

THURSDAY

September 2, 2004

WEATHER

Tonight:



TONIGHT TOMORROW
63°-64° 84°-86°

City offices to be closed

The city of Big Spring will be closing its offices Friday at noon to hold its annual Employee Appreciation Picnic. The landfill and composting facility will also be closed.

City offices will remain closed through Monday in observance of the Labor Day holiday. There will be no sanitation pick up on Monday and the landfill will be closed.

Cossacks, Legion slated fund-raiser

The Permian Basin Chapter of the Cossacks Motorcycle Club and American Legion Post 506 will hold a benefit auction and "in-house" poker run for local resident Virginia King, who has been diagnosed with cancer.

The benefit will be held Saturday, Sept. 11, beginning at noon at the Legion Post, 3203 W. Highway 80. Southern fried catfish will be served.

Proceeds from the event will go to help King and her family meet medical and other costs.

'The Guys' set on stage Sept. 11

The Howard College Theater Department will be performing "The Guys" by Anne Nelson on Saturday, Sept. 11 to benefit the Big Spring Fire Department.

The play will be in the Municipal Auditorium. Tickets can be bought at the Big Spring Chamber of Commerce office, 215 W. 3rd Street, for \$10.

Proceeds from the performance go to the Big Spring Fire Department.

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www.bigspringherald.com

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Veteran organizing march to support VA Medical Center

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

Veterans from every military era of conflict, walk of life and ethnic background are expected to take to the streets of Big Spring Saturday in a "march for solidarity" to show their support for the Big Spring VA Medical Center.

March coordinator and veteran Jess Aguilar, who travels to the Big Spring VA Medical Center from his home in Andrews on a regular basis, said he hopes to draw West Texas veterans closer together and show the government and Veterans Administration how much the facility means — right where it is.

"We're going to do anything and everything we can to keep the VA Medical Center in Big Spring. Moving the hospital just doesn't make any sense."

Jess Aguilar,
march coordinator

"I travel to the Big Spring VA Hospital a lot," said Aguilar. "There are a lot of guys in my area that go there for therapy. They have

a really good therapy unit and they're really good at helping veterans deal with the wars and conflicts they've been through.

"I got together with some of the other guys getting treatment at the VA Hospital and we came up with the idea for this march. One of the people helping coordinate it, especially from the Big Spring side, is William Paffen, who also receives services from the hospital."

While the march, which will begin at the Big Spring Vietnam Memorial and end at the VA Medical Center, may not draw the likes of senators and congressman, Aguilar said

See MARCH, Page 3A

Kerry views assailed by GOP

By CARL P. LEUBSDORF

The Dallas Morning News
NEW YORK — A rock-steady Republican, Vice President Dick Cheney, and a defecting Democrat, Zell Miller, roused the GOP convention Wednesday night with the week's toughest assault on the record and views of John Kerry.

"Time and again, Senator Kerry has made the wrong call on national security," Cheney said. He called the Nov. 2 election one of history's "defining moments" that will test the nation's commitment to Bush's policies to "stop terrorist violence at its source" and defend the United States.

"Even in the post-9-11 world, Senator Kerry doesn't appear to understand how the world has changed," Cheney told cheering delegates in Madison Square Garden, who broke into frequent chants of "four more years." And he criticized the senator's comments about "a more sensitive war on terror" and trying harder to enlist interna-



Delegates wave their stetsons and "W" signs at the 2004 Republican National Convention in Madison Square Garden in New York City.

tional support. "George W. Bush will never seek a permission slip to defend the American people," said Cheney, a former secretary of defense who has played a leading role in crafting the administration's national security positions. The vice president, whose hard-line views have contributed to what polls show is a sharp

slump in his own political standing, set off chants of "flip-flop, flip-flop" by detailing some of Kerry's votes.

"Senator Kerry says he sees two Americas," he said. "It makes the whole thing mutual - America sees two John Kerrys."

And he noted that the senator's positions on defense issues have rarely prevailed.

"A senator can be

wrong for 20 years without consequence to the nation," he said. "But a president always casts the deciding vote. And in this time of challenge, America needs - and America has - a president we can count on to get it right."

Cheney, who has sought to show more of his personal side lately as his approval ratings have slid, talked of his modest

roots and particularly of his grandfather, for many years a cook on the Union Pacific railroad.

Despite tight security, a lone protester made it onto the convention floor long enough to disrupt Cheney's speech for a few seconds. Witnesses and Secret Service agents quickly wrestled her to the ground.

See CONVENTION, Page 3A

Police seek suspect or suspects in aggravated robbery

Sought: Black female, mid 20s, 5-6 tall, slender build. Police believe she was with a male accomplice

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

The Big Spring Police Department is investigating an aggravated robbery that took place Wednesday at a local convenience store.

According to BSPD Public Information Officer Sgt. Roger Sweatt, the robbery took place at the 7-Eleven convenience store located at 2301 Wasson Road dur-

ing the early morning hours of Wednesday.

"The robbery took place at approximately 2 a.m.," said Sweatt. "A black female in her mid-20s, approximately 5-feet, 6-inches tall and of slender build, entered the store and spent around 20 minutes walking around and looking at things. If you watch the tape it's pretty obvious that she was waiting for all of the store's customers to

leave. "She went to the counter and put some items on it after everyone else was gone, then threatened the cashier with a knife and demanded money. She left the store with an undisclosed amount of cash."

Sweatt said the woman was wearing a hair net, a gray shirt and black shorts.

"She displayed the knife and threatened the cashier but no

one was injured during the robbery," said Sweatt. "She left the store headed east."

While the woman police are searching for actually committed the robbery, Sweatt said the store video tape leads investigators to believe she had an accomplice.

"She may have been accompanied by a black male," said

See ROBBERY, Page 3A

United Way Dine Out Day gets under way this week

By KENDRA WISS
Staff Writer

The United Way of Big Spring and Howard County is asking for the public to participate in "Dine Out Day for United Way."

A different restaurant will be honored each Friday as the United Way's "Restaurant of the Week." Each of the restaurants will donate a portion of their sales to the United Way.

Last year the program was a successful fund-raiser for both the restaurants and the United Way, according to Cynthia Scott, executive director for the local United Way.

This Friday, Al's and Son Bar-

B-Q will begin this year's fund-raiser by hosting a "Steak Night" preceding Big Spring High School's first home football game. Al's and Son is the first restaurant in a series of 13 that will participate.

The United Way helps 15 local agencies: American Red Cross, West Texas Chapter; Boy's Club of Big Spring, Buffalo Trail Council, Boy Scouts of America; CASA of West Texas (new agency for the United Way); Council on Aging (Meals on Wheels); Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center; Howard County Humane Society; Isaiah

See UNITED WAY, Page 3A

Big Spring school board adopts new budget, tax rate

By KENDRA WISS
Staff Writer

The Big Spring Independent School District Board of Trustees met Tuesday in a special session to approve a 2004-05 budget of almost \$24.4 million.

In accordance with the Texas Education Agency's Budgeting Resource Guide, the Board approved the minimum level of the budget that is required for school funds and function.

Revenues for the new year are at \$24,478,421. Other resources from the general fund total \$3,000. Total expenditures for the 2004-05 school year come to \$24,347,926.

Of these totals, \$10,660,511, or 36 percent, is contributed locally; \$12,622,910, 42 percent, is from state funds and \$6,537,572, 22 percent, is from federal dollars.

"We are glad to be into our new fiscal year. The budget isn't quite as good as we thought it would be due to the decline in enrollment, but we will watch it closely and make up funds where we can," said Sandra Waggoner, business manager.

In other business the board approved last year's budget so it will be ready for auditing purposes.

See BSISD, Page 3A

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Obituaries

Pauline "Polly" Manning

Pauline "Polly" Manning, 88, of Brownfield, formerly of Knott, died Wednesday, Sept. 1, 2004, in a Brownfield nursing home. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Bessie Woodard

Bessie Woodard, 81, of San Angelo, formerly of Big Spring, died Thursday, Sept. 2, 2004, in a San Angelo nursing home. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Sheriff's report

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

- **TERRY D. SPEARS**, 37, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the HCSO on charges of bondsman off of bond for possession of a controlled substance and theft.
- **ROBERT ALDRIDGE**, 20, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of theft.
- **ELWAYNE KELLY**, 28, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of driving while license suspended/invalid - enhanced.
- **TERRY LYNN HAGLER**, 54, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of theft.
- **BURGLARY OF A HABITATION** was reported in the 2000 block of Highway 176.

Support groups

THURSDAY

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

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

Police blotter

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

- **KENNETH BIZZELL**, 43, of Dallas, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of driving while license suspended.
- **FRED EDWARD TURNER JR.**, 31, of 2620 Langley, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of theft.
- **AMANDA MUNIZ**, 22, of 406 Lancaster, was arrested Wednesday on a Lubbock County warrant.
- **KEITH DARSE CONNER**, 45, of 1504 Bluebird, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.
- **COURTNEY FELICIA AUSBIE**, 19, address unknown, was arrested Wednesday on local traffic warrants.
- **PHILLIP BRAD CHANDLER**, 23, of Georgia, was arrested Thursday on a charge of unauthorized use of a motor vehicle and a U.S. Army warrant.
- **ROBERT JOHN KRIEGER**, 30, of Georgia, was arrested Thursday on a charge of unauthorized use of a motor vehicle.
- **DAVID LYNN DOW**, 21, address unknown, was arrested Thursday on local traffic citations.
- **BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE** was reported:
 - in the 1600 block of Martin Luther King Boulevard.
 - in the 500 block of Birdwell Lane.
 - in the 1100 block of Gregg Street.
- **THEFT** was reported:
 - in the 1100 block of Lamesa.
 - in the 1100 block of Gregg Street.
 - in the 1200 block of 11th Place.
 - in the 200 block of FM 700.
 - in the 300 block of Second Street.
- **AGGRAVATED ROBBERY** was reported in the 2300 block of Wasson.

p.m.

SATURDAY

□ Open discussion meeting, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. Open podium/speakers meeting 615 Settles 8-9 p.m. Open birthday night, no smoking meeting the last Saturday of each month at 8 p.m.

SUNDAY

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

MONDAY

□ All widows and widowers are invited to attend the Encourager's Support group meeting at 6 p.m. Aug. Call 398-5522 for more information.

TUESDAY

□ The Multiple Sclerosis Support Group meets at 7 p.m. the last Tuesday of each month in the College Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, 1005 Birdwell Lane. Call Tracey at 263-4948 for more information.

Take note

□ **KID'S CLUB** begins Sept. 14 from 3:30-5:15 for all area elementary students. Space is limited. Call Pat Rhoton at 267-2291; Tammi Jones at 267-8223; or Pam Steel at 267-6394.

□ **KENTWOOD ELEMENTARY THIRD GRADE GRANDPARENTS APPRECIATION DAY** is set for 9:30 a.m. Sept. 10 in the fellowship hall of College Baptist Church.

□ **PARENTS/TEACHERS ORGANIZATION** meets at 6:30 p.m. Sept. 14. Door prizes and new principal Karen Saunders will speak.

□ **WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY THIRD GRADE GRANDPARENTS APPRECIATION** at 9:30 a.m. Sept. 10 in the Fireplace Room of Howard College.

□ **A FUND TO HELP DEFRAID** the funeral costs and medical bills of Johnny Darden, a Howard County man who was recently attacked and killed by a swarm of bees, has been set up at State National Bank under

Lottery

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 19-23-26-30-35 Bonus Ball: 44.

Estimated jackpot for Saturday night drawing: \$33 Million.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 7-9-23-27-33.

Number matching five of five: 2.
Prize per winner: \$16,752.
Winning tickets sold in: Granbury, Garfield.
Next Cash 5 drawing: Thursday night.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 0-6-6

The Permian Basin Underground Water Conservation District will hold a meeting at 7:00 p.m. on September 9, 2004 at 101 N. St. Joseph Street, Stanton, Texas to consider adopting a proposed tax rate for tax year 2004. The proposed tax rate is 0.01535 per \$100 of value.

The proposed tax rate would increase total taxes in Permian Basin Underground Water Conservation District by 3%.

Weather

Tonight - Mainly clear skies. Low 63. Winds SSE at 5 to 10 mph.

Friday - Mainly sunny. High 86. Winds S at 10 to 20 mph.

Friday night - Clear. Low near 65. Winds SSE at 10 to 15 mph.

Saturday - Mostly sunny. Highs in the upper 80s and lows in the upper 60s.

Sunday - Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the upper 80s and lows in the mid 60s.

Monday - Mix of sun and clouds. Highs in the mid 80s and lows in the low 60s.

Bulletin board

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

TODAY

- Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane. Call 267-6479.
- Genealogy Society of Big Spring meets at 7 p.m. in the Howard County Library, 500 S. Main.
- Masonic Lodge No. 598 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 2101 Lancaster.

FRIDAY

- AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant.
- Greater Big Spring Rotary meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- Spring City Senior Citizen's country and western dance from 7:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. All area seniors are invited.

SATURDAY

- 34th annual Early Cars of Big Spring Rod Run registrations begins at 8 a.m. in Comanche Trail Park.
- Eagles Lodge Dance at 8:30 p.m. at 703 W. Third.
- Big Spring Squares. Call 263-6305 for more information.

SUNDAY

- Team Rustic Circle, an amateur paintball team, meets for practice between 3 p.m. and dusk at the Moss Creek Lake paintball facility. The public is always invited, whether to participate or just spectate. For more information contact Rick Boiles at 264-2395 or 393-5246.

MONDAY

- 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 Stitchin' 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.

• Special information meeting concerning bees infesting Martin County and surrounding areas is set for 7 p.m. in the Stanton High School auditorium. The public is invited to this free event.

• 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. at Scenic Mountain Medical Center classroom for Stretch and Tone. Call 268-4721.

BIG SPRING HERALD

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

2-year-old arr

SUGAR LANI arrested on charge of child abuse at an indoor pool in July.

The boy, arrested following an incident on July 27 when the 2-year-old daughter had been exposed to a gun.

"When your kid is exposed to a gun, it reminds parents of their children. Things get scary," said police Lt. Gary Thursday.

The suspect is charged with aggravated assault in detail while the suspect is a juvenile.

Cox said a tip from detectives brought the boy in.

The boy is being held in the juvenile detention center.

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Cox said a tip from detectives brought the boy in.

The boy is being held in the juvenile detention center.

Man receives

DALLAS (AP) - A man who unleashed his dog and watched a mix have been sentenced to 10 years in prison.

Carey D. McMinn was sentenced on Wednesday.

A witness to the attack described the incident as a "juvenile delinquent."

"The only reason I was able to get away with this was because I was a juvenile delinquent."

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2-year-old arrested on sex charges

SUGAR LAND (AP) — A 12-year-old boy has been arrested on charges of sexually assaulting a 4-year-old girl at an indoor playground at a fast food restaurant in July.

The boy, arrested Wednesday, surrendered to police following an investigation that began the evening of July 27 when the girl's mother reported to police her daughter had been molested at the restaurant.

"When your kids are in a public playground they are exposed to a great number of things. We just have to remind parents to be mindful and watchful of their children. Things can happen anywhere," Sugar Land police Lt. Gary Cox told the Houston Chronicle for its Thursday editions.

The suspect faces charges of indecency with a child and aggravated sexual assault. Cox would not discuss in detail what happened to the girl. Because the suspect is a juvenile, police are not releasing his name.

Cox said a tip police received two weeks ago helped detectives break the case.

The boy is being held in the Fort Bend County Juvenile detention facility in Richmond.

Man receives 10 years in prison in mauling

DALLAS (AP) — A 23-year-old Dallas man who unleashed his two pit bull terriers on a neighbor's dog and watched as they mauled the hound-Dalmatian mix has been sentenced to 10 years in prison and fined \$14,000.

Carey D. McMillian received the maximum possible sentence on Wednesday at the animal-cruelty trial.

A witness to the September 2003 attack in Pleasant Grove described seeing McMillian goad his dogs to attack and ultimately kill the dog named Cisco.

"The only reason for killing Cisco was for his own

perverse pleasure," lead prosecutor Rick Jackson said in closing arguments. "This case cries out for the max."

When the panting and exhausted pit bulls let up, McMillian would grab Cisco and shake the dog to provoke the pit bulls to "tear the dog apart," the neighbor said.

A neighbor surreptitiously videotaped a portion of the attack. Jurors watched the tape three times before deliberating for 30 minutes and returning a guilty verdict.

The charge of animal cruelty carries a maximum punishment of two years in a state jail, but the offense was enhanced to a third-degree felony after prosecutors proved that state law could define the two dogs as "deadly weapons," The Dallas Morning News reports in its Thursday editions.

Jurors also found McMillian guilty of a lesser misdemeanor charge of dog fighting.

"This happens every day, but in most cases it's not caught on tape," Ken Qualls, an investigator with the SPCA of Texas, told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram for its Thursday editions. "This shows that behavior like this will not be tolerated."

Texas father pleads guilty to kidnapping son

LUBBOCK (AP) — A Houston man Wednesday pleaded guilty to abducting his 4-year-old son last year and taking him to Central America.

David Clenney pleaded guilty to federal charges of international parental kidnapping. He faces a maximum three years in prison.

Clenney was arrested in March in Belize with his son, Jake, who has been returned to his mother, Heather Carmichael, of Miles.

Investigators say the two were going through a divorce last August when Clenney took the boy out of

the country.

A Minnesota woman who earlier this year was vacationing in Belize met the father and son and became suspicious. Barb Quinlan, of Oak Park Heights, Minn., returned home in February and found images of the boy and his father on a Web site featuring missing children.

She contacted authorities. Clenney's sentencing date has not been set.

Psychologist: Midwest mailbox bombing suspect delusional, dangerous

ROCHESTER, Minn. (AP) — A man accused in a Midwestern mailbox bombing spree is delusional and should not be freed because he's too great a risk to society, a government psychologist testified Wednesday.

Dr. Andrew Simcox said Lucas Helder, 23, believes he vibrates at a certain pitch and can fly out of his body, and that physical death is insignificant because it just moves people to a higher plane of consciousness.

Helder earlier was declared incompetent to stand trial on charges that he planted pipe bombs and anti-government notes in rural mailboxes in Iowa, Texas, and three other states in May 2002.

Several bombs exploded, injuring four postal workers and two Iowa women, and the explosions shut down mail delivery in several rural Midwestern communities.

On Wednesday, a U.S. magistrate heard arguments at the Federal Medical Center in Rochester on whether Helder is so likely to hurt others that he should be committed indefinitely for mental health treatment. The magistrate did not immediately make a recommendation.

CONVENTION

Continued from Page 1A

"She just started yelling 'Bush lies and people die,'" said Tony Renteria, a GOP delegate from Lubbock, Texas, who was a few feet away. Delegates shouted "Four more years!" and waved signs to drown her out and block her from view.

Miller, a Georgia senator delivering a keynote address for the GOP just as he did for his party in the same arena 12 years ago, received an even more fervent welcome. He accused Kerry's Democrats of having a "manic obsession to bring down our commander in chief" and being "motivated more by partisanship than by national security."

He suggested the nominee's thinking is mired in his own military experience three decades ago in Vietnam.

"Detailing Senate votes in which Kerry opposed funds for fighters, bombers and weapons systems, Miller asked: 'This is the man who

wants to be commander in chief of the U.S. armed forces? U.S. forces armed with what? Spitballs?"

"Twenty years of votes can tell you much more about a man than 20 weeks of campaign rhetoric," Miller added. "For more than 20 years, on every one of the great issues of freedom and security, John Kerry has been more wrong, more weak and more wobbly than any other national figure."

Miller, a former Marine and Georgia governor, has said he'll stay a Democrat despite backing Bush.

Democrats noted that Miller had praised Kerry as a hero as recently as three years ago.

But they saved their toughest rhetoric for Cheney, drawing attention to his former leadership of Halliburton Co., which has received multi-billion-dollar reconstruction contracts in Iraq.

In an e-mail message to supporters, Kerry campaign manager Mary Beth Cahill called the vice president "Halliburton's representative in the Bush White House."

After two days of touting Bush's record on fighting terrorism and his "compassionate conservatism," the GOP sent speaker after speaker to the podium to assail Kerry as a dangerous liberal unprepared for 21st century challenges.

Rep. Paul Ryan of Wisconsin and Gov. Mitt Romney focused on Kerry's Senate voting record, and Lt. Gov. Kerry Healey of Massachusetts focused on the two years Kerry served as Michael Dukakis' lieutenant governor.

"Why would he want to remind voters of Dukakis' legacy of skyrocketing taxes, high unemployment and a plummeting economy?" she asked, referring to the man the president's father defeated in the 1988 presidential race.

Romney, one of several prospective 2008 GOP candidates to address the convention this week, hailed Kerry's service in Vietnam but said his record since is troublingly inconsistent.

"This nation can't afford presidential leader-

ship that comes in 57 varieties," he added in an allusion to the company owned by the family of the senator's wife, Teresa Heinz Kerry.

As delegates prepared for Bush's acceptance speech at tonight's final session, they completed a presidential nominating roll call spread over four convention sessions and voted by acclamation to nominate Cheney for a second term as the vice president.

The evening also featured a tribute to one of the party's greatest modern heroes, Ronald Reagan. The late former president's son Michael took a veiled slap at his half-brother, Ron, who spoke at the Democratic convention and urged voters to support increased stem-cell research.

"I've come tonight to honor my father, not to politicize his name," said Reagan, who hosts a conservative radio talk show. He introduced a video tribute to the two-term GOP legend, who died in June. Delegates responded to the video with a sea of waving "Win One for the Gipper" signs.

ROBBERY

Continued from Page 1A

Sweatt. "He entered the store before she did and it looks like he was casing the place."

Sweatt encouraged anyone with information on the identity of the two alleged thieves to contact the Police Department at 264-2550, or Big Spring Area Crimestoppers at 263-TIPS (8477).

"Several people came into the store while she was still casing the place and we have her on video speaking to some of the customers," said Sweatt. "We hope those people will come forward with any information they have."

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

BSISD

Continued from Page 1A

The ad valorem tax rate of \$1.5763 per \$100 of market value, the same rate as last year, was adopted by the board for the 2004-2005 fiscal year.

Unless properties gain or lose value, the amount of taxes should not change.

This tax rate will be broken down for the purposes of \$1.50 per \$100 for maintenance and operation and \$7.63 per \$100 for debt service, bonded indebtedness, interest

and sinking fund. The last order of business for the board was approving a new high school English teacher, Lynda "Sue" O'Daniel.

Contact Staff Writer Kendra Wiss at 263-7331 ext. 234 or by e-mail at reporter@bigspringherald.com

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MARCH

Continued from Page 1A

he hopes the veterans in the area, especially Big Spring, will come out and make their voice heard.

"I've contacted the offices of several state officials, and the only one I've heard back from is Kay Bailey Hutchison, who said she won't be able to attend because of a prior engagement," said Aguilar. "That's not the focus of this march, however. This march is about the veterans and the care they receive from the Big Spring VA Medical Center."

"We're going to do anything and everything we can to keep the VA Medical Center in Big Spring. Moving the hospital just doesn't make any sense. I have to go there three or four times a month for

therapy and dental care, and it would only make it harder on everyone involved if they move it."

The Big Spring VAMC serves a 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.

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

In February, the commission recommended major changes in service levels at facilities in Waco, Big Spring and Kerrville and included a study to possibly close the Big Spring facility.

In August, Principi visited the Big Spring VA Medical Center and held a forum for area veterans at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum, saying no solid plans have been made to close the facility. Principi did confirm that a study into the viability of the local VA Hospital is being conducted, with final word on the facility expected toward the end of 2004.

Saturday's march is expected to begin at 10 a.m. at the Big Spring Vietnam Memorial and is open to anyone who would like to show their support for the Big Spring VA Medical Center.

For more information, contact Aguilar at 432-523-6369.

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

UNITED WAY

Continued from Page 1A

58; Northside Community Center; Salvation Army; Victim Services; Westside Community Center; Westside Day Care Center; West Texas Girl Scout Council and YMCA of Big Spring.

For more information, contact the United Way of Big Spring and Howard County at 267-5201.

Contact Staff Writer Kendra Wiss at 263-7331 ext. 234 or by e-mail at reporter@bigspringherald.com

In Observance Of Labor Day

These Financial Institutions Will Observe These Holiday Hours...

Big Spring Banking Center Closed Monday, Sept. 6th	Western National Bank Closed Monday, Sept. 6th	Wells Fargo Bank Closed Monday, Sept. 6th
Big Spring Education Employees Federal Credit Union Closed Monday, Sept. 6th	State National Bank Closed Monday, Sept. 6th	Citizens Federal Credit Union Closed Monday, Sept. 6th
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EDITORIAL

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

FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Susanne Reed
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Dine Out Day
for United Way
is a real winner

It's called a "win-win situation." That's what several local restaurants and the United Way of Big Spring and Howard County will be providing for the next few months with "Dine Out Day for United Way."

During the "Dine Out Day for United Way," a different restaurant will be featured each Friday as the United Way's "Restaurant of the Week." And each of those "honored" restaurants will donate a portion of their sales that Friday to the United Way.

Last year the program was a successful fundraiser for both the restaurants and the United Way and it is hoped that it will be again this time around.

As was the case last year, Al's and Son Bar-B-Q will begin the fundraiser by hosting a "Steak Night" this Friday preceding Big Spring High School's first home football game.

The project will continue through a series of 13 restaurants.

The United Way helps 15 local agencies — the American Red Cross, the Boy's Club of Big Spring, Buffalo Trail Council of the Boy Scouts of America, CASA of West Texas, the Council on Aging's Meals on Wheels program, the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, Howard County Humane Society, Isaiah 58, the Northside Community Center, Salvation Army, Victim Services, Westside Community Center, Westside Day Care Center, West Texas Girl Scout Council and the YMCA of Big Spring.

We want to encourage local residents to make the most of the "Dine Out Day for United Way" project by doing your best to schedule nights for dining out for Friday evenings and patronize the restaurants taking part in the program.

You'll wind up with a good meal and do good for those less fortunate. That's a real winner, no matter how you look at it.

HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

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

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

LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

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

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we sit tight in our belief in you, Lord, amid earthly trials.
Amen

Swift boat liars sink their own ship

We were bound to get at least one good laugh out of Swift Boat Veterans for Humongous Lies, and what a pip it is. Upon being identified as the lawyer both for the Bush-Cheney campaign and the Swift Boat Liars, Benjamin Ginsberg bravely offered his resignation to the campaign, which has said repeatedly it has NO connection to the Liars.

He made the following poignant argument in a letter to the president, which I know will touch you as deeply as it did me: "I cannot begin to express my sadness that my legal representations have become a distraction for the critical issues at hand in this election. I feel I cannot let that continue, so I have decided to resign as national counsel to your campaign to ensure that the giving of legal advice to decorated military veterans, which was entirely within the boundaries of the law, doesn't distract from the real issues upon which you and the country should be focused."

Do you love it? The Swift Boat Liars are of interest only as a perfect case for those in media studies to see exactly how this stuff spreads, although it does dig up yet again the issue of how George W. Bush spent the Vietnam War. Here's a review of the state of play on that story. USA Today recently rehashed the remaining questions:

— Why did Bush, described by some of his fellow officers as a talented and enthusiastic pilot, stop flying fighter jets in the spring of 1972 and fail to take the annual physical exam required by all

pilots? — What explains the gap in the president's Guard service in 1972-73, a period when commanders in Texas and Alabama say they never saw him report for duty and records show no pay to Bush when he was supposed to be on duty in Alabama?

— A third question from USAT — did Bush receive preferential treatment in getting into the Guard and getting a coveted pilot slot — is a non-question. Of course he did. It was the peak of the Vietnam War, and there was waiting list of over 100,000 men to get into the Air National Guard. A friend of Daddy Bush named Sid Adger called the then-lieutenant governor of Texas, Ben Barnes, and asked him to get Rep. Bush's son George into the section of the Texas Guard known as the "champagne unit."

Adger was a prominent Houston businessman who belonged to the same clubs as Poppy, sent his kids to the same schools and had sons in the champagne unit. The son of former Texas Gov. John Connally had joined, the son of Sen. Lloyd Bentsen joined, as did some players for the Dallas Cowboys.

Barnes called Brig. Gen. James Rose of the Guard and recommended Bush for a pilot position. Bush got a direct commission and was assigned one of the last two pilot slots in the state after scoring the absolute numerical minimum (25) on the qualifying test. For years, Bush claimed a friend whose name he didn't remember had told him of an opening in the Guard, that he applied through regular channels and was accepted.

The 72-73 gap in Bush's Guard record might have been explained by old Pentagon records but — gosh darn it, those very records turn out to have been destroyed by mistake. Don't you

know Bush was upset that the records that could have proven his story turned out to be gone? Several newspapers have put in freedom-of-information requests for still other records, but nothing has been forthcoming so far.

Meanwhile, in a war of somewhat more immediate relevance in a place called Iraq, things are going so badly we find deserters from the ranks. Not the military ranks — the political ranks. The latest defector — a.k.a., person recognizing reality and showing some common sense — is Republican Rep. Doug Bereuter of Nebraska, who said "it was a mistake" to go into Iraq.

William F. Buckley, the conservative godfather, has also concluded that had he known in February 2003 what we know now, "I would not have counseled war against Iraq."

Among those who are seeing the light, Max Boot, a noted neocon, thinks Donald Rumsfeld should resign over Abu Ghraib. The editors of The National Review blame the administration for being unprepared for the occupation. Tucker Carlson of "Crossfire" repents, as does Fareed Zakaria of Newsweek. Thomas Friedman and David Brooks of The New York Times are both big enough to say they were wrong.

According to those who understand politics on the right better than I, the neo-cons are now in disgrace with the conservatives. OR the "paleo-conservatives" are about to be chucked out of the party by the neo-cons.

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

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Grill): 267-1211.

Republican-Democrat collaboration

Early Republican arrivers for the national convention were stunned Wednesday when they learned that Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist had collaborated with Sen. Hillary Clinton for an op-ed column on health care published in that morning's Washington Post.

Frist and Clinton wrote that "we both agree" a new information system will improve health care. Less important than the substance of their agreement is the fact that the chairman of the Republican platform committee had participated in a joint venture with one of President Bush's most severe critics as the presidential election campaign gets more intense. Platform committee members were particularly baffled by their chairman.

Frist is considered a likely presidential candidate in 2008. In private conversation, he has talked about the possibility of running against Hillary Clinton.

Long delays during Wednesday's Republican platform proceedings, attributed to clerical difficulties, were caused by waiting to see whether the White House would accept any compromise on stem-cell research. The answer, after four hours, was that it would not.

Furthermore, President Bush's agents informed conservative leader Phyllis Schlafly that pushing the stem-cell issue would cost her. If any change in stem-cell research were offered in the full committee, the White House would

renege on agreeing to minor wording changes on immigration policy. Nevertheless, Schlafly said conservatives could not withdraw opposition to Bush's stem-cell policy.

A relatively minor stem-cell amendment was offered by Gayle Ruzicka, leader of Schlafly's Eagle Forum in Utah. After Ruzicka briefly explained her amendment, Frist — from the chairman's chair — delivered a long scientific defense of Bush's policy. A motion to table Ruzicka's amendment cut off all further debate, and her amendment lost on a voice vote.

President Bush's commitment to federal aid for public education was demonstrated in the platform considerations by nearly total defense of the first line of the education plank in the Bush-approved first draft: "Public education is the foundation of civil society."

Social conservative activist Kelly Shackleford, one of President Bush's fellow Texas Republicans, first tried to remove the whole sentence. When that failed, he attempted to remove the word "public." When that failed, the White House finally agreed to changing the word "the" to "a" in front of "foundation."

Conservatives were told that the president regards the "No Child Left Behind" reform as a cornerstone of his presidency. Under heavy attack on education from Democrats, he does not want his own platform undermining it.

Pro-abortion rights Republicans were their weakest in platform deliberations, not even risking a humiliating vote against their point of view.

As recently as 1996, pro-life Republicans had to fight hard to keep anti-abortion language in the

platform. This time, the pro-choice Republicans had to be content with an amendment that Republicans "respect" dissenting views in general, without specifying abortion.

Jennifer Blei Stockman, a delegate from New York and national co-chairman of the Republican Majority for Choice, issued a statement Wednesday asserting that re-electing President Bush "will be immeasurably harder with this extreme and exclusionary language in the platform." She is the wife of Reagan administration budget director David Stockman.

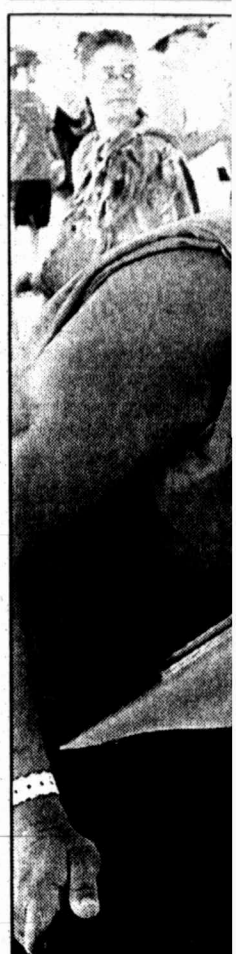
Former Sen. Max Cleland of Georgia, who has been pounding George W. Bush as a key surrogate for John Kerry, is a presidential appointee receiving \$136,000 a year as an Export-Import Bank director.

Cleland fills one of the slots designated for Democrats on the federal agency's board. Such opposition party appointments are routinely made by President Bush on the recommendation of Democratic congressional leaders.

Secret Service agents at the gates of Bush's Crawford, Texas, ranch Wednesday turned away Cleland, acting in Sen. Kerry's behalf, and would not accept a critical letter to the president. Cleland then refused to accept a letter signed by prominent Republican veterans disputing what he has said about Bush. Cleland, a disabled veteran, has sounded Kerry's theme that the president has neglected vets.

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

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Christy Thurman following her period "The Best of Ret of nearly 75,000 marriage, and has to be released "S

► Mo

Los Angeles Tir

Alien Vs. Pre

In Paul W.S. A sequel, two nasty extra species (and 20 Fox franchises) against each heated battle control a large Cube—like py Antarctica, 2 below the surf Earth. Giv particular char of these two ali is an incubatin the other is an hunter fortific teeth with ro and whatnot — had an oppor raise some philosophical about the natur passed on the Sanaa Latha Bova, Lance and Ewen (PG-13 for language, horr slime and gore.

Anacondas:

for the Blood

Not a comedy b horror-thriller feeds on th foolishness predecessor. Th of a remake that following the s outline as the people with no being in th pursue a prize them well be point rational f venture. In thi a group of M scientist worl large pharr corporation go in pursuit of a r with fountai potential.

The serpents super-sized this 40 to 50 feet and a lot more of director Dwig highly em movie assure genre-jumping Johnny Matthew Mar Morris Chest (PG-13 for violence, scar and some langu

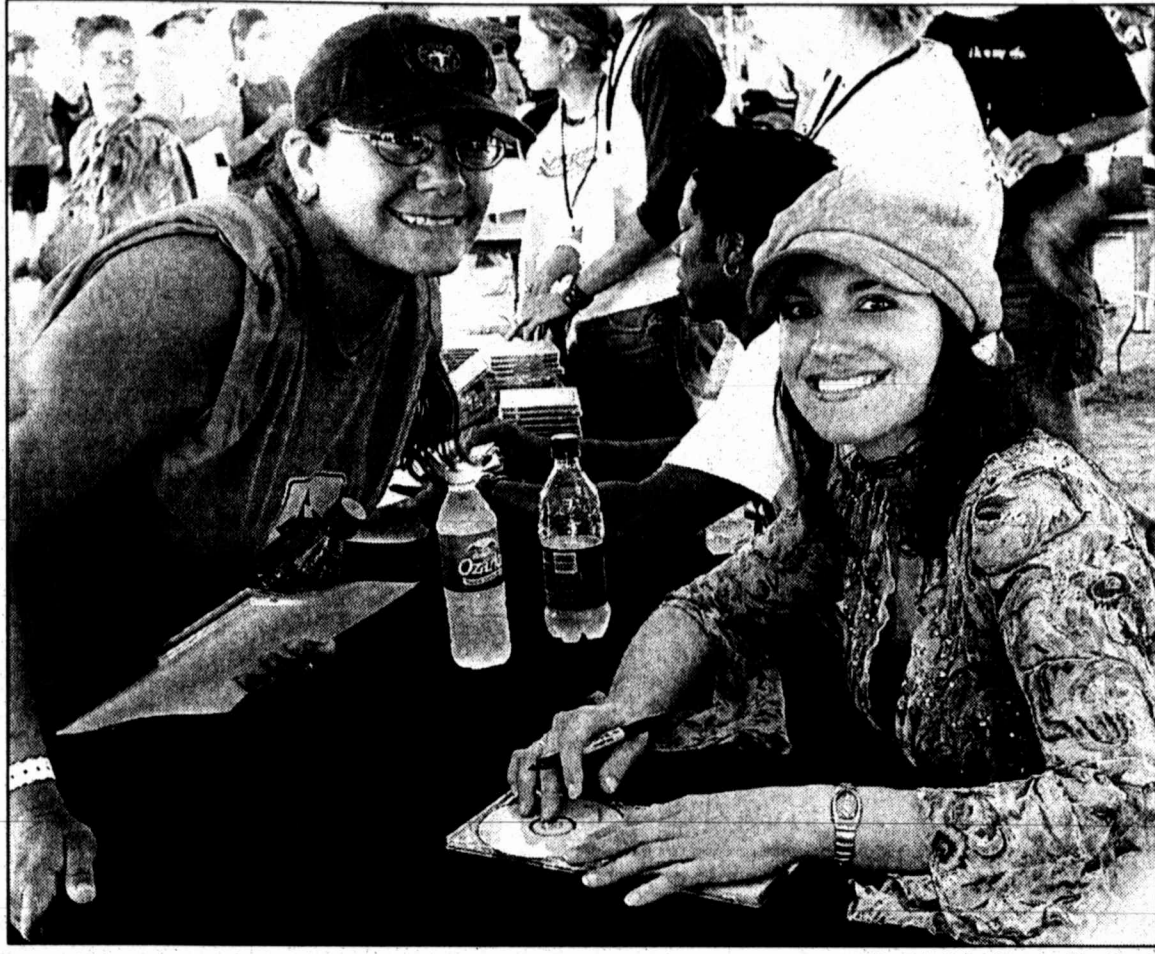
Vanity Fair

Witherspoon s young woman her wiles to tra lower-class b make her wa London soc 1820s. Eileen A Broadbent, Byrne, Romola Hoskins, Rh Jonathan Rhy

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Christy Thurman receives an autograph from Christian recording artist Rebecca St. James following her performance at Rock the Desert. St. James recently released her new album, "The Best of Rebecca St. James," featuring the hit "Waiting For You." She led the crowd of nearly 75,000 people in prayer during her performance. She advocates abstinence until marriage, and has written several books detailing her Christian beliefs, including the soon-to-be released "She."

► Movie Reviews

Los Angeles Times Alien Vs. Predator

In Paul W.S. Anderson's sequel, two famously nasty extraterrestrial species (and 20th Century Fox franchises) are pitted against each other in a heated battle royale to control a large, Rubik's Cube-like pyramid in Antarctica, 2,000 feet below the surface of the Earth. Given the particular characteristics of these two aliens — one is an incubating parasite, the other is an armored hunter fortified to the teeth with rotary saws and whatnot — the movie had an opportunity to raise some broader philosophical questions about the nature of evil. It passed on that. With Sanaa Lathan, Raoul Bova, Lance Henriksen and Ewen Bremner. (PG-13 for violence, language, horror images, slime and gore.)

Anacondas: The Hunt for the Blood Orchid — Not a comedy but rather a horror-thriller that wisely feeds on the campy foolishness of its predecessor. This is more of a remake than a sequel, following the same broad outline as the first film: people with no business being in the jungle pursue a prize that takes them well beyond the point rational folks would venture. In this scenario, a group of New York scientists working for a large pharmaceutical corporation go to Borneo in pursuit of a rare flower with fountain-of-youth potential.

The serpents have been super-sized this time from 40 to 50 feet and there are a lot more of them in director Dwight Little's highly entertaining movie assured of its genre-jumping potential. Johnny Messner, Matthew Marsden and Morris Chestnut star. (PG-13 for action violence, scary images and some language.)

Vanity Fair — Reese Witherspoon stars as a young woman who uses her wiles to transcend her lower-class birth and make her way through London society of the 1820s. Eileen Atkins, Jim Broadbent, Gabriel Byrne, Romola Garai, Bob Hoskins, Rhys Ifans, Jonathan Rhys-Meyers

and James Purefoy star. Directed by Mira Nair.

Benji Off the Leash — An unsatisfactory mix of earnestness and slapstick comedy, the latest Benji movie lacks the straightforwardness of the original. The basic premise remains the same with the dog being much smarter than the people.

Writer-director Joe Camp, however, spends too much time with the humans and spreads the audiences' affection over two dogs, neither of whom hold the screen quite like the animals that played Benji in the first three features. Nick Whitaker, Duane Stephens, Nate Bynum, Chris Kendrick and Christy Summerhays also star. (PG for thematic elements and some mild language.)

Big Girls Don't Cry — A pair of 17-year-olds — Steffi has the perfect boyfriend and closeknit family, Kati is alone and her parents fight — undergo a role reversal that challenges their friendship. Directed by Maria von Heland. Anna Maria Muhe and Karoline Herfurth. In German with English subtitles.

The Bourne Supremacy — In this smash-and-grab-you-by-the-throat action flick, style is meaning and that meaning is fast, fast, fast. A sequel to "The Bourne Identity," Matt Damon stars as a former CIA super spy caught in the ultimate pulp-existentialist quandary, coming to terms with his actions before getting amnesia. Director Paul Greengrass, who either has very creative attention deficit disorder or the fastest reflexes of anyone over 14, keeps his movie moving and then some.

It isn't just paced and cut for maximum speed, with eye-blink edits and quicksilver camerawork, it's brilliantly paced and cut. The apotheosis of that style is an awesome car chase featuring a taxi, a sleek SUV and various pulverized cars.

Based on the novel by Robert Ludlum. Joan Allen, Brian Cox, Julia Stiles and Karl Urban also star. (PG-13 for

violence, intense action and brief language.)

Bush's Brain — The documentary portrays political tactician Karl Rove as the key man behind George W. Bush's rise to power and explores the nature of his role in the administration. Directed by Joseph Mealey and Michael Paradies Shooib.

Based on the bestselling book by journalists James Moore and Wayne Slater.

Collateral — Skillfully directed by Michael Mann and featuring strong work by Jamie Foxx as a night shift cab driver and Tom Cruise as his all-night hit-man passenger, this sharp and exciting thriller examines the vast disconnected physical blackness that is Los Angeles at night as well as the murkier aspects of its characters' souls. The film would be as successful as it is without Cruise's powerfully confident performance to work off of. The actor changed his hair color to silvery gray, changed his character's moral outlook to pitch black, and made adroit use of his charisma and control to give us someone whose perfectionism has made him something of a star in his rarified profession. Jada Pinkett Smith, Mark Ruffalo, Peter Berg, Javier Bardem and Bruce McGill co-star. Stuart Beattie, Frank Darabont and Mann wrote the screenplay. (R for violence and language.)

The Cookout — As a black man in an upscale white neighborhood, a No. 1 NBA draft pick makes an impression on his new neighbors when he has a raucous backyard gathering with his extended family. With Queen Latifah, Ja Rule, Tim Meadows, Jennifer Lewis, Storm P, Jonathan Silverman, Meagan Good, Farrah Fawcett, Frankie Faison, Eve and Danny Glover.

Paparazzi — An actor (Cole Hauser) seeks revenge after hounding by tabloid journalists nearly results in tragedy. With Robin Tunney, Dennis Farina and Tom Sizemore. Directed by Forrest Smith.

"The English Assassin" by Gabriel Allon Intrigue and art create gripping tale of Israeli spy

Gabriel Allon presents himself as an art restorer, but his endeavors are much more ominous; his "other" life is that of an Israeli spy.

Gabriel is sent to the home of Augustus Rolfe in Zurich, Switzerland, to inspect and clean a Raphael painting, but he knows there is another agenda to his assignment.

On arrival, Gabriel finds Rolfe dead, and before he can escape the country, he is arrested and charged with the murder. Soon after Gabriel is released, he learns that Rolfe had been contacting Israeli intelligence sources.

Intrigued by the coincidences that have occurred, as well as being somewhat angry about his arrest, Gabriel vows to find answers to Rolfe's death and the mystery of his connections with Israel.

Rolfe's only child, Anna, had seen her mother commit suicide, and experienced her father's cold reaction to the tragedy. As a result, her relationship with her father had been strained throughout her life, and the news of his death, while a tragedy, was not devastating to her.

Anna reluctantly agrees to help Gabriel find her father's killer and soon

they discover knowledge of a valuable cache of paintings hidden in Rolfe's home — paintings that were stolen from Jewish people as they were led away to concentration camps and sure death.

Gifted with an almost perfect memory, physical toughness, knowledge of several languages, and the ability to mimic another's characteristics, Gabriel was able to superbly play a counterfeit personality.

During this assignment Gabriel must outwit and outmaneuver those who would keep decades-old secrets.

Watching his wife and son murdered in a car bombing gave him a hardness that allowed him to commit or contract vile crimes when they became the means to an end.

Gabriel's search for the truth and retribution crisscrosses Europe, with much of the action centered in Zurich. His ability to speak the unwritten Swiss-German language gave him passage into situations in Switzerland where other travelers would immediately be suspect and refused entrance, and through these connections the truth is slowly unraveled.

Silva has written a taut, powerful novel with surprises on every page.

The story is built around historical facts, but there is enough added fiction to blur the lines.

The protagonist, Gabriel Allon, appeared

in another Silva novel, "The Kill Artist," several years ago, and also appears in Silva's latest book, "The Confessor."

Despite Gabriel's penchant for violence, he is a likable character, often evoking empathy from the reader, and a repeat performance is definitely welcomed.

The author knows a great deal about Switzerland, and has definite opinions about Swiss characteristics that he is more than willing to share. He often writes of the secretive ways of the Swiss, as well as their orderliness and rigidity.

His strong feelings about the wrongs inflicted on the Jews by Hitler and any complicity of the Swiss colors every aspect of Silva's story.

"The English Assassin" will appeal to history buffs, as well as those who like suspense and mystery.

Silva surely had a satisfied smirk and mischievous grin on his face as he wrote the last few lines of the story. Whatever is untold will give the reader an abundance of opportunities to create a bit of fantasy.

Just try to get acquainted with the enigmatic assassin.

The English Assassin by Daniel Silva. Penguin Putnam, Inc., New York, New York.

Pat Williams is the wife of former "Big Spring Herald" publisher, Chuck Williams.



PAT WILLIAMS

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Mustang love

40th Anniversary Mustang convertible pure passion

Sitting behind the wheel of the 40th Anniversary Limited Edition Mustang GT convertible is like a joyous reunion with an old friend.

No pretense. No unrealistic expectations.

And definitely no disappointments.

Just good company, good tunes

on the stereo and lots of sunshine as you tool down the open road.

Has it really been 40 years since the first Pony car rolled off the assembly line?

Unfortunately — at least for those of us who were around when Ford first unveiled the vehicle that created a revolution in the industry — it has.

To commemorate the occasion, Ford is offering a special limited edition 40th Anniversary Mustang that is sure to be a top collector's car — much like the original '64 is today.

That said, don't be in a hurry to relegate the 2004 model to a museum. This vehicle is designed for fun.

I'm talking a lot of fun.

And while you can purchase the 40th Anniversary Edition in a coupe body style, trust me, opt for the convertible.

If it weren't for a few scattered showers during my one-week test drive, the top never would have been up.

There is nothing in the world like a Mustang GT convertible on a sunny day.

It doesn't matter how busy you are, when you have a Mustang convertible sitting in the parking lot, you're entire outlook on life changes.

You begin looking for errands to run so you can get out of the office and drive.

Without even thinking about it, you start taking the longest route possible — especially if it involves an open road with lots of curves.

You begin packing your favorite CDs in the briefcase, just in case you have to drive across the county to pick something up on the other side of town.

intensity as it headed for a Labor Day weekend rendezvous.

Supermarkets along the state's Atlantic coast were stripped of bottled water and canned goods. In the pre-dawn hours Thursday, long lines were forming outside home supply stores in Palm Beach County, with dozens of people hoping for a chance to buy plywood or generators. A delivery truck's arrival was met with raucous applause.

Reservation clerks of sold-out hotels groaned with each telephone ring, knowing someone seeking a room was on the other end. And demand for gas was so great some stations were pumped dry.

"We can't control the kind of damage that Frances is going to cause, but if people are smart, lives can be saved," said Max Mayfield, the director of the National Hurricane Center in Miami.

As of 8 a.m. today, Frances' center was 470 miles east-southeast of Palm Beach. It was moving west-northwest near 13 mph, and was expected to continue that course.

Ed Rappaport, deputy director of the National Hurricane Center in Miami, said Thursday that Frances is just as strong as Hurricane Charley, which devastated Florida's southwest coast Aug. 13, but twice the size.

Frances can cause "the same kind of devastation over a larger area," Rappaport told NBC's "Today" Thursday.

Packing 145 mph winds and a course that has emergency officials in several Southeastern states jittery, the Category 4 storm was expected to fluctuate in



The Ford 2004 40th Anniversary Mustang GT convertible.

(John Hiatt's "Perfectly Good Guitar" and Bryan Adam's "Unplugged" proved to be excellent top down selections).

While there are cool cars and cars that make you feel cool, there is something unique about a Mustang convertible that connects with the spirit. It evokes emotion and energizes the soul.

Sappy prose, I admit. But I challenge you to take a Mustang GT convertible out for a test drive with the top down on a warm, sunny afternoon.

Listen to the V-8 engine rumble beneath the hood as the wind dances over your hair (in my case, scalp).

Feel the torque coming from the 17-inch rear wheels as you power through the curves, and let the suspension do its job as the car glides through

the apex. Turn the stereo up. Sing along if you want.

The 2004 40th Anniversary Edition Mustang is a great vehicle, one well worth a long, long test drive.

It is also the last model year for the current generation bodystyle, as Ford will introduce an all-new Mustang for the 2005 model year.

While I'm extremely excited about the Mustang of the future, I'm also partial to today's 40th Anniversary Edition, which includes special badging, interior upgrades and 17-inch wheels.

The 2004 Mustang has a base price starting around \$18,000 (convertible models begin around \$24,000).

Neal White has been covering the automotive

THE NUTS AND BOLTS

MODEL:
2004 Ford Mustang
Rear-wheel drive
5-passenger seating
Coupe/convertible
PRICE RANGE:
\$18,000 - \$36,000
ENGINE:
3.8-L V-6 (193 hp/225 torque)
4.6-L V-8 (260 hp/302 torque)
4.6-L V-8 (310 hp/335 torque)
Base/GT/Mach 1
TRANSMISSION:
5-speed manual
4-speed automatic
EPA: 17 mpg city/25 mpg highway (GT)
SUSPENSION:
Modified MacPherson strut

front with stabilizer bar; SRA, four-bar link rear.
STEERING:
Power rack-and-pinion
BRAKES:
Vented disc (ABS optional).

TURN CIRCLE:
37.1 feet
TIRES: 16- or 17-inch
LENGTH: 183.2 in.
WHEELBASE: 101.3 in.
WEIGHT: 3,347 pounds (GT)

WIDTH: 73.1 inches
HEIGHT: 53.1 inches
FUEL TANK: 15.7 gallons
WARRANTY: 3-years/36,000-miles
STANDARD FEATURES:
(Base model) tilt steering, air conditioning, intermittent wipers, tinted glass, stereo with CD player, power windows and mirrors.

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@waxahachiedaily.com.

ON THE ROAD



By Neal White

Apprehensive and anxious, Southeastern residents await wrath of Hurricane Frances

STUART, Fla. (AP) — With homes still swaddled in blue tarp and the deaths from Hurricane Charley still fresh in their minds, Florida residents lined up before dawn today for supplies or made evacuation plans as they braced for what could be the mightiest storm of the season.

Nearly a half-million people in Florida were told to leave their homes by Thursday afternoon as Hurricane Frances churned toward the U.S. mainland. States of emergency were declared in both Georgia and Florida.

Ed Rappaport, deputy director of the National Hurricane Center in Miami, said Thursday that Frances is just as strong as Hurricane Charley, which devastated Florida's southwest coast Aug. 13, but twice the size.

Frances can cause "the same kind of devastation over a larger area," Rappaport told NBC's "Today" Thursday.

Packing 145 mph winds and a course that has emergency officials in several Southeastern states jittery, the Category 4 storm was expected to fluctuate in

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- Appearance & Inventory Of Store
- Product Availability

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The Bi... Chicano... Association... a golf tour... Sunday, S... Comanche... Course.

The tour... the ninth... Father Dela... ment, whic... junction w... of Columbu... a four pers... (pick your... and teams r... istered by... Sunday for... shotgun sta... For mor... tion, call 26

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Howard... Athletic De... seeking... Anthem sin... upcoming... seasons. An... ested in be... needs to ma... CD and dr... the athletic... attention T... For mor... tion, call 264-5155.

Lady Stee... Club sets

The Big S... Boosters Cl... meeting f... tonight at... Training Ce... Parents... involved in... basketball... cheerleadin... ing are en... attend.
For mor... tion, con... Abner at 466-1711.

ON TH

Sports Broad...
Event, Time...
Texas ASM @UTLH, 5:30
Cotton vs. Chert, 6:00
Texas vs. Buccaneers...

Texas... away... to Chi... draft c

HOUSTON... Houston Te... punter Steve... Kansas C... Wednesday... for a conditi... round sel... year.
Cheek has... four NFL tr... and played... seasons in... He was... make the T... Stanley has... on the job... However, h... impressive

IN BRIEF

Howard College to assist in telethon

The Howard College Athletic Department will be helping out with the Jerry Lewis Telethon at the Big Spring Mall Monday.

A member from every sport — men's and women's basketball, baseball, softball and rodeo — as well as cheerleaders and trainers will be answering phones and taking pledges.

C.G.A. announces monthly tournament

The Big Spring Chicano Golf Association has set up a golf tournament for Sunday, Sept. 11, at Comanche Trail Golf Course.

The tournament is the ninth annual Father Delaney tournament, which is in conjunction with Knights of Columbus. It will be a four person scramble (pick your own team) and teams must be registered by 9:45 a.m. Sunday for the 10 a.m. shotgun start.

For more information, call 267-7977.

Howard College is seeking singers

Howard College's Athletic Department is seeking National Anthem singers for the upcoming basketball seasons. Anyone interested in being a singer needs to make a tape or CD and drop it off at the athletic office with attention Tana Howard.

For more information, call Howard at 264-5155.

Lady Steers Booster Club sets meeting

The Big Spring Lady Boosters Club has set a meeting for 6 p.m. tonight at the Athletic Training Center.

Parents of all girls involved in volleyball, basketball, track, cheerleading and training are encouraged to attend.

For more information, contact Janet Abner at 264-0023 or 466-1711.

ON THE AIR

Sports Broadcast Schedule

Today		
Event, Time, Station		
Texas A&M @ UConn, 5:30 p.m.	1490	
Cowboys vs. Chiefs, 6:00 p.m.	98.7	
Texas vs. Buccaneers, 6:00 p.m.	94.3	
Friday		
Event, Time, Station		
Texas vs. Pompano, 6:00 p.m.	1490/95.7	
Cowboys @ Bengals, 7:00 p.m.	94.3	
Saturday		
Event, Time, Station		
Texas vs. North Texas, 6:00 p.m.	1490	

Texans trade away punter to Chiefs for draft choice

HOUSTON (AP) — The Houston Texans traded punter Steve Cheek to the Kansas City Chiefs Wednesday in exchange for a conditional seventh-round selection next year.

Cheek has spent time in four NFL training camps and played the past two seasons in NFL Europe.

He was not going to make the Texans as Chad Stanley has a firm grip on the job in Houston. However, he had looked impressive in camp.

Forsan hopes winning starts with execution

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor

Poor execution was ultimately Forsan's demise last week in its season opener against Iraan. The Buffaloes, who were defeated 37-6, spent this past week preparing for Eldorado, which beat Christoval Friday, 14-6.

"We didn't execute things well last week," said Forsan head coach Tommy Thompson. "We worked all week on the fundamentals of the game and I think as long as we can do things the right way we will be all

right."

Thompson said on film Eldorado looks like they have size up front on both sides of the ball and are aggressive, but not overly quick. They also throw the ball a lot.

"We didn't really make any changes in schemes or personnel, but we did work with our secondary a lot so the guys are able to deal with the Eldorado's passing game," said Thompson.

In order to be successful, the Buffaloes are going to have to be consistent, execute and maintain blocks on offense,

said Thompson.

"We need to be able to throw, catch and complete more passes Friday if we want to win," said Thompson.

Junior Adam Johnson showed promise last week out of the backfield. He scored Forsan's only touchdown on a 60-yard run.

"We are really close to turning the corner on defense and offense," said Thompson. "We just need to get the defense on the field and control the game more with our offense."

The Buffaloes game Friday will take place at 7:30 p.m. in Eldorado.

The team will battle Hawley in Sweetwater during week 2. That game will take place Saturday, Sept. 11.



JOHNSON



Big Spring senior co-captain Shannon Higgins smacks down one of her 11 kills against Midland High Tuesday in the Lady Steers' five-game loss to the Lady Bulldogs. Higgins also had two assisted blocks and 16 set assists. Big Spring travels to Seminole this weekend for a tournament. The team battles Odessa Permian at 10 a.m. Friday and will take on either Lubbock Estacado or Hereford in round two.

Judge throws out case against Bryant

By STEVEN K. PAULSON
Associated Press Writer

EAGLE, Colo. — The sexual assault charge against Kobe Bryant has been dropped, but his accuser — whose reluctance to participate derailed the criminal trial before it really got started — isn't letting him off the hook just yet.

With jury selection under way, the criminal case was dropped late Wednesday by prosecutors who said the 20-year-old woman accusing Bryant of rape decided not to participate.

She dropped out following a series of gaffes that led to the public disclosure of her name and other personal details, and prosecutors said they would not carry on without her testimony.

But the Los Angeles Lakers star still faces his accuser's federal civil lawsuit seeking unspecified damages.

That case is still on, said L. Lin Wood, the woman's attorney.

"There has been no settlement of the civil lawsuit and there have been no discussions concern-

ing a settlement," he said. The 26-year-old Bryant issued a written apology that stopped short of taking responsibility for his actions.

"Although I truly believe this encounter between us was consensual, I recognize now that she did not and does not view this incident the same way I did," he said.

Bryant tearfully admitted more than a year ago he had consensual sex with the then-19-year-old employee of a Vail-area resort where he stayed last summer.

If convicted, the married father of a little girl could have faced four years to life in prison, or 20 years to life on probation, and a fine up to \$750,000.

Instead, prosecutors dropped the case after spending at least \$200,000 preparing for trial. District Attorney Mark Hurlbert said he could have won the case, but he supported the woman's decision to withdraw, with a stipulation that charges will never be refiled.

"Today justice is sadly interrupted. The casualty in this interruption has been a brave young woman who was grievously hurt," Hurlbert said.

Victims' rights groups said the way the case integrated could force states to take another look at rape-shield laws, which typically bar the sex life of an alleged assault victim from being admitted as evidence.

Wendy Murphy, a professor at the New England School of Law in Boston and a former prosecutor, said the case could shake many women's faith in the justice system.

"The rules, the laws, the things that are supposed to make us treat each other with civility are a big joke, it doesn't matter," she said.

In this case, District Judge Terry Ruckriegle ruled that the woman's sex life in the three days surrounding her encounter with Bryant could be admitted as evidence, which may have bolstered the defense contention that she slept with someone after leaving Bryant and before she



The Crossroads Youth Football League held its annual pool party last weekend at Comanche Trail Park. The party was used to kick off the 2004 football season.

Rangers, Cordero lose after 'foul ball'

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — It was a game for all ages in Minnesota Wednesday night — started by a battery of 41-year olds and finished by a pair of twentysomethings.

Terry Tiffie hit a go-ahead two-run double in his major league debut and Jesse Crain pitched two perfect innings for his first career win, leading the Twins to a dramatic 4-2 victory over the Texas Rangers.

It was the Rangers' third straight loss, dropping them five games behind Boston in the AL wild-card race. The Red Sox beat Anaheim 12-7.

"I was really nervous when I went out the field, but about halfway through the inning it went away," said Tiffie, who replaced Luis Rivas in the sixth because of an injury to Rivas' toe. "That last at-bat I was just telling myself to see the ball and hit the ball."

Minnesota's battery combination of Terry Mulholland and Pat Borders marked the first pair of 41-year-old batterymates to start a major league game since June 3, 1945, when Curt Davis and Clyde Sukeforth did it for the Brooklyn Dodgers.

"You sit down and say, 'Wow, this is entertainment,'" manager Ron Gardenhire said of his veteran pair. "And, it's a tribute to those guys and how they prepare."

Crain, 23, was 1-year-old when Borders was drafted by Toronto in 1982.

"What's funny is I never even met Pat until he came out to the mound before the seventh," Crain said.

Trailing 2-1, the Twins scored three runs in the eighth with the last two coming on Tiffie's high chopper off Francisco Cordero (3-1) that hopped over first base.

Cordero had converted 21 straight save opportunities.

"I tried to get something in the air or hit something hard and neither of them happened," Tiffie joked.

"That was way foul, that's all I got to say," Cordero said.

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Steers hope to take care of ball against Odessa Permian

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor

BIG SPRING — After suffering a tough road loss last Friday against Odessa High in its first game of the new gridiron season, the Big Spring football team hopes to get on the winning track this week at home against Odessa Permian.

The Steers battled last week and led after three quarters against the Bronchos before falling short in the fourth quarter. The Steers gave up 13 points in the final frame and lost their 2004 opener, 27-18.

"I thought our effort last Friday was tremendous," said Big Spring head

coach Dwight Butler.

To win this week, the Steers are going to have to take care of the ball and use the clock well offensively and make sure tackles on defense, said Butler.

"Our defense will still be a little behind due to the new system this year," said Butler. "It will take time to develop and we will work on making it better."

"We turned the ball over too many times last week, as well. We can't do that against these quality 5A teams and expect to win."

Butler expects to see a very athletic team in Permian Friday.

"They are athletic all the way from skill position players to linemen," he added. "Their linemen are not overly huge, but they are extremely fast and athletic for their position."

The Steers saw problems last week with personnel on the field and got some penalties for having too many men a few times, but Butler plans on fixing that this week, he said.

"We used too many receivers last week and we saw some confusion at times and that was my fault," said Butler. "So this week we just won't use as many guys and hopefully that will cut down on penalties."

Big Spring was led last week by senior Taviance Clemons on the ground and senior J. Rich Sparks and sophomore Caleb Choate through the air. Clemons rushed 20 times for 102 yards and two touchdowns, while Sparks and Choate each caught four passes and compiled nearly 85 com-



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde
Garden City sophomore Alex Halfmann tries to pick up extra yards during the Bearkats' opening game last Thursday in Garden City. The sixth-ranked Bearkats travel to fifth-ranked Ira Friday.

STATE RANKINGS by class High School Football

Class 5A

1. Southlake Carroll, 1-0
2. Katy, 1-0
3. Denton Ryan, 1-0
4. Humble, 0-0
5. Galena Park North Shore, 1-0
6. Longview, 1-0
7. Allen, 1-0
8. The Woodland, 1-0
9. Tyler Lee, 1-0
10. San Antonio O'Connor

Class 4A

1. Ennis, 1-0
2. Bay City, 1-0
3. Corpus Christi Calallen, 1-0
4. Dallas Highland Park, 0-1
5. Gregory-Portland, 1-0
6. Kerrville Tivy, 1-0
7. Kilgore, 1-0
8. Brenham, 1-0
9. La Marque, 0-1
10. Stephenville, 1-0

Class 3A

1. Jasper, 1-0
2. West Orange-Stark, 0-1
3. Perryton, 1-0
4. Kennedale, 0-0
5. Manor, 1-0
6. Cuero, 1-0
7. Sinion, 1-0
8. Gainesville, 0-0
9. Abilene Wylie, 1-0
10. Liberty Hill, 1-0

Class 2A

1. Newton, 0-0
2. Rogers, 1-0
3. Holliday, 1-0
4. Garrison, 1-0
5. Crawford, 0-0
6. Celina, 1-0
7. Jim Ned, 1-0
8. Canadian, 1-0
9. Sonora, 1-0
10. Mart, 1-0

Class 1A

1. Windthorst, 1-0
2. Stratford, 1-0
3. Chilton, 1-0
4. Big Sandy, 1-0
5. Shiner, 1-0
6. Quanah, 1-0
7. Roscoe, 1-0
8. Brackettville, 1-0
9. New Deal, 1-0
10. Joaquin, 1-0

Six-Man

1. Valley, 1-0
2. Calvert, 1-0
3. Paducah, 1-0
4. Richland Springs, 1-0
5. Ira, 1-0
6. Garden City, 1-0
7. Rule, 1-0
8. Sanderson, 0-0
9. Aspermont, 0-1
10. Meadow, 1-0

Classes 5A through 1A are according to the Associated Press, while six-man is based on sixmanfootball.com.

Big Spring vs. Odessa Permian

Steers projected starting lineup

Offense

Quarterback: Jerry Doport
Running back: Taviance Clemons
Wide Receiver: Daniel Garza
Wide Receiver: Johnny William
Slot Receiver: J. Rich Sparks
Slot Receiver: Alex Castillo
Right Tackle: Jacob Murphree
Left Tackle: Angel Salazar
Right Guard: J.R. Rodriguez
Left Guard: Dexter Straughter
Center: Matt Rodriguez

Defense

Left End: Kyle Piercefield
Nose Tackle: Steven Heffington
Right End: Michael Green
Outside LB: Quentin Vanderbilt
Outside LB: Trey Thomas
Middle LB: Daniel Castillo
Invert: Curtis Osburn
Invert: Ryan Tannehill
Cornerback: LaCarnly Cross
Cornerback: Lee Cortez
Free Safety: Matt Hilario

Kicker

Straughter

Punter

Tannehill

This Week

At Home:

Big Spring vs. Odessa Permian, 7:30 p.m.
Last Week: Big Spring lost to Odessa High, 27-18
Odessa Permian beat Lubbock High

On the Road:

Coahoma @Seagraves, 7:30 p.m.
Last Week: Coahoma lost to Reagan County, 14-6

Stanton @Reagan County, 7:30 p.m.
Last Week: Stanton lost to Roscoe, 34-0
Reagan County beat Coahoma, 14-6

Forsan @Eldorado, 7:30 p.m.
Last Week: Forsan lost to Iraan, 37-6
Eldorado beat Christoval, 14-6

Garden City @Ira, 7:30 p.m.
Last Week: Garden City beat Grandfalls-Royalty, 55-6
Ira beat Kress, 42-8

Grady @Rule, 7:30 p.m.
Last Week: Grady beat Lueders-Avoca, 41-0
Rule beat Strawn, 56-36

Sands @Grandfalls-Royalty, 7:30 p.m.
Last Week: Sands lost to Ropes, 46-26
Grandfalls-Royalty lost to Garden City, 55-6

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GARAGE SALE: 200 East Robinson (Sand Springs) one block West of Moss Lake Rd., Saturday 8:30-?. Appliances, furniture, carpet, utility trailers and miscellaneous items.

Help Wanted

ATTN. "STUDENTS"! Fall Expansion! Great pay flexible schedule, sales/service, must be 18+. Conditions exists. Apply in Midland work in Big Spring. Call (432)699-6782. www.workforstudents.com

Help Wanted

CellularOne a leader in the wireless communication industry has some exciting career opportunities that we want you to be a part of.

HUGE \$1.00 SALE
Thursday, Friday & Saturday
8:00 am-7:30 pm
1300 South Gregg
Thousand's of Saleman's samples for only \$1.00. Name brands such as Spiderman, Hulk, Yu-Gi-Oh, Mickey & Pooh, also tools, kitchenware, dishes, bras, caps, horses, dragon, buddahs. Over 300 boxes of new items.
TOO MANY TO LIST.

EMERGENCY GARAGE Sale: 1811 Runnels, Friday Only 8-?.

3 FAMILY Garage Sale, 2305 Allendale. Saturday, 8:00-?. Child-adult clothes, household items, dishes, furniture, toys, exerciser, smoker, grill. Something for everyone!

4 FAMILY Garage Sale: 1808 S. Main, Saturday Only 8-?. Lots of clothing and lots of assorted items.

5 FAMILY Garage Sale, 215 Becker Rd (Sand Springs). Friday and Saturday, 8:00-?.

CARPORT SALE: Sat. 7-1, 3005 South Moss Lake Road, 2 miles South of 4 way stop. Swimming pool, computer, housewares, clothing, lots of misc.

GARAGE SALE: 603 Avondale, Saturday 7-1. Childrens clothing and lots of misc. items.

GARAGE SALE, 2515 Broadway, Saturday, 8:00-?. Clothes, baby items, pickup, furniture, lots of miscellaneous.

GARAGE SALE, 2607 Cindy. Friday, 3:30-8:00p.m. Saturday, 7:00a.m.-1:00p.m. Queen waterbed, couch, furniture, jewelry, kids clothes, lots of miscellaneous.

GARAGE SALE, Friday and Saturday. Furniture, desks, collectibles, coins, plus much more. 9:00 till? 1726 Purdue.

GARAGE SALE, Saturday, 8:00-12:00. 4203 Theo. Couch, dining set, exercise equipment, children's toys, etc.

GARAGE SALE: 1302 East 18th., Wed. thru Sat. 8-?. Ladies large size clothing, sets of dishes, serving bowls, kitchen ware, exercise bike, chair and ottoman, lots of misc.

GARAGE SALE: 1508 E. 17th, Saturday & Sunday 8-?. Freezer, antiques, dog pen, tools, patio furniture and lots of miscellaneous.

GARAGE SALE: 2 Craigmont Court, Saturday 8-?. Excellent condition kitchen cabinet doors, new massage, sound and heat chair pad, comforter, new ceiling fan, etc.

GARAGE SALE: 200 Denton Rd., Friday & Saturday 8-?.

MOVING SALE, Ethan Allen, Thayer Coggin furniture, rugs, pictures and household items. Saturday, 9:00-3:00 701 Caprock. No Early Sales! Rain date Sunday.

MOVING SALE: 2705 Cindy, Friday & Saturday 8-?. Furniture, washer and dryer, lots of little girls clothing, toys and much more.

MULTI-FAMILY SALE: 1401 E. 19th. Friday & Saturday 8:00-12:00. Clothes, books, toys, camping equipment and lots more!

Help Wanted

Assistant Custodian Needed
First United Methodist Church
Apply at 400 Scurry

TRUCK DRIVER needed with over the road exp. Will run in Texas and Surrounding States. Apply at 1505 W. 4th.

DUNCAN DISPOSAL - Now hiring a driver for the Coahoma area. Need at least a Class B CDL. Experience Preferred for a driver's position. Please come by the Duncan Disposal office/yard at 1104 N.W. Broadway, Coahoma, Tx - Monday-Thursday 2p-4p and on Fridays 1p-3p to apply in person. Must be able to pass mandatory DOT and corporate drug testing requirements. No phone calls please. The job includes 40+ hours weekly Mon.-Fri.; with some Sat. mornings. An hourly rate with benefits package is available. Equal Opportunity Employer.

DENTAL HYGIENIST - Our established dental practice in Abilene, TX seeks a licensed and registered full-time dental hygienist. Excellent compensation package to include medical benefits and retirement. Our office has a motivated energetic team with a focus on our patients. If you are qualified and interested in joining us, and enjoying all that Abilene has to offer, please call for information, or send resume to: GLEN D. HALL, D.D.S.; 3374 S. 27th; Abilene, TX 79605; (325)698-7560.

Assistant Retail Sales Manager
Big Spring, Tx.

Qualifications:
* Retail/Direct Sales experience preferred
* Strong moral and work ethics
* Ability to produce
* Strong organizational skills
* Computer Knowledge (Microsoft Word, Excel, Outlook)
* Excellent oral/written communication skills
* Outgoing, self-motivating characteristics
CellularOne offers all these benefits:
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CellularOne
Attention: John Hendricks
Fax: (432) 524-4467
Email: john.hendricks@wireless.com

CELLULARONE

Rolling Plains Memorial Hospital, Sweetwater, TX, is currently seeking a full-time Radiology Technologist. Position is from 4 p.m. to 12 midnight, Monday - Friday. Cross training available in CT, Nuclear Medicine and Mammography. Must have current ARRT or registry eligible and TDH certified. R.P.M.H. offers excellent salary and benefits. Contact Personnel Director at (325) 235-1701, ext. 222 or mail resume to P.O. Box 690, Sweetwater, TX 79556 or fax to 325-235-1783.
EOE

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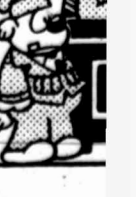
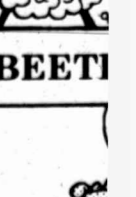
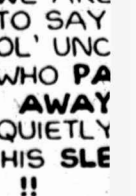
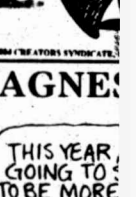
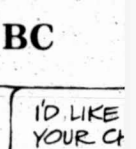
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SEPTEMBER 2, 2004

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Help Wanted

COME JOIN Our Team! Need Cook, other Dietary Personnel, Laundry, Part-time Housekeeping, CNA's and LVN's. Apply in person at Comanche Trail Nursing Center, 3200 Parkway or fax resume to (432)263-4067. Great Benefits Package.

DOMINOS PIZZA Drivers needed. Hourly + mileage + tips. Competition says better commission, but you can't make commission doing dishes for the sit down lobby. Go by 2111 S. Gregg or call (432)267-4111.

EYE ASSOCIATES, Inc. a local eye health provider, is seeking an individual for the position of insurance clerk. Please come by our office at 2311 Scurry & pick up an application.

Looking for more than just a job? **VACATIONS HOLIDAYS INSURANCE 401K SAFETY BONUSES IMMEDIATE need for: GANG FOREMAN/ PUMPER ROUSTABOUTS BACKHOE OPERATORS** Must have current class A CDL **Work is in the Big Spring area. Blakely Construction (432)381-3540**

LVN NEEDED for private duty pediatric program. Please apply at Best Home Care at 1706 Marcy Drive, or fax resume to (432)268-9924.

MAINTENANCE PERSON: must have experience with hydraulics, pneumatics, and machine control systems. Competitive wage negotiable based on salary history, experience and knowledge. Benefit package includes: Medical and Life Insurance and Paid Vacation. American Limestone Company, 2515 Apron Drive, Big Spring.

NEEDING SOMEONE to keep my children in my home for a few hours on the weekends. High School Students fine. Call (432)268-9415 or 816-9958 leave message for Connie.

STAFF ACCOUNTING POSITION open with local CPA firm. BBA in Accounting required. CPA a plus. Salary negotiable. Mail resumes to Personnel, P.O. Box 949, Big Spring, TX 79721.

Help Wanted

QUALITY ASSURANCE TECHNICIAN BIG SPRING, TX

Assist QA Manager in performing quality tests in bulk cottonseed, conditioning processes, finished lots, and field production. Conduct quality testing and assist in data input and analysis using various information systems. Oversee all quality analysis in the absence of the QA Manager. The position reports to QA Manager at Big Spring, TX. High school diploma, with college credits or experience in agriculture, seed technology, or laboratory. B.S. preferred, but not required. Experienced in following laboratory procedures and protocols. Good computer and communication skills, flexibility in work schedule, high level of self-motivation, assertiveness and confidence, able to draw logical conclusions based on data, good attention to details.

Apply to: Rick Robles, Quality Assurance Manager Stoneville Pedigreed Seed Company, Inc. 4701 North Highway 87 Big Spring, TX 79720 Phone (432)263-8338 Fax (432)263-8335 Email: Job5258@EmergentGenetics.com

Taking applications for Counter Clerk/ Delivery. Must be very enthusiastic. Duties include filling, computer, phone and etc. Apply in person. **Credit World**, 1611 Gregg.

Truck Driver position available, apply at **Laredo Paving**, 2701 N. Hwy. 350, Big Spring. Must have current CDL, clear driving record K&M Medical Card. No phone calls. EOE.

Instructional

DRIVER EDUCATION Sign up to get your license at the mail. Class starts September 7th. Register September 2nd & 3rd. Call (432)270-4610 or 263-2505 or 268-1023 Lic# C1200. Credit Cards Accepted.

Jobs Wanted

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National Ads

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BEARDLESS WHEAT seed clean \$6.50 per bag, 50 lbs. quantity discount. Delivery available. Call (432)517-0327 anytime (Local).

LONGHORNS FOR Sale. Call (432)399-4533, leave message.

Pets

ADORABLE TINY CKC Chihuahua puppies. Good choice of colors- male & female. (432)263-1701, 263-5951.

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LOVELY NEIGHBORHOOD COMPLEX Swimming Pool Carports, Most Utilities Paid, Senior Citizen Discounts, 1 & 2 Bedrooms & 1 or 2 Baths Unfurnished

KENTWOOD APARTMENTS 1904 East 25th Street 267-5444 263-5000

1 BDRM Duplex, Scurry & 15th. Refrigerated air, stove & refrigerator furn. \$225/mo. + deposit. Call (432)268-8353.

100 1/2 Lockhart: 2 Bedroom Mobile home. Refrigerator and stove furnished. Call (432)267-7906.

1203 MULBERRY. 3 bedroom, 1 bath, fenced yard. \$365.00 month, \$150.00 deposit. Call (432)263-1792 or 816-9984.

1206 EAST 11th Place: 3 Bedroom, 2 bath. Garage, new carpet, CH/A, utility room, living room, dining room, wood floors. \$850 monthly. No HUD. Call (432)267-2296.

Real Estate for Rent

1513 WOOD. Large four bedroom, two bath, fenced yard, washer/dryer hookups. \$400. month, \$200. deposit. Call (432)264-6611.

1607 STADIUM, 3 Bedroom, \$400. 902 East 12th, one bedroom, \$275. 1506 Chicksaw, 2 bedroom, \$300. Call (432)267-7380

1611 STATE. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, fenced yard, new carpet & paint. \$350. month, \$200. deposit. Call (432)263-1792 or 816-9984.

201 JEFFERSON, 3 bedroom, 1 bath, washer & dryer connection, CH/A, fenced yard. \$550. month, \$400. deposit + 1 year lease. Call (432)267-2336.

2100 ALABAMA. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, CH/A. \$525.00 month, \$250.00 deposit. Call (432)263-1792 or 816-9984.

2100 MORRISON. Clean 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Brick, fenced back yard, CH/A. \$525. month, \$200. deposit. Call (432)267-1543.

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. 4221 Hamilton. Call (432)267-3841 or 517-0642.

3 BEDROOM, 1-1/2 bath. 4221 Hamilton. Call (432)267-3841 or 517-0642.

506 STATE St. 2 Bedroom 1 bath. Washer & dryer connection. No HUD. \$275.00 month, \$200.00 Deposit. Call (432)263-8005 or 816-1330.

631 CAYLOR. Very large nice home. 4 Bedroom includes large Master suite, 3 1/2 bath. Wheelchair access. Central heat and air. Washer/ Dryer. Like new stove. Water softener, fenced backyard, single carport. Deposit \$200. Rent \$650. Call (432)267-2112 Leave message.

801 EAST 18TH. 3 Bedroom. \$450.00 month. 1004 East 21st. 3 bedroom, \$550. month. No HUD. No Pets. Call (432)263-5818.

EXTRA nice three bedroom, one bath APARTMENT. CH/A, appliances furnished, washer/dryer hookups. 900 Scurry. \$385. month. No Bills Paid. Call (432)213-2681.

Real Estate for Rent

FOR RENT: 1612 Bluebird, 3/1. \$375. monthly, \$300. deposit. 2530 Fairchild, 3/1, \$450. monthly, \$350. deposit. Call (432)264-9907.

NEW OWNERS FALL MOVE IN SPECIAL New residents presenting this ad and who qualify for a minimum six-month lease on a **TWO BEDROOM** apartment home may lease for **ONLY \$435** 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

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SMALL 2-BEDROOM for rent perfect for single adult. Clean and neat. No pets, non smoking preferred. Stove, refrigerator, carport, storage. Deposit. Call (432)263-2396.

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

THREE BEDROOM, one bath, den, wood-burning fireplace, carport. No pets. \$495. month, deposit. Call (432)267-2070.

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

Real Estate for Sale

\$1,000 TOTAL Move in Cost. On 1306 Marjio. New 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 car garage home. Reasonably good credit required, lowered interest rates to Qualified Buyer. Call now (432)520-9848 Cameo Investments Inc.

1110 DOGWOOD. 3 bedroom, 1 bath, CH/A. 1/2 acre, Forsan ISD. \$2,000 down, \$398.00 month. Call (432)263-1792 or 816-9984.

2200 RUNNELS. 3 bedroom, 1 bath. CH/A. New carpet & paint. \$1,000 down, \$328.00 month. Call (432)263-1792 or 816-9984.

1605 & 1607 Oriole. 3 bedroom, 1 bath, 1 living area, new carpet, 2 car garage, fenced backyard. Good neighborhood. Sell immediately. Serious inquiries only 903-891-8266.

2504 N.Birdwell. 3 Bedroom, brick, 1 bath, garage, carport, central heat/air, 1 acre, fruit & nut trees, 3 water wells, windmill, large barn. Out of city, low taxes, excellent condition, \$50,000. No Owner Finance. (432)263-3584.

"A" FRAME- Lake Champion. 2 Bedroom, 1 bath, 7 miles S. Colorado City, Tx. \$982. Call Agent (325)728-3920.

EXCELLENT LOCATION: Large swimming pool, small price, needs some repairs. Call 432-263-8513. Also 3 bedroom, 1 bath for sale or lease. Excellent location. call 432-263-8513.

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FOUR BEDROOM, 2-1/2 bath home on 20 acres. Forsan ISD. Call (432)816-1868.

LE GUSTARIA ser dueño 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 financo por 10 años para mas inf. Llame Annette Sanchez 432-413-0549 o 432-620-8285.

MOBILE HOME: Nice 2 bedroom, 2 bath, already established in quiet park. Shade trees, covered patio, and storage building. Serious callers only! (432)714-4446 or 816-9358.

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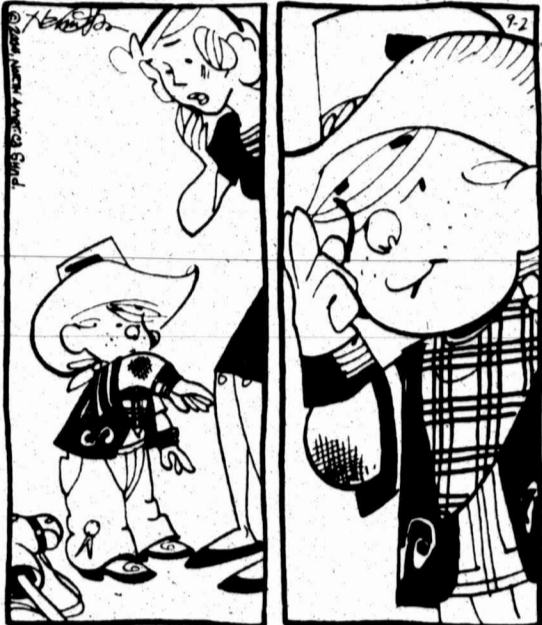
STEEL BUILDINGS

THURSDAY

SEP. 2

	WFAA (2)	KMID (3)	UNI (4)	KPEJ (5)	KOSA (7)	KTLE (8)	KWES (9)	WTBS (11)	KMLM (12)	KOCV (13)	DISC (20)	AMC (21)	SPICE (22)	TNT (23)	BET (26)	DISN (27)	ESPN2 (28)	ESPN (29)	TMC (25)
	Dallas	Midland	Spanish	Odessa	Odessa	Telemundo	Midland	Atlanta	Odessa	Odessa	Discovery	Classics	Spike TV	Atlanta	Black Ent.	Disney	Sports	Sports	Premium
6	News (CC)	News Wheel-Fortune	La Mujer de Madera	Pregame	News Ent. Tonight	Pasion de Gavilanes	News Sentido (CC)	Sentido (CC) Friends (CC)	Joe McGee John Hagee	News: Lehrer	Navy SEALs Training		Widest Police Videos	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Live BET com.	Sister Sister That's Raven	Hockey World Cup	College	(CC)
7	Extreme Makeover	Extreme Makeover	Mariana de la Noche	NFL Preseason	Big Brother 5 (CC)	Prisionera	Will & Grace (CC)	Movie: Bad Boys (CC)	Update/Israel Biblical Israel	Republican National	Dinosaur Planet	Movie: Star Trek V: The Final Frontier	Widest Police Videos	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	The Parkers	Movie: Tiger Cruise (CC)	Russia vs. United States	Football Texas A&M at Utah (CC)	Movie: Mississippi Burning (CC)
8	Extreme Makeover	Extreme Makeover	Amarte es Mi Pecado	Kansas City Chiefs at	CSI: Crime Scene Investigator	Gitanas	Father of Pride		Light of the Southwest	Convention (CC)	Ninjas	Final Frontier	MXC MXC	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	106 & Park Prime		College	Burning (CC)	
9	Republican Convention	Republican Convention	Gran Noche de Republicanos	Dallas Cowboys	Republican Convention	Republican Convention	Republican Convention	25 Movie:		Monster Garage	Movie: The Protector	MXC MXC	Movie: Blast From the Past	Club Comic View	Lizzie McGuire Sister, Sister	Football Northwestern at Texas Christian	SportsCenter	15 Movie: Dust (CC)	
10	News Nightline	News Nightline	Primer Impacto Noticias Univ. Raymond	70s Show	News Late Show	Noticias Laura	News The Tonight	Bad Boys (CC)	The Hour of Healing	Charlie Rose (CC)	Dinosaur Planet	(CC)	MXC MXC	Nightly News Maad Sports	Even Stevens Boy World		(CC)		
11	Ent. Tonight Jimmy Kimmel	Extra (CC) Jimmy Kimmel	En las Mejores Familias	Becker (CC) Spin City	(CC)	Al Rojo Vivo	Show (CC) Late Night	35 Movie:	Sam Peak Jesse Lee Pe	Sign Off	Ninjas	Movie: Star Trek V: The Final Frontier	Widest Police Videos	Movie: Two if by Sea	Midnight Love	Proud Family That's Raven	(CC) Baseball	Rome-Burning Outside-Lines	Movie: Hollywood Dreams
12	Live (CC) Oprah Winfrey	Live (CC) Oprah Winfrey	Mujeres Enganadas	Blind Date	The Late Late Show (CC)	Maria Celeste Corte-Familia	Fast Times at Ridgmont	Update/Israel A.F. News		Monster Garage	Final Frontier	Blind Date	Blind Date	Club Comic View	Kim Possible Lizzie McGuire	Season SportsCenter Weekly	(CC)	Hollywood Dreams	

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THE FAMILY CIRCUS



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HAGAR



BLONDIE



BC



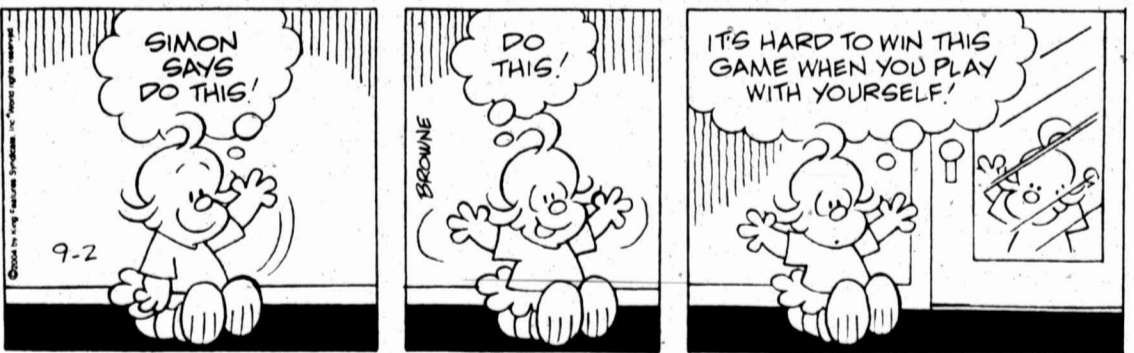
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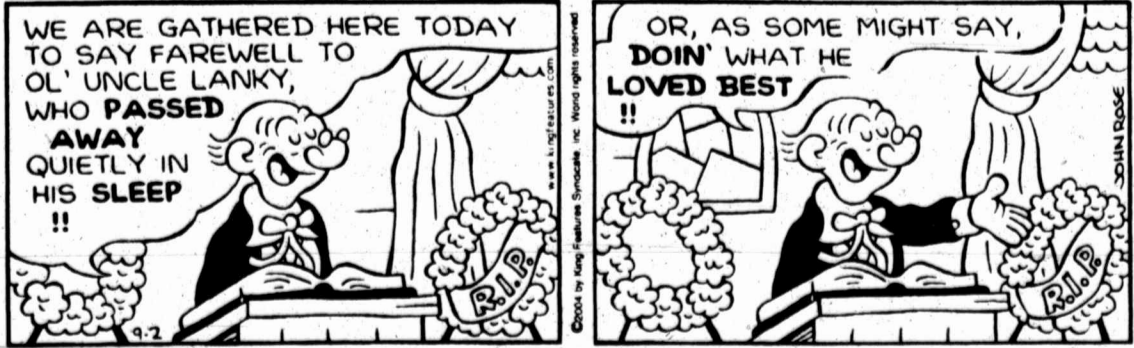
HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILEY



This Date In History

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Sept. 2, the 246th day of 2004. There are 120 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 2, 1945, Japan formally surrendered in ceremonies aboard the USS Missouri, ending World War II.

On this date: In 1666, the Great Fire of London broke out, claiming thousands of homes, but only a few lives.

In 1789, the United States Treasury Department was established.

In 1864, during the Civil War, Union Gen. William T. Sherman's forces occupied Atlanta.

In 1901, Vice President Theodore Roosevelt offered the advice, "Speak softly and carry a big stick" in a speech at the Minnesota

State Fair.

In 1924, the Rudolf Friml operetta "Rose Marie" opened on Broadway.

In 1944, during World War II, Navy pilot George Herbert Walker Bush was shot down by Japanese forces as he completed a bombing run over the Bonin Islands. (Bush was rescued by the crew of the U.S. submarine Finback; his two crew members, however, died.)

In 1945, Ho Chi Minh declared Vietnam an independent republic.

In 1963, Alabama Gov. George C. Wallace prevented the integration of Tuskegee High School by encircling the building with state troopers.

In 1969, North Vietnamese president Ho Chi Minh died.

In 1998, a Swissair MD-11 jetliner crashed off Nova Scotia, killing all 229 people aboard.

Ten years ago: The government reported the nation's unemployment rate for August was unchanged from July, at 6.1

percent.

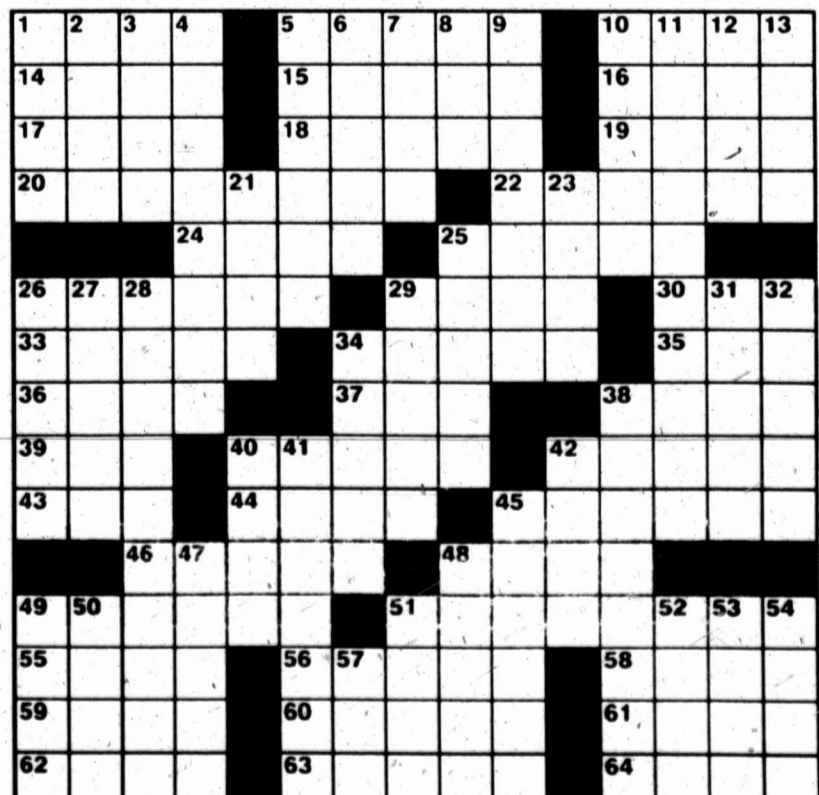
Today's Birthdays: Dancer-actress Marge Champion is 85. Jazz musician Horace Silver is 76. Former Sen. Alan K. Simpson, R-Wyo., is 73. Former Baseball Commissioner Peter Ueberroth is 67. Rhythm and blues singer Sam Godden (The Impressions) is 65. Singer Jimmy Clanton is 64. Rhythm and blues singer Rosalind Ashford (Martha & the Vandellas) is 61. Singer Joe Simon is 61. Football Hall-of-Famer Terry Bradshaw is 56. Actor Mark Harmon is 53. Tennis player Jimmy Connors is 52.

Answer to previous puzzle

HITON	HOPIS	VEIGA
ADELA	ORAL	AXEL
READY	AND	WILLING
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ARP	FREE	
REFORM	EVITA	
AKITA	ANON	TAU
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ANTIWAR	PANACHE	
GOASKY	OUR	MOTHER
EDGE	ELSA	DOALL
LEGS	SEAT	SNIDE

Newsday Crossword VESSELS OF FAME by Daniel R. Stark Edited by Stanley Newman

- ACROSS**
- 1 Prepare the flour
- 5 Old keepsake
- 10 Seaweed derivative
- 14 Part of mph
- 15 Writer Jong
- 16 Relaxed gait
- 17 Italian menu word
- 18 Grill
- 19 Role for Ingrid
- 20 Henry Hudson vessel
- 22 Thataway
- 24 Surely he jests
- 25 Buying binge
- 26 Put up a fight
- 29 Lawyer's concern
- 30 Utmost degree
- 33 Meticulous
- 34 Performs alone
- 35 Loft filler
- 36 Pantry items
- 37 "Mazel ___!"
- 38 Mispronounce "s"
- 39 German 101 verb
- 40 Slide on ice
- 42 Beatrice's admirer
- 43 Sweater letter
- 44 ___ d'oeuvres
- 45 Hearth residue
- 46 Down East
- 48 Nudge forward
- 49 Found out
- 51 Robert Fulton vessel
- 55 Galley movers
- 56 Loafed around
- 58 Met highlight
- 59 Musical ensemble
- 60 Island near Oahu
- 61 Clothes holder
- 62 Wing-spread
- 63 That is: Lat.
- 64 Toddler's perch
- DOWN**
- 1 Deposed
- 2 Town in Kansas
- 3 Gas-tank status
- 4 Deals (in)
- 5 Start a computer again
- 6 Captain Blood name
- 7 Detroit gridded
- 8 Here, in Le Havre
- 9 Jacques Cousteau vessel
- 10 Flared skirt
- 11 Sir Francis Drake vessel
- 12 Church area
- 13 Trunk's locale
- 21 More than half
- 23 Assayers' samples
- 25 Ointment
- 26 Fix a cravat
- 27 Have a life
- 28 Christopher Columbus vessel
- 29 Stodgy ones
- 31 Common sense
- 32 Keyed up
- 34 It may be vacant
- 38 Tourist stop
- 40 Climb a rope
- 41 Thor Heyerdahl vessel
- 42 10 Down designer
- 45 Bank offering
- 47 Fire chief's suspicion
- 48 Tearful requests
- 49 Realty offerings
- 50 Tombstone lawyer
- 51 Mystery board game
- 52 North African port
- 53 "Well done!"
- 54 Box-office total
- 57 Family member



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That's Racin'

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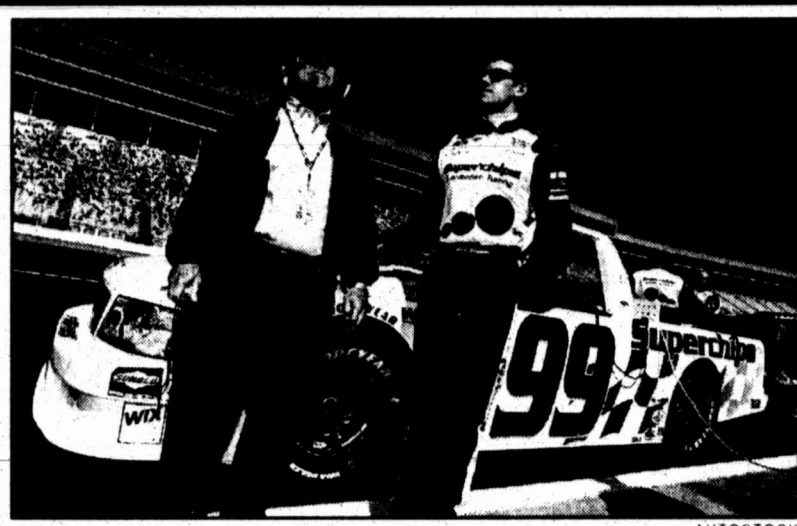
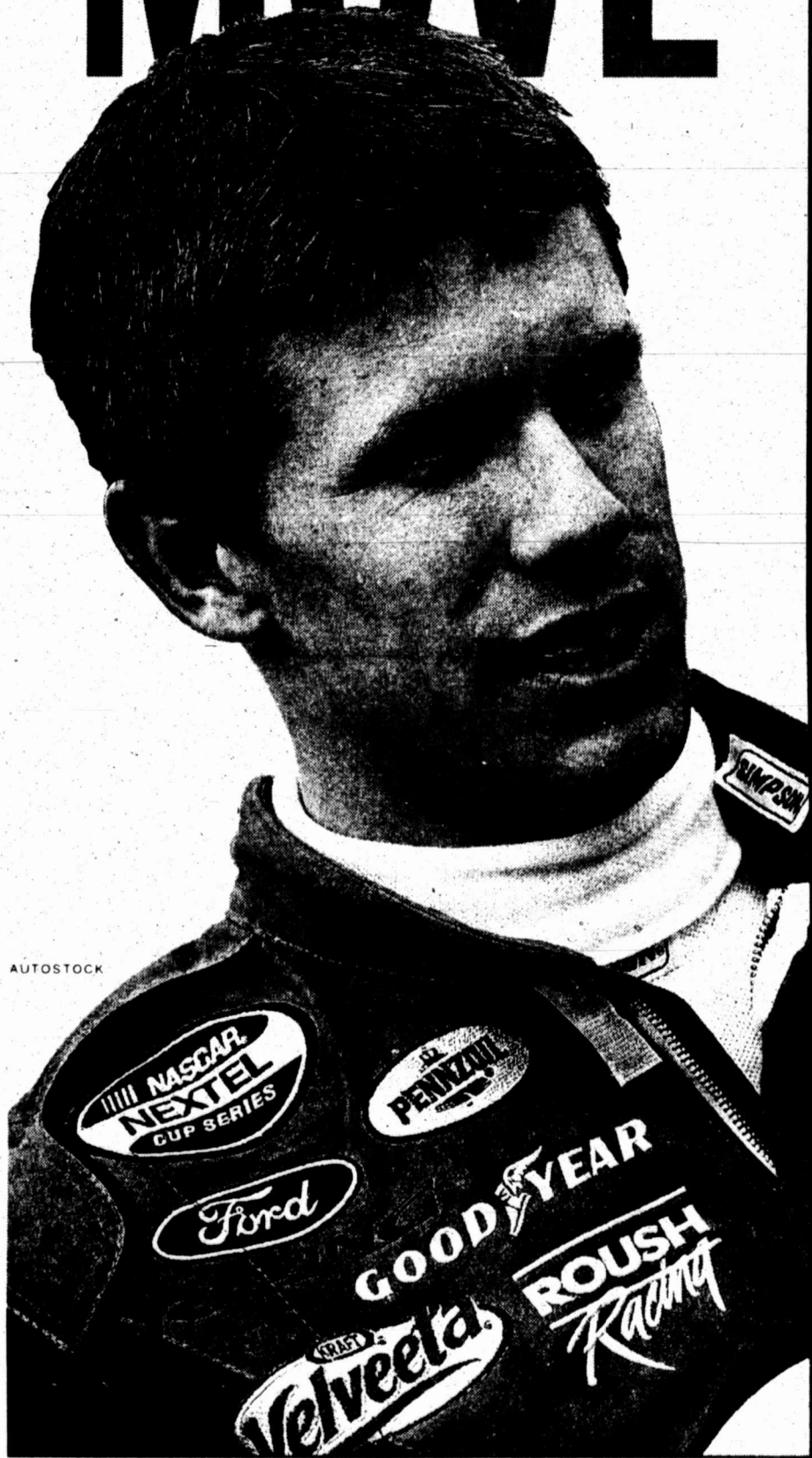
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From Truck to Cup in the blink of an eye

Carl Edwards pulls off A FAST MOVE



Car and truck owner Jack Roush stands with Carl Edwards.

By JIM UTTER
Knight Ridder Newspapers

Carl Edwards' season started with a bang, and not just on the track. Edwards won the 2004 NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series opener at Daytona — a huge accomplishment on its own. But in the post-race winner's interview, Edwards received an even bigger honor from his Truck series owner, Jack Roush.

"Carl Edwards is the heir apparent to Mark Martin in the No. 6 car," Roush said matter-of-factly. Edwards, the 2003 Truck series rookie of the year, was already laden with intense expectations and he hadn't even driven in a Nextel Cup Series race.

He has now. Following Jeff Burton's unexpected departure from Roush Racing last month, Roush immediately put Edwards in its No. 99 Ford in Cup.

He made his series debut Aug. 22 at Michigan, and came away with an impressive 10th place finish. Last weekend at Bristol, Tenn., he had a tougher time, finishing 33rd and completing 386 of 500 laps.

Roush has made no certain plans for Edwards for 2005, but it's likely he'll remain in Cup with the No. 99.

In the span of six months, Edwards has gone from an anointed heir to a veteran Cup driver to his teammate on the track.

"It's definitely a change. It hasn't all sunk in yet. It's almost like it's too good to be true. I can't describe to you guys how much work myself and all of my friends and family have put in, and it was work not money," said Edwards, 25, following his Truck win at Bristol last weekend.

"We put in a lot of work just like a lot of racers that are out there right now racing. They're working on their cars right now getting ready to race on Saturday night at a short track.

"I just never in a million years imagined that I would be standing here at Bristol after winning any type of race." Since joining the Truck series in the 2002 season, Edwards has six wins — three in 2003 and three this season. He was eighth in points last season and is third heading to the Sept. 9 race at Richmond, Va.

The native of Columbia, Mo., has been successful in many forms of racing — modifieds, pro modifieds, U.S. Auto Club Silver Crown,

Baby Grand national and midgets.

He signed with Roush Racing a week before the start of the 2003 Truck season, where he concentrated his NASCAR efforts until replacing Burton this season.

Roush plans for Edwards to remain in the car the rest of the season, which would eliminate him from competing for rookie of the year honors next season. Drivers cannot make more than seven starts in a season to keep rookie status.

"We're starting these (races) without the benefit of any practice on the racetracks for Carl," said Roush Racing president Geoff Smith. "Seat time is the most important factor."

"You don't want to give up your long-term opportunities for success, for an opportunity to compete for an award. (But) there's another award to compete for next year. It's called the Nextel Cup championship, and that's still the first award we go after, and the other awards fall in."

"So, track time is more important."

Edwards' owner, Roush, said Burton's departure allowed Edwards to make a "warp speed advancement into Nextel Cup stardom."

Roush called Edwards "ambitious, resourceful, talented and charismatic" and said he felt certain Edwards would "follow in the footsteps of Kurt Busch, Greg Biffle, Matt Kenseth, Mark Martin and Jeff Burton." Busch and Biffle both began their NASCAR careers in the Truck series.

"I'm overwhelmed. I'm an average kid from central Missouri and I'm getting to do some great things because of some great people and I can't thank everybody enough," Edwards said.

For the remainder of the 2004 season Edwards will have a full plate — trying to catch points leader Bobby Hamilton in Trucks, while learning the ins and outs of NASCAR's premier division.

Edwards said he's confident his rise to the top won't change him.

"My friends make fun of me because I'm so thrifty. Thrifty is my word, they call me cheap. Things are a little bit different, yes. The money part of racing, it's pretty neat to be able to make money racing," he said.

"Part of me wants to just keep doing the things the way I've always done them because things have been going so well that I hate to change anything."

THIS WEEK'S RACE

POP SECRET 500
Where: California Speedway, a 2-mile slightly banked paved oval located in Fontana, Calif.
When: Sunday at 7 p.m. (all times ET). Qualifying is 3:10 p.m. Friday.
TV: NBC
Radio: Motor Racing Network
Purse: \$5,836,554.
Also this week: Rookie Kyle Busch has cut into Busch Series points leader Martin Truex Jr.'s lead for three consecutive weeks, but still trails by 78 entering Saturday's race at California. The Truck Series is off until Sept. 9 at Richmond, Va.
Worth mentioning: Mark Martin has three top-10 finishes, including one victory, in eight races at California.



Busch

POLL POSITION

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION
Who's your pick to win the first Chase for the Championship?
Cast your vote at: www.thatstracin.com
LAST WEEK'S QUESTION
There are three races left before the Chase for the Championship begins. Who outside the top 10 will make it into the chase?
Number of votes: 6,571

Driver	No. of votes	Percent
Mark Martin	3007	46%
Ryan Newman	1268	19%
Dale Jarrett	1074	16%
Jeremy Mayfield	907	14%
Jamie McMurray	315	5%

STOP 'N' GO

RANDOM THOUGHTS
A look at who's hot and who's not in the NASCAR Nextel Cup circuit.
WHO'S HOT
■ Kurt Busch has four top-10 finishes in the past four races.
■ Matt Kenseth has consecutive top-10 finishes.
■ Dale Jarrett, Jamie McMurray and Tony Stewart have each scored three top 10s in the past four races.
■ Bill Elliott and Bobby Labonte both have scored top-five finishes in the past two races at California Speedway.
WHO'S NOT
■ Despite winning a race at California in 2000, Jeremy Mayfield has failed to finish two of the past three races there.
■ Ken Schrader, Kyle Petty and Joe Nemechek are the only drivers that have competed in all eight races at California and failed to finish in the top 10.
■ Elliott Sadler has finished 21st or worse in all six of his races at California. — Jim Utter

BY THE NUMBERS

NEXTEL CUP POINTS LEADERS
The top-40 drivers as of Aug. 28:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. J. Gordon (24)	3380	21. R. Wallace (2)	2507
2. J. Johnson (48)	3356	22. R. Gordon (31)	2504
3. D. Earnhardt Jr. (8)	3305	23. T. Labonte (5)	2459
4. T. Stewart (20)	3195	24. B. Vickers (25)	2444
5. M. Kenseth (17)	3156	25. J. Nemechek (01)	2356
6. K. Busch (97)	3051	26. S. Wimmer (22)	2281
7. E. Sadler (38)	3019	27. R. Rudd (21)	2200
8. K. Harvick (29)	2923	28. W. Burton (0)	2163
9. B. Labonte (18)	2919	29. S. Figgis (10)	2062
10. R. Newman (12)	2918	30. B. Gaughan (77)	2008
11. K. Kahne (9)	2892	31. J. Green (43)	1985
12. M. Martin (6)	2883	32. K. Schrader (49)	1963
13. J. Mayfield (19)	2883	33. K. Petty (45)	1963
14. D. Jarrett (88)	2873	34. R. Craven (32)	1901
15. J. McMurray (42)	2873	35. J. Spencer (4)	1429
16. C. Mears (41)	2628	36. D. Blaney	1295
17. M. Waltrip (15)	2575	37. J. Sauter	1217
18. G. Biffle (16)	2552	38. D. Cope (50)	978
19. S. Martin (40)	2546	39. M. Shepherd (89)	747
20. J. Burton (30)	2529	40. T. Bodine (50)	652

BUSCH SERIES POINTS LEADERS

The top-20 drivers as of Aug. 27:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. M. Truex Jr.	3634	11. K. Wallace	2670
2. K. Busch	3556	12. D. Stremme	2615
3. J. Leffler	3202	13. S. Compton	2615
4. G. Biffle	3116	14. T. Fedewa	2609
5. D. Green	3093	15. C. Atwood	2579
6. J. Keller	3076	16. M. Waltrip	2551
7. R. Hornaday Jr.	3055	17. R. Pressley	2521
8. B. Hamilton Jr.	2896	18. K. Kahne	2507
9. M. Bliss	2829	19. J. Sauter	2482
10. A. Lewis	2673	20. M. Wallace	2478

TRUCK SERIES POINTS LEADERS

The top-10 drivers as of Aug. 14:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. B. Hamilton	2288	6. T. Musgrave	2043
2. D. Setzer	2204	7. T. Kvapil	2038
3. C. Chaffin	2092	8. R. Crawford	1903
4. C. Edwards	2084	9. M. Skinner	1886
5. M. Crafton	2075	10. D. Starr	1885

NEXT RACE: Sept. 9, NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series 200, Richmond, Va.

RANKINGS

THAT'S RACIN'S TOP PICKS

1. Dale Earnhardt Jr. (car No. 8), Jeff Gordon (car No. 24) and Jimmie Johnson (car No. 48): You could make a very strong case for putting any one of these drivers, who've clinched Chase for the Nextel Cup bids, atop the standings right now. But it made me pretty hard to make any one of those cases stronger than any of the others.

So this week, we'll just go with all of the above. Last week: 5, 2 and 3 (respectively).

4. Tony Stewart (car No. 20): We got heat for leaving him No. 1 after last week. He kept running into and through other cars' messes at Bristol, so that puts him a half step back. Last week: 1.

5. Matt Kenseth (car No. 17): Five top-10 finishes in his past six races, but it seems he's still barely a blip on the championship radar. You've got to believe this team still could be dan-

gerous. Last week: 4.

6. Kurt Busch (car No. 97): No, he didn't win again at Bristol. But when you haven't finished worse than eighth at a track in three seasons, that's not too shabby. Last week: 6.

7. Elliott Sadler (car No. 38): Still has two more hurdles to clear before Sadler can take a deep breath with a championship chase spot firmly in hand. Last week: 7.

8. Kevin Harvick (car No. 29): We think this team has best shot of staying in top 10 among eight chasing

final three. Last week: 10.

9. Ryan Newman (car No. 12): The preseason favorite to win it all, he's now battling to just have a shot at the title. Last week: 14.

10. Mark Martin (car No. 6): Maybe it's a sentimental choice, but it just seems fitting for him to be in title chase. Last week: 8.

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

Rusty's last call: Wallace cites Earnhardt's death

B luntness is a Rusty Wallace character trait. So, characteristically, Wallace was straightforward Monday in explaining why he decided to make 2005 his final season as a Nextel Cup driver.

"When (Dale) Earnhardt lost his life, it kind of got to me," Wallace said. "It made me feel nervous and it made me think hard about it. I've won a lot of races and I want to have fun in this sport, and I don't want to get hurt."

Earnhardt was killed in a crash in Turn 4 on the final lap of the 2001 Daytona 500. On Monday, Wallace was only a few hundred yards away from that point — at Daytona USA just outside the track's walls — confirming that he'll hang up his helmet after the remainder of 2004 and a 2005 campaign that will be called "Rusty's Last Call."

There will be die-cast cars and all sort of other merchandise for sale, of course, as he closes out a career that, if

all goes as planned, would wind up with his 706th career start at Homestead-Miami Speedway on Nov. 20, 2005.

Wallace hopes to add to his career total of 55 Cup victories before that day comes, saying he wants to leave while he goes to the track each week still thinking that's entirely possible.

"It's important for me not to have to go through the struggles some of the guys have," Wallace said, alluding to the slow, painful declines some other top NASCAR winners have endured at the ends of their careers. "I've won this year, and it seems like just about every week I am running in the top five and something crazy goes wrong. I know I am on the top of my game and I want to go out on top."

He also wants to go out healthy, a topic that kept coming up.

"I want to enjoy a lot of time with my kids," said Wallace, who has three children between 17 and 24. "And I don't want to be hurt — or killed — by something that went wrong."

"It bothered me a lot when Dale got killed. ... He was the guy who every single time I went to the track I looked at him. Even if he qualified 30th, so long as I qualified 29th that felt good. I felt like I beat the best."

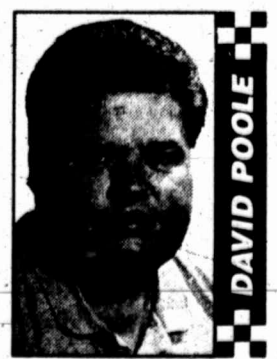
Earnhardt was one of the chief rivals in Wallace's NASCAR career, which began when the Missouri native came to Atlanta for his first Cup race in March 1980. Driving a Chevrolet owned by Roger Penske, Wallace finished second — behind Earnhardt.

He made just nine NASCAR starts

from 1980 to 1982, then won the 1983 championship in the American Speed Association before coming to NASCAR full-time the following year.

Wallace won the 1984 rookie of the year award driving for a team owned by Cliff Stewart out of High Point, N.C. In 1986, he moved to Blue Max Racing when Tim Richmond left that Raymond Beadle-owned team to go to Hendrick Motorsports. Wallace won 18 races and the 1989 championship in his five seasons with Blue Max, but when that team's run in the sport ended in 1990, Wallace went back to his first NASCAR car owner, motorsports mogul Roger Penske, and began a partnership that lasts to this day.

After 2005, there will be plenty to keep Wallace busy in the sport. As part owner of the Penske Racing South team, he plans to have a role in shaping its future. He also has started his own Busch Series team, and his younger son, Stephen, has racing dreams of his own.



DAVID POOLE