambrell, owner and operator of Pet Connection, said deciding if chaining and tethering is humane was a no-brainer — how to word a proposed ordinance, on the other hand, was no small task.

"The recommendation came to us from our chief of police,



Veterinarian Scott Burt removes a chain that had imbedded itself into the skin of a dog that was chained outside of a local home. A recommendation has been made to the Big Spring City Council to ban the "chaining or tethering of dogs" within the city limits.

Lonnie Smith," said Gambrell. "He wanted our animal control committee to look at and possibly make a recommendation to the city council about a chaining ordinance. We brought it before the committee and sat down over several meetings to actually

research and look into this because it is such a hot item. We wanted to give it as much attention as we could.

"Chaining dogs is not a good idea," Gambrell said emphatically.

See CHAINS, Page 6A

Action taken

Communities that have taken some action against chaining of dogs.

Communities that prohibit chaining: Maumelle, Ark.; Tuscon, Ariz.;

Okaloosa, Fla.; New Orleans, La.; Carthage, Mo.; New Hanover, N.C.; Lawton, Okla.; Electra, Texas.

Communities that limit chaining by time: Denver Colo.; Palm Beach City, Fla.; Overland Park, Kan.; Wichita Kan.; Jefferson County, Ken.; Montgomery City, Md.;

Laurinburg, N.C.; Bartlesville, Okla.; Multnomah County, Ore.; Oak Ridge, Tenn.; Austin, Texas; Norfolk, Va.; Linn, Wis.

Communities that regulate tethering: Fairhope, Ala.; Little Rock, Ark.; Hemet, Calif.; Fremont, Calif.; San Diego, Calif.; San Jose, Calif.;

Aurora, Ill.; Baton Rouge, La.; Quichita, La.; St. Charles Parish, La.; Rockville, Md.; Eagan, Minn.; Kansas City, Mo.; Raytown, Mo.; Lincoln, Neb.; Catawba County, N.C.; Greenville, N.C.; Bernalillo County, N.M.; Midwest City, Okla.; Allen, Texas; Richland Hills, Texas; Waco, Texas; Washington, D.C.

Tethering laws prominent across the nation

By THOMAS JENKINS Staff Writer

The question of whether or not to ban the chaining or tethering of dogs isn't just a hot topic in Big Spring — it's a major concern all over the nation.

More than 30 cities throughout the United States have passed laws either banning tethering and chaining or have included provisions concerning the method of confinement in their animal protection ordinances.

The city of Allen has banned tethering or chaining "an animal to a stationary object

"I think once dog owners see they are going to be held accountable, they will start taking care of their dogs in a more responsible manner."



Lonnie Smith

for a period of time or in a location so as to create an unhealthy situation for the animal or a potentially dangerous situation for a

pedestrian as determined by the animal control officer."

An Austin ordinance states that dogs "cannot be tethered for more than eight hours in a 24-hour period unless the chain is longer than 10 feet, swivels and is attached to a pulley."

The ordinance that has been proposed by the Big Spring Animal Control Committee would, if adopted by the city council, ban the use of tethers or chains as a means to confine a dog altogether. The ordinance

See LAWS, Page 6A

Relay!

Major fund-raiser set to begin

HERALD Staff Report

The 10th annual Relay for Life will take place Friday at Blankenship Field with thousands expected to participate.

Relay for Life, the largest fundraiser for the American Cancer Society, is an overnight event where teams walk the track to

raise funds to help in the fight against cancer.

Registration begins at 4 p.m. Friday. At 6 p.m., Nanette Barrett of Lubbock, the adult recipient of the American Cancer Society Courageous Award, will tell her story of sur-

See RELAY, Page 3A

Child's death, aggravated robbery among cases under investigation

By THOMAS JENKINS Staff Writer

A questionable death and unrelated aggravated robbery which took place Wednesday are currently under investigation by the Big Spring Police Department.

Howard County Justice of the Peace Quail Dobbs pronounced 5-year-old Zoe Catherine Barber dead at the Scenic Mountain

Medical Center emergency room at 11:55 p.m. Wednesday.

"According to my reports, the police were first called at 10:30 p.m. Wednesday," explained Dobbs. "I pronounced her dead because it's state law to have someone from the county or state there.

"I then ordered an autopsy

See INVESTIGATION, Page 3A

MAY

06

2004

Obituaries

J. T. Williams



J. T. Williams, 89, of Odessa and formerly of Big Spring, passed away on Tuesday, May 4, 2004, at 6:05 a.m. at the Hospice House of Odessa. Services will be at 3 p.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel with his son, the Rev. Tommy D. Williams, former pastor of Christ Fellowship Center in Big Spring, assisted by Ralph Anderson, minister of the 11th & Birdwell Church of Christ, officiating. Burial with military honors will be at Trinity Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 6 to 7 p.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Mr. Williams was born on Jan. 18, 1915, in Tioga to James Thomas Williams and Sudie Click Williams. He married Julia Ben Mitchell on Dec. 23, 1937, in Midland, and she preceded him in death on Oct. 16, 1999.

Mr. Williams had lived in Big Spring from 1941 until 1995, when he moved to Odessa.

He was a veteran of the U.S. Navy, serving from May 3, 1944, to Feb. 2, 1946. He was a member of the Birdwell Lane Church of Christ in Big Spring and later the Eisenhower Church of Christ in Odessa.

Mr. Williams had worked as a maintenance supervisor at the Big Spring State Hospital and retired in 1983, and had also been a long time building contractor since 1941 in Big Spring.

He is survived by one daughter, Wanda Brooks and her husband, Mike, of Odessa; two sons, Tommy Williams and his wife, Jo Ann, of Fort Worth, and Troy Williams of Las Vegas; six grandchildren, Terina Ann Williams Damron and Cembra Lynn Sanders, both of Fort Worth, Jackie Lynn Williams and Martin Quinn Williams, both of Las Vegas, Buddy Michael Brooks of Odessa and Jill Rene Brooks of Arlington; and five great grandchildren, Zachary Macaleb Sanders, Desirae Nichole Sanders, Shellby Celeste Sanders, Jincy Mellisa Williams Damron and Quintin Silva.

In addition to his parents and wife, he was also preceded in death by 10 brothers and four sisters.

Pallbearers will be Buddy Brooks, Mike Brooks, Brian Sanders, Martin Williams, Jimmy Heard and Zachary Sanders.

The family can be reached at 432-362-0555.

Arrangements are under the Direction of Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersandsmith.com

Paid obituary

Take note

□ **THE CLASS OF 1974** is looking for the following classmates. If you know where they are please notify Carol Boyd at 432-263-0486 or e-mail Guy Teague at gntea@ddraytech.net: Kim Adams, Steve Adams, Terry Allison, Albert Arriols, Shirley Atwell, Vicki Axelrod, Blaz Bailon, Diane Baldock, Joyce Bennett, Sherri Bertan, Terry Billingsley, John Bowers, Donna Brewer, Kathy Bull, Sherry Burgess, Greg Burris, Randy Callison, Carla Carter, Cindy Cole, Paula Collins, Michael Conley, Linda Curtis, Cynthia D'Angelo, Pam Daniels, Kay Davis, Jimmie Dean, Donna DeFlicht, Joyce DeFlicht, Rosalinda Deleon, Cynthia Dennis, Wendell Dodson, James Dry, Pam Eisler, Dodie Evans, Cathy Ewing, Martha Eyssen, Steve Ferrell, Sandra Floyd, Ramon Franco, Sheri Fry, Karen Fuller, Mary Gainus, Raul Garza, Belinda Gomez, Anna Maria Gonzales, Garland Green, Janis Gregg, Sarah Haas, Sue Harris, June Hendrick Rhea, Mitzi Hill, Tracy Hill, Babbette Huckaba, Debra Hurrington, Robert Jackson, Phil Johnson, Patricia Jordan, Virginia Keathley, Patricia King, Kathy Kirksey, Ruth Knight, John Kushaney, Jeff Kuykendall, Barbara Landreth, Robert Lang, Karen Lawler, Russell Leggett, Wayne Lister, Richard Loehman, Barry Loyd, Art Mackie, Rebecca Marin, Jerry Martin, Virginia Martinez, Beckie Mason, Susie McGuire, Walter McWhiter, Frances Meade, Steve Meador, Patsy Medina, Bobbie Meeke, Henry Menchaca, Maria Mendoza, William Messenger, Jeff Miller, Barbara Morris, Paula Muskovin, Eva Palacios, Phil Parmenter, Vicki Patterson, Lana Perry Bruington, Iris Phillips, Randal Phillips, Cindy Phillips, Kenneth Platte, Eunice Ramirez, Libby Reed, Tony Reidy, Robert Renteria, Linda Richardson, Earl Richlart, Daniel Rivera, Bennett Robb, Patti Robertson, Vicki Robertson Martin, James Robinson, Johnny Rodriguez, Jerry Rogers, Martha Rogers, Priscilla Rudd Horn, Irene Saldivar, Patrice Sherrill Fivash, Mike Sieler, Doug Smith, Dennis Stevens, Harlan Stewart, Linda Stewart, Robert Sullivan, Carolyn Toaz, Joyce Turner, Sarah Vigil, Ken Walton, Joe Watson, Debra Way, Debbie Wheeler, Cindy Whitaker Jorgenson, Gary White, Kenneth Wilcox, Jimmy Wiley, Kenneth Williamson.

□ **POTTON HOUSE**, 200 Gregg, a restored historic home, is open from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. An admission fee, which includes entry into Heritage Museum, is \$2 for adults and \$1 for children and senior citizens.

□ **HERITAGE MUSEUM**, 510 Scurry, is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. on Saturday. An admission fee, which includes entry into the Potton House, is \$2 for adults and \$1 for children.

□ **ROAD TO RECOVERY DRIVERS WANTED**. Volunteer drivers are needed to transport cancer patients to and from treatments. If you can spare a few hours each month, please consider volunteering to drive somebody along the Road to Recovery. For more information about volunteering or if you are a cancer patient in need of the service, call La Wanda Hamm, 263-7827.



Police blotter

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

- **SHERRY JOHNSON**, 37, of 1202 E. Third Street, was arrested Wednesday and held for the HCSO.
- **PETE MANUEL YANEZ**, 19, of 801 W. Marcy, was arrested Wednesday on a Howard County warrant for reckless driving.
- **ANTONIO OLIVAS**, 55, of 510 N.E. Ninth Street, was arrested Wednesday and held for INS.
- **DAVID WHITTREIN**, 24, of 116 Hoosier, was arrested Wednesday on two Howard County warrants for injury to a child.
- **CHRIS GARCIA**, 20, of 113 W. 19th Street, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of possession of marijuana-2 ounces or less.
- **LARRY GARCIA**, 24, of 113 W. 19th Street, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of possession of marijuana-2 ounces or less.
- **STEVEN GAMBOA**, 20, of 1809 Johnson, was arrested Wednesday on a Howard County warrant for minor in consumption-third offense.
- **RUBEN GONZALES**, 20, of 1503 Robin, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of possession of a controlled substance-more than 4 grams less than 200 grams.
- **AGGRAVATED ROBBERY** was reported in the 900 block of Willia.
- **DECEASED PERSON/QUESTIONABLE DEATH** was reported in the 1200 block of Ridgeroad.
- **THEFT** was reported:
 - in the 2300 block of Wasson.
 - in the 1100 block of Lamesa.
 - in the 300 block of Owens.
 - in the 400 block of Birdwell Lane.
 - in the 1200 block of 11th Place.
- **POSSESSION OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE** was reported in the 1500 block of Robin.
- **AGGRAVATED ASSAULT WITH A DEADLY WEAPON** was reported in the 1300 block of Robin.
- **BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE** was reported in the 1600 block of Martin Luther King Boulevard.
- **ASSAULT BY THREAT** was reported in the 1300 block of Tucson.
- **POSSESSION OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE IN A DRUG FREE ZONE** was reported in the 700 block of 11th Place.
- **POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA-2 OUNCES OR LESS** was reported in the 100 block of 19th Street.
- **BURGLARY OF A BUILDING** was reported in the 1500 block of FM 700.

Sheriff's report

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

- **JIMMY CANTU**, 17, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana-2 ounces or less.
- **JAMES CANTU**, 33, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana-2 ounces or less.
- **DONNY JUAREZ**, 21, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of bailman off of bond for driving while intoxicated-third or more offense.
- **DENNIS MICHAEL RICHARDSON**, 51, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of driving while intoxicated-third or more offense.
- **MICHAEL STEVEN MARQUEZ**, 22, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of bailman off of bond for evading arrest or detention and theft of a firearm, and bond forfeiture on theft of a firearm.
- **SHERRY LYNN DRIGGER JOHNSON**, 37, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of contempt of court-disobedience of a court order.
- **GAS THEFT** was reported in the area of Highway 350.
- **MAJOR ACCIDENT** was reported near the exit 169 service road.

Support groups

THURSDAY

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

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

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

FRIDAY

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

SATURDAY

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

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Bulletin board

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

TODAY

- Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane. Call 267-6479.
- Business After Hours is set for 5-6:30 p.m. at Rip Griffin's Truck/Travel Center. The event is free and open to the public.
- Genealogy Society of Big Spring meets at 7 p.m. in the Howard County Library, 500 S. Main.
- National Day of Prayer at 7 p.m. in the Municipal Auditorium. Free and the public is invited.
- Democratic Party meets at 7 p.m. at their headquarters, 300 N. Gregg.
- Masonic Lodge 1340 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 2101 Lancaster.

FRIDAY

- AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant.
- Greater Big Spring Rotary meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- Relay for Life registration starts at 4 p.m. Opening Ceremonies begin at 6:45 p.m. and the Survivors Walk is set for 7 p.m., all in Blankenship Field.
- Spring City Senior Citizen's country and western dance from 7:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. All area seniors are invited.

SATURDAY

- Relay for Life continues until Closing Ceremonies at 8:30 a.m. in Blankenship Field.
- One-Man Band featuring J Gale Kilgore is set for 7 p.m. at the City Auditorium, sponsored by the Eagles Lodge. Donations will be accepted to benefit United States veterans in the Big Spring area.
- Eagles Lodge Dance at 8:30 p.m. at 703 W. Third.
- Big Spring Squares. Call 263-6305 for more information.

SUNDAY

- Team Rustic Circle, an amateur paintball team, meets for practice between noon and dusk at the Moss Creek Lake paintball facility. The public is always invited, whether to participate or just spectate. For more information contact Rick Boiles at 264-2395 or 393-5246.

MONDAY

- The Big Spring-Howard County Retired Teacher's Association will meet at 11:30 a.m. in the Cactus Room at Howard College, 1001 Birdwell Lane. Lunch will be served.
- Senior Circle meets at 4 p.m. at Scenic Mountain Medical Center for Sit and Be Fit Chair Aerobics. Those 50 years and older are invited to attend. Call 268-4721.
- Big Spring Band Boosters meet at 5:30 p.m. in the Big Spring High School band hall.

Lottery

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 10-13-26-28-32 . Bonus Ball: 16.
Number matching five of five, plus Bonus Ball: 0.
Estimated jackpot for Saturday night drawing: \$46 Million.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wednesday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 2-8-14-24-26.
Number matching five of five: 0.
Next Cash 5 drawing: Thursday night.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 0-1-2

Weather

Tonight...Clear until early morning then becoming mostly cloudy. Lows in the lower 60s. South winds 15 to 20 mph.
Friday...Breezy. Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 80s. South winds 15 to 25 mph.
Friday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 60s. South winds 10 to 20 mph.
Saturday...Breezy. Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 80s. South winds 15 to 25 mph.
Saturday night through Sunday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 60s. Highs in the upper 80s.
Monday through Wednesday...Partly cloudy. Highs around 90. Lows in the mid 60s.

BIG SPRING HERALD

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MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$12.50 monthly Howard & Martin Counties, \$13.25 elsewhere.

GOP f

AUSTIN (AP) House Speaker Powell accused in a Texas Commission comp the Republican Party of "laundering" \$1 political campaign contributions for personal.

In the complaint GOP officials, including Laney, D-Hale, himself \$1.69 million campaign during operate and main plane, an 8-passenger Cheyenne II.

"A federal grand former Attorney Morales for convey in political function swanky West Austin said Texas GOP Tina Benkiser, pocketing of \$1.7 million personal airplane

School fir

AUSTIN (AP) finance legislation on a sales tax in than gambling taxes to fund school final approval in the House. The shifts to the Senate.

The approval of days of content between lawmakers they would not bill that allow slot machines at tracks. Others of roll tax in Texas states without income tax.

House leaders bill Tuesday to

INVESTIGA

Continued from Pa

because the child under the age of and state law require autopsy when under that age hate to order an on a child that have to. It's the girl's death as que because of st

BY JOYCE JIL

Friendly vibrant amped up, and to treat others than want to be treated are obvious re doing so -- like e ing peace, love and u n d e r - standing. The moon i n Sagittarius drives us toward the unknown, and Mars Jo in Gemini gives us the versatility to whatever comes.

ARIES (March 19). There's a r cal alarm of this afternoon the competitor surprisingly s any case, the b and new pass ens. Family e lucky tonight.

TAURUS (April 20). It's a challenge the kind that you to run or b Hazy details at sign that nobo ning the ship your generosity reward.

GEMINI (May 21). Partnersh lighted, and most cooperati anyone could which is why chosen for



Pizza

Thurs.-F

Night

5:30 pm-

All The Pizza, I

Dessert, Yo

Pe

176

26

GOP files ethics complaint against Rep. Pete Laney

AUSTIN (AP) — Former House Speaker Pete Laney is accused in a Texas Ethics Commission complaint filed by the Republican Party of Texas of "laundering" \$1.7 million in political campaign contributions for personal benefit.

In the complaint Wednesday, GOP officials alleged that Laney, D-Hale Center, paid himself \$1.69 million from his campaign during 1995-2003 to operate and maintain his airplane, an 8-passenger 1979 Piper Cheyenne II.

"A federal grand jury indicted former Attorney General Dan Morales for converting \$400,000 in political funds to buy a swanky West Austin home," said Texas GOP Chairwoman Tina Benkiser. "Mr. Laney's pocketing of \$1.7 million for a personal airplane deserves the

same high level of scrutiny from the ethics commission and the press."

Laney said his campaign funds always have been handled in compliance with state laws and rules.

"My political opponents made this same attack against me publicly in 1996 and 2001, and there was no substance to their claims then or now," said Laney.

"I reimbursed myself for the use of my airplane, but I did not ever charge the state for my transportation (costs) as speaker."

"I have not used a penny of tax dollars," he said.

Some House colleagues of Laney told the San Antonio Express-News in Thursday's online edition that the GOP complaint might be interpreted

as trying to remove the focus of a similar complaint filed against Republican Gov. Rick

"My political opponents made this same attack against me publicly in 1996 and 2001, and there was no substance to their claims then or now."



Pete Laney

Perry by Judicial Watch, a political finance watchdog

group. Perry, like Laney, has used funds from his campaign war chest to charter private aircraft for political trips.

The GOP cited the state election code that says candidates or officeholders who accept a political contribution may not convert the contribution to personal use including "the personal use of an asset purchased with the contribution and the personal use of any interest or other income earned on the contribution."

Also, the state Republican Party said Laney has never produced any evidence to verify that his reimbursements are for legitimate officeholder travel.

Big Spring's Kent Sharp, Laney's opponent in the November race for state representative, said he believes any

elected or appointed official who profits personally from office is wrong.

"And I believe the voters believe it is wrong. I would never do that, and have never used my office to gain personally in the 12 years I've served in a public official capacity," Sharp said.

He declined to pass judgment concerning the allegations against Laney.

"I do not know all the details and the specifics of this, and will wait until the lawyers and the courts work it out. I want to wait to comment until I see the investigation run its course," Sharp said.

Herald Features Editor Marsha Sturdivant contributed to this article.

School finance bill passes House

AUSTIN (AP) — School finance legislation that relies on a sales tax increase rather than gambling and payroll taxes to fund schools was given final approval Wednesday by the House. The focus now shifts to the Senate.

The approval followed several days of contentious debate between lawmakers. Some said they would not approve any bill that allowed state-taxed slot machines at horse and dog tracks. Others opposed a payroll tax in Texas, one of nine states without a broad-based income tax.

House leaders rewrote the bill Tuesday to remove those

provisions, choosing instead to raise the sales tax from 6.25 percent to 7 percent, along with increasing the cigarette tax to \$1.41 and imposing a \$1 tax on pro sports tickets.

Critics say those taxes won't generate enough money for Texas' more than 1,000 school districts.

"The bill spends us into the red. Revenue doesn't match income," said Rep. Pete Gallego, an Alpine Democrat, as he pleaded with House members to allow more debate over amendments to the bill.

The House cut off debate and voted 75-68 to pass the revised bill.

RELAY

Continued from Page 1A

vival.

Relay will officially begin with the Survivor's Walk at 7 p.m., which will coincide with a double fly over, sponsored by local businessman Stan Partee. The annual luminaria ceremony will be held at 10 p.m. to honor those who lost their fight with cancer.

During the luminaria, radio personality Tumbleweed Smith and his wife, Susan, a

long-time Relay for Life committee member, will present a 20-minute program which features local ministers, family members of survivors and those who have lost loved ones.

More than 80 teams are expected to participate in the 10th anniversary of Relay for Life. Committee officials say the annual fund-raiser is well on its way to meeting the \$200,000 goal.

Closing ceremony for the overnight event will be held at 8:30 a.m. Saturday.

VAMC

Continued from Page 1A

regional residents to keep the Big Spring VA open and was taken up in Washington, D.C., by several Texas lawmakers with U.S. Rep. Randy Neugebauer, R-Lubbock, leading the charge.

After an independent commission conducted a study of the draft plan, the commission announced its support of the feasibility study but backed off of the idea of a critical care

access hospital in Midland/Odessa area.

The Big Spring VAMC employs 500-plus full- and part-time workers with an annual payroll of \$32.5 million.

The final report is expected to be posted on the Department of Veteran Affairs Web site at www.va.gov/CARES after 4 p.m.

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

INVESTIGATION

Continued from Page 1A

because the child was under the age of 6 years, and state law requires an autopsy when they are under that age. I really hate to order an autopsy on a child that age, but I have to. It's the law."

The girl's death was listed as questionable because of state law,

according to BSPD Lt. Terry Chamness.

"Any time a child under the age of 6 dies it has to be listed as a questionable death," explained Chamness. "If this were an adult it would have been listed as an unattended death."

Chamness said police reports indicate the child had been ill for several days leading up to her death.

"We received the call at 10:34 p.m. that the child was unresponsive," said Chamness. "She was transported to the emergency room, where she was pronounced dead."

Dobbs said he has very little information regarding the investigation into the death, which occurred in the 1200 block of Ridgeroad, according to police records. He did say, however, that he didn't

suspect foul play was involved.

"I can't speak for the police department but I really don't think there was any foul play involved in the child's death," said Dobbs. "I have no idea what caused her death at this time. We'll just have to wait for the autopsy."

Chamness said the PD is also investigating an aggravated robbery that

took place at the 7-Eleven located on the corner of Willia and Highway 80.

"The robbery took place in the parking lot," said Chamness. "The suspect, a black male approximately 5'9" tall and 20 to 30 years old, approached the victim and displayed a black semi-automatic handgun. The suspect took the victim's wallet and vehicle."

Chamness said the vehi-

cle has not been recovered and urges anyone with information on the crime to come forward.

"The car was a gray 1993 Nissan Altima, license plate K14-KYT," he explained. "The suspect was wearing a blue plaid shirt and jeans and had long, afro-style, black hair."

"Anyone with information as to the whereabouts of the car or the identity of the suspect can contact the PD at 264-2550, or call Crimestoppers at 263-TIPS if they wish to remain anonymous. Det. Jim Rider is in charge of the investigation."

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232.

Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY JOYCE JILLSON
Friendly vibrations are amped up, and it's easier to treat others the way we want to be treated. There are obvious rewards for doing so -- like experiencing peace, love and understanding. The moon in Sagittarius drives us toward the unknown, and Mars in Gemini gives us the versatility to roll with whatever comes our way.



Joyce Jillson

ARIES (March 21-April 19). There's a metaphorical alarm of some sort this afternoon -- perhaps the competition shows up surprisingly strong. In any case, the bell sounds, and new passion awakens. Family efforts are lucky tonight.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). It's a challenging day, the kind that requires you to run or be run over. Hazy details at work are a sign that nobody is manning the ship. Tonight, your generosity is its own reward.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Partnership is highlighted, and you're the most cooperative partner anyone could hope for, which is why you'll be chosen for a difficult

assignment. Avoid high-risk situations. If you must, use your charm to back out.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You're feeling rebellious, but that can be healthy! You're craving your freedom -- in fact, you are less trapped in your current position than you feel. Test the boundaries, just like a teenager would.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Your timing is excellent all day. Even if you work a 9-to-5 job, you'll find a chance to have an adventure, right smack in the middle of the afternoon! Expanding your outside interests increases your enjoyment of your work.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Secrets have both a positive and a negative impact on your life. Consider whether it

might be time to tell one of yours -- to a non-judgmental, safe and neutral person. Getting it out, even anonymously, is like dropping a burden.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You feel outgoing, and your energy is up. For many of you, inheritance and investment matters finally make it through the red tape.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You'll connect in new and inspiring ways with those you don't know so well. A chance encounter could lead to a dream job, new love or fabulous financial opportunity. Just don't listen to friends who aren't experts.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're in a position that many people would envy, but it's hard for you to see the good in it all of the time. Practice!

It's more empowering to home in on possibility than to see only lack.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Work is a virtue, but so is fun! There's no magic about getting more pleasure and even adventure into your life, and you are! Use a Gemini or Scorpio as a sounding board for wacky ideas.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Shouldering new responsibilities will be rewarding, eventually. Have faith. Sure, plans sometimes fall apart -- but that's where things should fall apart, as it's easier to put together a new plan than it is to recreate the actual day.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You think you know it all this week, and guess

what. You kinda do. People around you depend on you to be the competent one, so stay organized, and don't delegate so much that you lose touch.

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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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

Relay for Life at Blankenship Field place to be Friday

Once again, we're reminding our readers that the place to be in Big Spring this weekend will be Blankenship Field on the Big Spring High School campus — the site for the annual Relay for Life event staged by the Howard-Glasscock chapter of the American Cancer Society.

The stadium's football field will be transformed into a huge, colorful campground as runners and walkers take to the track as the overnight fund-raiser marks its 10th anniversary with the largest number of teams ever to participate.

As always, dozens of teams are expected to take part in the event, which means there will literally be hundreds of participants involved in the community-wide campout.

Organizers will open the event at 4 p.m. with registration for survivors. Then, following a brief ceremony set for 6:30 p.m. the walking begins at 7 p.m. "Survivor's Lap," in which anyone who has ever been diagnosed with cancer can participate. Cancer survivors, from young children to senior citizens, are scheduled to participate in the special lap.

The Relay for Life then gets under way with a walker or runner from each team beginning to circle the track. Look, too, for a group of rockers. They won't have guitars and microphones though; they'll keep rocking chairs going — an alternative method for those participants who find it difficult or impossible to maneuver the track.

The teams will continue the relay until closing ceremonies at 8:30 a.m. Saturday.

Entertainment, food and games are planned throughout the event and many of the teams will be selling food as additional on-site fund-raisers.

Just after dark on Friday, another of the event's emotional moments will come when luminaria are lit circling the track. These are purchased in memory of loved ones.

We encourage each of our readers to become a part of this worthwhile effort which is now annually tops in the state and finishes among the top 10 in the nation for fund-raising among communities of similar size.

Let's continue that tradition.

HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

In order that we might better serve your needs, we offer several ways in which you may contact us:

- In person at 710 Scurry St.
- By telephone at 263-7331
- By fax at 264-7205
- By e-mail Managing Editor John A. Moseley at editor@bigspringherald.com or News Editor Bill McClellan at newsdesk@crcom.net.
- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

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- 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.
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A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we spread your joy today, Lord.

Amen

Disaster of Iraq simply 'we wuz conned'

Let's get real. On Fox So-Called News, former Army Sgt. Tony Robinson was allowed to claim without contradiction that what happened at the prison at Abu-Ghraib was no worse than "fraternity hazing." Rush Limbaugh concurs. Let me speak up on behalf of the Kappa Sigs, K.A.s and even Dekes (where only "minor" branding incidents occurred when George W. Bush was the head Deke at Yale). This is straight from the report of Maj. Gen. Antonio Taguba:



MOLLY IVINS

"Between October and December 2003, at the Abu Ghraib Confinement Facility, numerous acts of sadistic, blatant and wanton criminal abuses were inflicted on several detainees. This systematic and illegal abuse of detainees was intentionally perpetrated by several members of the military police guard force. ... The allegations of abuse were substantiated by detailed witness statements and the discovery of extremely graphic photographic evidence ... including the following acts:

- Punching, slapping and kicking detainees; jumping on their naked feet;
- Videotaping and photographing naked male and female detainees;
- Forcibly arranging detainees in various sexually explicit positions for photographing;
- Forcing detainees to remove their clothing and keeping them naked for several days at a time;
- Forcing naked male detainees to wear women's underwear;
- Forcing groups of male detainees to masturbate themselves while being photographed and videotaped;
- Arranging naked male detainees in a pile and jumping on them;
- A male MP guard having sex with a female detainee;
- Using military working dogs to intimidate and frighten detainees, and in at least one case

biting and severely injuring a detainee;

- Taking photographs of dead Iraqi detainees;
- Breaking chemical lights and pouring phosphoric liquid on detainees;
- Beating detainees with a broom handle and chair;
- Threatening male detainees with rape;
- Sodomizing a detainee with a chemical light and perhaps with a broomstick."

There it is. Just face up to it, and quit making excuses. I have spared you much disgusting detail.

In our continuing quest to understand how we got where we are, let us turn our attention to Ahmed Chalabi. He's a most plausible con man and comes with excellent credentials. Born to a prominent Iraqi family in 1944, exiled in 1958 with buckets of family money, went to MIT at age 16, got his Ph.D. in math from the University of Chicago, where he first encountered one of the founders of the neo-conservative movement, Albert Wohlstetter. According to a profile in Salon.com, he there met future neo-con leaders Richard Perle and Paul Wolfowitz.

Salon reports, he is "charming, worldly and a skilled networker." (Someone needs to look into whether Chalabi studied with Leo Strauss, the neo-con guru at Chicago who reportedly had profoundly anti-democratic instincts, including the idea that it's fine for governments to lie to their people. That is second-hand information: I have not read Strauss myself.)

What follows is a complicated business-financial history, leading to the founding of the Petra Bank in Jordan in 1977. Chalabi had ties both to the Shia theocracy in Iran and the Shia Amal militia in Lebanon. He also helped finance Saddam Hussein's trade with Jordan during the 1980s, according to Salon. By 1986, Petra had \$1 billion in annual trade with Iraq. The bank collapsed, and Chalabi was convicted of embezzlement and fraud. He fled Jordan for London.

As head of the Iraqi National Congress, funded by the United States, Chalabi continued to push

for the overthrow of Saddam. The United States is still paying him and his organization \$350,000 a month. His association with neo-con hawks continued, even though both the CIA and the State Department concluded he was untrustworthy. The "intelligence" he provided to the Bush administration before the war consistently proved wrong and fraudulent.

So why did the neo-cons trust him, despite his record? My theory is there is a terrible naivete about neo-cons that often deludes them into believing what they want to be true. Remember the time they convinced themselves Jonas Savimbi of Angola was a great freedom fighter? For anyone who knew Savimbi's record, it was "gag me with a spoon" city, but they kept insisting this disgusting human was a hero.

Other neo-cons so hated the Sandinistas in Nicaragua they backed drug-runners and creeps of all description against them. (Fat lot of good it did the Nicaraguans, who now have the worst health record in the hemisphere — worse than Haiti.)

The neo-cons fell for Chalabi for one reason: He said he would help Israel. Once Saddam was overthrown, he said he would reinstate the Iraq-Israel pipeline, recognize Israel, trade with Israel.

Chalabi, with our backing, became a member of the current Iraqi Governing Council. He has also made his nephews into power players in postwar Iraq. Gone are the promises about Israel. Whether justified or not, most Iraqis believe Chalabi corrupt beyond counting. Even some of the neo-cons who have so long discounted the CIA and State Department reports about Chalabi's essential dishonesty, are starting to doubt him. Could this entire disaster in Iraq be as simple as, "We wuz conned"?

Yep. To find out more about Molly Ivins and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com.

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Kerry needs running mate now

It might appear as if John Kerry has plenty of time to pick a vice presidential running mate. After all, the Democratic National Convention is not until the last week of July.

But some think Kerry has waited too long already. Some think it is no accident that Vice President Dick Cheney has heated up his attacks on Kerry at a time when Kerry has no running mate to reply.



ROGER SIMON

The result is that Kerry must do the counter-attacking himself. This makes him look negative at a time when he should be building a positive image with the American people.

Some have advised Kerry to ignore Cheney, who this week attacked Kerry for his "inconsistencies and changing rationales" on the war in Iraq. Those who advise not responding to Cheney do so under the theory that Cheney is irrelevant because when it comes to choosing a president, hardly anybody casts a ballot based on who the running mate is.

In other words, demonizing Cheney is a waste of good demonizing.

I don't buy this theory, however. True, polling shows that Cheney has high negatives, and his presence on the ticket will probably not affect the outcome of the election.

But Cheney commands attention when he speaks. And Kerry cannot afford to let Cheney define

him to the American people. If Kerry had a running mate, the running mate could respond to Cheney, and the media, at least most of the media, would try for balanced coverage. But Kerry's surrogates — a few governors, members of Congress, the chairman of the Democratic National Committee — cannot command the same attention as a vice president or a vice presidential candidate.

This is a problem. The story line for Kerry, the filter through which the press and public see things, is being set in stone for Kerry just as it was for Al Gore: Kerry waffles, Kerry flip-flops, Kerry lies.

Need evidence? Whether Kerry threw away his Vietnam medals or his Vietnam ribbons 33 years ago would, under normal circumstances, be a trivial story, barely worthy of mention. Yet this story received major attention this week. Why? Because it was viewed as being about more than medals vs. ribbons. It was viewed as a revelation about Kerry's character. (He once had said medals, and now, he says ribbons.)

So the issue is never the issue. The issue is always the candidate's character. Does anyone remember what Al Gore allegedly "lied" about during his first debate with George W. Bush? Probably not, but many remember that it was the "sighs and lies" debate, with Al Gore fulfilling the story line that had been laid out for him: He was a waffler, an exaggerator, a man of untrustworthy character.

The Kerry campaign must work hard to change the story line, to

alter the filter, if Kerry is to succeed. And, when Kerry is attacked, the campaign will often need to attack back. But that does not mean Kerry himself should be left to do all the dirty work.

"If they're going to attack me, and they're going to start accusing me of something, then I'm going to demand a level of accountability from them that I think ought to be forthcoming," Kerry said Tuesday on MSNBC's "Hardball with Chris Matthews."

What is wrong with that sentence? Too many I's and me's. The election (as Howard Dean kept reminding people) is not about the candidates. It is about the voters. Or should be.

Kerry needs somebody to do the negative thing, so he can do the positive thing, the vision thing, the what-I-want-to-do-for-America thing.

In other words, Kerry needs a running mate. Picking one is not as difficult a chore as campaigns make it out to be. Kerry does not have that large a field to choose from, and even bad choices are usually not fatal: Dan Quayle did not keep George H.W. Bush from being elected.

The Kerry campaign needs somebody who can get down in the mud, so Kerry can climb out of it. And it needs him or her now.

Roger Simon can be e-mailed at WriteRoger@aol.com. To find out more about Roger Simon and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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2004 S
roadster

- The answers
- 1). Twenty-onds.
 - 2). Yes.
 - 3). Yes.
 - 4). Two-hun fifteen.
 - 5). Yes.
 - 6). Yes.
 - 7). Not much

The question

- 1). How lon take to lo retractable h put it up by using one finger to hold down the button?
- 2). Is it as fun to drive as it looks?
- 3). Does it h a n d l e well?
- 4). How many horses does the naturally aspirated V-6 j the hood?
- 5). Is it quick?
- 6). Do you r it?
- 7). What can the trunk wi down?

Now that p out of the wa for a little rec And boy, dc perfect toy fo in the sun. The 2004

VA to hc nurses f

HERALD Staff f

The West Health Care Big Spring a Service will r dedication of 10 a.m. Frida award cerem brate Natio Week.

All former service emp invited to att money in Roo

"These mul es are work roles of adn nurse mana sive care, ed outpatient c and at clinic Odessa, Abil Angelo," said relations coo Jo Hanslik.

work in ext surgery, subs urgent care, gical, quali ment and as tioners and thetics."

The West Health Car nurses hav many hours taking care have served Hanslik said

"Especially time of un world, let take this of thank the also the vet we serve," H

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Super Sweet

2004 SLK320 hardtop roadster nothing but fun

The answers:
1). Twenty-five seconds.
2). Yes.
3). Yes.
4). Two-hundred and fifteen.
5). Yes.
6). Yes.
7). Not much.

The questions:
1). How long does it take to lower the retractable hardtop or put it up by using one finger to hold down the button?
2). Is it as fun to drive as it looks?
3). Does it handle well?
4). How many horses does the naturally aspirated V-6 pack under the hood?
5). Is it quick?
6). Do you recommend it?
7). What can you fit in the trunk with the top down?

Now that pop quiz is out of the way, it's time for a little recess.

And boy, do I have the perfect toy for a day out in the sun.

The 2004 Mercedes VA to honor its nurses Friday

HERALD Staff Report

The West Texas VA Health Care System of Big Spring and Nursing Service will recognize the dedication of its nurses at 10 a.m. Friday during an award ceremony to celebrate National Nurses' Week.

All former VA nursing service employees are invited to attend the ceremony in Room 219.

"These multi-facet nurses are working in the roles of administration, nurse managers, intensive care, education and outpatient clinics here and at clinics in Hobbs, Odessa, Abilene and San Angelo," said community relations coordinator Iva Jo Hanslik. "They also work in extended care, surgery, substance abuse, urgent care, medical/surgical, quality management and as nurse practitioners and nurse anesthetists."

The West Texas VA Health Care System's nurses have dedicated many hours of service taking care of those who have served the nation, Hanslik said.

"Especially during this time of unrest in the world, let us not only take this opportunity to thank the nurses, but also the veterans whom we serve," Hanslik said.

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For the record, it is well known that I am a fan of manual transmissions — especially on sports car models. That said, I absolutely loved the five-speed automatic equipped on this

week's test vehicle. It was so smooth, and so seamless. You know, I really didn't miss shifting gears, and even if I did, all I had to do was engage the TouchShift feature on the shifter.

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The 2004 Mercedes SLK320.

features, such as Mercedes Tele Aid system.

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The center will try to establish voice contact with the vehicle's occupants, and if they are unable to respond, the center will automatically send the nearest emergency service provider (police, fire, EMT) to the vehicle's location by way of GPS satellite tracking.

The system can also be manually activated by pressing the "SOS" button in the overhead console.

Additionally, the system can provide electronic diagnostics, emer-

gency door unlock and alarm notification via home telephone, personal cell phone or Internet. It can even help police locate the car if the owner reports it stolen.

Other features include leather upholstery with wood trim, 8-way power seats, 6-speaker Bose sound system, dual zone climate control system, auto dim rearview and driver's side outside mirrors, fog lamps and a programmable remote locking system.

Everything gets a big thumbs up, except the cupholders. They were pretty wimpy.

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@wax-ahachiedailylight.com.

THE NUTS AND BOLTS



MODEL:
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Trim lines: SLK320, Special Edition
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3.2-L V-6 (2215 hp/221 torque)
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5-speed TouchShift automatic
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STEERING: Recirculating ball hydraulic with power

assist.
TURNING CIRCLE:
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SUSPENSION:
Four-wheel independent suspension
LENGTH:
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WHEEL-BASE:
94.5 inches
WEIGHT:
3,120 pounds

WIDTH: 67.5 inches
HEIGHT: 50.4 inches
TIRES: 16-inch/17-inch on Special Edition
FUEL TANK: 15.8 gallons
CARGO CAP: 9.6 cubic feet (top up) 3.9 c.f. (top down)
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0-60: 6.6 seconds

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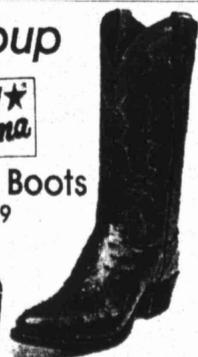


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CHAINS

Continued from Page 1A

ly. "Chaining produces a more aggressive and territorial dog. A less aggressive dog that is being chained will become neurotic and antisocial. There are several behavioral problems that come from chaining dogs. There's simply no good reason to chain a dog.

"I've heard people say they have to chain a dog they own because it will kill other animals they own. That in its self is a problem. If you have a dog that will kill another dog, that dog may very well kill a small child."

Smith said the decision was made by his department to bring the matter to the committee after a string of dog attacks brought the problem to his attention.

"There were several dog bites around that time, and after looking into the situations surrounding them, we discovered the majority of the dogs involved had been chained when they got loose," said Smith. "That caused us a great deal of concern, so we began evaluating the situation and looking at what other cities around the nation were doing.

"I believe if we ban chaining and tethering,

it's not only going to cut down on the number of dog bites, but also make for more humane treatment of these animals. Many of these dogs never get off these chains at all and don't get any interaction with people. I think this ordinance will help make many of these dogs into pets again."

Gambrell said the committee also heard from people in the community, all of whom supported the banning of chaining and tethering dogs because of incidents they were involved with or seen first hand.

"We also had some citizens from the community come in and talk about the situations they have had with chained dogs," said Gambrell. "They talked about family pets that had been killed by chained dogs and another had narrowly avoided an attack on a 2-year-old child. It was definitely a topic the community was dealing with."

Former Animal Control Committee member Bebe McCasland, who played a major role in the preparation of the proposed ban, said chaining or tethering a dog is quite possibly one of the cruelest things people can do to "man's best friend."

"It's inhumane and cruel. The act of chaining and tethering is something that was done in

medieval times," she explained. "I don't see us needing it now. If a person feels the need to contain an animal with a chain or rope, then that person has an ownership responsibility problem. If you're going to have a dog, it needs a confined space, which means fencing of some nature. It also needs room to be a dog — to run and play. What it most certainly does not need is to be chained to a tree on barren ground with no water, food or shelter.

"In January we had an exceptionally cold front come in. It was about 20 degrees and the wind was blowing. I drove by a home in our community and saw two dogs that were chained outside in the cold wind with no shelter, not even something to lie on. No water. No food. I reported that owner, and I encourage everyone in the community to do the same if they see that type of situation."

According to Smith, the proposed ordinance, which is modeled after an ordinance adopted in Lawton, Okla., was submitted to City Manager Gary Fuqua after it was approved by the committee.

"After the Animal Control Committee approved the proposed ordinance, I submitted it to Gary Fuqua for consid-

eration from the city council," said Smith. "I don't recall the exact date when I submitted it. I'm not sure why it hasn't been on the council agenda. I do know the holiday season was going on when I submitted it, and I'm sure that's one of the reasons it wasn't considered at that time."

McCasland said she's baffled at the city council's lack of consideration on the matter.

"It's frustrating," said McCasland. "I expected to see it listed on a city council agenda at least by November or December. I even inquired with some of the council members to see if they received our committee's minutes, and they hadn't. They did receive them in January, however. Once I learned they had received the minutes for certain, I expected to see something concerning the issue on an agenda, but it has never appeared.

"I was on the Animal

Control Committee through the January meeting, and when we met again in March I attended as a citizen. I inquired about the progress of the ordinance and I was told by (BSPD) Lt. Stan Parker that any inquiries to the police department concerning the recommendation should be directed to our city council representative."

When asked why the matter hasn't yet been brought before the city council, Mayor Russ McEwen deferred the question to Chief Smith, but did say it's something that certainly deserves the attention of the council.

"It's something that will have to be considered by the city council," said McEwen. "It is, in fact, a problem. It's an instance where most of the people seem to agree that animals should not be tethered at all. But then you do that and you'll have

people lining up at the podium saying they can't afford to put a fence up. So if I can't afford a fence are you telling me I can't have a dog? That's exactly what's going to happen. I guarantee it. But it's something that needs to be addressed."

McCasland said she and other committee members think the public deserves to know about the recommendation and proposed ordinance, whether the council decides to address the issue or not.

"I'm concerned that a proposed ordinance such as this should at least be brought into the public view," said McCasland. "The city council certainly has the prerogative to introduce it on an agenda and say they aren't ready to handle it at this time, but at least the public would know the Animal Control Committee has made a recommendation. As it has been handled, however, the public knows nothing."

LAWS

Continued from Page 1A

reads:

"No person shall, at any time, fasten, chain or tie any dog or cause such dog to be fastened, chained or tied while such dog is on the owner's property or on the property of the dog owner's landlord. (Exception -- A dog may be tethered to allow for the cleaning of the dog's enclosure or while the owner is outside with the dog and is in visual contact of the animal at all times to prevent injury to the dog.)

"Any dogs confined within a fenced yard must have adequate space for exercise based on a dimension of at least 100 square feet. Provided, further that where dogs are kept or housed on property without a fenced yard, the owner of such dogs or persons having custody of such dogs shall provide an enclosure for such dogs meeting the 100-square-foot dimension. Such enclosure shall be constructed of chain link or similar type materials with all four sides enclosed. The enclosure shall be of sufficient height to prevent the dog from escaping from such enclosure. The top of the enclosure shall be covered with materials to provide the dog with shade and protection from the elements.

"Shelter to allow the animal to remain dry and protected from the elements. Such shelter shall be fully enclosed on three sides, roofed and have a solid floor. The entrance to the shelter shall be flexible to allow the animal's entry and exit, and sturdy enough to block entry of wind and rain. The shelter shall be small enough to retain the animal's body heat and large enough to allow the animal to stand and turn comfortably. The enclosure shall be structurally sound and in good repair."

"Chief (Lonnie) Smith presented the need for the ban to the committee, then followed up by going on the Internet and obtaining ordinances from different communities all over the U.S.," said Bebe McCasland, a former Animal Control

Committee member. "He gave us copies of them and during the August 2003 meeting, I asked him which one of these ordinances would be the best for our community, and he mentioned the one that we adopted. It came from Lawton, Okla., and the ordinance that we suggested to the city council was taken word for word from that city's ordinance."

Although many of the ordinances adopted in other cities put "time limits" on chaining or tethering animals, Chief Smith said that's not a viable option for him and his department.

"It comes down to who is going to keep track of how long a dog has been on a chain," said Smith. "That's just not possible."

"Not only does it prohibit the tethering or chaining of dogs it also specified that if you do not have a fenced yard you must have a certain type of enclosure," Smith added. "It went into the square footage of that enclosure, the height —

all of the necessary details. That way the public does not have access to that animal."

Chief Smith said he believes the adoption of an ordinance banning the chaining or tethering of dogs will help cut down on the number of dog bites and attacks.

"I believe a ban of chaining dogs would cut down on the number of dog bites reported," he said. "I think once dog owners see they are going to be held accountable, they will start taking care of their dogs in a more responsible manner."

Since 2001, Big Spring Animal Control has issued 261 citations to dog owners for "animal at large" violations. In 2002, 79 dog bites were reported and 1,031 dogs were picked up for at-large violations. In 2003, 58 dog bites were reported and 1,057 dogs were picked up for at-large violations.

Since January, animal control has investigated five reports of dog bites and picked up 211 dogs for at-large violations.

Registration for all Summer Terms Begins
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 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
 Student Assistance Center
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 www.howardcollege.edu

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#701 Grande	23	19	#821 Joe Duffie	129	103
#734 2 Sullter	144	115	#904 Messenger Bag	169	135
#802 Shave Kit	59	47	#921 Laundry Bag	45	37

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*must not have subscribed in last 45 days.

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IN B...

C.G.A. announces scholarship
 The Chic... Association announced a nament that send your college.

The scholar nament is sch Saturday, M... Sunday May Big Spring G...
 The tourna be a two-per... ble at a cost... Mullen also be av... both days for...
 There will b... for players... on holes clo... pin.
 For more in... call Willie M... 267-7977 or B... at 264-7116 (a... Big Spr... Course can... throughout... 264-2366.

Co-ed softball tournament announced
 A benefit ball tourna take place at Trail Park... Saturday, M... The cost is... team and ch... rules apply... and t-shirt awarded through thir...
 For more i... contact Fra... 213-0992 or... 432-466-1541... leave a mess...

Lady Steers Banquet announced
 This ye... Steers Athle... will take p... p.m. tonight... Spring Ju... Cafeteria.
 Tickets w... each and c... chased thr... Cook at the... Flowers or... Screen Prin...
 The banq... catered by... Restaurant.
 Please... checks paya... Steers Boost...

Longhorns Tournament
 This fir... Longhorns... Tournament... held at Com... Park Saturd... of the co-ed... is \$110 per...
 Contact Sa... or 432-393-5... Hilario at... for more de...

Howard Co announces
 Howard... scheduled... banquet fo... tonight in... Room of... Garrett Coli...

Coahoma announces
 Coahoma... banquet wi... Monday at... Elementary... The price... adults and... mentary ag... For more ir... 267-5328.

ON TH...

Sports Broad...
 Event, Time...
 Coahoma vs. New Deal...
 5:45 p.m.

Event, Time...
 Lady Steers vs. Inva...
 Bulldogs vs. Grape...
 5:45 p.m.

Event, Time...
 Coahoma vs. New Deal...
 5:45 p.m.

100 YEARS
 BIG SPRING HERALD

Do you have an interesting sports item or story idea? Call Troy Hyde at 263-7331, Ext. 237. Email results to: sports@bigspringherald.com

IN BRIEF

C.G.A. announces scholarship tourney

The Chicano Golf Association has announced a golf tournament that could help send your child to college.

The scholarship tournament is scheduled for Saturday, May 15, and Sunday May 16, at the Big Spring Golf Course.

The tournament will be a two-person scramble at a cost of \$75 per person. Mulligans will also be available on both days for \$5 apiece.

There will be free food for players and prizes on holes closest to the pin.

For more information, call Willie Mendoza at 267-7977 or Billy Pineda at 264-7116 (after 7 p.m.)

Big Spring Golf Course can be reached throughout the day at 264-2366.

Co-ed softball tourney announced

A benefit co-ed softball tournament will take place at Comanche Trail Park Friday and Saturday, May 14-15.

The cost is \$115 per team and church league rules apply. Trophies and t-shirts will be awarded for first through third place.

For more information contact Frank at 432-213-0992 or Vanessa at 432-466-1541 (please leave a message).

Lady Steers Athletic Banquet announced

This year's Lady Steers Athletic Banquet will take place at 6:30 p.m. tonight in the Big Spring Junior High Cafeteria.

Tickets will be \$10 each and can be purchased through Kay Cook at the ATC, Faye's Flowers or All-District Screen Printing.

The banquet will be catered by Cowboys Restaurant.

Please make all checks payable to Lady Steers Booster Club.

Longhorns Ragball Tournament set

This first annual Longhorns Ragball Tournament will be held at Comanche Trail Park Saturday. The cost of the co-ed tournament is \$110 per team.

Contact Sally Grant at or 432-393-5237 or Mike Hilario at 432-267-6619 for more details.

Howard College announces banquet

Howard College has scheduled its athletic banquet for 6:30 p.m. tonight in the East Room of Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

Coahoma athletic banquet near

Coahoma's athletic banquet will take place Monday at 7 p.m. in the Elementary Cafeteria. The price is \$8 for adults and \$5 for elementary age and under. For more info., call 432-267-5328.

ON THE AIR

Sports Broadcast Schedule		
Thursday		
Event, Time	Station	
Coahoma vs. New Deal @Hyde, 6:45 p.m.	1490	
Friday		
Event, Time	Station	
Lady Steers vs. Irvin @Alpine, 5:45 p.m.	1490	
Bulldogettes vs. Grape Creek @Midland, 5:45 p.m.	94.3	
Saturday		
Event, Time	Station	
Coahoma vs. New Deal @Hyde, 12:45 p.m.	1490	

Lady Steers seek another long run in postseason play

By JEFF LANE

Special to the HERALD

Since the softball program began in 1998 the Big Spring Lady Steers have set a high standard of excellence. Three district titles and two second place finishes in District 4-4A along with playoff appearances in the last five out of six years had black and gold players and fans alike eager to begin the 2004 campaign.

First year Head Coach Lea Daggett gets back virtually an entire team from last year which qualified for the regional semifinals. With seven returning starters, including a strong pitching staff and some key additions, the Lady Steers rolled to a regular season record of 29-4-1, finishing second in the district and qualifying for the state playoffs for the fifth consecutive year.

Big Spring fell only twice in district play, losing each time to rival Andrews.

"Those losses to Andrews are not something we think about around here" Coach Daggett says. "It's just one of those mental things that we will overcome. It does not hurt the girls' confidence."

A third game with Andrews is possible down the road in postseason play.

With the regular season behind them, the the Lady Steers entered familiar territory with the start of the playoffs.

Last Friday night, Big Spring got off on the right foot in its bid for a state title after defeating Amarillo Caprock, 11-1. The Lady Steers will now face El Paso Irvin in the Area final for the second

straight year Friday in Alpine beginning at 6 p.m. Big Spring won the game last year.

Big Spring will send Alex Watkins to the mound Friday night. The right-handed junior has compiled a record of 14-2-1 this season.

Watkins and fellow junior Chelsea Abner have stifled the opposition all year long, piling up a combined 29-3-1 record.

"Alex and Chelsea could both start anywhere in the district" said Daggett. "It is great to know you have solid, experienced pitchers going into the year."

Offensive standouts include Watkins, who, going into Friday's game, leads the team with a .563 batting average this season.

Following Watkins are senior Erica Stewart, senior Leina Braxton and junior Heather Vassar. All three hold over a .400 batting average.

Others adding to the high octane offense include Abner, and seniors Whitney Hufford and Laura Olague. All three are batting over .300 this season.

"We have also had tremendous help from our freshmen, Katy Abner and Amber Sides" said Daggett. "Those two have so much speed it is hard to keep them in the dugout."

Daggett expects a good size crowd in Alpine and said the fans have been excellent this year.

"Our fan support has been tremendous. It's great to see all those familiar faces during playoff time, especially when we are on the road."



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde
Big Spring's Leina Braxton, left, and Alex Watkins give their traditional in between inning send off during the Lady Steers' 11-1 bi-district victory over Amarillo Caprock last Friday in Lubbock. This Friday, the Lady Steers travel to Alpine to face El Paso Irvin at 6 p.m. in the Area final. The winner advances to the regional quarterfinal next week.

Big Spring Softball team leaders through the regular season

BATTING AVERAGE	RUNS BATTED IN (RBI)	ON BASE PERCENTAGE
Alex Watkins: .563	Chelsea Abner: 25	Erica Stewart: .639
Erica Stewart: .433	Heather Vassar: 24	Alex Watkins: .632
Leina Braxton: .423	Alex Watkins: 23	Whitney Hufford: .568

Minimizing mistakes will be Bulldogettes' key to playoff victory

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor
Minimizing its mistakes is one of the big keys to the Coahoma softball team's Area playoff game Friday against Grape Creek at Muggs Field in Midland.

"We need to take care of the little things and make them earn what they get," said Coach Robby Dickenson, who has been with Coahoma for seven years and taken the Bulldogettes to three state tournaments. "We need to hold our mistakes to a minimum."

The Bulldogettes earned a trip to the playoffs this year after compiling a 4-0 district record and collecting another district championship. The title also gave the Bulldogettes a first round playoff bye.

Coahoma finished the regular season 13-12, but every team they faced was outside of Class 2A (the class that Coahoma competes in) except for teams within its district.

"Grape Creek plays good defense, but I don't think its pitching is as good as ours," said Dickenson.

Dickenson's tough pitching is led by sophomore Kali Roberts. Roberts will start on the

hill Friday against Grape Creek. She is also one of the Bulldogettes' best hitters at the plate.

Coahoma is also led on offense by sophomores Liz Conley and Ruby Garcia.

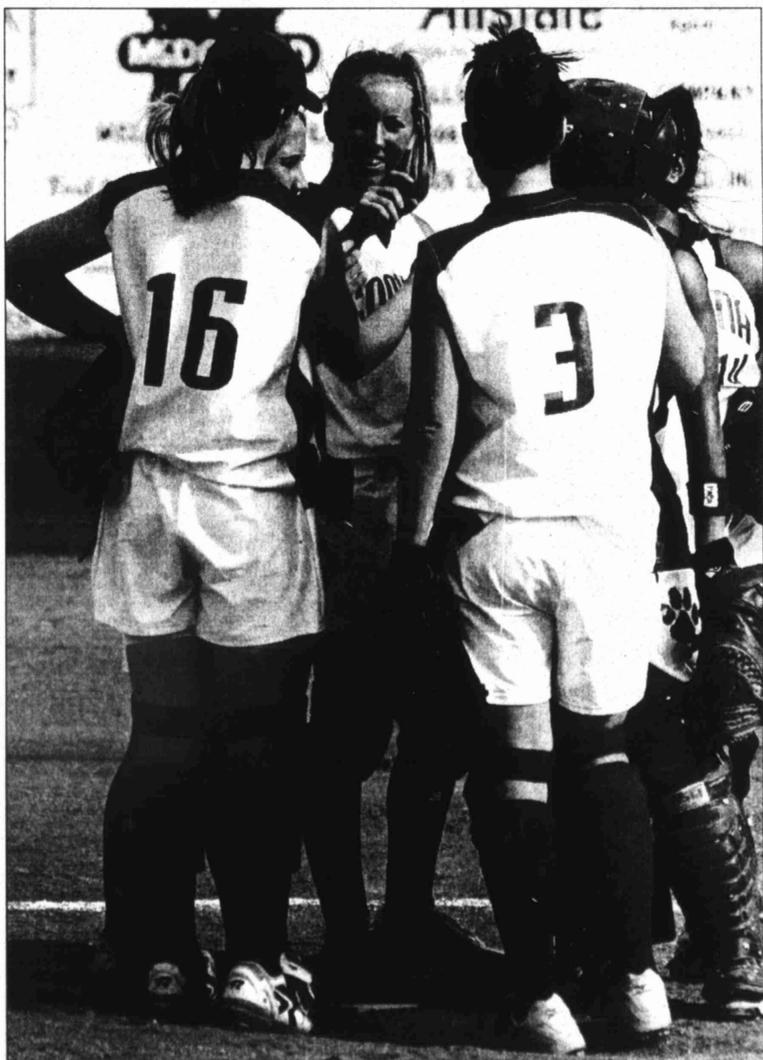
The winner of the Coahoma/Grape Creek game advances to the regional quarterfinal against Alpine next week. Alpine defeated Crane, which is one of Coahoma's district rivals, this past Tuesday.

Last year, Dickenson led Coahoma to a second place overall finish in the state behind the pitching of then-freshman Sarah Dunn. Dunn is now the starting third baseman. The Bulldogettes were also state semifinalists in 2002.

UPCOMING SOFTBALL PLAYOFF SCHEDULE

FRIDAY
Lady Steers (30-4-1) vs. El Paso Irvin @Alpine, 6 p.m.

Bulldogettes (13-12) vs. Grape Creek @Muggs Field in Midland, 6 p.m.



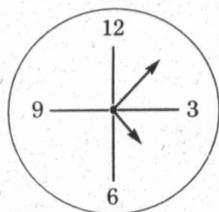
HERALD photo/Troy Hyde
The Bulldogettes' infield meets at the mound before the start of an inning against Big Spring. Coahoma (10-10) begins playoff competition Friday. They take on Grape Creek in Midland at 6 p.m. The winner advances to meet Alpine in the next round.

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Fish

ALAN HENRY: Water lightly stained; 62 degrees; 6.2' low; Black bass to 10 pounds are good on live bait, dark jigs, watermelon red flake soft plastics, and shad-colored spinnerbaits near structure. Spawning bass fair off secondary points in clear water at 15 - 25 ft. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs.

ARROWHEAD: Water clearing; 65 degrees; 11.2' low; Black bass are fair on crankbaits and spinnerbaits near shallow rocky areas. Crappie are fair on minnows near derricks and east side bridge areas. White bass are fair on shad-colored crankbaits off windy, rocky points. Blue catfish are good on shad and large shiners in shallows in the upper end. Due to low water conditions, the only usable boat ramp is West Arrowhead Park.

COLORADO CITY: Water clear; 67 degrees; 4' low; Black bass are slow. Crappie are slow. White bass are slow. Redfish are slow. Catfish are slow.

FT. PHANTOM HILL: Water clear; 66 degrees; 16' low. Black bass are fair. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. White bass are fair. Catfish are fair.

HUBBARD CREEK: Water lightly stained; 66 degrees; 17.4' low; Black bass are good on live bait, and soft plastics in greens and chartreuse near structure. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs. White bass and hybrid striped are good on live bait. Catfish are good on live bait and prepared baits.

NASWORTHY: Water lightly stained; 64 degrees; Black bass are fair. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. Redfish are fair. White bass and striped bass are good. Catfish are fair on live bait and prepared baits.

OAK CREEK: Water lightly stained; 63 degrees; 26' low; Black bass are slow. Crappie are fair on live bait and jigs. Catfish are fair on trotlines with live bait. No boat ramps open. 4x4 vehicles can unload on the dirt road near the dam.

OH. IVIE: Water lightly stained; 66 degrees; 26' low; Black bass are fair on live baits, shad-colored spinnerbaits, and dark jigs or soft plastics. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs. White bass are good on live bait. Smallmouth bass are fair. Channel catfish are good on live baits.

POSSUM KINGDOM: Water clear; 64 degrees; 7.5' low; Black bass are fair. Crappie are fair. Larger white bass and smaller striped bass are fair in the upper lake areas towards the river. Channel catfish are fair on trotlines and juglines in the upper end of the lake.

SPENCE: Water lightly stained; 63 degrees; 62' low; Black bass are slow. Crappie are slow. White bass are fair. Striped bass and hybrid striped are slow. Catfish are slow.

STAMFORD: Water lightly stained; 62 degrees; 4' low; Black bass are fair on live bait and jigs. Crappie are fair on live bait and jigs. White and striped bass are fair on live bait. Catfish are fair on trotlines.

SWEETWATER: Water lightly stained; 61 degrees; 26' low; Black bass are fair on dark jigs and shad-colored spinnerbaits. Crappie are fair on live bait and jigs. White bass are fair on live bait. Catfish are good on live bait.

WHITE RIVER: Water stained (from wind); 57 degrees; 21' low; Black bass are fair on shad-colored crankbaits and live baits with some topwater action. Crappie are fair on jigs and minnows. Walleye are fair. Channel catfish are fair.

WICHITA: Water lightly stained; 67 degrees; Crappie are fair on minnows and Road Runner jigs along the dam. White bass are fair. Hybrid striped are fair. Channel catfish from 2 - 8 pounds are fair. The parking area behind the dam is blocked due to construction.

Parker delivers against Lakers

By T.A. BADGER

Associated Press Writer
SAN ANTONIO (AP) - The first two playoff games between Los Angeles and San Antonio followed a consistent formula.

The Spurs take a first-half lead, and the Lakers chisel it down in the third quarter. But the Spurs hang on through the fourth period to win.

Tony Parker scored eight of his 30 points down the stretch in San Antonio's 95-85 victory Wednesday night.

Now Los Angeles returns home in an 0-2 hole against the defending NBA champs, winners of 17 straight games.

"We're down but not out," said Karl Malone, who scored 15 points for the Lakers while also defending Tim Duncan. "We get to go home now, but there is no comfort zone. We have to come out with the same intensity that they have found."

Parker embodied that intensity, scoring 16 points in the first quarter to give the Spurs a big lead early on, then turning it up again late.

"I was in attack mode and just tried to get shots for me and my teammates," said Parker, who also had five assists. "I just want to keep winning. I just want to focus on beating the Lakers."

The best-of-seven matchup resumes in Los Angeles on Sunday.

Game 1 of the Miami-Indiana series will be Thursday night, and Game 2 in the New Jersey-Detroit series is Friday, with the Pistons ahead 1-0. The Sacramento-Minnesota series resumes Saturday; the Kings won the opener.

The Lakers, led by Shaquille O'Neal's inside scoring, slashed a 16-point halftime deficit to 80-78 with more than six minutes left, and the momentum was clearly in their favor.

But Parker made a pair of free throws and a short floater over O'Neal after a stunning crossover move on Devean George. That rebuilt the lead to 88-80, and the Spurs' defense then made some timely stops.

"Our execution failed us in the fourth quarter tonight," said Lakers coach Phil Jackson, essentially repeating what he said after Game 1. "Some of that is their elevated play. I think they played a little harder, a little tougher."

Tim Duncan finished with 24 points, but he didn't score in the fourth quarter. Manu Ginobili added 15 points for San Antonio.

Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said Duncan's lack of points down the stretch demonstrated his team's versatility.

"For us it's better to do it out of our team offense and see what happens," he said. "Maybe it's Tony's night, or Manu's or Hedo's (Turkoglu)."

O'Neal had 32 points, while Kobe Bryant had 15 points on 7-for-17 shooting.

O'Neal said the Lakers have to figure out a way to contain Parker.

"We have to trap him and make him throw it to other guys," said O'Neal, who was also the game's top rebounder with 15.

All-WJCAC Softball Team

MVP:

Darya Shembereva, Midland College

Coach of the Year:

Tommy Ramos, Midland College

Pitchers:

Megan Barber, El Paso Community College
Karina Cannon, Odessa College
Rosemary Moreno, Midland College
Patricia Gonzales, Western Texas College

Designated Hitter:

Amanda Martin, Midland College

Catchers:

Michelle Teller, Howard College
Jessie Thomas, Odessa College

Infielders:

Kelly Lombard, El Paso Community College
Mailei Hilva, Midland College
Andrian Reyes, El Paso Community College
Stephanie Wardlow, Western Texas College
Angelica Yrigoyen, Midland College
Angela Piper, Howard College

Outfielders:

Jessica Prewitt, Western Texas College
Lauren Curtis, Odessa College
Monica Droz, Howard College

Utility:

Jessica Nocas, Midland College
Dionne Lopez, Howard College
Erin Sylvester, El Paso Community College
Marci Shepherd, Howard College

Honorable Mention:

Andrea Renteria, Howard College

Local State Track Qualifiers

Big Spring

Cierra Butler-Shot Put
Cierra Butler-Discus

Sands

Steven Barraza-3200 meters
Steven Barraza-1600 meters

Garden City

Allison Jansa- 3200 meters
Allison Jansa- 1600 meters

Grady

Whitney Oppgaard-100 meter hurdles

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AND
INFORMATION 263-7331

Win a Scholarship to Texas Tech's Football Camp

Must be in grades 3-8 for Fall 2004 Semester

The Big Spring Herald will select two students to attend Texas Tech University's Junior Football Camp. To enter:

- Entry must be completed on an original entry form.
- Entry form must be signed by parent/guardian.
- Only one entry per person.
- You must be able to attend camp June 4-6, 2004 either as a day camper or overnight camper. Transportation to and from Lubbock is the responsibility of the parent/guardian.
- Provide physician exam form by May 24, 2004 as required by TTU)
- Camp fee will be paid, which includes meals, but does not include spending money for soft drinks, etc.
- Winners will be contacted to see if they can meet ALL eligibility requirements of Texas Tech Football Camp. If not, another name will be drawn until both scholarships are filled. Winners will be announced in the paper.

Deadline to receive entries: Noon, Monday May 17

ENTRY FORM:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Age _____ Grade (Fall 2004) _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____



PHYSICAL EXAM FORM DUE BY MAY 24, 2004.

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PHOTO BY JEFF SINGER/KRT

BACK ON TRACK?

By JIM UTTER
Knight Ridder Newspapers

Hindsight is always 20/20, as the saying goes. Jeff Gordon's record before his recent two consecutive Nextel Cup Series wins certainly doesn't show perfection, but it does show potential.

A late-race caution handed Gordon a win over favorite Dale Earnhardt Jr. at Talladega Superspeedway two weeks ago, then a strong car and good fuel mileage propelled him into a victory last weekend at California Speedway.

Before the wins, Gordon was also primed for wins at Darlington, Texas and Martinsville, only to see various outside factors take him out of contention for the victories.

At Darlington, it was a lapped-car involved in an accident that destroyed Gordon's No. 24 Chevrolet, which had been among the fastest cars of the weekend.

Gordon was leading at Texas when he needed to switch batteries, forcing him to lose valuable track position and finish third.

And he was dominating Martinsville when a piece of concrete from the track surface tore a gash into his car. He had to pit for repairs and climbed back to sixth before the race ended.

So instead of two wins and 27 points out of the lead, Gordon could well have at least five victories and a commanding lead.

Could the Jeff Gordon of 1998 be returning, the one who dominated his competition with seven poles and 13 wins?

Time will tell. For now, Gordon will enjoy his current success.

"Some days we have the best car and the best team out there, but the results don't show it," Gordon said. At Texas, "we had the best car when it counted."

"It has been an amazing four or five races that we've had. After Darlington we had a pretty tough wreck there and we just shook it off and just kept on plugging away and going strong."

"It makes me really proud to get behind the wheel of that car."

It may seem strange that just weeks ago, there were whispers in the garage of problems with Gordon's team, including the possibility that crew chief Robbie Loomis could take the fall.

As ridiculous a notion as that may seem, it remained a topic Gordon's team was required to address.

"We went through a very rough 2000 season. Since that time, we've won the championship."

That gave me some confidence," Loomis said. "The biggest thing is Jeff talks to me a lot. He said no matter what we come across or how we get criticized, he believed in this race team and what we are doing."

"There are things we need to improve, but

he believes in the (team) and that we can do it. When you have that kind of confidence from a guy who has won four championships, it gives you confidence to get back to the team and walk through the shop on a bad day and know that we can put our best foot forward."

Since scoring his first Cup victory in 1994, Gordon has never finished worse than ninth in points (2000 season). The fewest number of wins in that stretch was two in the '94 season.

Such statistics would be welcome news to virtually any other team in the series. But Gordon's past performance has raised the bar of expectations — both for his fans and himself.

In 1996, 1997 and 1998, Gordon won 10, 10 and 13 races, respectively. No other team has come close to that level of performance since then, including Gordon's.

So, when Gordon goes several races without a win, or dips outside the top-10 in points, questions of his performance naturally arise.

After the 2000 season "we questioned ourselves. Once you overcome adversity, it allows you to overcome it more and more and deal with it in a better way," Gordon said.

"I'm very fortunate that the people at Hendrick Motorsports never lose sight of that. Each week, no matter what's thrown at us, we put it behind us and go to the next week."

"The criticism doesn't come from within us. It comes from outside. Everyone has a story to write."

Does that mean another dominating Gordon stretch is on the horizon?

"I don't know," he said, "but we do have momentum right now."

With two recent wins, Gordon aims to regain his former glory



Jeff Gordon, right, crashes during the Carolina Dodge Dealers 400 in Darlington, S.C., on March 21.

TIM DOMINICK/KRT

RANKINGS THAT'S RACIN'S TOP PICKS

- 1. Jimmie Johnson (car No. 48)**
Second at California, but this team has the most championship momentum right now. Last week: 2.
- 2. Jeff Gordon (car No. 24)**
California fans angry that he won didn't throw avocado salad onto the

- track Sunday. Last week: 3.
- 3. Dale Earnhardt Jr. (car No. 8)**
This team wobbled but it did not fall down in salvaging a 19th-place run at California. Last week: 1.
- 4. Matt Kenseth (car No. 17)**
Steady as he goes. The top four this week are clearly the sport's best teams right now. Last week: 4.
- 5. Kevin Harvick (car No. 29)**
Sixth in points despite not having had a stellar run yet. Team's due for one

- of those. Last week: 6.
- 6. Kasey Kahne (car No. 9)**
Things didn't add up fuel-wise for Kahne and teammate Jeremy Mayfield last week. Last week: 7.
- 7. Kurt Busch (car No. 97)**
Similar to Harvick's team so far, except that this one did pit it together at Bristol. Last week: 5.
- 8. Ryan Newman (car No. 12)**
Seems like this team's struggling, but it's having a better year in points than

- last year. Last week: 11.
 - 9. Bobby Labonte (car No. 18)**
Sounded completely surprised he didn't have the fuel to finish late California charge. Last week: 12.
 - 10. Tony Stewart (car No. 20)**
Said drivers used to be "more cordial." And, apparently, he said it with a straight face. Last week: 9.
- For the rest of the top-40 rankings, visit www.thatracin.com.

STOP 'N' GO

WINLESS

Several drivers who are winners in the NASCAR Nextel Cup series have gone more than 50 races without a victory. Only races competed in are included:

Driver	Last win	Races
Ken Schrader	June 2, 1991	417
Jimmy Spencer	July 24, 1994	312
Derrike Cope	June 3, 1990	307
Kyle Petty	June 4, 1995	265
Morgan Shepherd	March 20, 1993	167
Jeremy Mayfield	June 19, 2000	127
Jeff Burton	Oct. 28, 2001	86
Sterling Marlin	March 17, 2002	70
Mark Martin	May 26, 2002	70
Ricky Rudd	June 23, 2002	66
Ward Burton	July 21, 2002	63

SOURCE: NASCAR STATISTICAL SERVICES

— Jim Utter

POLL POSITION

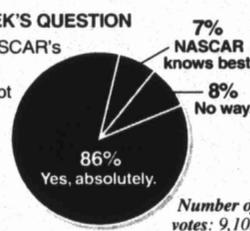
THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

Jeff Gordon has won two straight races, and with a little luck might have won four straight. What does the streak mean?

Cast your vote at www.thatracin.com

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION

Should NASCAR's Nextel Cup Series adopt the Truck Series rule that assures a green-flag finish?



BY THE NUMBERS

NEXTEL CUP POINTS LEADERS

The top-40 drivers as of May 4:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. D. Earnhardt Jr. (8)	1453	21. T. Labonte (5)	1011
2. J. Johnson (48)	1428	22. B. Gaughan (77)	995
3. J. Gordon (24)	1426	23. G. Biffle (16)	995
4. M. Kenseth (17)	1357	24. W. Burton (0)	988
5. K. Busch (97)	1316	25. S. Wimmer (22)	982
6. K. Harvick (29)	1316	26. J. Sauter (30)	965
7. R. Newman (12)	1299	27. B. Vickers (25)	926
8. T. Stewart (20)	1284	28. R. Rudd (21)	904
9. B. Labonte (18)	1265	29. J. Burton (99)	901
10. E. Sadler (38)	1250	30. M. Waltrip (15)	876
11. K. Kahne (9)	1209	31. K. Schrader (49)	875
12. J. McMurray (42)	1200	32. K. Petty (45)	857
13. M. Martin (6)	1135	33. R. Craven (32)	831
14. R. Wallace (2)	1132	34. J. Green (43)	784
15. S. Marlin (40)	1112	35. S. Riggs (10)	780
16. J. Mayfield (19)	1106	36. D. Cope (50)	667
17. C. Mears (41)	1093	37. K. LePage	426
18. D. Jarrett (88)	1066	38. D. Blaney (23)	424
19. R. Gordon (31)	1033	39. J. Spencer (4)	378
20. J. Nemechek (01)	1014	40. K. Shelmerdine (72)	274

BUSCH SERIES POINTS LEADERS

The top-20 drivers as of May 4:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. M. Waltrip	1335	11. K. Wallace	1026
2. K. Busch	1283	12. J. Leffler	998
3. M. Truex Jr.	1282	13. J. Benson	984
4. D. Green	1251	14. T. Fedewa	984
5. R. Gordon	1245	15. M. Bliss	979
6. J. Keller	1157	16. S. Compton	973
7. B. Hamilton Jr.	1095	17. K. Kahne	947
8. R. Hornaday	1084	18. K. Harvick	937
9. J. Sauter	1079	19. R. Pressley	915
10. G. Biffle	1072	20. D. Stremme	911

NEXT RACE: Saturday, Charter 250, Gateway International Raceway

TRUCK SERIES POINTS LEADERS

The top-10 drivers as of April 17:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. C. Edwards	486	6. M. Crafton	407
2. T. Kvapil	464	7. R. Crawford	406
3. D. Setzer	455	8. C. Chaffin	396
4. D. Reutimann	455	9. B. Hamilton	395
5. M. Skinner	424	10. J. Wood	388

NEXT RACE: May 16, Ohio 250, Mansfield, Ohio

'Wonderboy' grows up: Jeff Gordon is poised in third

It was odd Sunday afternoon, hearing Robbie Loomis talk about how Jeff Gordon's faith in his crew chief had helped hold things together when the 24 wasn't measuring up to the lofty standards the team has set for itself over the years.

"Jeff talks to me a lot," Loomis said after Gordon's victory in the Auto Club 500 at California Speedway, his second straight Nextel Cup win. "We talked at Bristol. He said that no matter what we came across or how we got criticized, he believed in this race team and what we are doing."

"When you have that kind of confidence from a guy who has won four championships, it gives you confidence to get back to the team and walk through the shop on a bad day and know that we can put our best foot forward."

What makes that seem strange is that anyone who's been around NASCAR for more than a couple of years remembers how different the roles were when Ray Evernham was crew chief for Gordon's team in three of those four championship seasons.

In those days, it almost seemed that the team's radio was merely an extension of Evernham's lar-

ynx. He was constantly coaching, cajoling and reassuring Gordon during races, in many of which Gordon clearly had the best car. Gordon's talent was unmistakable, but it almost seemed that without Evernham there to guide him he might not quite be able to focus it into success on the track.

After Evernham left during the 1999 season to become a car owner in his own right, Gordon and Loomis struggled through the 2000 season together.

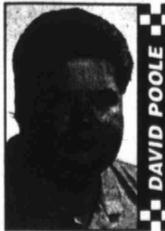
Gordon had won seven or more races in each of the previous five seasons, but in his first full season after Evernham left he won "only" three times and finished ninth in points, the lowest since he was 14th in his rookie season.

Loomis was the new factor in the equation and took a lot of the heat for that, but Gordon's support never wavered.

After they won six races and a championship together in 2001, Gordon and Loomis seemed like they'd gotten the last laugh on their critics.

But Gordon won three races and finished

fourth in the standings in the two seasons since, then started off a bit slowly this year. After a crash at Darlington in the year's fifth race brought a 41st-place finish, Gordon was 13th in the points standings.



DAVID POOLE

Dale Earnhardt Jr.

"Each week, no matter what's thrown at us, we put it behind us and go to the next week," Gordon said. "Some days we have the best car and the best team out there, but the results don't show it. Today we had the best car when it counted. It's just funny how things work out."

It's funny, too, that Gordon now finds himself

talking about the sport's up-and-coming young stars from outside that group. The driver once called "Wonderboy," a nickname that Evernham particularly despised, is now 32 years old in a sport in which drivers have, over history, won more races at 30 and 31 than at any other ages.

As hard as it might be to fathom, Gordon is now almost exactly one year older than the age of the average race winner since the start of the 2003 season. He's also no longer is the unanimous choice as the driver who best represents NASCAR's "new face." That mantle has passed to Earnhardt Jr.

"Honestly, I am enjoying my 30s a lot more than I thought I would because I'm comfortable with myself and the role I'm in," Gordon said. "I don't need to be the guy in the headlines every weekend. I only want to be there if I did something worthy. I like getting attention because I did something good on the track or because we won a race or a championship."

"I don't mind these kids coming along and getting some of the limelight. They are talented. I'm happy for them."

"But I'm also happy when I can pass them and go to Victory Lane."

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BACK YARD Sale: 2714 Larry, Sat. 8-?. Bedding sets (Harry Potter & Sponge Bob) + accessories, furniture, lots of home decor., garden accessories & more.

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GARAGE SALE: 4101 Ponderosa Rd., Fri. & Sat. 8-?. Furniture, sewing machine, sofa, dishes, kitchen items, sheets, bed frame and more.

INSIDE SALE: 1 Block East of Town & Country (110 N. E. Broadway) Coahoma, Fri. 9-4 & Sat. 8-12. Paperbacks 10c each, 8 track tapes 50c each. Lots of Mother's Day Ideas. Lots of misc.

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1313 Mesquite. 2 Bedroom 2 bath. New carpet & paint. \$12,000.00. Land & Home. (432)661-5552.

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\$\$\$ FREE MONEY \$\$\$ for 2004! Private-Government Grants for Personal bills, School, Business, etc. Never Repay. Live Operators. \$47 billion dollars unclaimed 2003. 1-800-420-8344 ext. 01

****FEDERAL POSTAL Jobs**** To \$43,000/yr. Free Call. No Experience Necessary. Now Hiring. Full Benefits. 1-800-842-1622 Ext. 225

BEHIND IN your Mortgage or in Foreclosure? Don't Sell or file Bankruptcy. Services Guaranteed. Call ALL-STATES MORTGAGE MEDIATION 1-888-615-8673 ext. 490 www.allstatesmortgage.net

DATA ENTRY Could Earn \$15/ Hour and up! Medical Billing, Training Provided, PC Required! CALL 7 Days. 1-800-797-7511 ext. 227

GOVERNMENT JOBS! WILDLIFE / POSTAL \$13.51 to \$58.00 per hour. Full Benefits. Paid Training. Call for Application and Exam Information. No Experience Necessary. Toll Free 1-888-269-6090 ext. 100.

Pets

GROWN FEMALE Chihuahua \$50.00. Call 432-264-8939 or 263-4396.

Ready for adoption on 5/18 **AKC Beagle** puppies. Only 5 females & 2 males. \$200.00 each. Call (432)264-0800.

Real Estate for Rent

LOVELY NEIGHBORHOOD COMPLEX
Swimming Pool
Carports.
Most Utilities Paid.
Senior Citizen Discounts.
1 & 2 Bedrooms & 1 or 2 Baths
Unfurnished
KENTWOOD APARTMENTS
1904 East 25th Street
267-5444
263-5000

Barcelona Apartments
"Call For Move-In Specials!"
538 Westover Rd. 263-1252

104 West 13th. 1 Bedroom, 1 bath. \$250.00 month \$200.00 deposit. Call (432)264-6611.

1310 TUCSON. 3 Bedroom, 1 bath, CH/A. \$350.00 month \$150.00 deposit. No HUD. Call (432)263-1792 or 816-9984.

2 BEDROOM 2 bath Mobile Home. In Sand Springs. Nice Home 108 Merrick Road. \$350.00 month \$150.00 deposit. Call (432)661-5552.

2606 CARLETON 3 Bedroom 2 bath, CH/A. \$495 month + deposit. Call (432)263-6997.

3224 AUBURN. Very nice, 3 bedroom, one bath, CH/A, \$450. month, \$200. deposit. Call 432-263-1792 or 816-9984.

350 NORTH, 5000 square feet Warehouse with 3 offices on 2 acres, fenced land. \$650.00 month plus deposit. Call WESTEX Auto Parts at (432)263-5000.

Real Estate for Rent

HILLSIDE PROPERTIES
Homes With Alarm Systems
2 - 3 - 4 - 5, Even 6 Bedrooms Available
Rent - Rent-to-Own or Buy With Owner Financing
Swimming Pool - Basketball & Volleyball Courts
Corporate Housing Available
24 Hour Emergency Maintenance
2501 Fairchild Phone 263-3461

Real Estate for Rent

602 1/2 GEORGE- Available May 1st. Close to College. 1 Bedroom Apartment. Stove & refrigerator furnished, 1 car carport, CH/A. \$475.00 month plus deposit. No pets. No HUD. Call (432)267-2296.

611 RIDGELEA. 3 Bedroom, 1 bath, carport, fenced yard, CH/A. Washer & dryer connections, refrigerator & stove. \$460.00 Month \$375.00 deposit. Call (432)263-8005 or 267-0833.

712 GOLIAD. 2 or 3 Bedroom house. Completely remodeled. Kitchen cabinets, carpet, tile, plumbing, electric, paint. CH/A. \$550. month, \$500 deposit. No HUD. Call (432)267-2296.

ARE YOU looking for a quiet, nice neighborhood? 900 Scurry. 3 bedroom, 1bath, apartment. CH/A, washer, dryer hookups. Appliances furnished. No HUD. Please Call (432)213-2681.

Available June 1st. 1804 Mittel. 3 Bedroom, 2 bath. \$425.00 month \$200.00 deposit. HUD approved. Good Neighborhood. Call (432)263-3846.

FOR RENT large one bedroom, one bath. 1503-B Scurry. \$350. month, \$200. deposit. All bills paid. (432)264-6661.

For Rent or Rent to Own: 4 Bedroom 2 bath. 1513 Wood. \$400.00 month \$250.00 deposit. Call (432)264-6611.

FURNISHED ONE bedroom apartment. Utilities paid. Extra private spacious one unit. \$395. Nice! One person, non-smoker. Credit report required. Agent, (432)263-1234.

Male 57, Smoker Needs Roommate. \$325.00 month. Two Bedroom house. No drugs. No pets. 2102 South Monticello. Call (432)264-0877.

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

THREE BEDROOM, one bath, 2111 Runnels. One bedroom, one bath, 1600 Jennings. Call 830-875-2511.

Real Estate for Sale

607 HOLBERT. Three bedroom, one bath, garage. \$370/month, \$260/deposit. Will consider owner finance with down payment. Call (432)263-8005 or 270-0833.

800 NORTH TUBB RD. Beautiful MF home 3 bedroom, 2 bath, approx. 1/2 acre. Landscaped, covered patio, garage, storage or work shop, appliances. Call (432)661-5552.

809 N. Tubb Rd., Cohoma School District. 4 Bedroom, 2 1/2 bath brick on approx. 4.2 acres. Fireplace, horse stalls with out building. Call (432)661-5552.

ASSUME PAYMENTS on 3 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath, living area and den. No down Payment and \$448.00 monthly. 3906 Hamilton. Call (432)264-6642 or (432)770-6273.

BY OWNER: 3,200 sq. 5 bedrooms, 2 bath, 3 car carport. Game room, large kitchen, large livingroom, fenced yard. \$67k. Will help financing. Pam 940-300-9257.

COAHOMA 3 Bedroom, 2 bath Beautiful master bath, walk-in closet, appliances. Handicapped porch. Like new MF Home. Land & Home \$42,000. 803 Atlantic. Call (432)661-5552.

DOUBLE WIDE Mobile Home in Big Spring for Sale. 3 Bedroom, 2 bath. Lots of extras, water well and shop. Call (432)458-3567 for more info.

FOR SALE By Owner. Owner financing provided. Low down payment. Low monthly. 3 bedroom, 1 bath, 1 car garage, freshly painted on outside. 1611 Owens. Call Kelly, (432)425-9994.

HOME FOR Sale in Big Spring! Financing always available. Low Down, low monthly. Property located at 1811 State St. Call Kelly at (512)497-5976.

Real Estate for Rent

HILLSIDE PROPERTIES
Homes With Alarm Systems
2 - 3 - 4 - 5, Even 6 Bedrooms Available
Rent - Rent-to-Own or Buy With Owner Financing
Swimming Pool - Basketball & Volleyball Courts
Corporate Housing Available
24 Hour Emergency Maintenance
2501 Fairchild Phone 263-3461

Real Estate for Sale

FOR SALE by owner. Owner financing provided. Low down payment & low monthly. 3 bedroom, 1 bath, corner lot. 1500 Kentucky Way. Call Kelly, 432-425-9994.

House for Sale in Stanton, 3 bedroom, 2 bath with fireplace, 23x40 shop, covered carports on acre of land. (432)756-2130, (432)528-1270 for appointment to view.

I'M MAD... AT BANKS WHO DON'T GIVE HOUSE LOANS BECAUSE OF BAD CREDIT, PROBLEMS OR NEW EMPLOYMENT. I DO, CALL L.D. KIRK, HOMETLAND MORTGAGES, (254)947-4475.

NICE COUNTRY Home, 12 miles south of Big Spring. 3 bedroom, 2 bath brick on approximately 5 acres, over 1,800 sq. ft. formal living, large open den/kitchen, lots storage, utility room, garage. New carpet, water heaters, gas lines, sinks. Move-in Ready! Call (432)263-1738.

NICE QUIET Neighborhood. 3 Bedroom (2 rooms have children's mural's) 1 bath. CH/A, fenced yard, carport, utility room. \$25,000. Call (432)267-4647 or 270-1845.

OWNER WILL FINANCE! 2 and 3 bedroom homes. Just remodeled! Great condition! 1209 Sycamore and 1214 Ridgeroad. LOW DOWN, LOW MONTHLY! Tadlock Realtors (432)580-4883.

Vehicles

'04 Expeditions \$3000 Rebate
or
0% APR For 60 mos.
Bob Brock Ford
500 W. 4th 267-7424

1995 DODGE RAM, Mickey Thompsons, good condition, V-8, runs great, dual exhaust, CD player. \$5,500. (432)263-6346.

FOR SALE, red 2003 Ford F-250, 4x4, 29,000 miles. Reduce for quick sale, \$24,500. Located 600 Main. Call 432-267-3126, from 8:00-5:00, 432-267-7648 after 5:00.

Legals

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS The Big Spring Independent School District shall receive sealed bid proposals for the **Food Service Department** until 4:00 p.m., May 27, 2004, on the following:

- Bread Products
 - Milk
 - Chemical Supplies
- Specifications and bid documents may be secured from the schools district's Business Office, 708 East 11th Place, Big Spring, Texas 79720-4648, phone number (432)264-3620. Bids will be publicly open and read immediately following the deadline for receiving the bids in the Business Office of the Big Spring Independent School District. Bidders are invited to be present at the bid opening. Bids received after the opening date and time will be returned unopened. Bids will be presented for consideration to the Board of Trustees on June 8, 2004, at 5:15 p.m. at their regularly scheduled board meeting. The Big Spring Independent School District reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids. #4211 May 6 & 13, 2004

NOTICE OF REQUIREMENT FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE ST. LAWRENCE ZONE BOLL WEEVIL ERADICATION PROGRAM

In accordance with Texas Agriculture Code, Chapter 74, Subchapter D, § 74.118 (Vernon Supp. 2001) and 4 Tex. Admin. Code § 3.73, the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation (the Foundation) hereby provides notice to cotton producers in the St. Lawrence Boll Weevil Eradication Zone that they are required to participate in the eradication program established by referendum for the St. Lawrence Zone. The St. Lawrence Boll Weevil Eradication Zone is in that area of Midland County south of a line 15 miles south of Interstate 20 running from the Ector County line east to the Glasscock County line; Glasscock, Reagan, and Upton counties.

Participation includes: (1) reporting information to the Foundation regarding acreage and location of all commercial and noncommercial cotton and all cotton grown for ornamental, research or any other

Real Estate for Rent

HILLSIDE PROPERTIES
Homes With Alarm Systems
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Rent - Rent-to-Own or Buy With Owner Financing
Swimming Pool - Basketball & Volleyball Courts
Corporate Housing Available
24 Hour Emergency Maintenance
2501 Fairchild Phone 263-3461

Legals

purposes, not later than the reporting date established for each county by the Farm Service Agency either by certifying acreage with the appropriate FSA office or by filing with the Foundation an acreage report form obtained from the Foundation, in accordance with 4 Tex. Admin. Code § 3.72; (2) payment of the assessment established by referendum ending on April 16, 2004, in the amount and manner approved for the St. Lawrence Zone; and (3) compliance with any rules or procedures established by the Texas Department of Agriculture (the Department) or the Foundation for implementation of the eradication program in the St. Lawrence Zone. Upon notification by the Foundation of a producer's failure to timely comply with participation requirements stated above, the Department may assess an administrative penalty in accordance with 4 Tex. Admin. Code § 3.74 or take other appropriate remedial action as provided by Texas Agriculture Code, Chapter 74, Subchapter D. Any questions regarding the participation requirements may be directed to Brian Murray, Special Assistant for Producers Relations, Texas Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 12847, Austin, Texas 78711. (512)463-7593.

NOTICE OF SCHEDULED ENTRY INTO FIELDS

Notice of Scheduled Entry Into Fields, Pursuant to Tex. Agric. Code Ann., Section 74.117 (Vernon Supp. 2001). Cotton producers in the St. Lawrence Boll Weevil Eradication Zone, which is in that area of Midland County south of a line 15 miles south of Interstate 20 running from the Ector County line east to the Glasscock County line; Glasscock, Reagan, and Upton counties are hereby notified that Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation personnel will be conducting eradication activities in and around their fields, beginning May 21, 2004. All cottons fields will be mapped, and treatment will begin during late season. For notification prior to any chemical treatment, call 1-800-687-1212 with the exact location of your field and appropriate telephone numbers. Field entry and treatment is expected to last until all cotton is harvested in the zone. For more information regarding this program, please call the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation at 800-687-1212, #4208 April 29 & May 6, 13, 2004

CITY OF BIG SPRING NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Pursuant to the authority granted by the City Council of the City of Big Spring, Texas, the City of Big Spring will receive sealed bids on the following date/time for the Lease of the below listed equipment.

A. Date/Time: Friday, May 28, 2004 at 2:00 p.m. for the following:

- 1. THREE (3) Each, BACKHOE/LOADERS, Three Year Lease

Bids are to be opened and read aloud in the Big Spring City Conference Room, Upstairs, City Hall, 310 Nolan Street, Big Spring, Texas, 79720, with award to be made at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Big Spring City Council. Bid information and specifications may be obtained from the Office of the Purchasing Agent, 1380 Airport Drive East, Bldg. #19, Big Spring, Texas 79720. All bids must be marked with the date of the bid and a general description of the bid item(s). Handicapped individuals attending the opening that are unable to traverse the stairs must notify the purchasing office at 432-264-2388 a minimum of 48 working hours prior to bid opening.

The City of Big Spring reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any or all formalities #4213 May 6 & 13, 2004

You can listen to it on the Radio, and you can watch it on TV, but We put it in writing. For cost effective advertising that you can hold in your hands **The Howard County Buyer's Guide** can help! Call 263-7331

MAY 06 2004

Vehicles

Vehicles

Spring Clearance Sale

All 04's Must Go NOW
Over 200 New Vehicles
To Choose From

Up To **\$2000** AND **0%**
Customer Rebate APR-60 Mos.

On These Vehicles:

Explorer Expedition Mountaineer



Navigator Aviator



- OR -
UP TO: **\$4500**
Customer Rebate Available
With Other Financing Source

Also: Great Savings
On 04 F-Series Trucks
All Models

Don't Miss This Great
Opportunity To Save \$\$\$

See Sale Consultant About Rebate Details



Bob Brock Ford
Lincoln Mercury Nissan

500 W. 4th 267-7424
\$1000 Factory Rebate Up to \$1000 Ford Credit Rebate APR-WAC

