

THURSDAY

July 29, 2004

WEATHER

Tonight:



PARTLY CLOUDY

TONIGHT TOMORROW
66°-67° 85°-87°

BRIEFLY

Citizens group for FSD bond issue to convene

The Forsan Independent School District Citizens Committee will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the high school library.

Anyone interested in supporting the upcoming bond election is encouraged to attend.

For more information, contact Amy Burchett at 267-5626.

Forsan All-Class Reunion slated Saturday, Aug. 7

The Forsan School All-Class Reunion will be held Saturday, Aug. 7, in the Forsan High School cafeteria. All ex-students, spouses, teachers and friends of the school are invited. Dress is casual. Admission is \$15 per person, \$7.50 for students.

The reunion will begin at 9:30 a.m. with lunch to be served at 12:30 p.m. For more information, contact Boyce Hale at 432-267-6957 or e-mail txablo@yahoo.com

Salvation Army taking donations for school needs

The Big Spring Salvation Army is accepting donations for its annual "Back to School" program, which provides school supplies for area low-income students. Donations can be made at the Salvation Army office, 811 W. Fifth Street. Corps officials expect to help more than 400 students with their back to school items this year. For more information, call 267-8239.

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Moore Development board optimistic

Revenue increase forecast;
Business prospect encouraging

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

The Moore Development for Big Spring directors put their stamp of approval on the agency's 2004-2005 budget Wednesday evening, opening the new fiscal year with a very optimistic view.



SHARP CHURCHWELL

Executive Director Kent Sharp said he's pleased with the budget, which includes a forecasted 1 percent increase in sales tax revenues. And with the economic development thermostat rising all over the nation, it couldn't come at a better time.

"We have a lot of the same stuff," said

Sharp. "We're going to continue to concentrate on workforce and continue to put money into promotion and marketing. Since January of 2004 to right now we're seeing a tenfold increase in prospects that are companies, not just in Texas but all over the country, that are wanting to expand or relocate their businesses.

"Of course, everybody in the state gets those same leads, but it's like the economic

See MOORE, Page XA



City of Big Spring employees Jorge Parra, left, and Raul Martinez lay concrete provided by Big Spring business Transit Mix Tuesday morning to create a sidewalk along Gregg Street in front of the VA Medical Center. The work is part of a project between the hospital, city and the Texas Department of Transportation to spruce up the area in front of the hospital.

Certified values up slightly for most entities throughout Howard County

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

Most area taxing entities are breathing a sigh of relief this week following the release of the certified taxable values, which included some expected ups and downs.

Howard County and Howard College both posted certified taxable values of \$1.42 billion for 2004, while the city of Big Spring garnered more than \$412 million for the year.

Howard County posted one of the most impressive increases, up \$30,475,523 from last year's values.

Taxing Entity	2003	2004	Difference
Howard County	\$1,112,503,814	\$1,142,979,337	\$30,475,523
City of Big Spring	\$412,491,025	\$412,076,893	-\$414,132
Big Spring ISD	\$625,482,156	\$614,591,913	-\$10,890,243
Howard College	\$1,112,503,814	\$1,142,979,337	\$30,475,523
City of Coahoma	\$14,221,534	\$15,908,207	\$1,686,673
City of Forsan	\$3,249,812	\$3,307,547	\$57,735
Coahoma ISD	\$178,752,705	\$197,701,866	\$18,949,161
Forsan ISD	\$215,329,526	\$233,032,699	\$17,703,173
PBU Water District	\$576,963,560	\$607,076,222	\$30,112,662

Howard County Chief Tax Appraiser Keith Toomire said last-minute increases in the mineral values kept several entities,

including the county, out of the loss column. "Mineral values are basically the only thing that kept a lot of the entities from show-

ing a loss compared to 2003 taxable values," said Toomire. "It really went down to the

See VALUES Page XA

Date set for Principi to visit here

Veterans Affairs Secretary to greet veterans Aug. 24

By LYNDEL MOODY

Staff Writer

Community leaders say public participation will be crucial when Veterans Affairs Secretary Anthony J. Principi visits Big Spring, Aug. 24, to attend one of two West Texas veterans forums.

"The visit is very important because it gives us the opportunity to put our best foot forward and to make an argument for why the VA facility of West Texas should be located in Big Spring," said Big Spring Mayor Russ McEwen. "For that reason, we're really looking forward to it and see it as an opportunity to let the Secretary see how much this facility means to the veterans of West Texas and also how well it's run."

U.S. Rep Randy Neugebauer, R-Lubbock, and Principi will hold a veterans forum in Big Spring at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 24, at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum on the Howard

See PRINCIPI, Page XA

VAMC director to arrive Friday

By LYNDEL MOODY

Staff Writer



ATKINS

Recently appointed Big Spring VA Medical Center Director Lou Ann Atkins is expected to arrive in town Friday.

She will be attending an invitation-only reception held that afternoon at the Dora Roberts Community Center to greet community leaders.

"We all look forward to meeting her and introducing Mrs. Atkins as our new director," said Iva Jo Hanslik,

Housing Authority director headed back 'home' to San Angelo in career move

By LYNDEL MOODY

Staff Writer

Mark Gentry, executive director of the Big Spring Housing Authority, has tendered his resignation to serve as the executive director of the San Angelo Housing Authority.

"It's a career move," said Gentry, who has served in the Big Spring position for the past seven years. "It's a move that is closer to our extended family. And third, like many people who were in the military and came back to Big Spring because they served at Web Air Force



GENTRY

Base, I served two tours (in the Army) at San Angelo and for me this is going back home."

Currently, the Housing Authority board has not replaced Gentry, whose last official day is to be Aug. 6.

"The board has not decided whether to combine existing programs or to hire another director for this program," he said.

Gentry said the board is considering naming Monica Sanchez an inter-



Emergency personnel treat a victim involved in a two-vehicle accident on Northwest Ninth Street Wednesday afternoon. One person was taken to Scenic Mountain Medical Center after his Ford Explorer collided with a Chevrolet Camaro. According to the police, the driver of the Camaro left the scene but was later found and charged with failure to stop and render aid. See related story, Page 3A.

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Obituaries

Johnny Dean Darden



Johnny Dean Darden, 48, of Big Spring died Tuesday, July 27, 2004, in a local hospital. Graveside funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, July 31, 2004, at Mount Olive Memorial Park with the Rev. Sammy Sims officiating.

He was born on March 15, 1956, in Big Spring. Johnny attended Coahoma schools. He worked as a truck driver for various companies and had also farmed.

He was a member of Luther Baptist Church.

Survivors include his wife, Shirley Day of Big Spring; his mother, Johnnie Tatum of Big Spring; one brother, Allen Joe Darden of Big Spring; one sister, Diana Sanders of Houston; his ex-wife, Bernice Darden of Big Spring; several nieces and nephews and great nieces and great nephews.

He was preceded in death by his father, Joe Darden; one brother, Larry Darden; and a son, Jody Day.

Pallbearers will be Terry Darden, Ray Darden, Todd Darden, Scott Darden, Cary Darden and Ronald Wilkerson. All friends are considered honorary pallbearers.

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

Paid obituary

Chester C. Railsback

Chester C. Railsback, 93, of Big Spring died Thursday, July 29, 2004, in a local hospital. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

The family will receive friends from 6-7 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

Eduvijos "Vickie" Marquez

Eduvijos "Vickie" Marquez, 51, of Big Spring died Tuesday, July 27, 2004, in Wichita, Kan. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Carl Whitley

Carl Whitley, 54, of Stanton died Thursday morning, July 29, 2004, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Support groups

THURSDAY

□ Narcotics Anonymous, non-smoking discussion meeting, 8 to 9 p.m., at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 1001 Goliad.

□ Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, 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 on the second and fourth Thursday of the month at noon in the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center. Call 263-8273 for more information.

□ Alzheimers Support Group meets at 2 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month at The Texas State Veterans Home, 1809 N. Hwy 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

Take note

□ A FUND FOR CLAY "GOONIE" VICKERS to help with expenses for life-threatening surgery has been established at Cosden Federal Credit Union, 264-2600. He is a 2003 graduate of Forsan High School and a Howard College theater student.

□ FORSAN ALL-SCHOOL REUNION begins at 9:30 a.m. with lunch set for 12:30 p.m. in the Forsan High School cafeteria. Open to all ex-students, spouses, teachers and friends. The dress is casual and cost is \$15 per person or \$7.50 for students. Contact Boyce Hale at 267-6957.

□ MARANATHA BAPTIST ACADEMY begins classes Monday. Enrollment for students 4 through high school is accepted. A open house is set for Aug. 2 through Aug. 16 and the public is invited. Contact Dr. Lillian Bohannon, administrator, at 213-1046.

□ A SAVINGS ACCOUNT TO BENEFIT LOVE FROM HOME has been established at Citizen's Federal Credit Union. Love From Home is a local effort to provide personal items needed by the soldiers serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Contact the credit union at 267-6373 to contribute funds to offset the cost of postage for the packages mailed to the soldiers.

□ CHRIST'S COMMUNITY CHURCH is looking for infant cars seats to be given to needy families. Call Karen at 263-3517 or the church at 263-5683.

□ MANNA RELIEF, a non-profit ministry that pro-

Police blotter

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

- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 1700 block of Wasson Road.
- DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED was reported:
 - in the 400 block of Tulane.
 - in the 900 block of Grafa.
- DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE BY A MINOR - THIRD OFFENSE was reported in the 700 block of Ninth Street.
- FAILURE TO STOP AND RENDER AID INJURY/DEATH was reported in the 700 block of Ninth Street.
- THEFT was reported:
 - in the 600 block of Baylor.
 - in the 1100 block of Lamesa.
 - in the 300 block of Gregg Street.

Sheriff's report

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

- MELISSA NICOLE BEATY, 20, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of possession of a controlled substance - methamphetamine and possession of a controlled substance - cocaine.
- GAYLAND RAY GROGAN, 54, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of driving while intoxicated - third or more offense.
- CHANCE ALLEN PERRYMAN, 20, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on charges of theft - more than \$1,500 less than \$20,000 and minor in consumption of alcohol.
- DARRIN LEE WEBB, 33, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of bailsmen off of bond for violation of a protective order.

Weather

Tonight - A few thunderstorms this evening. Mostly clear skies late. Low 67. Winds ENE at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 40 percent.
Friday - Mainly sunny. High 87. Winds ESE at 5 to 10 mph.
Friday night - Clear skies. Low 69. Winds ESE at 5 to 10 mph.

Bulletin board

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

TODAY

• West Texas Pachyderms meets at noon in the Big Spring Country Club. A representative from Congressman Randy Naugebauer's office will present information on the upcoming election. All interested persons are invited.

SUNDAY

• Hang gliding competition at the McMahon-Wrinkle Airpark.

MONDAY

• District Committee Lone Star of Big Spring meets at noon at 610 Scurry.

• 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.

• Take Pounds Off Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5 p.m. in the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, 306 W. Third for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 1-800-392-8677 or 263-0391 or 263-1758.

• Take Pounds Off Sensibly (TOPS) No. TX 1756 meets at 5:30 p.m. Monday in the 11th and Birdwell Lane Church of Christ. A different program is offered every week, and anyone 7 years old or older is welcome to attend. Please enter through the northwest door. Call 263-2786 for more information.

• Evening Lions Club meets at 6:30 p.m. in La Posada Restaurant.

• Big Spring Chapter and Council RAM meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Masonic building at 221 1/2 Main St.

• Howard County ARC meets at 806 E. Third in the Bingo Hall. Call 264-0674 for more information.

TUESDAY

• Intermediate Line Dance classes begin at 9 a.m. in the Spring City Senior Citizen's Center. Call 267-1628.

• Coahoma Senior Citizen luncheon is set for 11 a.m. in the Coahoma Community Center.

• Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

• A Stitches' Time Club meets at 3:30 p.m. at Primitive Baptist Church, 201 E. 24th St. Everyone is invited to learn and share sewing skills, and portable sewing machines are welcome. Call Kay Sikes at 394-4835 for more information.

• Forsan ISD Citizen's Committee meeting at 7 p.m. in the high school library for anyone interested in supporting the upcoming bond election. Call Amy Burchett at 267-5626.

• VFW Post 2013 meets at 7 p.m. in the VFW Hall, 500 Driver Road.

• Sheriff's Posse meets at 7 p.m. in the clubhouse on the Andrews Highway.

• Alzheimer's Association, the Greater West Texas Chapter meets at 2 p.m. in the Howard County Library conference room, 500 S. Main.

• Gospel Singing in the Kentwood Activity Center at 7 p.m. with special guest singers from Midland and Colorado City. Everyone is welcome.

• Concerned Citizens for Big Spring meets at 7 p.m. in the meeting room of the Howard County Library, 500 S. Main.

• Big Spring Chapter 67, Order of the Eastern Star meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Masonic Lodge, 219 Main St.

WEDNESDAY

• Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

• Senior Circle meets at 11 a.m. in the Scenic Mountain Medical Center classroom for Stretch and Tone. Call 268-4721.

• Downtown Lions Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

• Duplicate Bridge Club meets at 1 p.m. in the Big Spring Country Club.

Lottery

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 3-7-8-27-43 Bonus Ball: 25. Number matching five of five, plus Bonus Ball: 0. Estimated jackpot for Saturday night drawing: \$13 Million.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 4-19-25-26-27.

Number matching five of five: 1. Prize per winner: \$35,512.

Winning tickets sold in: Odessa. Next Cash 5 drawing: Thursday night.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 8-9-3

BIG SPRING HERALD

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Woman scene

By LYNDEL MOC

Staff Writer

An 18-year Spring woman arrested Wednesday evening by Big Spring Police after she left the scene of a vehicle accident on Ninth Street.

Maria Diaz was charged on charges to stop and render aid while driving while influence by a driving with license, according to Roger Sweat information of Sweat said driving a Camaro west N.W. Ninth which collided with Explorer head bound on Dou.

The explorer over and its 17-year-old Gary taken to Mountain Center for threatening

Estimate lashes

DALLAS (A) estimated foot during fierce overnight in North Texas, homes and One man died i er-related wreck led power line vehicle and cu homes.

Southern Dal was especially flooding, with homes damage water in the Lancaster. Flooded the Lanca headquarters a rescued dozens from high wa area.

The National Service, which up to 12 inches in Lancaster, i flash flood warn Thursday for t Fort Worth ar thunderstorms

Lancaster po ated residents than 240 hor Thursday after Creek rose c banks alongsid division.

"It's a mess dispatcher Del said. "We had t people out of t

GENTRY

Continued from F

considering Monica Sanche im director. Sa been with the for two years.

"I am part of and it has been away from hon wrote in his r letter. "I have am part of the community an the special in have enjoyed

ATKINS

Continued from F

and introdu Atkins as our tor," said Iva J. VAMC commu tions coordin look forward t leadership at tal."

Atkins com Spring after the associate the VAMC in Beach, Fla. T duties included direction for of an affiliated medical center ing 12 depart administering lion budget.

She received

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Woman arrested for leaving scene of accident, DWI

By **LYNDEL MOODY**
Staff Writer

An 18-year-old Big Spring woman was arrested Wednesday evening by Big Spring Police after she allegedly left the scene of a two-vehicle accident on N.W. Ninth Street.

Maria Diaz was arrested on charges of failure to stop and render aid, driving while under the influence by a minor and driving with an invalid license, according to Sgt. Roger Sweatt, public information officer.

Sweatt said Diaz was driving a Chevrolet Camaro westbound on N.W. Ninth when the car collided with an Ford Explorer heading northbound on Douglas.

The explorer rolled over and its driver, 51-year-old Gary Bess, was taken to Scenic Mountain Medical Center for non life-threatening injuries.

Sweatt said.

According to Sweatt, Diaz stopped her vehicle for a few minutes after the accident but then left the scene. She was later stopped by police at Carlos Restaurant.

"Whenever someone is involved in an accident they are required by law to stop, especially if someone is injured," Sweatt said. "Failure to stop and render aid is a felony and depending on the seriousness of the injuries could mean prison time."

Bess was cited for failure to yield right away.

In an unrelated incident, police were called to a pedestrian-vehicle accident in the 2300 block of Gregg near the VA Medical Center earlier in the afternoon.

Information related to the accident was unavailable from the police department by press time.

MOORE

Continued from Page 1A

pond has literally been restocked. That's the sign of a healthy economy. Those companies withdrew those capital expenditures over the last two years, and now, they are feeling very confident about making decisions up in the tens of millions of dollars."

Board member Tommy Churchwell said he sees the rise in revenue and recent streamlining the budget has gone through as a wonderful opportunity to focus on Moore Development's goals.

"That means we have more money to try to do something with for the people we're trying to help," said Churchwell. "We've cut down on the expenses somewhat and held them flat where we could, so it just means more money for economic development."

"I think we're trying to get more focused on the things we think we can be good at and try to throw our resources on what we think will be the better return, instead of trying to cast out a broad net. Make it a little smaller and see if we can be more successful."

With an estimated \$970,000 expected in revenue this year,

Sharp said he's comfortable with the budget, which included "flat-lining," or no change in many of the agency's funds.

"This year was a great year," said Sharp. "We projected a sales tax income of \$920,000 and it looks like we're going to hit \$950,000. Last year we did right at \$900,000, so it's been a good year all over the state."

"We're going to put a lot of money into promoting and marketing ourselves as the location to go to, as well as the traditional fundamental things like workforce development and helping our existing industries continue to grow and be competitive in their sectors."

"It's always about economic development," said Churchwell. "It's difficult when you're limited. You have money to spend and you have to spend it wisely. There are always projects that are going to come and ask us to participate. Our difficulty is in trying to translate that into how it is going to pay us back. How does that help our economy? We have to make sure what we're giving out, we actually get a good return on."

While the budget still needs approval from the Big Spring City Council, there won't be much time for the Moore directors or staff to celebrate, as they continue in their efforts to reel in a "secret" prospect

the economic development agency has been working with for approximately a year.

"It represents an excitement level for us that we haven't seen in a while," said Sharp. "It utilizes our airpark, a former Air Force base, and that's something that's like having a huge asset and wondering what you can do with it."

"We've tried to market it for years. All of a sudden, we have a prospect on the line that is really a hand-and-glove situation. A prospect that can utilize that asset and bring a lot of good jobs and a lot of neat economic opportunities to Big Spring."

While the secrecy surrounding the impending deal may have many area residents scratching their heads, Sharp said once the bid is made public, people will have no trouble at all recognizing the business name.

"It's an instantly recognizable name and I think once we release the information, everyone in the community is going to be very happy," said Sharp. "Right now we're working with all of the partners — the city, college, school district and the county — everyone is pulling together to make this thing happen and we feel pretty good about it right now and our chances of attracting the business."

Estimated foot of rain lashes parts of North Texas

DALLAS (AP) — An estimated foot of rain fell during fierce storms overnight in parts of North Texas, flooding homes and highways. One man died in a weather-related wreck that toppled power lines onto his vehicle and cut power to homes.

Southern Dallas County was especially hard hit by flooding, with 175 to 200 homes damaged by high water in the suburb of Lancaster. Flooding damaged the Lancaster police headquarters and officers rescued dozens of people from high water in the area.

The National Weather Service, which estimated up to 12 inches of rain fell in Lancaster, issued new flash flood warnings early Thursday for the Dallas-Fort Worth area as more thunderstorms developed.

Lancaster police evacuated residents from more than 240 homes early Thursday after Ten-Mile Creek rose out of its banks alongside one subdivision.

"It's a mess out here," dispatcher Debbie Brand said. "We had to get those people out of their hous-

es." Authorities have made more than 80 high-water rescues in South Dallas County, said Sgt. Don Peritz, a spokesman for the Dallas County Sheriff's Office.

An estimated 35,000 TXU customers were without power early Thursday, about 17,000 of them in Fort Worth.

Parts of Interstates 20, 35 and 45 were closed for a time by high water.

Lancaster Police Lt. Jim Devlin said the town's police station began to flood just after 11 p.m. Thursday. The ceiling of the 911 call center collapsed and calls were routed through the Dallas County Sheriff's Department. Dispatchers used handheld two-way radios to communicate with officers.

Devlin said between 50-100 residents said they suffered major damage in the storms, which intensified overnight after an upper-level low pressure system moved into the Dallas-Fort Worth area Thursday evening.

The Waxahachie Police Department brought in a boat to help with rescues.

GENTRY

Continued from Page 1A

considering naming Monica Sanchez an interim director. Sanchez has been with the program for two years.

"I am part of Big Spring and it has been my home away from home," Gentry wrote in his resignation letter. "I have felt that I am part of the Big Spring community and will miss the special interaction I have enjoyed with my

clients. I will miss my staff and respect each one for their capable skills and sincere compassion while doing a very difficult job."

The rental assistance program helps about 366 family, which is approximately 1,110 adults and children, find adequate, safe housing with in the community.

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

ATKINS

Continued from Page 3A

and introducing Mrs. Atkins as our new director," said Iva Jo Hanslik, VAMC community relations coordinator. "We look forward to her new leadership at our hospital."

Atkins comes to Big Spring after serving as the associate director of the VAMC in West Palm Beach, Fla. There, her duties included providing direction for operations of an affiliated and active medical center, supervising 12 departments and administering a \$200 million budget.

lor's of science in nursing from the University of Pittsburgh, her master's of nursing from St. Louis University and her master's of business administration from the University of South Florida.

Prior to her appointment at West Palm Beach in August of 2000, she was associate director and chief operating officer at the VA Medical Center in Erie, Pa. She brings 32 years of clinical and administrative experience to the position.

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

VALUE

Continued from Page 1A

last minute for the mineral values and they made up the difference."

Howard County Commissioner Jerry Kilgore said the increase couldn't come at a better time.

"We had anticipated that the values would stay pretty much the same as they were last year," said Kilgore. "At this point it looks like we'll be able to keep the effective tax rate. The values coming up more than \$30 million really helped though, especially with all of the costs we have this year for equipment and vehicles."

Kilgore said the increase in taxable values will help commissioners as they move through the budgeting process, but some cuts may still be necessary.

"It's really hard to say anything about the budget yet," said Kilgore. "We may have to make some cuts because of all the extra expenses we have this year, but the increase in the taxable values will certainly help."

While the county was able to post

an increase in its certified taxable values, the city of Big Spring wasn't quite as fortunate.

The city saw a \$414,132 loss in values, as the 2003 value of \$412,491,025 dropped to \$412,076,893 in 2004.

Big Spring Mayor Russ McEwen said he and the city council anticipated the decrease, and its effects on the 2004-2005 budget should be minimal.

"We worked with Mr. Toomire's office closely, so we anticipated a slight decrease in values," said McEwen. "The final numbers were actually better than we had expected."

"The drop in taxable value won't effect the budget we've been working on one bit. This is something that we took into consideration throughout the budgeting process."

Toomire said the city's dependence on industrial and personal property taxes and lack of mineral values caused the drop in its taxable value.

"The city really doesn't have much in the way of mineral values. Last year they posted \$19,360, and while this year's went up to \$30,240, it's still not enough to keep the values from showing a loss. The city

has to rely pretty heavily on industrial and personal property taxes. When those go down it really shows on their values."

While the city was unable to reap the benefits of rising mineral values to the same degree as the county, McEwen said the city is working to bolster their values through other means.

"We're basically at the mercy of what is built in the city and what is being added on to," said McEwen. "We're doing everything we can to bolster that."

The cities of Forsan and Coahoma also saw increases in their taxable values thanks to the rise in mineral values.

Coahoma posted a \$1,686,673 increase with a certified taxable value of \$1,142,979,337 for 2004. The city of Forsan saw a much smaller increase of \$57,735 with its taxable value of \$3,307,547 for 2004.

The Permian Basin Underground Water District also saw a considerable increase, up \$30,112,662 from last year with a 2004 certified taxable value of \$607,076,222.

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

PRINCIPI

Continued from Page 1A

College Campus.

The two will then travel to Lubbock where they will hold a second forum at the American Legion Post 575 later that afternoon at 5.

"Protecting the Big Spring VA Hospital is a top priority for me," Neugebauer said. "The future of this hospital is crucial to the more than 62,000 West Texas and Big Country veterans who depend on it for their health care needs."

Neugebauer and Principi will tour the Big Spring facility, which has been slated for a feasibility study over possibly closing the hospital, and meet with community leaders before the start of the forum.

People are encouraged to get to the forums an hour early in order to submit questions in advance.

Leo Welch, a World War II veteran who receives medical care at the hospital encourages all veterans in the area to attend.

"I think as many veterans who can should show up and be there and show their concern about this Big Spring VA hospital staying open and staying

a hospital," Welch said. "I think all us veterans should be there and show support for the VA hospital to be here and stay here as a hospital, a hospital and nothing else."

The Big Spring VAMC serves a veteran population of approximately 62,300 veterans and provides health care services to 17,000 annually. Big Spring's market area encompasses roughly 74,000 square miles, an area larger than 35 of the 50 states.

Welch said the facility provides a very important service to West Texas veterans.

"Abilene, San Angelo, Midland, Odessa, Hobbs, N.M., Fort Stockton, Pecos, — their veterans all come here and if they shut it down, it's going to be a hardship on all the veterans," he said.

In December 2002, Principi established the Capitol Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) Commission to provide an independent review of the draft national plan to realign the Veterans Affairs health care system.

Neugebauer met with Secretary Principi in March to discuss CARES Commission recommendations regarding Texas

VA facilities. Last September, Neugebauer set up a meeting with Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, Senator John Cornyn, and former VA Under Secretary for Health, Dr. Robert H. Roswell, to give Big Spring officials the opportunity to tout its VA hospital.

Howard County Commissioner Bill Crooker, A World War II veteran, is among those looking forward to Principi's visit.

"I think this is a very critical meeting for an official with his ranking to come to our communi-

ty to make an inspection," said Crooker. "I think this indicates to me he does have an interest in our VA and is trying to gather information to make a decision and we want to make it as favorable as we possible can."

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JULY 29 2004

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
PublisherJohn A. Moseley
Managing EditorBill McClellan
News Editor

OTHER VIEWS

State needs
a new water
policy now

If you want to see the ripple effects of Austin's failure to deal with school finance, look at the state's water policy. Senate panel hearings on this subject stopped cold turkey in April when lawmakers rushed over to deal with the education mess, where they remain stuck since a special school finance session collapsed 64 days ago.

The Senate water committee should have reconvened by now to find ways to move water from one part of Texas to another so that everyone has enough but not so much that aquifers dry up.

That challenge will require changing the law that governs underground water. Though known technically as the "rule of capture," some farmers and ranchers sarcastically refer to the law as the "rule of the big straw." He who has the biggest straw slurps the biggest drink.

Increasingly, the big straw belongs to cities and suburbs hunting for water for their residents. El Paso. Amarillo. San Antonio. Dallas-Fort Worth. It's only natural they look to the Panhandle and other parts of the state with underground water.

But Texas doesn't have a limitless supply; more than 25 percent of our aquifers have gone dry. That's partly because we use more groundwater than any state except California.

A good solution would be to amend the rule of capture to allow landowners to keep pumping so long as they did not dry up their neighbors' wells. Cities still could buy water from landowners, but not if the pumping harmed other landowners. This kind of checks and balances makes sense: providing for folks now and preserving enough for future generations.

Democratic Sen. Ken Armbrister of Victoria and his team have scheduled a hearing for Aug. 4. That's good. But time's wasting. They need to present a plan to the 2005 Legislature. And that session is only six months away.

The Morning News
Dallas

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.
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- 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

LETTER POLICIES

- The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.
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 - Sign your letter.
 - Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
 - We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
 - We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
 - Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
 - Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

S.F. supes flunk citizenship

San Francisco has become a city devoted to expanding the meaning of all categories until none has meaning.

Citizen? Today, that term describes Americans who can register to vote and serve on juries. But if a measure before the Board of Supervisors is approved by city voters and becomes law, it will render the term "citizen" but an antiquated notion in San Francisco.

The measure, introduced by Board of Supervisors President Matt Gonzalez, would allow S.F. residents with children in public schools to vote in the school-board election. While supporters say this is a narrow measure designed to increase parental involvement in public schools, there is every reason to believe it is the latest salvo in the far left's push to blur any distinction between citizens and non-citizens, as well as between illegal immigrants and legal immigrants.

It doesn't matter if the state Constitution requires voters to be citizens over the age of 18. When the Special City doesn't like a law, it ignores it.

California State Assemblyman Leland Yee, D-San Francisco, told the San Francisco Chronicle that he supports the measure because his mother, who didn't pass the citizenship test and thus couldn't vote, should have had a say in school-board politics. As he put it by phone, the demands of raising a family and making ends meet kept his mother from passing the test, but that shouldn't keep her from voting for school-board members. Yee added, "It seems to me that we should try to find ways to help parents be more engaged."

Did the law keep her from volun-

teering in school politics? No, he answered. She "helped my campaign for school board. But realize it is one thing to be involved in a campaign, it's another to actually vote."

I'm sorry she didn't pass the test. But I don't buy Yee's contention that the city can expand voting to non-citizen parents of public-school children, and stop there. As Supervisor Fiona Ma noted in a press statement, "This would open a Pandora's box of issues — will we allow non-citizens who ride BART to vote in BART-board elections or non-citizen home owners to vote in bond measures?"

Yee also argued that he believed in granting the school-board vote to "documented individuals." Nice try, but Yee can't run away from the fact that the Gonzalez measure doesn't distinguish between legal and illegal. As a supporter of the measure told me, it was too much of an administrative challenge to ask poll workers to determine legal residence. Also, there was little interest in distinguishing between "undocumented parents of citizen children" and other parents.

Steven Camarota of the Center for Immigration Studies called that "an enormous slap in the face to people who play by the rules, who come legally and become citizens." Why bother if people who flout the rules can vote?

A Gonzalez statement claims that it takes too long for immigrant parents to become Americans: "Due to government red tape and a long INS (Immigration and Naturalization Service) backlog, immigrants must wait an average of 10 years to become citizens."

Really? Sharon Rummery of Immigration and Customs Enforcement said that while immigrants must be permanent residents for five years to apply for citizenship — only three years if

they're married to a U.S. citizen — it now takes eight months after application to become a citizen. The process is designed to teach new Americans about how and why democracy works.

"Why have citizenship at all?" former California Secretary of State Bill Jones asked. "Citizenship is the rite of passage to become an American," Jones added. Immigrants who "don't become Americans, they're just an extension of the country they come from."

Maybe city politicians don't care whether the new voters consider themselves American.

A Gonzalez press release quotes an immigrant mother of two who complains that it is "unfair" to make immigrant parents wait "10 years" to become citizens.

It is unfair. It's also unfair that some people are born American, and others are not. It's unfair some are born rich, and others are not. It's unfair some are born beautiful, while others are not.

The present immigration system isn't perfect, but it is designed to allow a fair number of immigrants into the United States in as fair a way as possible. The system is designed to produce new citizens with an understanding and affection for their adopted country.

The Gonzalez measure, however, is designed to undercut that goal by rewarding immigrants who break the law with the right to vote. It is as if San Francisco City Hall set out to teach contempt for the law to America's newest would-be citizens.

E-mail Debra J. Saunders at dsaunders@sfchronicle.com. To find out more about Debra J. Saunders, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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Words of wisdom for Kerry's acceptance speech

For most of American history, presidential nominees never went to political conventions. They stayed away from the baking-hot, smoke-filled auditoriums, remaining unsullied and above it all, usually at home, while waiting to be "notified" of their good fortune. Then they were supposed to act surprised.

While the notification tradition may have been dignified, it robbed the many thousands assembled at the convention halls of seeing and hearing the candidate.

But Franklin Roosevelt pronounced the tradition absurd and decided to fly to Chicago in 1932 to accept his nomination in person and prove that he was not, as advertising man Bruce Barton had called him, "just a name and a crutch." (Friends begged Roosevelt not to risk his life in a "flying machine," but he made the long flight from Albany to Chicago anyway, and while his son, John, emerged looking green, FDR looked invigorated.)

Roosevelt drove a nail in the coffin of the notification tradition by telling the delegates and all those listening by radio, "You have nominated me, and I know it!"

Harry Truman was not sure in 1948 whether he should continue the FDR tradition, but in the end Truman decided he had to go to the Democratic Convention in Philadelphia and make a speech. "The Democratic Party was dispirited and dejected. I meant to give them something to cheer about and something to campaign for," Truman wrote in his memoirs.

Now that conventions are just long TV commercials for the political parties, the acceptance speech is just about the only excitement left.

So I asked some prominent Democrats what John Kerry has to accomplish with his Thursday speech and what advice they would give him just before he walked out on stage.

Terry McAuliffe, chairman of the Democratic National Committee: "What John Kerry has to show is his vision and the specifics of how he will get the

economy moving again, fix health care and education, and convince the American public — which will not be hard to do — that John Kerry will keep us safer at home and more secure. There is a huge opportunity to show the American public they are not safer today than four years ago, and Kerry has the opportunity to show how he will make us safer and stronger.

"With the electorate so evenly divided, he needs to reach out to everyone. He has a huge opportunity from a political point of view to reach the truly swing voters. And there is a percentage of the Republican base who thinks now they will vote for Bush, but after this convention they will decide they really want to vote for John Kerry."

Last piece of advice: "John, go out there and light 'em up, pump 'em up, and give a hopeful and optimistic message to all Americans!"

Joe Lockhart, White House press secretary for Bill Clinton: "Conventions generally have multiple political tasks, but Sen. Kerry is already ahead of the game. He has already picked his vice president, and the choice works. There are going to be no Dan Quayle or Tom Eagleton controversies.

"So Kerry has the single task of introducing himself as the nominee of the party and offering a clear and alternative vision to George Bush's America. He has to say, 'This is John Kerry, and this is my vision.' On the one hand, that's easy — but this is a big moment, and there is no take two. He has got to get it right. And there is no reason to believe that he won't."

"People who decide elections — those in the middle — will watch his speech with an open mind, and this is the point at which they will make their decision. They can change their minds, events happen, there will be the debates, but this is the one moment he gets to speak directly to the American public without the media filter, without partisan sniping, and it is an enormous opportunity and enormously important because you don't get second chance.

"There won't be harsh rhetoric concerning the president, but there will be an accounting of his

record. Those who genuinely haven't made up their minds will see something in John Kerry they can support."

Last piece of advice: "Tell them why you want to be president."

Anita Dunn, Democratic strategist and communications director for Bill Bradley's 2000 presidential campaign: "The convention is that first handshake with the vast majority of Americans who don't pay attention to the presidential nominating process. So Kerry must lay out where he will lead the country. There are very few moments where the national community is focused on politics. This is one of them."

"This is the opportunity for people to learn about John Kerry. Most people have no idea that he was a prosecutor. Many will be surprised to learn he is a veteran. This lack of information should not be underestimated. Most people would be surprised to learn the president once owned a baseball team!"

"A successful convention presents an agenda in a compelling fashion. The speech is when all the elements come together. The convention itself sets a tone, and the speech is where Kerry personally ties all the pieces of the four-day convention together. It is an exercise in repetition, in themes and in illustrating a story."

Last piece of advice: "Be yourself."

Jeremy Ben-Ami, policy director for the Howard Dean campaign: "This is John Kerry's debut. He has to connect with people on issues that matter in their day-to-day lives. I'd urge him to focus on the middle-class squeeze theme that he introduced a couple of weeks ago: that Democrats offer real help on healthcare, childcare and the cost of college. And he should contrast that with the Republican tax-cuts for the wealthy."

Last piece of advice: "Stick to the script!"

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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Intern

By MARSHA

Feature's Edi

The world recently by Czech Republic as home for a family and an international

"We m Vaiglova's fa ago in Syn months ago web and Vaiglova and came up with a school project Petra had completed, and we made c o n t a c t again," said Linda Gwin of Big Spring, who welcomed Petra home this we

Ironically, reunited the Petra said language, a nation — ova at the end women's nam

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"We took h Alamo, of co said.

Vaiglova international the Czech where she is junior year, to American

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Internet reunites Czech Republic youth with Big Spring family

By **MARSHA STURDIVANT**
Feature's Editor

The world wide web recently brought the Czech Republic as close as home for a Big Spring family and a 16-year-old international student.

"We met Petra Vaiglova's father 15 years ago in Syria. A few months ago I got on the web and typed in Vaiglova and came up with a school project Petra had completed, and we made contact again," said Linda Gwin of Big Spring, who welcomed Petra into her home this week.

Ironically, a misspelling reunited the families.

Petra said in the Czech language, a gender-designation — ova — is placed at the end of all the women's names.

Because Gwin remembered the women's names, she was able to locate the family. Petra's father's name is Vaigl, but she and her mother and older sister Lenka are all Vaiglova.

"It's just something we do there," she explained.

Petra completed a history lesson during school last fall that her teacher placed on the Internet, which is the hit Linda Gwin found when she began searching for her old friends.

"If it hadn't been for that history project, I wouldn't have been able to spend a whole month in the states," Petra said.

Linda Gwin said the family enjoyed knowing the Vaigl family in Syria, and through their acquaintance, were able to see parts of Syria and the Middle East that otherwise would have been blocked to them.

"Her father is one of those people that if you were stranded, he can take sticks and leaves and make dinner and build a house. He's a very talented man," Gwin said.

While Vaigl and Gwin's husband, Myron, a chemical engineer who now works for the Big Spring Refinery, worked together in Syria, the families traveled to the desert for picnics, to Antioch and also participated in a Saint Nicklas Festival.

"We did a lot of things together, which we were allowed to do because of his contacts, but then we moved several times and lost contact," Gwin said.

After Gwin made the initial re-connect, the two families e-mailed several times to determine they were indeed long-lost friends.

That rekindled relationship allowed Petra to spend time with the Gwins on their vacation this summer.

The group visited Disney World in Orlando and then drove back to Texas through Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana.

"We took her to see the Alamo, of course," Gwin said.

Vaiglova attends an international school in the Czech Republic, where she is entering her junior year, comparable to American schools, she

said. She traveled to the U.S. because of an invitation she received to participate in the People to People Future Leader Summit of the Year program this summer, which placed her in Washington D.C. for 10 days.

"That invitation was based on scholastic achievements and recommendations. There were three branches to select from, and I applied and was accepted for the law portion. There is also medical and leadership portions," said Petra, who aspires to become an attorney.

"At the summit we did all sorts of things. We had a mock trial and presented actual arguments in court. We also toured the Supreme Court and Washington D.C. and the memorials there. I found it very interesting, and we had a lot of things to do. I especially liked the history and the memorials. I spent one whole day in the World War II museum," she said.

After the summit, Petra traveled by train to Florida to meet the Gwins.

Born in Syria, the vivacious, chatty 16-year-old has attended international schools since third grade.

She is fluent in English as well as French, Arabic and of course, her native language, Czech.

She speaks proudly of the strides her country has made since the defeat of communism following the Velvet Revolution of 1989.

And she maintains an optimistic outlook toward continuing success in her country's efforts to improve their democratic government.

"We do not have museums there like you do here. Czech's are not that interested in memorials, like you have in Washington D.C. But we are changing, although it takes a long time," she said.

She lives in Slany, Czech Republic, a small city near Prague, the cap-



Matt Gwin, Petra Vaiglova and Linda Gwin reminisce about their recent vacation together. Vaiglova, a citizen of the Czech Republic, recently visited Big Spring, enjoying the Gwins hospitality. The two families met 15 years ago in Syria, when Petra's father worked with Myron Gwin. The families became reacquainted through the Internet, and Petra stayed with the family after she finished participating in the People to People Future Leaders Summit in Washington, D.C.

ital of the country, with her father, Frantisek Vaigl, who works as an international facilitator for large businesses, and her mother, Helena Vaiglova.

She said her father often teases her about her love for American history, contrasting Europe's history that dates back several thousand years with the U.S., that has just passed its 228th birthday.

"I love history," she said.

She recalls a piece of her own family's history under communistic rule.

The Vaigl's once had a large country estate in Czechoslovakia that the communist government requisitioned from her grandfather.

"In return we were given a tiny apartment, where we live today," she said.

Her father seems determined to bring back that sense of country living for his family.

They now also own a portion of land where an on-going summer cottage project brings the family

each year.

"That's where my parents are now," she said.

This is not Petra's first visit to the United States. An accomplished flautist, Petra was selected to perform with the international honor band last year, which allowed her to travel to New York City, London, Holland and Berlin.

"We had to send in an audition tape and I was not selected the year

before, but I was selected this year. We had kids representing 60 different schools in the international honor band," she said.

Petra embraces and enjoys life with an enthusiasm that seems contagious.

She considers her latest sojourn through the U.S. a grand adventure.

She left Big Spring for Chicago, to visit the Gwin's oldest daughter,

Sarah Munson, before she returns home Monday.

"It is different here and I like it a lot. Everything here is very functional, very organized, and the food is quite different and I really like that.

"It's always interesting to meet someone from another country," she said.

And her favorite American tradition? "Starbucks," she giggles.

On Tuesday, August 24,
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about the future of the
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With His Special Guest

The Honorable

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Tuesday, August 24, 2:00 PM

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Audi S4 Cabriolet: Premium sports car for top down driving

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That's how sweet the new 2004 Audi S4 Cabriolet is to drive.

You don't just drive it, you experience it. It is smooth, fluid and the S4 becomes an extension of your body as it responds effortlessly to the driver's commands.

This is an incredible, truly remarkable driving machine.

Powered by a 4.2-liter V-8 engine (340 horsepower/302 lbs.-ft. torque) and mated to a six-speed manual transmission with permanent quattro all-wheel drive, the Audi S4 is extremely quick and responsive. (A 6-speed automatic is avail-

able).

Without question, this is one of the best powerplants I've ever driven, and the six-speed manual is not only smooth, but an absolute blast to wind out the gears on a twisty country road.

Before I get too carried away, it is important to note that the S4 Cabriolet is very nicely appointed. This is a premium sports car, loaded with high-end features.

I don't mean to overlook the fact that it is very stylish, or that it's very nicely appointed, or the fact the 12-way power sport seats are extremely comfortable.

The fact is, I just had so much fun driving the S4 that I really didn't spend a lot of time playing with all the bells and whistles.

ON THE ROAD



BY NEAL WHITE



The 2004 Audi S4 Cabriolet quattro

That's how much fun this car is to drive.

Admittedly, I did use the sound system (the test vehicle was equipped with the premium 10-speaker Bose upgrade with Sirius Satellite Radio).

And yes, it does sound great. Even with the top down, cruising along at freeway speeds (yeah, freeway speeds — that's my story and I'm stickin' to it). The preferred CD of the week was the Eagles' Hotel California.

With the top down on a warm, spring day, it just seemed appropriate. With a base price starting around \$54,000, this is one of the best luxury/performance convertibles on the market.

For anyone taking a look at competing vehicles — especially similar vehicles from Mercedes, BMW and

Porche (which are all very nice) — you absolutely have to take a test drive in the S4 Cabriolet.

It is that good.

It is that fun to drive.

On safety, standard features include: Four-wheel anti-lock brakes with brake assist, dual front airbags, front seat head/thorax side airbags, Up Front crash sensors, active rollover protection system, LATCH seat provisions for rear seat, head restraints, and fog lights (front and rear).

Neal White has been covering the automotive industry for 15 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-ahachiedaily.com.

THE NUTS AND BOLTS



MODEL:
2004 Audi S4 Cabriolet
All-wheel drive
4-passenger seating
Sports convertible
PRICE RANGE:
\$54,000 - \$65,000
ENGINE:
4.2-L V-8 (340 hp/302 torque)
TRANSMISSION:
6-speed manual
6-speed automatic
w/Tiptronic
EPA: 15 mpg city/21 mpg highway
SUSPENSION:
Four-link front; fully independent rear with trapezoidal link.

STEERING:
Power rack-and-pinion.
BRAKES: ABS with Brake Assist and Electronic Stabilization Program
TURN CIRCLE: 37.7 feet
TIRES: 18-inch
LENGTH: 180 in.
WHEELBASE: 104.5 in.
WEIGHT: 4,089 pounds
WIDTH: 70 inches
HEIGHT: 54.8 inches
FUEL TANK: 16.6 gallons
TRUNK: 10.2 cubic feet
WARRANTY: 4 years/50,000-miles warranty with no charge scheduled maintenance and roadside assistance.

NEWS BRIEFS

Moore drops plan to attend screening of 'Fahrenheit 9/11'

CRAWFORD (AP) — Filmmaker Michael Moore got cold feet about coming to Bush Country to personally screen his scalding documentary on the Bush White House.

Moore had planned to fly to Texas to attend the screening of "Fahrenheit 9/11" Wednesday night, about seven miles from Bush's ranch. But he changed his mind Wednesday morning.

"It's all about me, me being there, me versus Bush, Bush being a few miles down the road," Moore said in an interview. "If I'm there, everything that would be written about it would be about me. I'm just not interested in that."

Moore, who has never shied away from news media attention, said he changed his mind after hearing about news coverage in Texas about his plans.

"I wanted the focus to be on the film, for this small town to have the chance to watch the movie without this big ruckus being created," he said.

Democrats look to strengthen Hispanic voting numbers

BOSTON (AP) — Texas Democrats are looking for ways to get Hispanics, the state's largest minority bloc, to the polls in numbers large enough to help strengthen the party's future.

Hispanics comprise about 30 percent of the Texas delegates to the Democratic National Convention, according to an Associated Press survey. Hispanics traditionally vote with the Democratic Party, but their impact at the polls is minimal because turnout tends to be low.

"The biggest growth (in Texas' population) has been among the Hispanic population, but the voter part lags behind," said Richard Murray, a political science professor at the University of Houston.

Democrats in Texas hold no statewide office or a majority in either chamber of the Legislature.

Door-to-door campaigning, and meeting the community in person, will help change the culture into one of political participation, he said.

"If we had higher levels of participation, we wouldn't even be a swing state, we'd be a solidly Democratic state," said state Rep. Aaron Pena, a delegate at this week's convention.

Political consultants caution that the party should not take the Hispanic vote for granted.

"The Hispanic vote is maturing and as a result, it is not just a block vote," said Democratic consultant Kelly Fero. "It's not really a case that Democrats have failed to capitalize on the growth of the Hispanic electorate so much as the electorate has become much more mature and does not vote in lockstep with anyone."

Republicans can peel away voter support with candidates who appeal to them based on the issues, Fero said.

Agent used multiple databases to check on woman, passport

HARLINGEN (AP) — A Border Patrol agent's check of multiple databases showed a woman holding a tampered South African passport was on a government watch list, U.S. Rep. Solomon Ortiz said Wednesday.

"He had that gut feeling that law enforcement officials have," Ortiz said of the agent. "The first agency, it didn't work. On the second, sure enough, she was on that list," Ortiz said, citing what he said were credible sources.

The FBI might not have been alerted to Farida Goolam Mohamed Ahmed if the agent hadn't been persistent, Ortiz said.

A senior law enforcement official, speaking on condition of anonymity, told The Associated Press on Tuesday that investigators were trying to determine whether Ahmed had ties to terrorist groups.

Ahmed, 48, was arrested at the McAllen International Airport about 7:45 a.m. on July 19. She was charged three days later with illegal entry into the United States, falsifying information and mutilating and altering a passport.

A federal magistrate found probable cause to detain Ahmed without bond on Tuesday, the same day The Associated Press published reports that crime rings within the South African government were selling illegal passports and that some had been found in the hands of al-Qaeda militants and other terrorists.

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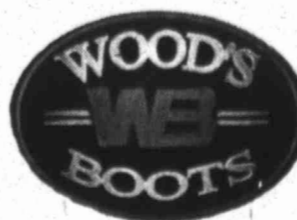
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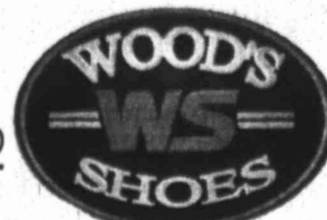
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IN B

BSISD sets season tick

Big Spring scheduled its football season sales.

Previous season ticket holders may purchase 2004 season tickets starting through August 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. (11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

The general manager may purchase tickets from through August 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. noon to 1 p.m.

However, season sales are from noon only. For questions, contact Kay Cook at

Crossroads sign-up date

The Youth Association announced that sign-up dates for the season.

Football will take place Big Spring Football practice sign up through 21 on Friday p.m. to 7 p.m. Saturdays (9 p.m.) only. For more information, call Robert at 432-

Herald announces golf tournament

The Big Herald has announced its annual Championship Saturday at Comanche Park.

The tournament is open to all men or women. Howard Comanche annual men's Comanche 7 Course and Spring Course.

There is a fee, which includes green fee, carts.

For more information, contact Comanche 7 Course at 264-

BSYFL and to host con

The Big Youth Football and the Cowboys will be playing the Pepsi/NFL game and kick off Aug. 21, at north of the

The contest is for boys and girls 8-11.

For more information, contact George 264-7313 or by BSYFL@msr

Big Spring Club sets to

The Big Spring Shiner's moved its annual tournament 25-26 after scheduling for 18.

The tournament will take place at Spring County

ON TH

Sports Broadca...
Event, Time...
Admission...
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Admission...
Event, Time...
Admission...

IN BRIEF

BSISD sets football season ticket dates

Big Spring ISD has scheduled its dates for football season ticket sales.

Previous season ticket holders may purchase 2004 season tickets starting today through Aug. 6 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. (closed 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.).

The general public may purchase season tickets from Aug. 9 through Aug. 20 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. (closed noon to 1 p.m.).

However, all Friday sales are from 8 a.m. to noon only.

For questions, call Kay Cook at 264-3662.

Crossroads football sign-up dates set

The Crossroads Youth Football Association has announced the sign-up dates for the upcoming season.

Football sign-ups will take place at the Big Spring Mall. Football players can sign up through Aug. 21 on Fridays (5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.) and Saturdays (9 a.m. to 6 p.m.) only.

For more information, call Stacie or Robert at 432-268-9634.

Herald announces golf tournament

The Big Spring Herald has set its annual City Golf Championships for Saturday and Sunday at Comanche Trail Park.

The tournament is open to all residents — men or women — of Howard County and annual members of Comanche Trail Golf Course and the Big Spring Country Club.

There is a \$35 entry fee, which includes green fee, but not carts.

For more information, contact Comanche Trail Golf Course at 264-2366.

BSYFL and Cowboys to host competition

The Big Spring Youth Football League and the Dallas Cowboys will be hosting the local Pepsi/NFL punt, pass and kick competition Aug. 21, at the field north of the ATC.

The registration starts at 8 a.m. and the contest is free to boys and girls 8-15.

For more info, contact George Lopez at 264-7313 or by e-mail at BSYFL@msn.com.

Big Spring Shrine Club sets tourney

The Big Spring Shriner's Club has moved its annual golf tournament to Sept. 25-26 after originally scheduling for July 17-18.

The tournament will take place at the Big Spring Country Club.

ON THE AIR

Sports Broadcast Schedule		
Event	Time	Station
Today		
Houston vs. Astros	8:30 p.m.	2490
Friday		
Archie Atwood	6:45 p.m.	2490
Saturday		
Autro vs. White	11:55 a.m.	2490

Villarreal wins title at Alamo

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

Big Spring's Veronica Villarreal worked her way through the entire tournament field at the Bud Walthall-Alamo City Junior Open and Super Championship Major Zoni.

Villarreal competed in the girls' 18 singles open division category and won the tournament that took place last week in San Antonio. She breezed through the first two rounds before earning a hard fought, straight set semifinal victory over San Antonio's Becky Rawlins.

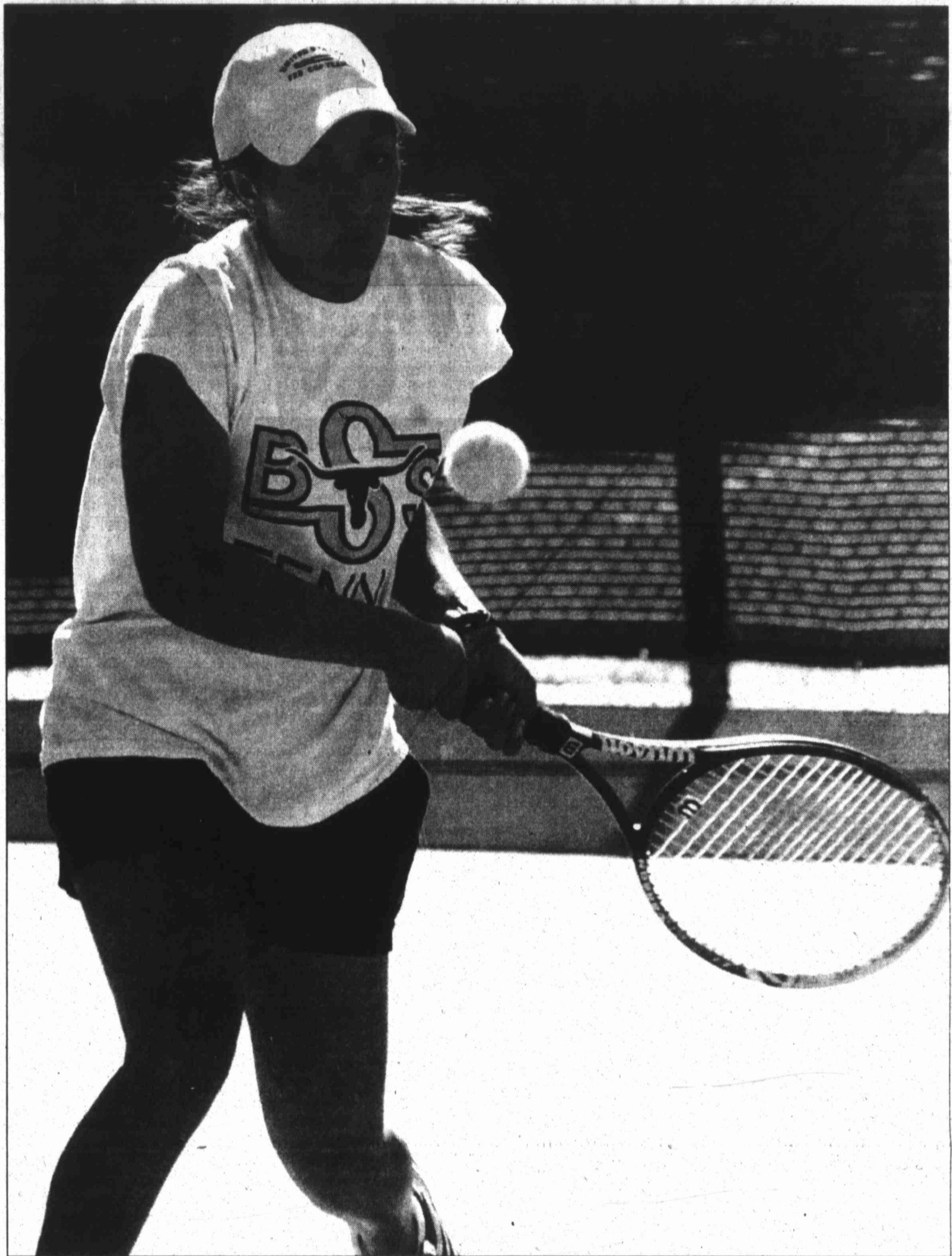
Villarreal defeated Shelly Tatum of San Antonio in round one, 6-1 and 6-1, and then took care of Salah Smith of Mason in round two, 6-1 and 6-0. She then defeated Rawlins in the semifinals in straight sets, 6-4 and 7-6(2).

The finals saw Villarreal take on Neda Nikkhoo of Houston, but it wasn't really a match as Villarreal came away with a dominating straight set 6-0, 6-0 love victory.

Villarreal also took part in the Intercollegiate Tennis Association Tournament at College Station Aug. 24-27, but did not fare as well there as she did in San Antonio. Villarreal lost both of her matches in straight sets by the same score of 6-1 and 6-2.

Villarreal was Big Spring's number one girl's singles player this past spring. She took second at districts before falling at regionals.

She will be a senior on the squad this year.



Big Spring's Veronica Villarreal sends the ball over the net last April during her run at the District 4-4A runner-up trophy. Villarreal recently won the Bud Walthall-Alamo City Junior Open and Super Championship Major Zoni in San Antonio. She breezed through the competition as she did not surrender a set. Villarreal will be a senior on Big Spring's tennis team this year.

Clemens strikes out eight, earns win 12

By JOEL ANDERSON

AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON — Roger Clemens finally got a little help from his teammates on offense. Not that he needed much against the reeling Arizona Diamondbacks.

Clemens struck out eight and allowed one run in seven innings and the Astros scored more than five runs for the 10th time

in 11 games, sending Houston to a 6-1 win Wednesday night.

"Give our hitters all the credit," Clemens said. "They really have been pushing hard and it's nice to see it pay off. It made my job easy tonight."

Clemens (12-3) bounced back nicely after tying a season high by giving up three homers in his loss to Milwaukee on Friday. He allowed only five hits and got his 322nd win, moving two behind Nolan Ryan and Don Sutton for 12th place on the career list.

The Rocket became the fourth pitcher in the majors to win at least 12 games this season.

Jeff Kent hit a two-run homer in the third and Jeff Bagwell followed with a solo shot on the next at-bat, giving the Astros a six-run lead that proved too much for the league's fourth-worst offense.

"It's nice to actually produce some runs for (Clemens)," said Astros third baseman Morgan Ensberg, who went 2-for-4 with an RBI. "We've been horrible to him. A lot of times we've only given him one or two runs. It was frustrating."

Houston (51-50) moved 1 1/2 games ahead of Cincinnati (50-52) for third place in the NL Central, and climbed above .500 for the first time since July 10 — before the All-Star break.

The Astros, however, still trail division-leading St. Louis by 14 games.

Lance Berkman and Kent each had run-scoring singles in the first, and Ensberg doubled in Berkman to give Houston an early 3-0 lead.

Casey Fossum (2-10), making the first start of his career against Houston, struggled early against the Astros and never really recovered. The left-hander allowed six runs on nine hits in four innings, tying for his shortest outing of the season and most hits allowed.

He's 0-4 in five starts since beating San Diego July 1.

"I'm not discouraged about it," Fossum said. "I'll just throw this one way and try to work it out."

Afterward, Arizona manager Al Pedrique expressed frustration at having to constantly address the trade rumors involving All-Star pitcher Randy Johnson and center fielder Steve Finley.

"Every day we hear the same thing. The trade rumors are going on and we just have to watch and see what happens," Pedrique said. "It may be affecting us more than anybody else."

Pedrique then made a comment that sounded as if Johnson was almost certainly headed elsewhere.

"It's been a lot of fun

watching him play," he said. "He's one of those guys that you will miss."

Danny Bautista scored the Diamondbacks' only run in the sixth, doubling to start the inning, taking third base on a wild pitch and scoring on Luis Gonzalez's grounder to second.

Arizona had few chances to rally in their 16th loss in 17 games, as Clemens kept them battling all night.

The Diamondbacks loaded the bases in the second before Clemens intentionally walked Brett Mayne to face Fossum, who's never had a major league hit in 23 at-bats. Fossum grounded out to second to end the inning.

"It's tough to beat a guy like that anytime, but when he gets a lot of runs early, it makes it extra difficult," Gonzalez said. "It puts a lot of burden on the hitters."

Dallas reaches agreement with LSU's Peterman, three unsigned

IRVING (AP) — The Dallas Cowboys Wednesday signed offensive lineman Stephen Peterman, a third-round pick from co-National Champion LSU.

Peterman became the fifth of Dallas' eight picks to sign and the highest yet to strike a deal. Training camp opens Friday in Oxnard, Calif.

The unsigned players are second-rounders Julius Jones, a running back hoping to battle Eddie George for the starting job, and tackle Jacob Rogers; and fourth-rounder Bruce Thornton, a cornerback.

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GARAGE SALE, Saturday, 1303 Runnels. Misc. items.

HUGE YOUTH Garage Sale: Located at East 4th Baptist Church. Prices marked to sale so that everything goes. Starts Saturday 8 - till ?.

INSIDE SALE, 110 N.E. Broadway, Coahoma 1 block east of Town & Country, leather burgundy recliner, stuffed animals, buy one get one free. Friday & Saturday, 10-6.

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PJ'S INSIDE Sale: 2210 Main. Friday & Saturday, 10:00-3:00.

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SATURDAY, 7:30 a.m.-? Moss Lake exit, off I-20, South Service Rd. Tools, baby stuff, furniture, lots of everything.

SATURDAY, 8:00-2:00. 2606 Central. Kirby vacuum, beginner trombone, lawn mower, printer, golf clubs, Steer Gear, extra large dog crate, books, clothes, misc. items.

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Big Spring Herald Thursday, July 29, 2004

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2210 LYNN Drive. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, garage, fenced yard. One year lease. \$400. month, plus \$400. deposit. Call (432)263-6514 Owner/Broker.

2604 ENT., 3 Bedroom 2 bath, CH/A, fenced yard, carport and fireplace. \$450/ month, \$200/ deposit. References required. Call (432)267-7449.

2713 REBECCA Drive. Large 3 Bedroom, 2 1/2 bath, double garage. One year lease required. \$900/month, \$500/ deposit. No Pets. Call (432)263-0441 Owner/Broker.

3 BEDROOM, 1 1/2 bath. 4219 Hamilton. 432-267-3841 or 432-517-0642.

3 BEDROOM, 1 Bath. Central Heat and Air, washer & dryer connection. \$365. monthly, \$150 deposit. Call 432-267-4536 or 417-276-8083.

407 East 8th. 1 Bdrm Apartment. Recently remodeled. New counter tops. CH/A. \$275/mo. + deposit. No HUD. Call (432)267-2296

602 1/2 GEORGE- Close to College. 1 Bedroom House. Stove & refrigerator, 1 car carport, CH/A. \$400.00 month plus deposit. No pets. No HUD. Call (432)267-2296.

THREE BEDROOM, one bath. 2202 Runnels. Call (432)267-3841, 517-0642.

Real Estate for Rent

611 RIDGLEEA. 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 could be 3 Bedroom house. Completely remodeled. Kitchen cabinets, carpet, tile, plumbing, electric, paint. CH/A. \$450. month. No HUD. Call (432)267-2296.

806 EAST 12TH. 1 Bedroom, 1 bath. Water Paid. Stove & Refrigerator Furnished. \$235/mo. \$100/dep. Call (432)263-1792, or 816-9984.

COAHOMA. TWO bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Cable included. \$400. month. \$200. deposit. Forsan, 3 bedroom, 2 bath, next to school. \$400. month, \$200. deposit. 432-263-5808.

NICE CLEAN open space, large 1 room apartment. Stove and refrigerator furnished. \$250.00 month \$100.00 deposit. Call (432)263-4528, (432)296-0277 or 296-1523.

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

SUMMER SPECIAL THE BEST FOR LESS New residents presenting this ad and who qualify for a minimum six-month lease on a TWO BEDROOM apartment home may lease for ONLY \$449 per month, and ENJOY the largest, nicest apartment swimming POOL in town. Residence has 1295 square feet; one and one-half baths and double attached carport.

CORONADO HILLS APARTMENTS 801 WEST MARCY (432)267-6500

SUNSET RIDGE APTS. New Management Family Friendly Central A/C Free Cable TV Low Deposit (432)263-2292

THREE BEDROOM Home. Central air and heat, fenced yard. 3702 Hamilton. \$425. mo. \$200. dep. Call (432)466-0227 after 5:00 pm for appointment and more info.

TWO BEDROOM house, fenced backyard. Stove & refrigerator furnished. Call (432)267-6179

TWO BEDROOM, 1 bath. No Pets. 1102 Lancaster. Call (432)267-3841 or 517-0642.

Real Estate for Sale

10X20 PORTABLE Office Building with Air conditioned. \$3500 OBO. Call (432)213-0989.

For Sale/Knott: 3 Bedroom, 2 bath on 3 acres. Big living room with fireplace, large kitchen and barn. Call (432)353-4450 or 263-1882.

NEW IN COAHOMA... 4-Bedroom, 1/2 acre lot. Call for details. Home Realtors (432)263-1284.

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Write one word on each line:

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

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

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

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

Enclosed is \$ _____ Cash _____ Money Order _____ Check _____ Credit Card# _____ Exp. Date _____ Vcode# _____

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710 SCURRY BIG SPRING

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Real Estate for Sale

COAHOMA, TX. 8400 sq. feet Office warehouse. Large paved fenced lot. 3 Phase electrical, 2 12x12 overhead doors, City utility. \$70,000. Call (432)631-9868.

FOR SALE BY OWNER. Move-in condition, large 3 bedroom, 2 bath, walk-in closets, single carport in front, CH/A, new paint, appliances, countertops, storm windows, tile fence, oversized covered RV parking, workshop with additional carport. \$82,500. Call (432)263-0711 or 432-816-1361.

FOR SALE By Owner: Owner Financing Provided. Low down payment, low monthly. 2 Bedroom, 1 bath brick home with shop out back. 1202 West 15th. Call Kelly (432)425-9994.

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, HOMELAND MORTGAGES, (254)947-4475.

LE GUSTARIA ser dueno de su propia casa pues ahora es cuando sin importar su credito le puedo ayuda, con el enganche nos arreglamos a su conveniencia yo se la financio por 10 anos para mas inf. Llame Annette Sanchez 432-413-0549 o 432-620-8285.

MOBILE HOME 1986 Peachtree. 3 Bedroom 2 bath. CH/A good condition. Asking \$11,000 OBO. Located at 6107 N. Service Rd. (Corner Tubb Loop). Call (432)238-0345.

MUST SELL: 800 N. Pine. Plus four lot's to be fixed up. For INFO Call (512)589-2050. Asking Price \$12,500. OBO.

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.

IMMEDIATE MOVE in: Price Slash- Nice 3/2 home on 1+ acre. Must see to appreciate. Asking \$47,500. Or Best Offer. Call and ask for Sandy at 1-800-699-4039 or 817-528-7220.

PRICED FOR quick sale. All Brick home, 4 bedroom 3 bath, double car garage, swimming pool. Too many extras to list. Asking \$195,000. 713 Craigmont. Call (432)264-9047 or 270-7803.

BUY-SELL-TRADE
In the
Big Spring Herald Classifieds
263-7331

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THE BIG SPRING
HERALD APPRECIATES
YOUR BUSINESS

Here are some helpful tips and information that will help you when placing your ad. After your ad has been published the first day we suggest you check the ad for mistakes and if errors have been made we will gladly correct the ad and run it again for you at no additional charge. If your ad is inadvertently not printed advance payment will cheerfully be refunded and the newspaper's liability will be for only the amount received for publication of the advertisement. We reserve the right to edit or reject any ad for publication that does not meet our standards of acceptance.

Real Estate for Sale

Rent to Own 3202 Auburn. 3 Bedroom, 1 bath with 1 car garage. New Evaporated Air Condition, fenced yard. \$400 month plus taxes and insurance. Owner Finance with \$2000 down and References. Call (432)267-6667.

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

WOULD YOU like to own your home but have bad credit or not enough credit. 1209 Sycamore could be that home. I can work with you on the down payment Call Annette Sanchez @ 432-413-0549 or 432-620-8285 I will Finance you a house for 10 Years.

Services Offered

?? PC NEED A NERD?? PC Died? Sneezing from Viruses? or Just Getting Cranky? Call Me! Quality Work/ Inexpensive. Call (432)264-0531 Rick. (rick2usa@cox.net)

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or
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Bob Brock Nissan
500 W. 4th 267-7424

1989 HARLEY-DAVIDSON Sportster 883. Low mileage. Needs some work. \$1200.00. Call (432)267-3407 or 268-3518.

1994 FORD Aerostar Ext. Van. 3 Row sets, stereo, dual heat/air cond., two tone Beige, plush trim inside. Call (432)267-7533.

2003 NISSAN Frontier XE. V6, 4-wheel drive, Red, automatic with over drive, bed liner, 30,500 miles. One Owner. \$16,995. Call (432)264-2954.

FIFTH WHEEL camper for sale. 1984 28 ft. Layton, extremely clean, new awning, no rain leaks or plumbing leaks. \$3,000. For more information, call (432)267-1643

'99 COUGAR, 5-spd. standard, V6, sporty black, cruise, moon roof. 83,000 Miles. \$6,100.00. See at 710 Scurry or call Susanne at (432)263-7331 ext.250 days.

'99 COUGAR, 5-spd. standard, V6, sporty black, cruise, moon roof. 83,000 Miles. \$6,100.00. See at 710 Scurry or call Susanne at (432)263-7331 ext.250 days.

'99 COUGAR, 5-spd. standard, V6, sporty black, cruise, moon roof. 83,000 Miles. \$6,100.00. See at 710 Scurry or call Susanne at (432)263-7331 ext.250 days.

'99 COUGAR, 5-spd. standard, V6, sporty black, cruise, moon roof. 83,000 Miles. \$6,100.00. See at 710 Scurry or call Susanne at (432)263-7331 ext.250 days.

DON'T PAY

to find work before you get the job. For free information about avoiding employment service scams, write the Federal Trade Commission, Washington, DC 20580 or call the National Fraud Information Center, 800-876-7060.

BY JOYCE JILLSON

The sun and Venus are in a trying position that could cause some insecurity to rise up in us, especially on the topic of love. You may even have paranoid thoughts about the reasons someone loves you or the motivation people have for getting close to you.



JOYCE JILLSON

Finances could also suffer from a bout of doubt. Use your logical mind to get centered.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). There's much to keep straight, and you've got the logical mind to maintain order. But don't be so fixated on practical matters that you lose your joy and creativity — without those, almost everything you do is in fact impractical.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You're a bit like the goose that lays golden eggs now, and you could find that many people would love to "steal" you away. Beware of people who are only interested in what you can do for them and aren't interested in giving back.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). It's a complex web you weave, Gemini. Forget about the bottom-line results now because there are so many contributing factors that it's impossible to make an

Tomorrow's Horoscope

accurate projection. Go by how you feel.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You go out of your way to get that feeling of love and acceptance. Once you're convinced that this basic need is met, you thrive. Being able to rid yourself of nagging worries is key. Most of what you fear is unreal anyhow.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). It's a passionate day. Being around hard-working people will make you more productive than ever. Your competitive instinct is fierce. You rise to the level of your competition, even if you have no idea what you're doing.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You've got major mojo, which you can use to influence an impossible situation. On days like this, just postulating is enough to make it so — imagine you're like the rainmaker who achieves by being in harmony with the elements.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Nothing stresses you out. You're able to use your sense of humor to turn every snafu into an entertaining story for your friends. You've got tons of those these days. Keep 'em laughing.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're not as interested in self-improvement as you are in allowing others to improve you — after all, why not leave it to the professionals? Gather opinions, and have a blast re-creating yourself inside and out.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There's luck in the realm of politics. You are in a position to take a stand, and many will listen — you've got real presence, poise and an interesting take on the same old message. Romance develops at lightning speed.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The only way to make progress is to first get organized. Haphazard piles, unsorted files and silly clutter can be sorted through completely by tomorrow if you just do it. When it gets difficult, enlist a friend.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Surprises cause you to act quickly, and you can be sure your destiny is being fulfilled. Approach new relationship with caution. The first 15 minutes determine how the rest of it will go. Tonight, you've got the healing touch.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). If you find yourself waiting around for someone to call you back, get busy. The more you can do to prove to yourself that you don't need someone, the more they'll feel drawn to you. Pop culture influences your work.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "A Gemini born in 1974, I'm a singer/songwriter going through the ups and downs of the music business. I know that music is my calling, but I haven't found that big break yet, and sometimes, I wonder if it will be in this lifetime. What do the stars say?"

You're gifted, attractive and bright, dear Gemini. You're an excellent networker, too, unafraid of extending yourself and finding out how to take the next step. What you need to work on is your tenacity. Sometimes, you rely too heavily on your natural gifts instead of working hard to refine them so that you shine as the very best around. Practice daily, and sing in public once a week. Work with a video camera when you're alone so that you can really see how you're being perceived by others. And when you're not getting the results you want, ask how you can do it better or what you need to work on. Instead of waiting for your big break, work on carving out a niche for yourself. Find people who need wonderful singers, and give them what they need. By giving your talent instead of worrying about making it, you'll start feeling like a success.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Wesley Snipes is back on screen in "Blade: Trinity," coming out in December. Ardent "Blade" fans are in for a really bloody treat — the buzz on this movie is hot. The fire element of Leo gives Snipes abundant energy, and the best way for this sign to channel it is through exercise. The intense regimen that's required for Snipes to keep up his toned physique may one day be packaged in an exercise DVD.

Annie's Mailbox : Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: From the day my mother-in-law and I met, she disliked me because I came from a different religious and ethnic background. She forbade her son to marry me, but he did anyway.

Even so, throughout our years of marriage, my husband refused to associate with any of my friends, family or co-workers, saying that his mother did not approve of them. He insisted that the only people we socialize with were his relatives.

A few years ago, Mom suddenly decided I was no longer to have contact with her or anyone else in the family. She insisted that her son divorce me. There was no particular reason for her decision. Of course, my husband stayed with me, but all of my contact with other family members was cut off because the relatives feared this woman's retribution. My husband continued to attend family



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

functions without me, which caused many heated arguments.

My mother-in-law died last year, and my husband now wants me to rejoin his family. I am a good person, warm and friendly, and have never done wrong by his relatives, but frankly, I don't want to see these people after being treated unfairly for so long. Should I forgive and forget? — Hurt and Confused

Dear Hurt: Yes. You will gain more by forgiving than you will by holding a grudge. As an added benefit, it will strengthen your marriage, which sounds like it could use some help.

We are less angry with the relatives than with your husband, who should have been more supportive of you. However, we know that these barracudas are exhausting to battle, day after day, and it's easier to give in than keep fighting. Now that Mom is out of the picture, however, you have an opportunity to be an integral part of your husband's family, and we think they will welcome you with open arms. Please give them the chance to make it up to you.

Dear Annie: My husband has a bad back and can sleep only in an adjustable bed or recliner. This totally limits our taking vacations. Are

there any hotels or cruise lines that have accommodations that would allow people with limitations such as his to enjoy their facilities? — A Virginian

Dear Virginian: Absolutely. Look for hotels that have suites or kitchenettes, which are likelier to include a room with a recliner. There are many organizations that offer full-package tours and cruises for those with special needs (we found a helpful Web site maintained by Jim Lubin at www.makoa.org that lists travel sites). Your husband also might want to invest in a portable reclining lawn chair that he can bring wherever he goes. Good luck.

Dear Annie: You printed a letter from "Omaha," whose 16-year-old son was shy. My 17-year-old daughter had the same problem. She would come home in tears from parties because she sat in the corner the whole time.

I found a Web site on social anxiety (www.socialanxiety.factsforhealth.org). They had a self-assessment test that I administered to my daughter. I discovered she had a phobia of certain people and situations. We made an appointment to see a psychiatrist who prescribed a mild antidepressant and referred her to a psychologist.

In five months, the changes in my daughter are amazing. She has a job that would have driven her to tears before. She enjoys going to group functions and meeting new people. Our insurance covers most of the counseling visits, and the money I've spent has been well worth it. — A Mom in North Carolina

Dear Mom: Thank you for your excellent suggestion and useful resource. We hope our interested readers will check it out.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column.

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The Spider

During Mark Twain's days as a newspaperman, he was the editor of a small Missouri paper.

One day, he received a letter from a subscriber stating that he had found a spider in his paper and asked if this was an omen of good or bad luck.

Twain replied, "Finding a spider in your paper is neither good nor bad luck. The spider was merely looking over our paper to see which merchant was not advertising so that he could go to that store, spin his web across the door and lead a life of undisturbed peace ever after."



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Big Spring Herald
Thursday, July 29, 2004

THURSDAY

6:30 PM	News (CC)
7:30 PM	Wheel-Forum
8:30 PM	Whose Line? Whose Line?
9:30 PM	Extreme Makeover
10:30 PM	Democratic Convention
11:30 PM	News Nightline
12:30 AM	Ent. Tonight
1:30 AM	Jimmy Kimmel
2:30 AM	Live (CC)
3:30 AM	Open Wire

DENNIS T

"If YOU EXPECT DISAPPOINT Y

BC

HEY, MOM, I GOT A HOLE-IN-ONE

WIZARD

WHAT YOU COMPL

AGNES

YOUR MONEY WILL FOWL JOKES, BUT OF UNLIFTING PI INSPIRATIONAL Q A WITTY, CHEER

HELP THE SAD DUCKS OF GAMBOLI

HI AND L

DO YOU HAVE TO BE OLD TO BE A GEEZE MR. WAVERINK

THE OTH

IT'S NICE TO LIE CLOSE YOUR EYES LISTEN TO THE SO OF THE BEACH

SNUFFY

HOW'S YORE HEARIN', GRAMPY?

BEETLE

BEETLE, WHY WEREN'T YOU AT MY CLASS ON WEAPONS TODAY?

7-29

THURSDAY

JULY 29

Channel	Time	Program	Channel	Time	Program	Channel	Time	Program	Channel	Time	Program	Channel	Time	Program	Channel	Time	Program	Channel	Time	Program	Channel	Time	Program			
WFAA (2)	6:30	News (CC)	KMID (3)	6:30	News Wheel-Fortune	UNI (4)	6:30	La Mujer de Madera	KPEJ (5)	6:30	King of the Hill Raymond	KOSA (7)	6:30	News Ent. Tonight	KTLE (8)	6:30	Pasion de Gavilanes	KWES (9)	6:30	News Seinfeld (CC)	WTBS (11)	6:30	Joe McGee John Hagee	KMLM (12)	6:30	Friends (CC)
	7:00	Who's Line? Who's Line?		7:00	Mariana de la Noche		7:00	Movie: Nutty Professor II		7:00	Big Brother 5 (CC)		7:00	Prisionera		7:00	Will & Grace Scuba (CC)		7:00	Update Israel		7:00	Star Trek: Next Gener.		7:00	Movie: The Presidio
	8:00	Extreme Makeover		8:00	Amante es Mi Pecado		8:00	The Klumps		8:00	CSI: Crime Scene Investig.		8:00	Gitanas		8:00	Last Comic Standing (DVS)		8:00	Light of the Southwest		8:00	Movie: Lived to Tell (CC)		8:00	MXC MXC
	9:00	Democratic Convention		9:00	Aquí y Ahora		9:00	70s Show Drama-Greg		9:00	Democratic Convention		9:00	Protagonistas		9:00	Democratic Convention		9:00	10 Movie: Blue Streak		9:00	Charlie Rose (CC)		9:00	Movie: Gone
	10:00	News Nightline		10:00	Primer Impacto Nôcturno Univ.		10:00	70s Show Raymond		10:00	News Late Show		10:00	Noticias Laura		10:00	The Hour of Healing		10:00	World's Deadliest Shark		10:00	Movie: Lived to Tell		10:00	Movie: Sixty Seconds (CC)
	11:00	Ent. Tonight Jimmy Kimmel Live (CC)		11:00	En las Mejores Familias Spin City		11:00	Becker (CC)		11:00	The Late Late Show (CC)		11:00	Al Rojo Vivo		11:00	Show (CC) Late Night		11:00	Sam Peak Jesse Lee Pe. (CC)		11:00	Movie: Lived to Tell		11:00	Movie: The Presidio (CC)
	12:00	AM Live (CC) Oprah Winfrey		12:00	Mujeres Engaadas		12:00	Blind Date		12:00	Street Smarts		12:00	Another Skatout		12:00	Update Israel A.F. News		12:00	Movie: Lived to Tell		12:00	Movie: Blind Date		12:00	Movie: Duel (CC)

DENNIS THE MENACE



"If you expect the worst, this kid won't disappoint you."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"This is like a church, Mommy. Everyone's whispering."

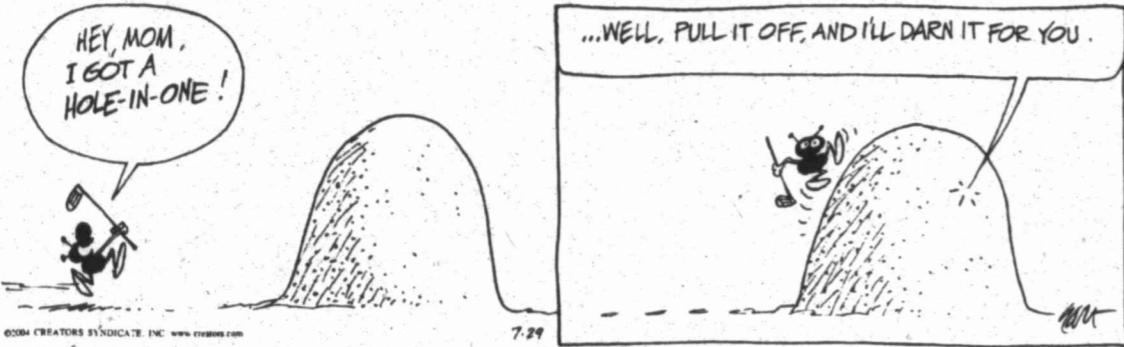
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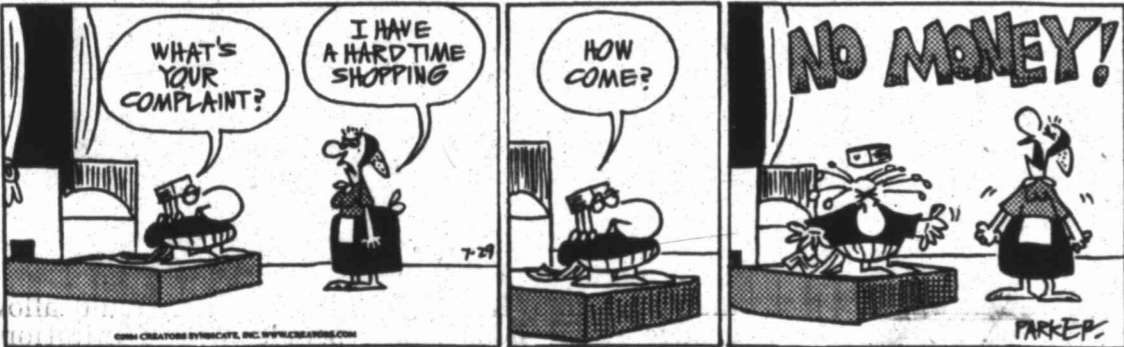
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WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, July 29, the 211th day of 2004. There are 155 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 29, 1981, Britain's Prince Charles married Lady Diana Spencer at St. Paul's Cathedral in London. (The couple divorced in 1996.)

On this date: In 1030, the patron saint of Norway, King Olaf II, was killed in battle.

In 1588, the English soundly defeated the Spanish Armada in the Battle of Gravelines.

In 1890, artist Vincent van Gogh died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound in Auvers, France.

In 1900, Italian King Humbert I was assassinated by an anarchist; he was suc-

ceeded by his son, Victor Emmanuel III.

In 1914, transcontinental telephone service began with the first phone conversation between New York and San Francisco.

In 1948, Britain's King George VI opened the Olympic Games in London.

In 1958, President Eisenhower signed the National Aeronautics and Space Act, which created NASA.

In 1967, fire swept the USS Forrestal in the Gulf of Tonkin, killing 134 servicemen.

In 1975, Gerald Ford became the first U.S. president to visit the site of the Nazi concentration camp Auschwitz in Poland as he paid tribute to the victims.

In 1980, a state funeral was held in Cairo, Egypt, for the deposed Shah of Iran, who had died two days earlier at age 60.

Today's Birthdays: Comedian Professor Irwin Corey is 90. Actor Lloyd Bochner is 80. Actor Robert Horton is 80. Former Senator Nancy Kassebaum-

Baker, R-Kan., is 72. Senator Elizabeth H. Dole, R-N.C., is 68. ABC News anchorman Peter Jennings is 66. Actor David Warner is 63. Rock musician Neal Doughty (REO Speedwagon) is 58. Marilyn Tucker Quayle, wife of former Vice President Dan Quayle, is 55. Actor Mike Starr is 54. Documentary maker Ken Burns is 51. Rock singer-musician Geddy Lee (Rush) is 51. Rock singer Patti Scialfa (Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band) is 51. Actress Alexandra Paul is 41. Country singer Martina McBride is 38. Rock musician Chris Gorman is 37.

Answer to previous puzzle

GARBO	CAFE	CAME
ALOU	OVAL	ENOS
SCONE	VILLE	DIOWE
SOFTSHELL	CLAMS	
EVE	ERA	IRATE
REDCOAT	DAD	TEL
HOD	SOS	TERI
LIPSMACKERS		
ARON	EAT	AVA
SOW	RITE	SNAPSAT
HARPO	SIC	ONO
MILWAUKEE	BUCKS	
VIDA	IRIS	ALIAS
TINEZ	DIRT	SNARE
AGRA	ESTA	SALAD

Newsday Crossword COLORS OF THE DAY by Doug Peterson Edited by Stanley Newman

- ACROSS
- 1 Gander or drake
- 5 Monty Python specialty
- 10 Gymnast Korbut
- 14 "Zounds!"
- 15 Ancient marketplace
- 16 Zen paradox
- 17 W.C. Handy tune
- 20 Urban concern
- 21 Erik of CHiPs
- 22 Thumbs up
- 23 Aurora alias
- 25 Middling grade
- 26 Seedless fruit
- 32 "Fat chance!"
- 35 Considers
- 36 Yosemite Sam, e.g.
- 37 Dressing choice
- 40 Oscar role for Julia
- 41 Host a roast
- 43 Thick soups
- 45 Sparkling teeth, slangily
- 48 Freelancer's enc.
- 49 151, in old Rome
- 50 Egg cells
- 53 Three-horse sleighs
- 57 Type of patch
- 59 Hardy fowl
- 61 Abacus component
- 62 Gettysburg general
- 63 Salad veggie
- 64 Public houses
- 65 Chorus section
- 66 "Oh! What — Was Mary"
- DOWN
- 1 In need of tidying
- 2 Slack-jawed
- 3 Hibernation spots
- 4 St. Vincent Millay
- 5 Topple
- 6 In the past
- 7 No gentleman
- 8 Mazola alternative
- 9 Spring holiday
- 10 Tex. neighbor
- 11 Like some ties
- 12 Earth goddess
- 13 Ques. response
- 18 Small adjustment
- 19 Atkins Diet no-no
- 24 Emmy winner Ward
- 26 West Coast footballer
- 27 Blue Velvet director
- 28 Food and water
- 29 Chicago star
- 30 Kuwaiti ruler
- 31 Nine-digit IDs
- 32 Miners' sch.
- 33 Alaska city
- 34 Like Ricky Martin's "Vida"
- 38 All the rage
- 39 Many 800 numbers
- 42 Borden spokescow
- 44 Off-the-wall
- 46 City southeast of Seattle
- 47 Mink relative
- 50 Get the better of
- 51 Screwdriver need
- 52 Photographer Adams
- 53 At that time
- 54 Reddish-brown
- 55 Tote-board info
- 56 Wood strip
- 58 Killer whale
- 59 Stat for A-Rod
- 60 Roubaha

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JULY 29 2004

That's Racin'

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Executive evaluation

Grading the performance of NASCAR Chairman and CEO Brian France

Report card issued for:
Brian France
NASCAR chairman and CEO

Time on the job:
Less than 10 months

Home base:
Daytona Beach, Fla.

Age:
41

HAND ILLUSTRATIONS BY PAUL TRAP/KRT

By JOHN STURBIN
Knight Ridder Newspapers

Like the savvy executive he is, Brian France declined to grade himself on the first 10 months of his tenure as NASCAR chairman and CEO.

"Nice of you to ask, but it's really not about me," France said recently during a national teleconference that served as his midseason State of NASCAR address. "I've enjoyed the responsibilities and it's obviously action-packed. We have three of the four top national series in the country. We've got our hands full."

Maybe France is waiting for an official report card from his father, NASCAR Vice Chairman Bill France Jr. If that's the case, we'd like to help Mr. France grade Brian on his handling of the burning issues affecting NASCAR Nation.

QUALITY OF NEXTEL CUP SERIES RACING

GRADE C Rules that shortened the rear spoiler, in conjunction with a softer compound Goodyear Eagle racing radial tire, have produced 10 different winners

and nine pole sitters in 19 starts.

"We think the racing, in terms of the manufacturers and the competition, is right where we would like it to be," France said.

THE NEW CHASE FOR THE CHAMPIONSHIP FORMAT

GRADE C France acquiesced to his network TV partners on this one in pursuit of increased fall ratings versus the almighty NFL. But, if the Cup season were to end right now ... only the current top 10 would be eligible for the championship under the revised format. Recall that only the top 10 drivers after 26 races, and any driver as close as 400 points from the leader, are eligible for The Chase. The current top 10, in order, are Jimmie Johnson, Dale Earnhardt Jr., Jeff Gordon, Tony Stewart, Matt Kenseth, Kurt Busch, Bobby Labonte, Elliott Sadler, Kevin Harvick and Ryan Newman.

At 502 points behind the leader, Newman would not be eligible if he were 11th.

"If we do the first job right — getting the drivers the opportunity to showcase their skills, and the more the better — they are going to make it exciting and that's entertaining," France said when asked if the new format was too entertainment-oriented. "It's not either/or."

SETTLEMENT OF THE FRANCIS FERKO LAWSUIT

GRADE A After two years of legal maneuvering, the case of Francis Ferko vs. NASCAR, International Speedway Corp. and SMI was settled out of court and announced in mid-May, bringing with it a second Nextel Cup Series race date to industry rival Bruton Smith's palace of speed in Fort Worth, Texas Motor Speedway. Not only that, but the Nov. 6, 2005, Cup race at TMS will be the eighth of 10 events in the Chase for the Championship.

"The industry's better off by putting that lawsuit behind us and focusing in on realignment and other important places for our top series to go in 2005 and beyond," France said.

RULES CHANGES DESIGNED TO FREEZE THE FIELD

GRADE D The Nextel Cup Series has been plagued by debate on how to best freeze driver positions when a caution flag flies, and how soon to open pit road under yellow. After an official's gaffe at Pocono International Raceway on June 13 nearly cost Jimmie Johnson a victory, pit road now is under control of officials in the tower and scoring of the field under caution is done electronically.

"The expectations from the drivers, the owners, fans and everybody in the industry is that NASCAR is going to conduct the events in a mistake-free environment," France said. "Now, we all know that's not humanly possible although that's our own expectation."

ENDING CUP RACES UNDER A GREEN FLAG

GRADE C NASCAR's image took a beating at Talladega Superspeedway on April 25, when fans showered the track with beer cans and assorted junk to protest Jeff Gordon's victory under yellow over favorite son Dale Earnhardt Jr. To address this issue, NASCAR recently instituted the green-white-checked flag finish used in the NASCAR Truck Series, assuring two laps of racing.

in the top 10. Last week: 7.

9. Bobby Labonte (car No. 18): Pocono's usually a solid track for this team, so this could be a big week coming up. Last week: 6.

10. Kevin Harvick (car No. 29): If this team doesn't improve its performance it won't hang on to a top-10 points spot. Last week: 8.

For the rest of the top-40 rankings, go online and visit www.thatstracin.com.

RANKINGS THAT'S RACIN'S TOP PICKS

1. Jimmie Johnson (car No. 48): This team had its worst car in four months at New Hampshire — yet still finished 11th in it. Last week: 1.

2. Jeff Gordon (car No. 24): Started 24th after starting first four straight times but still got a second-place finish. Last week: 2.

3. Tony Stewart (car No. 20): This team needs one more smooth weekend before sailing into Indy for the Brickyard 400. Last week: 3.

4. Matt Kenseth (car No. 17): Another solid finish, fourth, at New Hampshire. This team just keeps on keeping on. Last week: 5.

5. Dale Earnhardt Jr. (car No. 8): His burns would have been more costly to his team under the old-championship format. Last week: 4.

6. Kurt Busch (car No. 97): Loudon victory came at perfect time for momentum and solidifying his top-10 position. Last week: 9 (tie).

7. Ryan Newman (car No. 12): Despite this ranking, this team's still on a precarious perch — just 106 points inside the top 10. Last week: 9 (tie).

8. Elliott Sadler (car No. 38): This team badly needs a run like Busch had at Loudon to firm up its standing

Quiet weekend at Loudon was a welcome change

It's 7:30 Monday morning, and Lake Winnepesaukee is shimmering. Despite patches of blue sky, the sun is still looking for a hole in the clouds. The birds are chirping, but not so loudly that it would wake up anybody who's not already stirring.

A few minutes ago, a speedboat slashed across the neck of the lake that forms Alton Bay. The ripples worked their way toward the shore just below my room in the Bay Side Inn, my favorite pit stop during the Nextel Cup season.

Now they've smoothed out. There's not enough of a breeze to jostle the maple trees that stick over the water from the bank under my balcony, but there's enough going out on the water to create a pattern that can be hypnotizing if you stare long enough.

It's nice here. It's also nice that, for a change, nothing happened in Sunday's Nextel Cup race that was so compelling that I can't just ponder the start of a new day instead of jumping right into some major controversy.

NASCAR needed the Siemens 300. No, it wasn't the most thrilling race in history. Only three drivers led the race and one, Jimmy Spencer, did so for only a token three laps by staying out on a yellow.

Ryan Newman started from the pole and led the first 170 laps. Kurt Busch started 31st and caught up. He led for a while, fell behind Newman on a pit stop, then got the lead back and won. Jeff Gordon got around Newman and finished second.

Matt Kenseth and Tony Stewart battled for fourth, with Kenseth winning. Dale Earnhardt Jr. drove 61 laps and got out of his car because of his burned legs and Martin Truex Jr. finished up.

All in all, it was routine. Some folks did smack the wall pretty hard, but nobody got hurt. If you would have glued on tissue paper and put beauty queens in the cars, it might have been an excellent parade.

The Earnhardt Jr. story will linger as we see if he'll go the distance at Pocono. Truex Jr. will be running a Busch series race in Colorado, so if Earnhardt Jr. needs relief the plan is to have John Andretti standing by.

Under the old championship format, the points damage that Sunday's 31st-place finish did would be the follow-up story. Jimmie Johnson could have started playing defense to protect what's now a 165-point lead on his way to what could have become a relatively easy path to his first Cup title.

But with the "Chase for the Nextel Cup" in place, the racing that's going to win anybody a championship lies over the horizon in the year's final 10 races. There are seven races before we get there, and the top of the standings could scarcely be less relevant. It's all about 10th and 11th until after the 26th race and the cutoff to pick the 10 championship-eligible drivers.

Busch moved up from ninth to sixth in the points with his win Sunday, but nobody outside the top 10 mustered any real challenge to move up — positions 10 through 15 remained the same.

No fights. No obvious NASCAR rules or officiating missteps. No name-calling. Given everything that has gone on so far this year, and with the seven-race run-up to the championship cut comes at Richmond in September, it was nice to have a relatively calm, quiet weekend.

Oh, look. The sun's finally out. And there goes another speedboat.

THIS WEEK'S RACE

PENNSYLVANIA 500
What: 500 miles or 200 laps
Where: Pocono Raceway, a 2.5-mile triangular-shaped flat track located in Long Pond, Pa.
When: Sunday at 1 p.m. (all times ET). Qualifying is 3:10 p.m. Friday.
TV: TNT.
Radio: Motor Racing Network.
Purse: \$4,808,573.
Last year's winner: Tony Stewart

Worth noting: Rusty Wallace leads all other active drivers with four Nextel Cup victories at Pocono, while Mark Martin leads all other active drivers with 17 top-five and 24 top-10 finishes at the track. Martin also leads all other active drivers with more than 10 starts with an average start of 6.542.

POLL POSITION

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION
Many have been skeptical of NASCAR's new "Chase for the Championship" format. With the top 10 taking shape how are you feeling about it?

Cast your vote at:
www.thatstracin.com

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION
Who's the Nextel Cup driver you most love to hate?

Number of votes: 15,300

Driver	No. of votes	Percent
Jeff Gordon	5,107	33.4%
Tony Stewart	4,491	29.4%
Dale Earnhardt Jr.	1,765	11.5%
Someone else	1,749	11.4%
Kevin Harvick	1,278	8.4%
Rusty Wallace	910	5.9%

STOP 'N' GO

INSIDE POCONO
Things to keep in mind as the Nextel Cup circuit heads to Pocono Raceway for the Pennsylvania 500:

POCONO STANDOUTS
■ Ken Schrader leads all active drivers with five poles at the track.
■ Dale Jarrett has 13 top fives, including three victories, in the last 18 races at Pocono. However, he finished 42nd, 21st and 26th in his last three races.

POCONO BLUES
■ Greg Biffle has finished 11th or worse in all three of his races at Pocono.
■ Robby Gordon has finished 18th or worse in six of his seven races at the track.
■ Kyle Petty has one finish of 13th or better in his past 13 Pocono races.

— Jim Utter

BY THE NUMBERS

NEXTEL CUP POINTS LEADERS

The top-40 drivers as of July 25:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. J. Johnson (48)	2850	21. B. Vickers (25)	1974
2. D. Earnhardt Jr. (8)	2685	22. R. Gordon (31)	1926
3. J. Gordon (24)	2648	23. J. Burton (99)	1922
4. T. Stewart (20)	2548	24. J. Nemechek (01)	1866
5. M. Kenseth (17)	2481	25. G. Biffle (16)	1864
6. K. Busch (97)	2396	26. W. Burton (0)	1813
7. B. Labonte (18)	2390	27. S. Wimmer (22)	1809
8. E. Sadler (38)	2370	28. R. Rudd (21)	1713
9. K. Harvick (29)	2353	29. B. Gaughan (77)	1678
10. R. Newman (12)	2348	30. S. Riggs (10)	1596
11. J. Mayfield (19)	2242	31. K. Petty (45)	1526
12. D. Jarrett (88)	2221	32. R. Craven (32)	1521
13. J. McMurray (42)	2214	33. K. Schrader (49)	1520
14. K. Kahne (9)	2186	34. J. Green (43)	1513
15. M. Martin (6)	2156	35. J. Sauter	1217
16. M. Waltrip (15)	2110	36. J. Spencer (4)	1042
17. C. Mears (41)	2083	37. D. Blaney (30)	1017
18. S. Marlin (40)	2041	38. D. Cope (50)	841
19. R. Wallace (2)	2038	39. K. Lepage (51)	582
20. T. Labonte (5)	2009	40. M. Shepherd (89)	545

BUSCH SERIES POINTS LEADERS

The top-20 drivers as of July 24:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. M. Truex Jr.	2993	11. K. Kahne	2286
2. K. Busch	2899	12. T. Fedewa	2251
3. R. Homaday	2655	13. A. Lewis	2229
4. J. Leffler	2609	14. K. Wallace	2179
5. D. Green	2595	15. S. Compton	2131
6. J. Keller	2589	16. R. Pressley	2101
7. G. Biffle	2565	17. C. Atwood	2072
8. B. Hamilton Jr.	2531	18. D. Stremme	2059
9. M. Bliss	2299	19. R. Gordon	2050
10. M. Waltrip	2293	20. J. Sauter	2036

NEXT RACE: Saturday, Goulds Pumps/ITT Industries Salute to the Troops 250, Fountain, Colo.

TRUCK SERIES POINTS LEADERS

The top-10 drivers as of July 17:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. D. Setzer	1837	6. T. Musgrave	1610
2. B. Hamilton	1773	7. R. Crawford	1598
3. C. Edwards	1671	8. T. Kvapil	1564
4. M. Crawford	1651	9. J. Sprague	1544
5. C. Chaffin	1650	10. J. Wood	1527

NEXT RACE: Saturday, Line-X Spray-on Truck Bedliners 200, Brooklyn, Mich.