



# BIG SPRING HERALD

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Big Sky — Big Heart — Big Spring

50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 WEEKEND

THURSDAY

September 16, 2004

## WEATHER

Tonight:



TONIGHT 66°-68° TOMORROW 93°-95°

## BRIEFLY

### Friends of Library book sale to begin

The Friends of the Library book sale will be held from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday at the Howard County Library. Each day, the first 25 patrons who purchase items will receive a free bookmark.

### Band boosters set first tailgate party

Coahoma Band Boosters has set its first tailgate party for 6 p.m. Friday before the football game at Bulldog Stadium.

For \$5, purchase a barbecue sandwich, chips, drink and a cookie. All proceeds will go to support the Coahoma Band programs. For more information, call Dale Pittman at 267-9555 or 816-6975.

### Red Mesa Grill to assist United Way

Red Mesa Grill on Gregg Street is Friday's United Way of Big Spring and Howard County restaurant of the week. A portion of Friday's proceeds from the business will be donated to the local United Way. On Friday, Sept. 24, the featured restaurant will be Christine's.

## THIS WEEKEND



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Vol. 100, No. 252

Find us online at: www.bigspringherald.com

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

## Judge finds school finance system unconstitutional

By APRIL CASTRO

Associated Press Writer

AUSTIN — Texas' \$30 billion system for financing public schools was found unconstitutional Wednesday by a judge who said he would order state funds for education to cease within a year if the Legislature does not find an equitable solution.

State District Judge John Dietz ruled moments after closing arguments in the lawsuit brought against the state by more than 300 school districts.

The districts contended that the system violated the state Constitution by not providing equal educational opportunities.

Dietz agreed, saying the gap between "the haves and the have nots" was too wide, and Texas faces dire consequences if it doesn't provide adequate funding to all its students now.

"By 2040, we'll have a population that's larger, poorer, less educated and more needy than today," said Dietz, a Democrat. "Who in Texas would choose this

## Howard County superintendents not surprised by judge's finding

By KENDRA WISS

Staff Writer

Superintendents from three Howard County school districts were not surprised by a state

district judge's ruling in Austin Wednesday that deemed the Texas public school finance system unconstitutional.

See **NO SURPRISE**, Page 3A

for our future? The answer is no one."

Attorney General Greg Abbott See **FINANCE**, Page 3A

said his office would expedite an



Storm chaser Steve Wachholder measures wind speeds of 63 miles per hour in Pensacola, Fla. as Hurricane Ivan made its way through the Gulf of Mexico Wednesday.

## Ivan blasts Alabama, Florida, spinning off killer tornadoes

By JAY REEVES

Associated Press Writer

GULF SHORES, Ala. — Hurricane Ivan slammed ashore early today with winds of 130 mph, packing deadly tornadoes and a powerful punch of waves and rain that threatened to swamp communities from Louisiana to the Florida Panhandle. At least 12 deaths were blamed on the storm.

Many of the millions of Gulf Coast residents who spent a frightening night in shelters and boarded-up homes were emerging this morning to find that Ivan was not the catastro-

phe they had feared.

"Ivan was nowhere near as bad as Frederic — not even close," Mobile Police Chief Sam Cochran said, referring to the 1979 storm that devastated the Alabama coast. "I think we were really spared and blessed."

Forecasters said the worst could be yet to come, as up to 15 inches of rain were expected as the storm moved inland.

Downtown Mobile was deserted early today. The historic oak-tree-lined Government Street was blocked with downed tree limbs, metal signs, roofing

material and other storm debris.

"We were wondering at first if we made the right choice or not," said Marc Oliver, 38, who rode out the storm with his family in Mobile. "We had some trees down in our yard and roofing damage, other than that, we came out pretty good."

Oliver boarded up his windows of his brick home and spent the night with his wife, 7-year-old son and brother-in-law, Robert Driver, moving from room to room as the

See **IVAN**, Page 2A

## Pillar will open U.S. tour here

Local family producing Monday night's concert

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

Rising Christian rock band Pillar is taking the world of music — not to mention the city of Big Spring — by storm, as it prepares to open the "Where Do We Go From Here" tour here Monday.

Sponsored by Best Buy, the tour criss-crosses the nation, but not before kicking off in Big Spring, thanks to the production efforts of a Big Spring family that ignored what some may

say is "conventional wisdom," and stuck to their belief that Big Spring is a definite market for Pillar's modern sound.

"My wife and I have always said we should have concerts in Big Spring," said Tommy Churchwell, who along with his wife, Laurie, and son, Tanner, are producing Monday's concert. "While that's easy to say, it's another thing to do. We've put on dance recitals for more than 20 years, so we've done productions before. Not everyone has that experience, so we tried on the hat and the hat fit."

Churchwell said his son's love for the music industry was one of the driving forces for him to gamble on producing the performance, which will give him a first-hand look at the music world — from tour bus to the stage.

See **PILLAR**, Page 3A



Tommy Churchwell

## Woman charged in hit and run death of pedestrian

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

A Big Spring woman has been arrested and charged with failure to stop and render aid in connection with the Tuesday evening hit and run death of a pedestrian.

Daniel Guzman, 41, of Big Spring was pronounced dead by Justice of the Peace Kathryn Wiseman at the scene of the accident, which took place in the 500 block of North Gregg Street at approximately 11:03 p.m. Tuesday.

Sgt. Tony Everett, public information officer with the Big Spring Police Department,

said statements given by witnesses and a report of a stolen vehicle led officers to 36-year-old Ishell Ward of Big Spring, who was arrested on a charge of failure to stop and render aid.

"A lot of times, when there is a hit and run accident, the driver of the vehicle will dump the vehicle off somewhere and then call it in as stolen," said Everett. "That way they can say they weren't driving it when the accident occurred. We believe that's what happened here."

Everett said Ward was driving a 1998 brown Chevrolet sedan at the time of the

accident.

Ward is currently being held by the Big Spring Police Department with bond set at \$15,000. If found guilty, she could face between one year in county jail and five years in a Texas Department of Criminal Justice prison, with a fine not to exceed \$5,000.

Funeral services for Guzman are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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

## VFW post sponsoring Voice of Democracy contest

By BILL MCCLELLAN

News Editor

For 50 or more years, the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2013 in Big Spring has been encouraging students to speak about freedom and independence.

Many young men and women will have that opportunity again this year through the VFW's Voice of Democracy scholarship program. Junior high-age students are also encouraged to participate through the Patriot's Pen program.



WELCH

"We've presented the program to area schools, left applications and asked them to participate," explained Leo Welch, VFW member.

The local post has invited junior high and high school students in Big Spring, Coahoma, Forsan, Garden City and Ackerly to participate this year.

"We're also inviting home-schooled students to be a part of this," noted Welch.

The Voice of Democracy com-

petition provides ninth through 12th grade students the opportunity to write and record a broadcast script on "Celebrating our Veterans' Service." The three- to five-minute tapes on CD or cassette, must be entered by Nov. 1.

KBST radio will make a studio available to students who want to enter the contest, said Welch.

Local prizes will be savings bonds of \$200 for first place, \$100 for second place and \$75 for third place. In addition, the first place winner will be eligible for further competition. Prizes and scholarships are awarded at the

local, district, state and national levels.

Patriot's Pen contestants are students in junior high motivated to write an essay on "What Service to Our Country Means to Me." These essays are 300 to 400 words in length. Local winners receive savings bonds in the amount of \$100 for first, \$75 for second and \$50 for third place. As in the Voice of Democracy program, Patriot's Pen winners advance in the competition.

Also this year, the VFW is

See **VFW**, Page 2A

S E P 1 6 2 0 0 4

## Obituaries

### Roddy Max Pitts

Roddy Max Pitts, 70, of Spring Branch died Tuesday, Sept. 14, 2004, in a San Antonio hospital. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, Sept. 17, 2004, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

He was born June 22, 1934, in Wylie. He was a graduate of Big Spring High School with the class of 1951, and later was a graduate of Howard College.

He and his lovely bride, Betty Frances Myers, were wed May 14, 1953. They were longtime members of Wesley United Methodist Church in Big Spring.

Max is survived by his loving wife, Betty Pitts and "Top Dog" Mindilou Pitts, of Spring Branch. Other survivors include one daughter, Debbie Newmann and husband, Bobby, of Brazoria; two sons, Richard Pitts of Beaumont and Mark Pitts and wife, Pamela, of Denham Springs, La.; five grandchildren, Christopher, Ricky, Renee, RaeAnn and Erin; and two great grandchildren, Jaden and Teagen.

Max, as his colleagues and friends called him, was a devoted husband, loving father, groovy granddad and trusted friend.

Max was the city manager of several cities across Texas including Goldthwaite, Oyster Creek, Rockdale, West Columbia and was assistant city manager of Clute.

Max, Betty and Mindilou retired to the Spring Branch/San Antonio area.

Arrangements under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring. Online condolences can be made at [www.npwelch.com](http://www.npwelch.com).

*Paid obituary*

### Norvelle Hoggard

Norvelle Hoggard, 88, died Tuesday, Sept. 14, 2004, at her daughter's residence in Mesa, Ariz. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

### Daniel Guzman

Daniel Guzman, 41, of Big Spring died at 11:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 14, 2004, from injuries in a car-pedestrian accident. Services are pending at Myers and Smith Funeral Home.

### The Rev. John Henry Ashford

The Rev. John Henry Ashford, 68, of Big Spring died at 3:06 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 15, 2004, at Brownfield Hospital in Brownfield. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

## From Page One

### VFW

Continued from Page 1A

offering an opportunity for children ages 16 to 18 of U.S. military veterans, active duty, reserves and National Guard to vie for a Veterans Tribute Scholarship. First place is \$10,000, second is \$5,000 and third is \$3,000. Awards are given based on a point system which includes personal academic achievement, family VFW involvement and parents' military service.

The scholarship is a national program. Those who wish to enter can download an application at [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org). The Web site will provide an entry address and more information.

### IVAN

Continued from Page 1A

winds shifted.

"The good lord was looking out for us," Driver said.

The storm weakened as it moved inland, but remained a Category 1 hurricane with winds of 80 mph more than four hours after landfall.

Ivan knocked out power to hundreds of thousands of people, toppled trees, ripped off roofs and sent street signs hurtling through the night. In the beach resort town of Gulf Shores, where the storm's eye blew ashore, the sky had a bright green glow as electrical transformers blew.

"We have never seen a hurricane of this size come into Alabama," said Gov. Bob Riley, who earlier asked President Bush to declare much of the state a disaster area, a request that was granted.

Two people were killed and more than 200 homes were damaged when at least five tornadoes roared through Florida's Bay County. Five people were killed when another tornado struck homes in Blountstown, Fla., and an 8-year-old girl died after being crushed by a tree that fell onto her mobile home in Milton, Fla. Her parents were unharmed.

"You want to see the natural hand of God firsthand but you don't realize how strong it is," said Kevin Harless, 32, who was sightseeing in Panama City Beach, Fla., around the time of the tornadoes.

## Police blotter

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

- **JASON ULYSSES MATHEWS**, 23, of 610 E. 17th Street, was arrested Wednesday on local traffic warrants.
- **ANGELA CELESTE DUGGER**, 26, of 3906 Old Gail Highway, was arrested Wednesday and held for the HCSO.
- **HAMMOND DION PALMER**, 43, transient, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.
- **RICHARD MALCOLM ORFIELD**, 65, transient, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of public intoxication.
- **RALPH RODRIGUEZ**, 40, of 407 Bell, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
- **CHRISTOPHER WERN HAMBY**, 27, of 13 Village Road, was arrested Thursday on charges of public intoxication, resisting arrest, search or transportation and possession of a controlled substance.
- **THEFT** was reported:
  - in the 900 block of Willia.
  - in the 2300 block of Wasson
  - in the 200 block of FM 700.
  - in the 1700 block of FM 700.
- **BURGLARY OF A HABITATION WITH INTENT COMMIT OTHER FELONY** was reported in the 3200 block of Cornell.
- **POSSESSION OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE** was reported in the 400 block of Fourth Street.
- **RESISTING ARREST, SEARCH OR TRANSPORTATION** was reported in the 100 block of Third Street.
- **ASSAULT WITH INTENT TO CAUSE BODILY INJURY** was reported in the 400 block of Gregg Street.
- **BURGLARY OF A HABITATION** was reported in the 700 block of 14th Street.
- **BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE** was reported:
  - in the 400 block of Fourth Street.
  - in the 400 block of Birdwell Lane

## Sheriff's report

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

- **RYAN WAYNE O'HARA**, 19, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for forgery of a financial instrument.
- **YESENIA GARZA PENA**, 22, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license suspended.
- **MICHAEL ROBLEDO**, 35, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a charge of issuance of a bad check.
- **LORETTA RAE BRYMER**, 25, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for sale of alcoholic beverage to a minor and a charge of issuance of a bad check.
- **DAVID LYNN DOW**, 21, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of unlawfully carrying a weapon.
- **ISABEL GONZALEZ LOMAS**, 48, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a charge of violation of parole.
- **DARRIN LEE WEBB**, 34, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of violation of a protective order - enhanced.
- **DIEGO GARDEA**, 31, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a charge of bondsman off of bond for driving while intoxicated.
- **ORLANDO SANCHEZ JR.**, 20, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for two counts of burglary of a building.
- **STEVEN ANTHONY RODRIGUEZ**, 32, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of issuance of a bad check and criminal mischief.
- **JOE DEWAYNE WOODRUFF**, 33, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of public intoxication.
- **RUPERT ARUNDEL BROWN III**, 26, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of possession of marijuana - 2 ounces or less.
- **ANGELA CELESTE DUGGER**, 26, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of hindering the apprehension/prosecution of a known felon.
- **MATTHEW JAMES MELTON**, 21, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on charges of possession of drug paraphernalia, violation of a promise to appear and a motion to revoke probation for burglary of a building.
- **RAUL OJINAGA REYES**, 48, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on charges of evading arrest or detention with a vehicle, disregarding a stop sign and running a red light.
- **RANDY ALAN CYPERT**, 26, was arrested Thursday by DPS on a motion to revoke probation for driving while license suspended/invalid.
- **JOHNNY RAY PAYNE JR.**, 25, was arrested Thursday by DPS on a charge of theft by check.
- **CHASE IN PROGRESS** was reported on Gregg Street, northbound to Highway 87.

## Bulletin board

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

**TODAY**

- Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane. Call 267-6479.
- Citizen's Police Academy Alumni Association meets at 5:30 p.m. in the RSVP office at 501 Rannels.
- American Legion Post 506 meets at 6 p.m. Call 263-2084 for more information.
- Rackley-Swords 379, Vietnam Veterans of America meets at 7 p.m. in the Sparenburg Building, 309 S. Main St.
- Masonic Lodge 1340 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 2101 Lancaster.

**FRIDAY**

- AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant.
- Greater Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- Coahoma Band Boosters first Tailgate Party at 6 p.m. in Bulldog Stadium. For \$5, purchase a barbecue sandwich, chips, drink and a cookie. All proceeds will go to support the Coahoma Band programs. If you have any questions, call Dale Pittman at 267-9555 or 816-6975.
- Spring City Senior Citizen's Center country and western dance from 7:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. All area seniors are invited.

**SATURDAY**

- Alzheimer's Memory Walk begins at 9 a.m., with registration at 8:30 a.m. in the Old Settler's Pavilion at Comanche Trail Park.
- American Legion Post 506 fish fry from noon until 3 p.m. \$7 per plate. 3203 W. Highway 80. Take our available. Call 263-2084.
- 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.
- Big Spring Shrine Club meets at 6:30 p.m. at Goliad and First streets for a meal with a meeting to follow.
- Eagles Lodge Dance at 8:30 p.m. at 703 W. Third.
- Big Spring Squares. Call 267-7043 or 263-6305 for more information.

**MONDAY**

- The Big Spring-Howard County Retired Teacher's Association meets in the Cactus Room at Howard College, 1001 Birdwell Lane. Lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m.
- 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.

## Weather

Tonight - Mainly clear skies. Low 68. Winds ESE at 5 to 10 mph.

Friday: Mainly sunny. Hot. High around 95. Winds SE at 5 to 10 mph.

Tomorrow night - Clear skies. Low 69. Winds SE at 5 to 10 mph.

Friday - Abundant sunshine. Highs in the mid 90s and lows in the mid 60s.

Sunday - Abundant sunshine. Highs in the low 90s and lows in the upper 60s.

Monday - Mix of sun and clouds. Highs in the low 90s and lows in the upper 60s.

## Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 6-10-12-22-24. Number matching five of five: 0. Next Cash 5 drawing: Thursday night.

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 7-11-15-17-35. Bonus Ball: 33. Number matching five of five, plus Bonus Ball: 0. Estimated jackpot for Saturday night drawing: \$6 million.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 3-6-2

**Texas Business Conference**

September 24, 2004  
8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Sponsored by the  
**Texas Workforce Commission**

This daylong seminar on employment law is for employers, managers and accountants.

**Urban Legends of Employment Law and the Basics of Hiring**

**Employee Policy Handbooks: Creating a Human Resources Roadmap**

**Employee Privacy Rights**

**The New Wage and Hour Regulations**

**Medical Issues for Employers**

**The Good, Bad and Ugly of Unemployment Claims**

**What to Expect in an Unemployment Hearing**

The full-day seminar is \$85 and includes a continental breakfast. Continuing Professional Education (6 hrs.) is available for CPAs.

Dora Roberts Community Center - Free Parking  
100 Whipkey Dr.  
Big Spring, Texas 79720

For more information, call (512) 463-6389 or visit [www.texasworkforce.org](http://www.texasworkforce.org)

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(Fax) 432-264-7205

Susanne Reed John A. Moseley Angie Worley Tony Hernandez Dianne Marquez	Publisher/Advertising Manager.....Ext. 250 Managing Editor.....Ext. 230 Circulation Manager.....Ext. 240 Production Manager.....Ext. 256 Business Office Manager.....Ext. 255
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BY THE MONTH HOME DELIVERY: Evenings and Sunday, \$8.65 monthly; \$93.42 yearly (includes 10% discount for yearly).

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

Eat at

**RED MESA GRILL**

See you there Friday, September 17  
Get a great meal & help others in your community!

Lunch Dinner

263-2205  
2401 Gregg St.

Dine Out Day United Way

## FINANCE

Continued from Page 1

appeal directly to the Supreme Court.

Republican Gov. called the ruling in the legal proceeding "ongoing."

## NO SURPRISE

Continued from Page 1

The \$30 billion public school fund was ruled unconstitutional by District Judge Jol who issued his ruling after more than 30 districts argued for six weeks that students from poorer districts had "lost the opportunity to escape poverty."

"This is a good toward improving finance," said Downes, Big Independent

## PILLAR

Continued from Page 1

"Our son Tan musician," the Churchwell. "The he wants to do for of his life. So we way to educate the ways of the business than to produce a concept."

"He's been in negotiations a seen the contract how lengthy the what sort of den involved. And he a little bit of about whether people are going to the show. So it's ing process that expensive and i ble."

Pillar's hit "Bring Me Down" ues to climb the several differer as the new album Do We Go For continues over," very s what hard r P.O.D. experien al years ago.

Pillar front-i Beckley said album chroni adversities the faced over the p al years.

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Divine il came in the fo minute phon Pillar's tour n "About thr

**FINANCE**

Continued from Page 1A

appeal directly to the Texas Supreme Court.

Republican Gov. Rick Perry called the ruling "the first step in the legal process that is ongoing."

"As I have said all along, a legislative solution is preferable to a judicial mandate, and I will continue to work with the legislators to find common ground on property taxes and school finance regardless of how the courts ultimately rule," Perry said.

The suing districts, both wealthy and poor, argued that

the state depends too heavily on local property taxes and should share more of the financial burden of public education. Nearly two-thirds of the state's education budget comes from property taxes and the districts argued that many school districts are taxing property at the legal limit and have no discretion as to how to spend the

money, Dietz agreed.

The decade-old system is known as Robin Hood because property tax revenue from wealthy districts is redistributed to poorer districts. Wealthy and poor districts contend that the state should appropriate more money to Texas' 1,037 school districts.

The system passed the

Legislature in 1993 only after the state Supreme Court ordered lawmakers to devise a plan guaranteeing poor school districts equal access to funds.

Republican House Speaker Tom Craddick said that the court decision would once again guide the Legislature in crafting school finance legislation.

**NO SURPRISE**

Continued from Page 1A

The \$30 billion Texas public school funding system was ruled to be unconstitutional by State District Judge John Dietz, who issued his finding after more than 300 school districts argued in court for six weeks that students from poorer schools had "lost the opportunity to escape poverty."

"This is a good first step toward improving school finance," said Michael Downes, Big Spring Independent School



DOWNES

District superintendent. "However, we are a long way from finding a solution. The state will appeal this decision, so it will be a long process. The state is not doing away with funding; they are trying to adjust the way funding is distributed to make it more equitable for each district."

Randy Johnson, superintendent of Forsan ISD, said "It is too early to tell what affect this will have



JOHNSON

on our district. It will depend on what the state does to replace the current system. The best solution would be more money for the system.

"One way or another,

the state will take money from one district and give it to another," said Johnson. "Most of the schools in litigation with the state are fast-growing schools in East Texas. We hope to have a voice here in West Texas. We will keep a close eye on Austin in the next year. we won't sit passively



KINGSTON

by." "We all knew there were insufficient funds in the system. We expected this to occur, and we're a long way from a solution. This is a good first step in an equitable

solution" said Dr. Bill Kingston, Coahoma ISD superintendent. "We hope that the legislature will listen to those who are knowledgeable in school finance, so they can make an educated decision. When they make changes to one aspect of funding, unexpected changes can occur in other aspects."

**PILLAR**

Continued from Page 1A

"Our son Tanner is a musician," explained Churchwell. "That's what he wants to do for the rest of his life. So what better way to educate him on the ways of the music business than to actually produce a concert."

"He's been in on the negotiations and he's seen the contracts and how lengthy they are and what sort of demands are involved. And he's feeling a little bit of the heat about whether or not people are going to come to the show. So it's a learning process that's quite expensive and it's a gamble."

Pillar's hit single "Bring Me Down" continues to climb the charts in several different genres, as the new album "Where Do We Go From Here" continues "crossing over," very similar to what hard rock icon P.O.D. experienced several years ago.

Pillar front-man Rob Beckley said the new album chronicles the adversities the band has faced over the past several years.

"The album's theme deals with being pulled at from different directions, and the people who always tell you who to be and what to do," said Beckley. "This record is a direct reflection of all the challenges we face. It affected me. It affected all of us."

"We had these frustrated moments, but we explain our frustration in a way that will hopefully make people think," said Pillar bassist Kalel. "Everybody deals with issues from being put down to being told they can't do something. I want this album to be a motivator that helps people accomplish something they've been told they can't do."

While having Pillar — along with musical guests subseven, Falling Up and Project 86 — begin their U.S. tour in Big Spring is quite an accomplishment, Churchwell said it wasn't an easy thing to make happen.

With the tour originally planned to open in Lubbock, Churchwell faced a series of defeats in the beginning.

"We told ourselves that if it's meant to be, it will happen," said Churchwell. "It just wasn't meant to be at that time. We figured we were just going to have to wait until next year because the tour was full at that point."

Divine intervention came in the form of a last minute phone call from Pillar's tour manager.

"About three of four

days later he called me back and told me Lubbock had canceled their tour date," he said. "He asked me if we wanted them on Sept. 20, and we told him you bet. The door opened and things have just steadily opened along the way. Things just seem to have worked out for us. Being told no several times and then finally getting the door open just says it's meant to be."

Churchwell said area rock and hard rock fans shouldn't let the Christian rock label fool them — Monday's concert is going to be a full blown rock concert.

"All of these bands are Christian rock bands that play various styles of rock," said Churchwell. "It's going to be like any other rock concert you've ever been to. It's going to be loud and really good. These bands are really top notch. Right now Pillar is on MTV2 and Fuse and they have a new hit out right now that's moving up the charts."

"This concert will tell us a lot of different things. It will tell us whether or not Big Spring will support these type of activities. Pillar and the tour is huge. They're going to be all over the nation. The band is crossing over into mainstream, a lot like P.O.D. did several years ago. That doesn't mean their music is going to change — it's still very positive and there aren't any bad words. It's that driving rock that we all want to hear and we like. It's the new stuff."

Concert tickets can be purchased in advance at Parks Convenience Store or the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce for \$12, or at the Municipal Auditorium on the day of the concert for \$15. Gates will open at the auditorium at 6 p.m., with the show set to begin at 7 p.m.

**MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL**

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Daniel Guzman, 41, died Tuesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Rev. John Henry Ashford, 68, died Wednesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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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

Memory Walk 2004 will boost the fight against Alzheimer's

One of the saddest encounters we face is watching helplessly as someone who was once bright and cheerful becomes forgetful and withdrawn. Alzheimer's is a disease that destroys the brain but leaves the body intact. The disorder occurs gradually and results in memory loss, behavior and personality changes and diminished reasoning abilities.

There are many forms of Alzheimer's; none are pleasant.

That's why it is important for us to support research into how to fight the disease, as well as provide education for caregivers. One way to do that is to support the Memory Walk, planned Saturday at Comanche Trail Park.

Registration for the walk begins at 8:30 a.m. at the Old Settler's Pavilion in Comanche Trail Park. The walk gets under way at 9 a.m. Organizers say that they will accept teams right up through registration. So if you haven't already planned to participate, it's not too late to do so.

New this year will be a "Pet Walk," where four-footed friends such as dogs, horses — even turtles — are accepted. It's all in good fun, of course, and for a great cause.

However, it's not necessary to be part of a team, have a pet or even to walk to be part of the effort. To find out more about what you can do, contact Nancy Alkire at 517-0630 or 263-4422.

There are currently more than 21,000 West Texans and 4.5 million Americans with Alzheimer's disease.

We need to stop this terrible disease. We can begin in Howard County by joining in the Memory Walk.

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

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we pray for others to open their hearts and minds to your guidance and love, Lord.

Amen

A nonpartisan democrat?

Oh for heaven's sake, doesn't anyone know how to research a story anymore? I have never seen anything as silly as this ridiculous Republican chorus that, aha!, Ben Barnes is a Democrat and so we know he's lying!

The question is not whether Ben Barnes is a Democrat. Ben Barnes has never claimed to be nonpartisan or not to have any affiliation with the Kerry campaign. Of course he does. He's been a major Democratic player for years. The question is whether Ben Barnes is telling the truth about how he got George W. Bush in the Texas Air National Guard.

The ridiculous little blowhard Sean Hannity crowed on Fox "News" that "Ben Barnes testified under oath in 1999 that no member of the Bush family ever contacted him about getting into the Air National Guard." How true. Nor has he changed his story one whit. Barnes testified in 1999 that the man who called him about little George Bush was Sid Adger, Poppy George Bush's dear and good friend. Let's ask Poppy about Sid Adger and see some of that "famous Bush loyalty."

And how would Adger know whom to call? Adger had two sons in that very unit of the Air National Guard, that's how he knew whom to call. The notorious "Champagne Unit" of the Guard was also graced by the son of former Gov. John Connally, both sons — Sen. Lloyd Bentsen, Bobby Sakowitz (Houston department store money), the grandson of H.L. Hunt (Dallas Oil) and several players for the Dallas Cowboys football team. Anyone who thinks that is just a coincidence or some kind of freaking accident probably thinks

Sean Hannity is a journalist.

I listened to Dick Armey chuckle about how "everybody in Texas knows Ben Barnes is a partisan Democrat," as though that were enough to discredit him. Is it possible to be a nonpartisan Democrat? I'll tell you something else damn near everybody in the Texas political world has known for years, and that is that during the Vietnam War Ben Barnes was the guy you went to if you wanted to keep your kid out of Vietnam. All you had to do (if you were a player) was call him, and he'd call Gen. Rose at the Guard. Our late Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock told me that at least 30 years ago: It was almost common knowledge in Austin. Barnes never talked about it because he was ashamed of it. I admire him for coming out with it and for taking the heat for it now — he knew this would be no picnic.

I didn't write about Barnes' actions until 1999 because I couldn't get evidence. Then the 1999 lawsuit — at which Ben Barnes testified and said exactly what he is saying now — finally forced it out.

Recall that Texas was then, as now, a conservative one-party state. I was with the anti-Lyndon Johnson, pro-Ralph Yarborough (a progressive state senator) faction, and Barnes was the darling of the establishment wing. One of those television fools asked indignantly why Barnes would do a favor for a Republican congressman like Bush. Well, Sid Adger asked him to.

Listen, my children, and you shall hear: There was then no nasty partisan politics in Texas except inside the Democratic Party. The Republicans were upper-class establishment types, and the tradition of Texas Republicans and Texas Democrats working and playing well together continued, actually, until the Republicans took over, when it ended with a bang.

If you doubt me, ask George W. Bush about Bob Bullock and Pete Laney, the lieutenant governor and speaker when he was governor. As Bullock himself used to say, "It's all done on friendship." Republicans like Ken Lay regularly contributed to Democratic officeholders in order to have influence with them.

I've spent my life fighting against those cozy relationships, where power and favors are traded among insiders and regular people get screwed. Barnes used to stand for everything I disliked about politics. He and John Connally (by then a Republican) were partners in the real estate business and went broke back in '80s, along with a lot of other people. Barnes is still playing the Texas power game, but he's backed a lot of people for public office who aren't going to help his business any, which I consider the test of an honest player. Dick Armey's contemptuous dismissal of Barnes leads me to wonder how he would describe what "everybody in Texas" knows about the way Tom DeLay practices politics.

The only reason any of this is relevant today is because it speaks directly to the character of the man in the White House. For Bush to still stand there and deny that he got no special breaks, to deny that some other American kid went to Vietnam in his stead, is so telling of his moral blindness, of his deliberate obtuseness about the way the world of power and privilege screws over most people. If only he had the grace to say, as Barnes did, that he is ashamed of what happened, I'd have some respect for him.

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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MOLLY IVINS

ADDRESSES

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

• **JOHN CORNYN**  
U.S. Senator  
Washington, DC 20510  
4305  
Phone: 202-224-2934

• **RANDY NEUGEBAUER**  
U.S. Representative (19th Cong. District)  
1510 Scurry  
Big Spring  
Phone: (432) 264-0722

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

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

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

• **KEL SELIGER**

State Senator  
401 Austin, suite 101  
Big Spring, 79720  
(432) 268-9909

HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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• **BEN LOCKHART**, COUNTY JUDGE  
— Home: 263-4155; Office: 264-2202.  
• **EMMA BROWN** — Home: 267-2649.

Inside report: Kerry's Nader trap

The Democratic Party's powerful legal corps, mobilized for action in Florida ever since the 2000 recount,

struck with fury in a Tallahassee courtroom last week. Helped by a cooperative judge, the Democratic lawyers scored a temporary victory. The adversary was not the Republican Party but Ralph Nader, the lawyers getting his independent presidential candidacy off the ballot for now. That is part of a larger struggle with unintended negative consequences for John Kerry's campaign.

Florida is just the latest skirmish. Hundreds of Democratic lawyers, organized to enter the courts against George W. Bush on Election Day, now are busy derailing Nader ballot access everywhere they can. The mighty General Motors Corp. unleashed a fierce personal attack on Nader when he was a crusading young consumer lawyer, and GM ended up losing the public relations war. Nader sees Democrats making the same mistake.

Whether or not Nader's prediction proves accurate, a more concrete problem faces Democrats. The party's limitation of Nader's ballot access has been most successful in non-battleground states. That keeps the independent candidate away from states where either President Bush or Sen. Kerry will win easily. Nader then is forced to concentrate on closely contested states where he could take away enough votes from Kerry to carry them for Bush, conceivably giving him a second term.

The Democrats have been able to keep Nader out of these states: Arizona, California, Illinois, Mississippi, New Jersey, South Carolina, Texas and Virginia (with only Arizona in the battleground category). Since Nader is not running to be elected but to preach a left-wing gospel that he feels Kerry neglects, he would have campaigned in all these states were he permitted on their ballots. Until thrown off in Texas, Nader planned heavy campaigning against the president in his own state. His campaign was going to open an office in Crawford, Bush's hometown.

It is not that Democratic lawyers have ignored closely contested states, witness what happened last week in battleground Florida. The Nader campaign was taken by surprise in Tallahassee, without a lawyer to face 10 Democratic attorneys and a judge willing to accept all their arguments. Nevertheless, the odds are that Nader's name will end up on the Florida ballot.

Despite Democratic obstruction, Nader definitely will be drawing votes from Kerry in these contested states: Arkansas, Colorado, Iowa, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Hampshire and West Virginia. Besides Florida, Nader expects also to get on the ballot in the battleground states of New Mexico, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin.

In addition to forcing Nader to concentrate on contested states, the Democratic Party's ballot attack permits criticism of the party's undemocratic methods liable to have resonance with left-of-center voters. "By pushing the Jim Crow methods of denying our ballot access," Nader told me, "they are violating the sense of

fair play by the American people. They are saying we are too poor and too small to be allowed on the ballot."

Why, then, would the Democratic Party deploy its legal brigade to keep Nader off the ballot everywhere? Because animosity toward Nader by Democratic activists is so intense that it approaches the anti-Bush hysteria. His lifetime of left-wing advocacy is forgotten, as Democratic loyalists can only remember the votes they claim he took away from Gore in 2000.

When Nader and Kerry met during the summer, Nader said, the senator boasted about how many lawyers were ready to plead the Democratic cause — not indicating that they would be directed against the old consumer advocate. Some seven weeks ago, Nader said he met with Democratic National Chairman Terry McAuliffe. According to Nader's account, McAuliffe said he had no command authority over the lawyers. When Nader said they were "out of control," the party chairman told him: "I'll look into it."

Over the past two months, McAuliffe has not gotten back to Nader or returned his telephone calls. Nor did he return my call.

The Democrats are the party of trial lawyers, and their skill and tenacity exerted against Ralph Nader is in character. John Kerry and Terry McAuliffe might well ponder whether their anti-Nader crusade is a blessing for their real nemesis, George W. Bush.

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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ROBERT NOVAK

Bo

After many of disabled Shane Sc scheduled to return work for the Los Police

Department. His wife, Alexa, has been on the job during this time, and has advanced to a position managing one of the police divisions.

Days before he is scheduled to be, Shane meets with one of the under characters he has on the streets. Shane hears N

Finalist

Special to the I Austin - Six of educators from out Texas h selected as fir the esteeme Teacher of award, Commi Education S Neeley has ann

Among the si three of the teach element and three teach high school.

These awar teachers wer from 40 regio tary or regi ondary teach year in their education serv area.

These educ now advance phase of judg October when Elementary the Year and Secondary Tex Year will be se these six final

In addition, two educator selected as

BY JOYCE B

The moon emphasizes re while several ences overb sure that we' analyzed insignificant

Microscopic a the best thing for m a k i n g love work, but since we really can't help but go there, at least use the astral energy to extract some clusions.

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Spring native  
Hearing aids, I  
CALL FOR APP  
Dora Rob  
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Center  
306 W. 3rd St

## Book Review

After many months of disability leave, Shane Scully is scheduled to return to work for the Los Angeles Police Department.

His wife, Alexa, has been on the job during this time, and has advanced to a position managing one of the police divisions.

Days before he is scheduled to begin, Shane meets with Nick, one of the underworld characters he has known on the streets.

Shane hears Nick's tale

of trying to make movies and his search for a specific young girl he feels would be perfect to star in his film.

With a jaundiced eye, but also a bit of curiosity, Shane searches for the young woman.

What he finds is not a beautiful film star, but a worn-out, fearful prostitute and drug addict.

Within days she is found dead, and Shane realizes Nick's tale is only a shadow of the deception and evil occurring in the film-making industry.

With the information he has gleaned from Nick, Shane sets up a ploy by which he will become a source of money for making a movie, and as a result, be

able to investigate the corrupt negotiations and business practices of the unions that are part of the Hollywood scene.

Shane convinces a reluctant Alexa to play a part in his charade, but during this operation, Shane's adopted son "Chooch" tries to rescue his girlfriend who had been kidnapped by L.A. gang members.

Knowing there is a drug war developing between the established black gangs and the Hispanic group, Shane is afraid Chooch's life will be in danger if they play him as a pawn in the war.

And if these pressures aren't enough, Alexa's best friend Nora finally seems to have found love

with Farrell Champion, a grandiose film producer.

At a party, Shane accidentally overhears Farrell make an offhand comment about the murder of his previous two wives.

Shane instinctively becomes concerned, and despite Alexa's plea for him to leave things alone, Shane investigates Farrell's background.

The results are even worse than Shane thought they might be — Farrell had poisoned his wives and was also an active participant in major illegal operations.

In order to gain the information he possessed, Farrell was not prosecuted for the murders; instead, he was given a place in the witness pro-

tection program as the flashy Hollywood figure.

The urgency of the situation wears on Shane as he tries to work his scam in time to save the thousands of dollars of police money he has used, as well as save the lives of those for whom he feels responsible.

Fast-paced decisions, corruption, tight negotiations and huge egos are topics that years of being as a television writer and producer have taught Stephen Cannell.

Using his vast experience and his gift for writing, he has created an elaborate plot which includes several elements of action which interact with each other, producing both mystery and suspense.

If the reader is a bit cynical, "Hollywood Tough" will confirm, whatever negative beliefs abound regarding Los Angeles and the film industry.

Shane Scully already has a fourth role in Cannell's latest book, "Vertical Coffin."

The best news for readers is that the author, continues to build on a successful formula to provide great entertainment.

"Hollywood Tough" by Stephen J. Cannell. St. Martin's Paperbacks, New York, New York, 2004.

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



PAT WILLIAMS

## Finalists selected for statewide Teacher of the Year

### Special to the Herald

Austin - Six outstanding educators from throughout Texas have been selected as finalists for the esteemed Texas Teacher of the Year award, Commissioner of Education Shirley J. Neeley has announced.

Among the six finalists, three of the educators teach elementary school and three teach middle or high school.

These award-winning teachers were chosen from 40 regional elementary or regional secondary teachers of the year in their respective education service center area.

These educators will now advance to the final phase of judging in early October when the Texas Elementary Teacher of the Year and the Texas Secondary Teacher of the Year will be selected from these six finalists.

In addition, one of those two educators will be selected as the Texas

nominee for the prestigious National Teacher of the Year honors, which will be announced by the Council of Chief State School Officers next April.

The three Texas Elementary School Teacher of the Year finalists are:

• Brian Gedelian, fifth grade teacher from Huntsville ISD.

• Linda Kennedy, fifth grade teacher from White Oak ISD.

• Gloria Voutos, third grade teacher from Richardson ISD.

The three Texas Secondary Teacher of the Year finalists are:

• Sheryl Lynn Lindemann, all level AP teacher from Wichita Falls ISD.

• Vicki Rowe, English teacher from Taylor ISD.

• Juliet Sheffield, sixth grade teacher from Dickinson ISD.

"I commend these six finalists for the Texas Teacher of the Year

award," Neeley said. "This is a very prestigious award and it is a great honor to be selected as finalists for this year's award. We have many outstanding teachers in our schools today and these finalists are representative of the dedicated and talented teachers who ensure that our students get the highest quality education possible."

The six finalists were chosen by a panel of judges that included representatives from the Association of Texas Professional Educators, the Texas Federation of Teachers, the Texas Classroom Teachers Association and the Texas state Teachers Association. The teachers were chosen based on their answers to a series of essay questions on topics such as their philosophy of teaching, education issues and trends, their personal teaching style and the message they would communicate

if chosen as a Texas Teacher of the Year.

The Texas Teacher of the Year Program is sponsored by the Texas Education Agency, with major financial support from the SBC Foundation, H-E-B, Dell, Inc., the Texas A&M University System, Texas Tech University, SMARTer Kids Foundation, Southern Security Life college Fund and the state's major education associations.

The six finalists, along with the other 34 Regional Teachers of the Year, will be honored at a luncheon on Oct. 30 at the Marriott at the Capitol in Austin.

Each Regional Teacher of the Year will receive a \$500 cash prize as well as an award commemorating their achievement. From among the six finalists, the two educators chosen as Texas Teacher of the Year will receive \$5,000 in cash prizes and a \$15,000 technology package.

## Tomorrow's Horoscope

### BY JOYCE JILLSON

The moon in Libra emphasizes relationships, while several Virgo influences overhead make sure that we've carefully analyzed the most insignificant minutiae. Microscopic analysis isn't the best thing for making love work, but since we really can't help but go there, at least use the astral energy to extract some positive conclusions.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You've been wanting to change the world, and now, you get your call to action. Even those who used to defy you may come over to your side, as there's the feeling today that those you thought were crazy may actually have a point.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Learn as much as you can from the world around you. Your creative potential is impressive, but you need to focus it clearly to get results. Tip: Avoid scattering your resources through aimless dabbling. Set clear goals.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You could find yourself in deep contemplation or heavy conversa-

tion focused on analyzing your life. Open your eyes to what's meaningful. Dreaming up solutions is the easy part, once you recognize what needs to be fixed.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Don't force yourself to get down to business — it's pointless. The mind has many ways of working things out, sometimes through play and sometimes through serious contemplation. Messing around may lead you to a shortcut.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You're capable of amazing feats, so don't stop what you're doing just because you come to a point when most people would stop. It's OK to stand out and be remarkable. Tonight, do everything in your power not to be late.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). When you feel like running around to look for solutions at every port, stand still, and think about the one thing you don't want to do. Chances are, that's the very thing that will set you free. Reaching out heals a broken heart.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).

There will be many people requesting the pleasure of your company. Make time for this. At the end of the day, it's the connection with others you'll remember, not the pile of paper you handled on your desk.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're in serious motion! Nobody can match your pace, least of all you! Keep especially good track of your personal property. You're vulnerable to boneheaded moves, like leaving your keys dangling in the lock.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Your persistence has paid off. Baby steps bring you to just the place you were aiming for. Unfortunately, it's hard for you to recognize that you're there because your mind is already set on another distant milestone.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). If people around you are unhappy, it's not necessarily bad news for you. It could be your chance to prove your loyalty and helpfulness. You may even save the day with a quick improvement strategy.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You don't have to travel a great distance to experience new worlds. They are just beyond your own front door. It's the people and cultures, not the latitude and longitude, that open new worlds for your exploring.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You'll be thinking about how you fit in and what you might do to become a more essential part of a particular group. In fact, you don't have to DO anything. Just have the attitude that you're all on the same team.

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

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[life@bigspringherald.com](mailto:life@bigspringherald.com)  
by noon Wednesday

## Annie's Mailbox®:

Dear Annie: Back in high school, I was given a nickname that I hated because it was a jab at my physical appearance. I was an awkward teen and didn't get my "good looks" until college.

Recently, I became acquainted with the wife of an old schoolmate. She said that when she mentioned my name to her husband, he referred to me by this old nickname. I know she meant no harm by repeating it, so I said nothing about how it hurt my feelings.

I will be attending my 10-year reunion next spring, and I am wondering what to say to those people who will call me by this nickname. I'd like to be polite but put them in their place. Ten years is ample time for someone to realize that such nicknames are immature. Any help? — I Have a Real Name

Dear Real Name: You realize, of course, that childhood nicknames tend to stick around for life — especially if you don't see these classmates often enough to alter their memories of you. If any of them use this nickname at the reunion, simply act surprised and say with a smile, "I'd forgotten how juvenile that nickname was. I don't respond to it anymore." Then don't.

Dear Annie: I work with someone who wears the

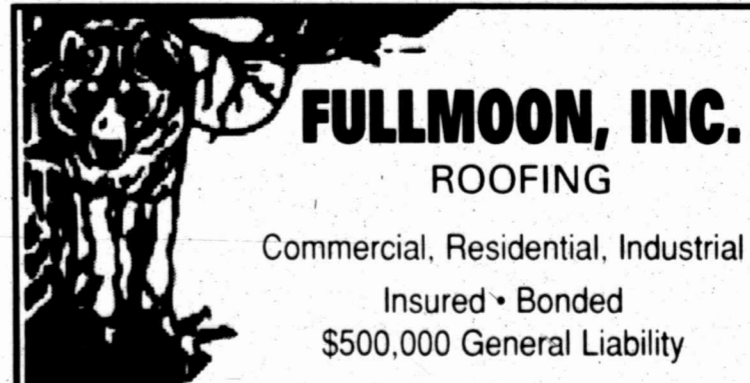


KATHY MITCHELL  
MARCY SUGAR

same shirt every day. Since I started counting, he has worn it 18 consecutive days, with no end in sight. Should I say something to him or just ignore it? — Hygienic Worker in Canada

Dear Worker: Is the shirt clean and in good condition? If so, say nothing. If it appears that the shirt hasn't been laundered in those 18 consecutive days, or if the cuffs are frayed and there are holes in the pocket, take him aside privately and ask if he'd like help shopping for clothes. Perhaps you can recommend a decent, inexpensive store where he can expand his wardrobe.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. © 2004 CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.



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# 2005 FIVE HUNDRED

## After 20 years, Ford bullish on replacement for Taurus

By JIM MATEJA  
Chicago Tribune

Time to pass the baton. In 1985 a pair of Taurus sedans appeared at the Chicago Auto Show, one with a grille and one without as Ford determined which front end consumers found most appealing.

Taurus sans grille was the favorite, went into production for the 1986 model year and became the best-selling car in the industry in 1992.

But after nearly 20 years, it's time for Taurus to make way for one of its eventual successors, the 2005 Ford Five Hundred. The premium, midsize sedan is 3 inches longer than Taurus and 12 inches shorter than a full-size Crown Victoria.

Taurus was introduced in Chicago; the Five Hundred will be assembled here.

Five Hundred will be joined by the Ford Fusion for '06, a smaller, lower-priced midsize sedan that will offer a gas/electric version in '07 or '08.

Once Five Hundred and Fusion are up and running, Taurus will become Ford's former midsize sedan. It stays for now so Five Hundred isn't perceived as merely a replacement for the long-in-the-tooth sedan, and so Ford can sell Taurus, not Five Hundred, to fleets at a discount.

Taurus and Five Hundred are front-wheel-drive, but Five Hundred also offers all-wheel-drive, one of its strong points.

Five Hundred can offer that because it's built off the same platform as the XC90 sport-utility vehicle from Volvo, which is owned by Ford.

Obviously, Ford offers AWD to attract people who fled cars in favor of sport-utes to get all-season security.

"That's part of the reason," admitted Jim Padilla, chief operating officer of Ford and chairman of its automotive operations, in an interview. "But AWD also is a game-changer and a draw to get people into your showroom. Chevy, Nissan, Honda and Toyota don't have it in their cars. Chrysler is getting it in the 300 sedan this fall, but it adds \$5,000 while we only charge \$1,700."

The Five Hundred, in keeping with Ford's new strategy to have all new Ford cars other than its icon Mustang start with the letter "F," is offered in SE, SEL and Limited versions.

We tested the '05 Five Hundred SEL with AWD. Because there was no snow to use as a prop, Ford set up a course at its Romeo Proving Grounds in Michigan this summer to show off the AWD. The course consisted of a series of 15- to 35-degree grade sand- and gravel-covered hills to drive halfway up, stop and then proceed to the summit.

The on-demand system operates in front-drive until wheel slippage is detected and torque is then transferred to the rear wheels and anti-lock brakes are applied to the slipping wheel or wheels.

The Five Hundred made it to the summit without spraying sand or gravel or digging deep ruts or

### 2005 Ford Five Hundred SEL AWD

Wheelbase: 112.9 inches

Length: 200.7 inches

Engine: 3-liter, 203-h.p. V-6

Transmission: Continuously variable

Fuel economy: 19 m.p.g. city/26 m.p.g. highway

Base price: \$24,145

Price as tested: \$28,480. Includes \$1,700 for all-wheel-drive; \$895 for power moonroof; \$895 for leather seats; \$250 for reverse-sensing system; \$595 for side-impact air bags and front- and rear-seat side air-bag curtains. Add \$650 for freight.

Pluses: New premium midsize sedan offering front- or all-wheel drive, even in the base model. Massive trunk room, and rear seat backs fold flat to provide even more cargo capacity. Limolike rear-seat leg, head and arm room.

Minuses: Does the 3-liter V-6 have sufficient muscle? And the turn indicator is oh so loud.

worse, sliding back downhill. So it holds promise for mastering snow. Just in case, traction control is standard.

Ford also set up a handling course: a series of pylons for left-right-left maneuvers. The AWD Five Hundred traveled the obstacle course without excessive body lean or riding on the sidewalls. Sure-footed handling without fighting the weight or the wheel.

But Five Hundred doesn't offer stability control, which would provide optimum control of lateral movement.

It does offer a choice of radials: 17-inch designed mostly for smooth ride or 18-inch for precise steering response and pinpoint handling. But the 18-inch radials are only offered as standard on the top-of-the-line Limited.

While it mastered steep hills and pylon obstacles, Five Hundred stirs debate with its 3-liter, 203-horsepower V-6, the only engine offered. Some argue it could use more muscle.

To counter criticism, Ford set up another course for drivers to accelerate and stay at 35 mph until reaching a pylon and burying the pedal for acceleration to 80 mph.

The test showed the 3-liter had the guts to reach passing speeds, though, of course, it had a 35-mph head start.

Padilla bristles over 3-liter critics.

"We've got a sedan that goes from zero to 60 mph in 8.5 seconds, which beats the Toyota Camry and Chrysler 300 (V-6) by at least one second and still gets 29 m.p.g. (highway) with front-drive, 26 m.p.g. with AWD," he

said. But what about the rumors that a larger, more potent 3.5-liter V-6 is in the works for '06 or soon after?

"I wouldn't rule out another engine, but we'll sell what we got," Padilla said.

While some will argue acceleration times, we couldn't fault braking ability. Several times we stood on the binders after reaching 60 mph and found the Five Hundred stopped confidently without lots of front-end dip and dive.

The Five Hundred offers two new transmissions, a 6-speed automatic in the front-drive SEL and Limited, CVT or continuously variable transmission in the AWD SEL or Limited, and a choice of either in the base SE with front- or all-wheel-drive.

The CVT offers an infinite number of gear ratios, choosing the proper one based on pedal pressure. It takes time to adjust to the fact you neither feel nor hear shift points with the CVT.

Five Hundred is as conservatively styled as Taurus was novel. It somewhat resembles a Chrysler 300 in profile, and stands out more on the inside than the outside.

Though midsize, it has room usually found in a full-size Ford Crown Victoria. Even with the driver's seat powered back to hold a 6-footer, rear-seat legroom is limolike. And the front seats are mounted on a side-to-side rail that moves fore and aft so there's no metal tracks on the floor to scuff the shoes of rear-seat occupants.

While the cabin holds five adults, the trunk



holds eight sets of golf clubs and both rear-seat backs fold flat if you need more cargo room.

Nice touches include cup/juice-box holders in each door; eyeglass holders in the ceiling; power plugs in the dash and center console; and a compartment with lid in the top of the dash.

One major gripe, however, The turn indicator is so loud your eardrums vibrate. That discourages using it, which already is a problem on the roads.

The Five Hundred starts at \$22,145 for the SE, \$24,145 for the SEL and

\$26,145 for the Limited.

Major standard equipment includes command seating, which puts the seats about 4 inches higher than in normal sedans for better down-the-road visibility; four-wheel ABS; power and folding mirrors; power windows, seats and door locks; remote keyless entry; AM/FM stereo radio with clock and CD/MP3 players; dual-zone climate control; and solar-tinted glass.

Options include AWD at \$1,700; power moonroof at \$895; leather seats at \$895; reverse sensing that

beeps when it detects objects behind when backing up at \$250; side-impact air bags plus front and rear side curtains at \$595; and power gas/brake pedals (Limited only) that motor to short drivers at \$175.

Five Hundred is targeted for about 120,000 sales a year. It's a fair- or foul-weather vehicle that provides AWD security like sport-utes, but sedanlike ride, handling and mileage at a decent price.

Five Hundred may prove to be car of the year in what Ford has dubbed the year of the car.

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# G

## First return travel

By TROY HY Sports Editor  
A very en victory last put as Friday wh the Steers the road aga this time f ing Class Lubbock H (1-2).

The Ste got their fi win of the s son last Fric when s th d e f e a t Hereford, 14, in ov time. A traveling t year has g fairly w too. The Ste led - Ode High at three quart at R: Stadium in before falli team's onl resulted in Odessa Per Lubbock ture a big o talented qu a speedy Friday. The eral athlet defense at overall tea Big Spring Dwight Bu Turnover be limited t

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# Gameday

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

## BIG SPRING HERALD

Page 1B  
Thursday, September 16, 2004

### First game starters return as Big Spring travels to Lubbock

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

A very emotional road victory last week will be put aside Friday when the Steers hit the road again, this time facing Class 5A Lubbock High (1-2).

The Steers got their first win of the season last Friday when they defeated Hereford, 15-14, in overtime. And traveling this year has gone fairly well, too. The Steers led Odessa High after three quarters at Ratliff Stadium in their opener before falling 27-18. The team's only home game resulted in a 56-0 loss to Odessa Permian.

Lubbock High will feature a big offensive line, a talented quarterback and a speedy running back Friday. They also use several athletic players on defense and have good overall team speed, said Big Spring head coach Dwight Butler.

Turnovers will have to be limited this week if the

Steers are to continue their winning streak.

"We are still committing too many turnovers," said Butler.

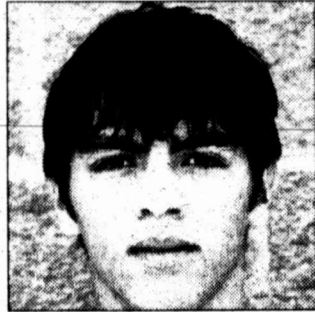
"We are going to have to improve our turnover ratio Friday if we want to win."

Besides cutting down on turnovers, Butler would like to establish a running game Friday and get better routes from his wide receivers.

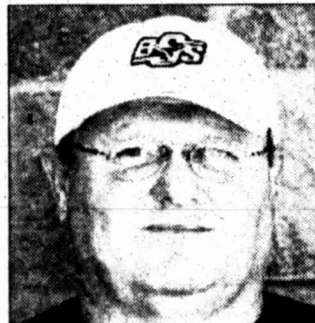
"We also need to keep Lubbock's offense off the field," added Butler. "The teams that were able to beat Lubbock kept the offense on the sidelines and that is what we have to do."

Senior Jerry Doporto will be available to play this week after sitting out last week at Hereford. Doporto will be counted on offensively from his slot receiver position.

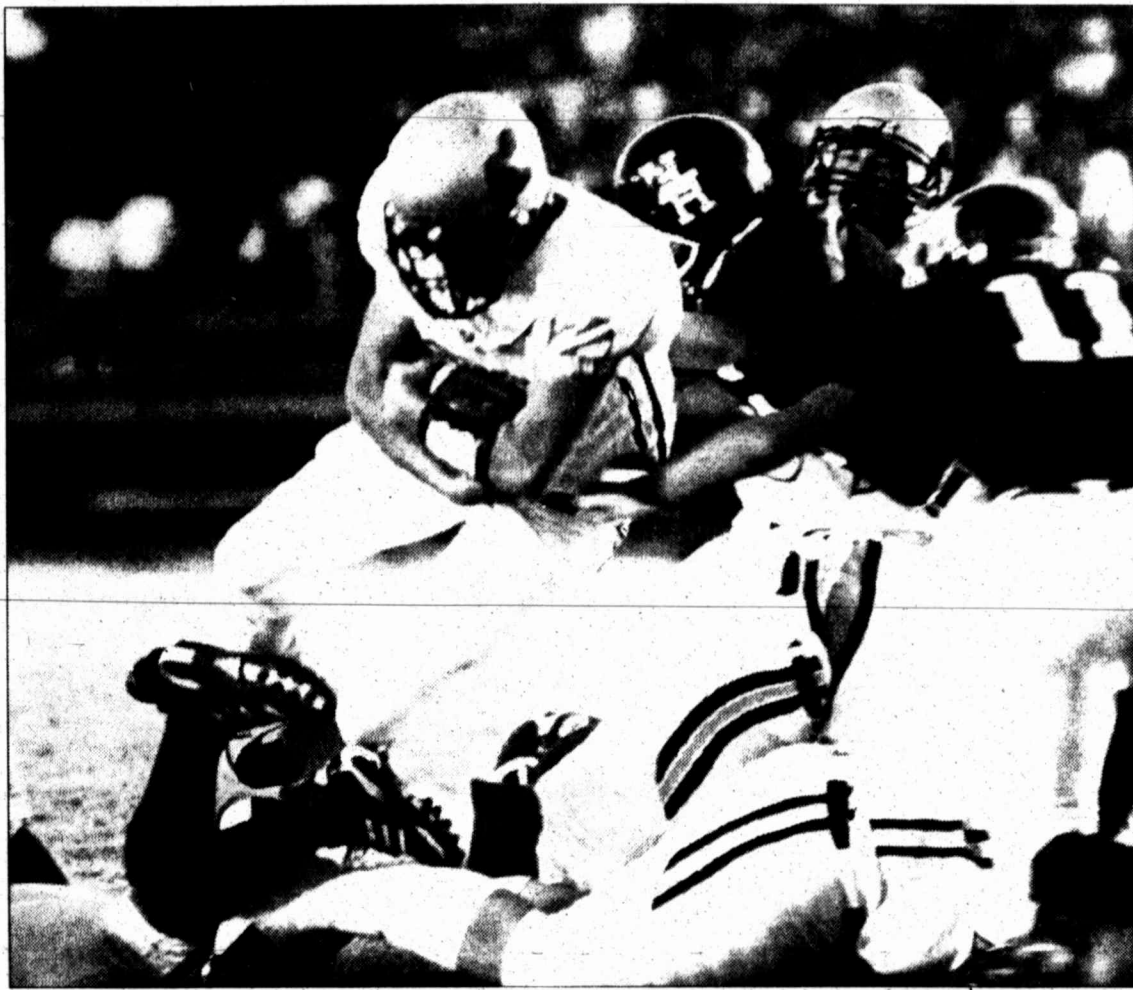
Junior Center Matt Rodriguez left the Hereford game with an injury, but will play Friday. The game will start at 7:30 p.m.



DOPORTO



BUTLER



Big Spring junior Kalin Whitehead dives over the offensive and defensive lines and crosses the goal line last Friday during the Steers' overtime victory against Hereford.

HERALD photo/Troy Hyde

### Grady searches for homecoming win against rival Borden County

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

The Grady Wildcats hope to use homecoming to its advantage Friday as the football team takes on rival Borden County at 7:30 p.m.

However, Grady head coach Joe Helms thinks the game could be a distraction.

"Homecoming could be a distraction because usually when a team schedules an opponent as its homecoming, the team doing the scheduling thinks it can get an easy win," said Helms. "Borden County will play

hard and be ready to go because this is a rivalry game."

Both teams are trying to get back on the winning track. Grady won its first game of the year against Lueders-Avoca, but lost its last two to fifth-ranked Rule and seventh-ranked Ira.

Borden County, which came in 38th in the rankings this week, is also 1-2. The Coyotes lost to Ropes and Meadow and defeated New Home.

"It will be a good game," said Helms. "I think we match up better with this team than we did against Rule and Ira."

"Borden County is struggling right now, but they did last year before winning the district

title." Borden County returns a lot of starters and is a run-oriented team. They have a fast running back and decent size up front, said Helms.

"We have got to focus on their running game and try to contain the Thomas kid," said Helms. "And offensively, we have to block better and use better clock management."

"The guys are getting more confident with the offense and I hope that carries over Friday. I also think we need to have a better running game."

Grady's running attack Friday should feature seniors Ben Hirth, Aguedo Najera and senior quarterback Andrew Villa.

### Coahoma faces big challenge in Jim Ned

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

Coahoma will face its toughest challenge of the season so far when they take on seventh-ranked Jim Ned and record setting quarterback Colt McCoy.

McCoy just broke the Class 2A all-time passing yards record for a career last Friday in Jim Ned's shutout win over San Angelo Grape Creek. Jim Ned is 3-0 this season and has outscored its opponents 125-22.

"You can't really stop the quarterback, but we have to find a way to slow him down," said Coahoma head coach Robert Wood. "We have to do better offensively Friday and control the clock more effectively."

Jim Ned also features three good receivers, a fast running back and a pretty good defense, said Wood.

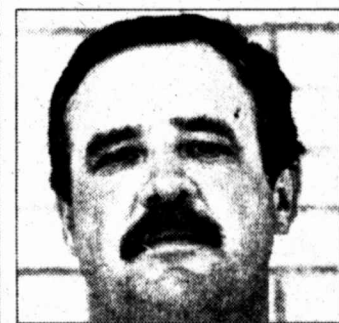
"It's a character check week for us really," said Wood.

Coahoma will try to earn its first win of the year inside Bulldog Stadium. They are 0-2 at home so far this year with losses to Wall and Reagan County. The Bulldog's lone win came on the road against Seagraves.

Last week, Coahoma scored first, but Wall scored 37 unanswered points and earned the victory.

Senior wide-out Lance Roberts is questionable for Friday's game after sustaining an injury to his hand, said Wood.

"We have to stop making little mistakes if we are going to beat Jim Ned," added Wood.



WOOD

## This Week

#### At Home:

Coahoma vs. Jim Ned, 7:30 p.m.

Grady vs. Borden County, 7:30 p.m.

(Homecoming)

#### On the Road:

Big Spring @Lubbock High, 7:30 p.m.

Forsan @Christoval, 7:30 p.m.

Sands @New Home, 7:30 p.m.

Stanton @ Iraan, 7:30 p.m.

#### Bye:

Garden City

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1. Calvert
2. Valley
3. Richland Springs
4. Throckmorton
5. Rule
6. Paducah
7. Ira
8. Panther Creek
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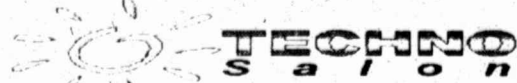
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## IN BRIEF

### Howard College is seeking singers

Howard College's Athletic Department is seeking National Anthem singers for the upcoming basketball seasons. For more information, call Tana Howard at 264-5155.

### DiscOver tournament set at Birdwell Park

The 12th annual DiscOver Big Spring Golf Tournament has been set for Oct. 3 at Birdwell Park.

Registration for the event begins at 8 a.m. A players meeting and tee times start at 9 a.m.

There will be an ace pot, CTP's \$100 added to the purse and 100% payout in all divisions.

Entry fees — depending on level — range from \$15-\$35. Juniors get a free disc and each division must have four players.

For more information, call Greg Brooks at 915-267-6335 or 915-267-1465.

### Longhorns softball touney announced

A Longhorns softball tournament has been set for Saturday and Sunday at Comanche Trail Park.

The cost of the tournament is \$125 per team and T-shirts and trophies will be awarded to first, second and third place.

For more information, call Mike Hilario at 267-6619 or Sally Grant at 268-4728 or 393-5237.

### YMCA sets flag football sign-up date

Registration to play adult flag football is being held at the YMCA.

Players must be 18 or older to play and an organizational meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. tonight at the YMCA.

All teams should plan to have at least one representative present at the meeting. The games are scheduled to begin Sunday, Sept. 26.

For more information, call the YMCA at 267-8234.

### Big Spring Shrine Club sets fund-raiser

The Big Spring Shrine Club is sponsoring a golf tournament Saturday, Sept. 25, at the Big Spring Country Club and Sunday, Sept. 26, at Comanche Trail Golf Course.

Both days will have 8 a.m. tee times and breakfast will be served.

For more information, contact James Hughes at 267-9942.

### Big Spring basketball boosters to meet

The Big Spring Steers boys basketball boosters will meet at 7 p.m. tonight in the ATC.

This year's officers are President Christine Boling, Treasurer Lana Piercefield, Secretary Karen Long and calling chairperson Barbara Harris.

## ON THE AIR

Sports Broadcast Schedule		
Event, Time	Today	Station
Astro @ Cardinals	6:45 p.m.	1490
Friday		
Stuarts @ Lubbock High	8:00 p.m.	1490/96.7
Stuarts @ Waco	7:00 p.m.	94.3
Saturday		
Texas Tech vs. TCU	10:45 a.m.	96.7

# Lady Steers earn 15th win of season, lose three

By TROY HYDE  
Sports Editor

A tough trip to Lubbock Tuesday night resulted in two losses for the Big Spring volleyball team. The Lady Steers fell to Canyon Randal and Class 5A and sixth-ranked Lubbock Coronado.

Canyon Randal needed five games to defeat the Lady Steers, but Big Spring head coach Revis Daggett said the girls played to only 60 percent of their ability.

"We were flat and our legs looked tired," said Daggett. "It was a great feeling though to know that we didn't play our best and still forced five games."

The Lady Steers lost the match 22-25/23-25/25-23/26-24/8-15.

"Game three was a pivotal game for the match

and for our season I think," said Daggett. "We didn't quit even though everyone was frustrated by the way we played. They could have just given up but didn't and I think that says a lot about us."

The loss in game five was due to service and hitting errors. The Lady Steers fell behind 1-9 in the final frame and started the game off with back-to-back service errors. Big Spring fought back to score eight points total, but were unable to capture the win.

"We fought back and went down fighting but just fell short in the end," said Daggett.

Both Big Spring and Canyon Randal were on course to meet last year in the playoffs and Daggett scheduled the match this season in



LEWIS

anticipation of a possible playoff battle this year.

The Lady Steers not only lost the match to Canyon Randal, Junior Carmen Lewis turned her ankle as well, but played through the pain and finished the match.

Lubbock Coronado played like the sixth-ranked team in the state against Big Spring in game two and walked away with a dominating three game victory, win-

ning 25-10/25-9/25-20.

Daggett was forced to change the lineup in the contest due to Lewis' injury.

"It was just not worth losing Carmen for a long period of time," said Daggett. "I was just being cautious."

Senior Brenn Swinney took Lewis' spot in the middle. Senior Kendal Adams took Swinney's place in the front row and junior Krista Chesworth was thrown into the mix, as well.

"They could have quit and just walked away after getting smashed in games one and two, but the team fought threw it and at least made game three reasonable."

The Lady Steers picked up their 15th win of the season last Saturday at Monahans against Class 1A powerhouse Wink.

However, they also recorded a loss against Class 3A powerhouse Monahans.

Big Spring defeated Wink in three games 25-14/25-15/25-10 and fell to Monahans in four 25-21/23-25/21-25/18-25.

Monahans has played Big Spring four times this year and got wins in three of them.

Big Spring (15-14) plays Lake View Saturday in the Steer Gym to open up district play.

"We need to be mentally tough," said Daggett.

Both district favorites met this season at the San Angelo Tournament and Lakeview came away with a three-game win.

The freshmen and junior varsity teams will play first at 2 p.m. and the varsity squad is scheduled to step on the court at 3:15 p.m.



Texas Rangers' pitcher Franklin Francisco, center, listens Wednesday as his attorney, Richard Minkhoff, right, explains how Francisco was pushed during an incident with fans Monday night. Francisco is charged with throwing a chair from the bullpen into the crowd during an altercation with fans.

## Texas blasts Oakland with home run ball

By GREG BEACHAM

AP Sports Writer

OAKLAND, Calif. — For a club that hasn't tasted much meaningful September baseball in five years, the Texas Rangers are showing a big appetite for the playoff chase.

Mark Teixeira hit a three-run homer off Mark Mulder, and the Rangers kept creeping back into the playoff chase with a 10-3 victory over the Oakland Athletics Wednesday.

Hank Blalock homered and drove in his 100th run with a two-run double, and Alfonso Soriano also homered and drove in two runs for the Rangers, who have won two of three in their key four-game series against the struggling division leaders.

With extra security officers seated near the Texas bullpen after Monday's chair-throwing brouhaha, the Rangers won for the fifth time in six games. Not even reliever Frank Francisco's arrest and legal problems have derailed Texas' last-ditch push for the postseason.

"This club is doing some impressive things," manager Buck Showalter said. "We've got 17 games left, and we'll continue to play in a way so we can make every next game mean more."

The Rangers' playoff hopes seemed dead last week, but they moved within four games of the A's, who remained two games ahead of second-place Anaheim after Seattle's 1-0 victory over the Angels.

Teixeira's 36th homer in the sixth inning was the decisive blow against Mulder, who failed in his fourth attempt to get his 18th win.

Ryan Drese (13-8), an Oakland native and Cal graduate pitching in front of family and friends, allowed nine hits over six innings.

The Rangers' potent lineup gave Drese a big cushion, scoring three runs apiece in the sixth and seventh innings. Blalock added his career-best 30th homer in the ninth.

Texas has scored 28 runs in three games in Oakland — and it doesn't get any better for the A's, who must face Kenny Rogers in the series finale Thursday.

## NHL locks out in hopes for economic change

By RONALD BLUM

AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK — The National Hockey League locked out its players Thursday, threatening to keep the sport off the ice for the entire 2004-05 season and perhaps beyond in an effort by management to gain massive economic change.

After the long-expected decision was approved unanimously Wednesday by NHL owners, commissioner Gary Bettman repeatedly belittled the union's bargaining position, talked about the possibility the confrontation could extend into the 2005-06 season and said the conflict has jeopardized the NHL's participation in the 2006 Winter Olympics.

"If there's enough time to play some games, we'll do it," he said of this season, "and if there's not, we won't."

Bettman called it a "bleak day," claimed teams had combined to lose more than \$1.8 billion over 10 years and cited bankruptcy filings by teams in Buffalo, Los Angeles, Ottawa and Pittsburgh. He said management will not agree to a labor deal that doesn't include a defined relationship between revenue and

salaries.

"Until he gets off the salary-cap issue, there's not a chance for us to get an agreement," union head Bob Goodenow said in Toronto, adding that players "are not prepared to entertain a salary cap in any way, shape, measure or form."

Far apart on both philosophy and finances, the sides haven't bargained since last Thursday and say they are entrenched for the long run, echoing words of baseball players and owners at the start of their disastrous 7 1/2-month labor war of 1994-95.

There is almost no chance the season will start as scheduled Oct. 13, and Bettman told teams to release their arenas for other events for the next 30 days. Bettman said the season can't extend, past June, and the lockout threatens to wipe out the Stanley Cup final for the first time since 1919, when the series between Montreal and Seattle was stopped after five games due a Spanish influenza epidemic.

"The union is trying to win a fight, hoping that the owners will give up. That will turn out to be a terrible error in judgment," Bettman said.

"They are apparently convinced that come some point in the season, the owners' resolve will waver, and I'm telling you that is wrong, wrong, wrong."

NHL management claims teams combined to lose \$273 million in 2002-03 and \$224 million last season. Bettman said the union's proposals would do little for owners, and said the six offers rejected by the union would lower the average player salary from \$1.8 million to \$1.3 million.

Goodenow said players had offered more than \$100 million in annual concessions.

"The notion that we don't have competitive balance is absurd," said Vancouver center Trevor Linden, the union's president.

Bettman made clear that declaring an impasse under U.S. labor law and imposing new work rules unilaterally was an option, but said it had not yet been considered.

Goodenow said attempting to impose terms would be a "very, very ill-advised strategy" and predicted "the results of it could be catastrophic." Bettman said the use of replacement players is not under consideration.

Owners have contributed \$300 million to a league fund to help get them through a lockout, and the union has retained licensing money to help its members. Bettman said about 20 teams would lose less money during a lockout than they would if play continued.

The 30 teams — 24 in the United States and six in Canada — had been set to start opening training camps Thursday, the day after the expiration of the current labor contract. The deal was first agreed to in 1995 and extended two years later through Sept. 15, 2004.

"It of kind stinks, packing up and moving out of here," Philadelphia right wing Tony Amonte said at his team's practice rink. "I can't say they weren't preparing us for it."

Some players are expected to sign with European leagues, and others could join a six-team, four-on-four circuit called the Original Stars Hockey League, which is set to start play Friday in Barrie, Ontario. Others could go to a revived World Hockey Association, which plans to open Oct. 29 with eight teams playing 76 games.

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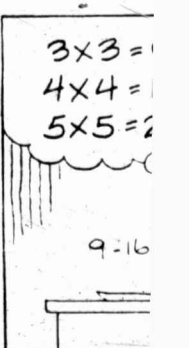
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PRICED FOR quick sale. All Brick home, 4 bedroom 3 bath, double car garage, swimming pool. Too many extras to list. Asking \$195,000. 713 Craigmont. Call (432)264-9047 or 270-7803.

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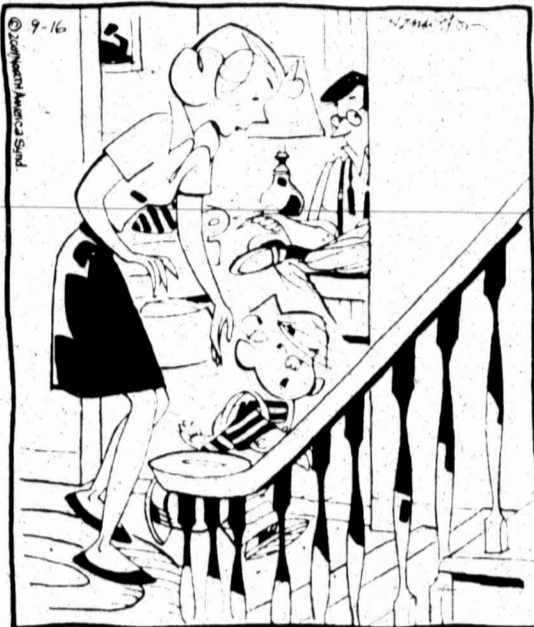
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THURSDAY

SEP. 16

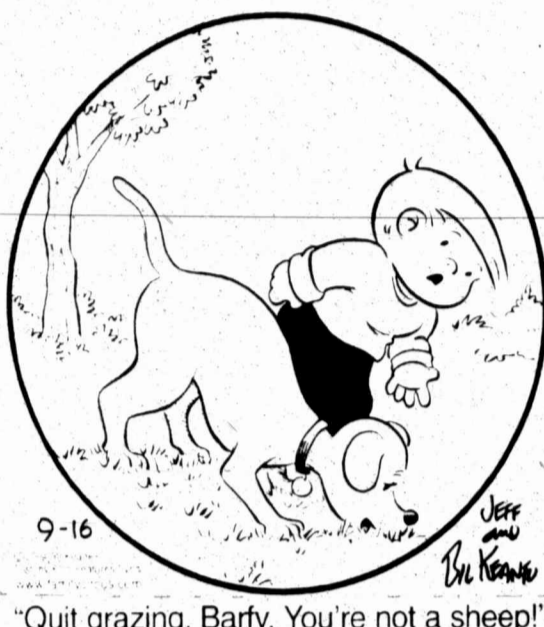
Time	WFAA (2) Dallas	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KOCV (13) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPiKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports	TMC (25) Premium
6:30 PM	News (CC)	News Wheel Fortune	La Mujer de Madera	Malcolm-Md Raymond	News Ent. Tonight	Pason de Gavitanes	News Sentel (CC)	MLB Baseball Atlanta Braves	Joe McGee John Hagee	News-Lehrer	Galveston Hurricane	CSI Crime Scene Invstgn (CC) (DVS)	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Live Movie Special That's Right	Sister Sister That's Right	NFL Live Shockout	NFL Live Shockout	College Football California at Southern Mississippi	USA
7:30 PM	Movie: Last Fight Out (CC)	Extreme Makeover	Mariana de la Noche	O.C. Obsess Completely	Survivor Vanuatu	Prisonera	Joey (CC) Wil & Grace (CC)	at New York Mets (CC)	Update/Israel Biblical Israel	Special Pledge Presentation	Dinosaur Planet	Movie: The War of the Worlds	CSI Crime Scene Invstgn (CC) (DVS)	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	The Parkers	Movie: Motocrossed (CC)	NBA Basketball Memphis at Charlotte	College Football California at Southern Mississippi	Movie: A Guy Thing (CC)
8:30 PM	The Benefactor (CC)	The Benefactor (CC)	Amarte es Mi Pecado	Totally Outrag Craziest	CSI Crime Scene Invstgn	Gitanas	The Apprentice (CC)	Light of the Southwest	Update/Israel Biblical Israel	Bermuda Triangle (CC)	Bermuda Triangle (CC)	MXC MXC	Movie: The Others (CC)	Movie: Prison Song	Movie: Prison Song	NBA Basketball Memphis at Charlotte	College Football California at Southern Mississippi	45 Movie: Barbershop (CC)	
9:30 PM	PrimeTime Live	PrimeTime Live	Aqui y Ahora	Malcolm-Md Raymond	Without a Trace (CC)	Te Voy a Enseñar a Querer	Noticias Laura	News The Tonight Show (CC) Late Night	10 Movie: K-9 (CC)	Andre Rieu: Live In Tuscany TBA	Monster Garage	8:50 Movie: Godzilla (CC)	MXC V Spot	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Nightly News: Must Sports	Lizzie McGuire Sister Act	NBA Basketball Memphis at Charlotte	College Football California at Southern Mississippi	Movie: Sexual
10:30 PM	News Nightline	News Nightline	Primer Impacto Noticias Univ	70s Show Raymond	News Late Show	Noticias Laura	News The Tonight Show (CC) Late Night	10 Movie: K-9 (CC)	Sam Peak Jesse Lee Pe	Sign Off	Bermuda Triangle (CC)	The War of the Worlds	Wildcat Police Videos	Movie: Blink (CC)	Mighty Love	Even Stevens Boy With a Problem	NBA Basketball Memphis at Charlotte	College Football California at Southern Mississippi	Movie: Cold Dog Soup
11:30 PM	Extra Tonight Jimmy Kimmel Live (CC)	Extra Tonight Jimmy Kimmel Live (CC)	En las Mejores Familias	Becker (CC)	The Late Late Show (CC)	Al Rojo Vivo	Show (CC) Late Night	10 Movie: K-9 (CC)	Update/Israel A.F. News	12:10 Movie: Blind Date	Blind Date	Blind Date	Blind Date	Blind Date	Blind Date	Blind Date	Blind Date	Blind Date	Blind Date

DENNIS THE MENACE



"How come you always send me to bed without my dessert? Why not without my broccoli?"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Quit grazing, Barfy. You're not a sheep!"

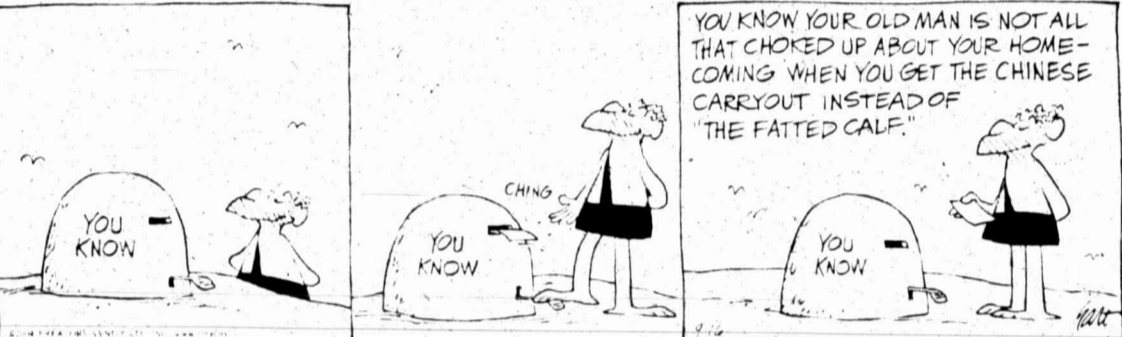
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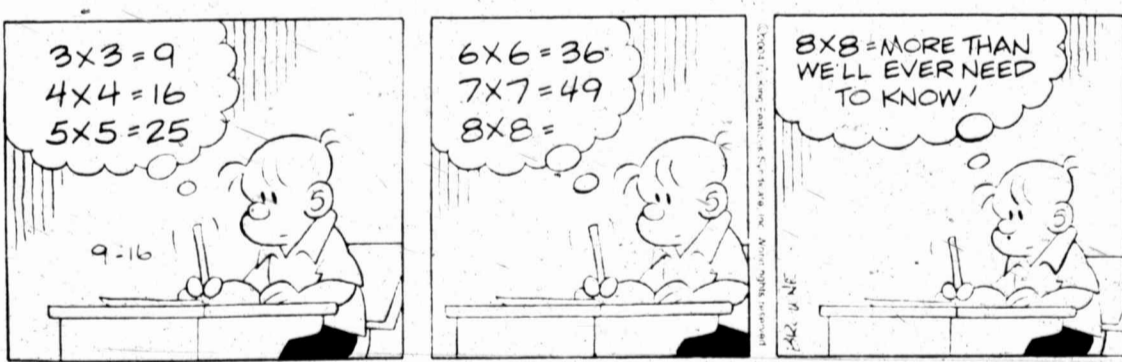
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AGNES



HI AND LOIS



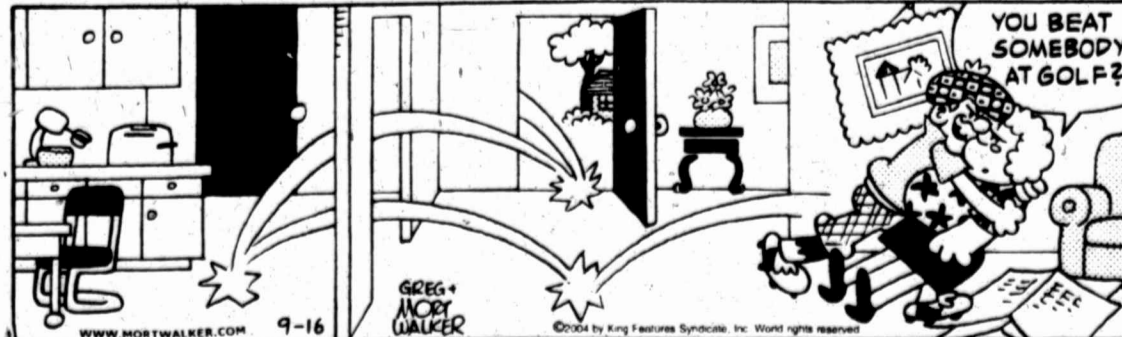
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILEY



This Date In History

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Sept. 16, the 260th day of 2004. There are 106 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 16, 1919, the American Legion was incorporated by an act of Congress.

On this date:

In 1638, France's King Louis IV was born.

In 1810, Mexico began its revolt against Spanish rule.

In 1893, hundreds of thousands of settlers swarmed onto a section of land in Oklahoma known as the "Cherokee Strip."

In 1940, President Roosevelt signed into law the Selective Training and Service Act, which set up the first peacetime military draft in U.S. history.

In 1940, Samuel T.

Rayburn of Texas was elected Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives.

In 1953, "The Robe," the first movie presented in the widescreen process CinemaScope, had its world premiere at the Roxy Theater in New York.

In 1966, the Metropolitan Opera opened its new opera house at New York's Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts.

In 1974, President Ford announced a conditional amnesty program for Vietnam war deserters and draft-evaders.

In 1977, Maria Callas, the American-born prima donna famed for her lyric soprano and fiery temperament, died in Paris at age 53.

In 1982, the massacre of hundreds of Palestinian men, women and children by Lebanese Christian militiamen began in west Beirut's Sabra and Chatilla refugee camps.

Today's Birthdays:

Actress Janis Paige is 82.

Actress Lauren Bacall is 90.

Blues singer B.B. King is

Clergyman-author Robert H. Schuller is 78.

Actor Peter Falk is 77.

Actress Linda Miller is 62.

Rhythm and blues singer Betty Kelly (Martha & the Vandellas) is 60.

Musician Kenny Jones (Small Faces; Faces; The Who) is 56.

Actress Susan Rutan is 56.

Actor Ed Bradley Jr. is 55.

Country singer David Bellamy (The Bellamy Brothers) is 54.

Country singer-songwriter Phil Lee is 53.

Rock musician Ron Bligh (Tom Petty & the Heartbreakers) is 52.

Jazz musician Earl Klugh is 51.

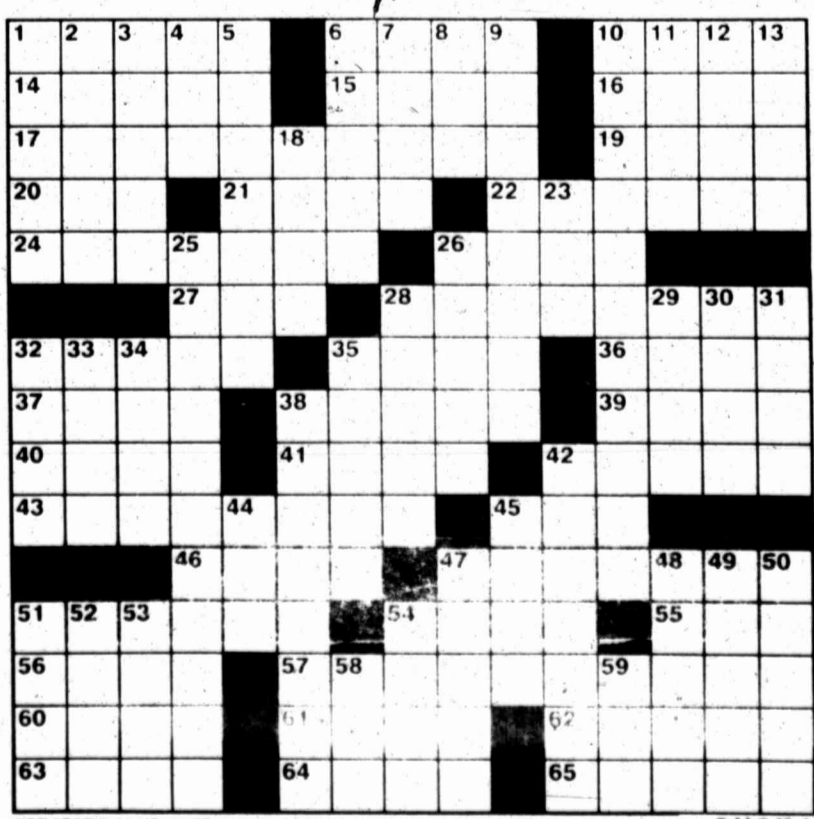
Singer Frank Reed (The Chi-Lites) is 50.

Answer to previous puzzle

COMB	SPECK	IONUS
ELIA	TIARA	RIENT
RILL	OCUR	DIEMO
FOLLOW	THE LEADER	
YVES	MISTY	
OMAHA	HAVEN	
KATO	CHOSEN	GEL
AUTOGRAPHED	COPY	
YIN	FEER	OWEN
DEEDS	ANNEX	
ONION	BELT	
TARZAN	THE APEMAN	
HIKE	AREAS	MIKE
EVEN	PURSE	PRIX
REDS	SEATS	TENT

Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS
- 1 Toro competitor
  - 6 Course ritual
  - 10 Reduce to rubble
  - 14 Intense eagerness
  - 15 Austen novel
  - 16 Victor's outburst
  - 17 Playground shout
  - 19 He works for M
  - 20 Tongue suffix
  - 21 Wheel of Fortune option
  - 22 Waiter's stations
  - 24 Find contemptible
  - 26 Castor and Pollux sailed on it
  - 27 Actress Gardner
  - 28 Hive head
  - 32 Locale for 32 Down
  - 35 Protrudes
  - 36 Cryptogram key
  - 37 Publisher in a classic film
  - 38 Loved ones
  - 39 "Sea" adjoining Kazakhstan
  - 40 Champagne chiller
  - 41 Like moonless nights
  - 42 Boris, to Bullwinkle
  - 43 Flier with pontoons
  - 45 Made a meal of
  - 46 Tomato type
  - 47 Revlon rival
  - 51 Curly, e.g.
  - 54 Medieval toiler
  - 55 Cooking phrase
  - 56 Bakery buy
  - 57 Boom-box feature
- DOWN
- 1 Stepped out with
  - 2 Clear, as a hard drive
  - 3 Frontiers
  - 4 Pop artist
  - 5 Causing disintegration
  - 6 Reminiscent of Poe
  - 7 Hugh Jackman film of 2000
  - 8 "What saying?"
  - 9 The Princess and the Pea
  - 10 Sweet-shop selection
  - 11 Mil. crime
  - 12 Sector
  - 13 Closes out
  - 18 -daisy
  - 23 Leave in a wine cellar
  - 25 Unrealized gain
  - 26 Here Comes Santa Claus singer
  - 28 Seismograph triggerer
  - 29 Party pariah
  - 30 Cheese in a rind
  - 31 Prone to wriggling
  - 32 Alberto Tomba gear
  - 33 Valentine trim
  - 34 Draftable
  - 35 A First Daughter
  - 38 Circle statistic
  - 42 Winter-hat attachment
  - 44 Skipper's record
  - 45 47-stringed instrument
  - 47 Is introduced to
  - 48 Sends to the canvas
  - 49 Alaska Peninsula dweller
  - 50 Links units
  - 51 Criticize harshly
  - 52 Author Morrison
  - 53 Granola grain
  - 54 Narrow peninsula
  - 58 Annie (Oklahoma! role)
  - 59 Porter or stout



SEP 16 2004

# That's Racin'

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Go online and check out [www.thatstracin.com](http://www.thatstracin.com) for the latest information and news on stock-car racing, updated daily.

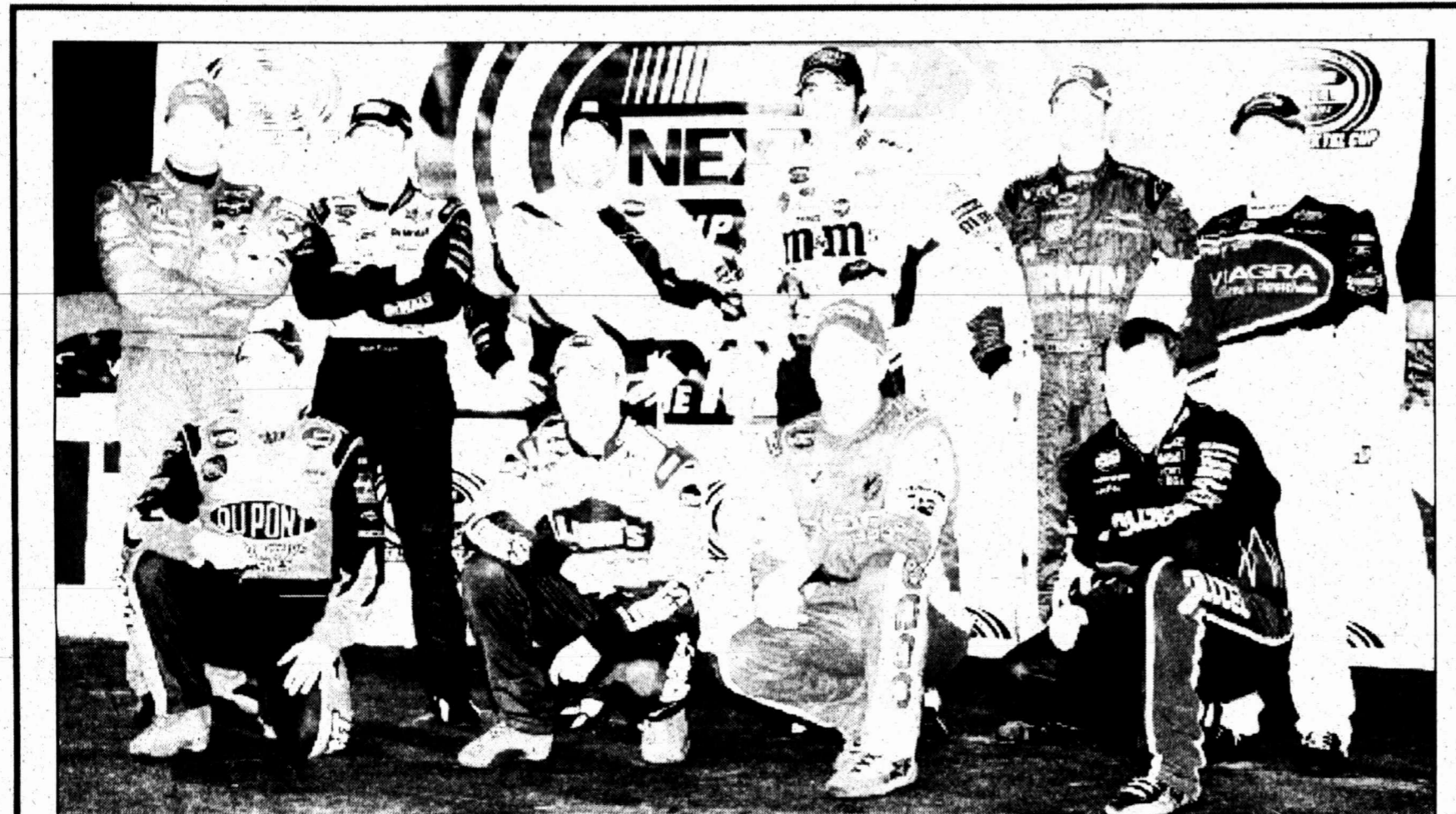
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Contenders for the Nextel Cup title include, clockwise from top left, Dale Earnhardt Jr., Matt Kenseth, Tony Stewart, Elliott Sadler, Kurt Busch, Mark Martin, Ryan Newman, Jeremy Mayfield, Jimmie Johnson and Jeff Gordon. Under the system, only 45 points separate first and 10th place.

## Crashing the party

By JIM UTTER  
Knight Ridder Newspapers

Although the lineup for the inaugural Chase for the Nextel Cup has been set, there remains a nagging question: What about the rest of the field?

Obviously, all teams will continue to try to win races over the final 10 weeks of the schedule. And those who narrowly failed to make the Chase cutoff will be trying to finish 11th — to become the best of the rest, so to speak.

The 11th place finisher will earn a trip to the annual NASCAR awards banquet to be recognized on stage with the other top 10 points finishers. He will also receive a \$250,000 bonus.

But more than the money and the recognition, there remain several drivers and circumstances that could come into play in the remainder of the season and could put a damper on the Chase.

Here's a look at five possible "spoilers" to this season's inaugural NASCAR playoff.

### A DOMINANT DRIVER NOT IN THE TOP 10

Since all Cup drivers will continue to compete in the remaining events, there is no guarantee a driver in the top 10 will win any of the final 10 races, although the odds of that happening are slim.

Still, there remains the possibility that a driver who didn't make the cut could find his groove in the final races with multiple victories.

The most likely candidate appears to be rookie Kasey Kahne, who finished 12th in points after 26 races, but just 28 points out of the top 10.

Kahne has five second-place finishes this season, his most recent one coming in the Sept. 5 race at California Speedway.



Kahne

### Scenarios that could affect the race for the title

"There is still a lot for us to accomplish," Kahne said. "We're going to try to win races and we still can win the rookie of the year title. We have to remind ourselves there is still a lot left of the season."

Other potential late bloomers include Kevin Harvick, who spent much of the season perched in the top 10; Jamie McMurray, who missed the top 10 cut by 15 points; and Dale Jarrett, who has finished third or better in three of his past nine races.

None of the three, however, has won a race this season.

### THE UNLIKELY CHAMPION

The new championship format was created, of course, to increase excitement. But there can always be too much of something.

In this case, what if a driver who barely squeaked in the top 10, such as Ryan Newman, who would trail the points leader by more than 400 points under the previous system, ended up the champion after the final 10 races? Under the Chase format, 10th place Newman trails by only 45 points.

"The 45 points (from first to 10th) is nothing," points leader Jeff Gordon said. "I don't think that's enough. I think we're not rewarding the guys that have been up front."

### THE X FACTOR

One of the most frequent criticisms of the new Chase format is the possible effect the other 33 drivers can have on the outcome of races, and

in turn, the championship.

For instance, in last Saturday's race at Richmond, Va., a fight for position between Jimmy Spencer and Casey Mears — both not championship contenders — resulted in a 10-car wreck that took out then-points leader Johnson.

Then later in the race, Spencer was involved in another wreck, this time with Jarrett, which ended any hopes he had of making the top-10 cutoff.

"This is why I'm not a big fan of the points system," Johnson said. "We've put too much hard work and effort into this to have something stupid like that happen."

### WHAT IF?

Sometime after the 2004 season has ended, someone will compute what the 2004 points standings would have been under the old format.

If the champion is different from who wins under the new system — watch out! The comparisons and criticisms will be endless.

Already, fans are trading barbs over whether championships won under the new format equal championships under the old one.

And if someone utilizing the new system gets close — or, heaven forbid, passes — the NASCAR-record seven Cup titles won by Richard Petty and the late Dale Earnhardt, all bets are off.

### A DRIVER INJURY

As outlandish and this scenario may appear, it has actually occurred recently.

In 2002, Sterling Marlin was fifth in points with seven races to go in the season when he was suddenly sidelined by a fractured vertebra in his neck. Under the system then, he slowly dropped in points until ending the season in 18th.

Using the points system in place now, since Marlin would have qualified for the Chase, he would finish no lower than 10th, regardless of how many of the final 10 races he missed.

## RANKINGS

### THAT'S RACIN'S TOP PICKS

1. **Jeff Gordon (car No. 24):** He'll take a five-point head start into the 10-race bid for his fifth career championship. Last week: 2.

2. **Jimmie Johnson (car No. 48):** He's placed 36th or worse in six races since seeming to stamp himself as the title favorite. Last week: 1.

3. **Dale Earnhardt Jr. (car No. 8):** Had an 11-race stretch — Atlanta to Pocono — with one finish below 11th. That'd work. Last week: 3.

4. **Tony Stewart (car No. 20):** Has this team just been passing the time until the Chase begins? We'll soon find out. Last week: 4.

5. **Mark Martin (car No. 6):** He's in and could very well be dangerous. Clearly the sentimental pick in the Chase. Last week: 9.

6. **Matt Kenseth (car No. 17):** He's earned his shot at defending his title. To be the man, you have to beat the man. Last week: 6.

7. **Elliott Sadler (car No. 38):** Says he'll be relaxed after starting the Chase. We'll believe that when we see it. Last week: 5.

8. **Kurt Busch (car No. 97):** Despite falling short on gas, he's a title threat if he runs the way he did at Richmond. Last week: 7.

9. **Ryan Newman (car No. 12):** Won eight races last year, just one so far this year. Does he have seven in reserve? Last week: 10.

10. **Jeremy Mayfield (car No. 19):** Won for the first time in 142 starts to race his way into the Chase. That's clutch. Last week: 15.

11. **Kevin Harvick (car No. 14):** He's a late bloomer who could be dangerous. Last week: 11.

12. **Jamie McMurray (car No. 1):** He's a late bloomer who could be dangerous. Last week: 12.

13. **Dale Jarrett (car No. 14):** He's a late bloomer who could be dangerous. Last week: 13.

14. **Casey Mears (car No. 14):** He's a late bloomer who could be dangerous. Last week: 14.

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41. **Casey Mears (car No. 14):** He's a late bloomer who could be dangerous. Last week: 41.

42. **Casey Mears (car No. 14):** He's a late bloomer who could be dangerous. Last week: 42.

43. **Casey Mears (car No. 14):** He's a late bloomer who could be dangerous. Last week: 43.

## THIS WEEK'S RACE

### SYLVANIA 300

Where: New Hampshire International Speedway, a flat, paved 1.058-mile oval located in Loudon, N.H.

When: Sunday at 1 p.m. (all times ET). Qualifying is 3:10 p.m. Friday.

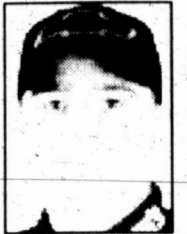
TV: TNT.

Radio: Motor Racing Network.

Purse: \$5,129,482.

Last year's winner: Jimmie Johnson.

Worth noting: Jeff Gordon has led 1,046 laps at New Hampshire, leading in 12 of the 19 races and leading the most laps in six races — all more than any other driver. There has been only one sweep of both races at New Hampshire since the track went to twice-a-year races in 1997: Jimmie Johnson in 2003.



Johnson

## POLL POSITION

### THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

Which driver outside the Chase has the best shot at making the championship a controversial one by scoring the most points in the final 10 races?

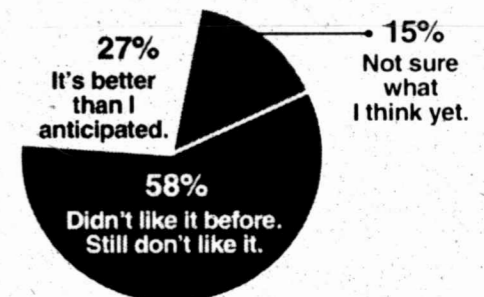
Cast your vote at:

[www.thatstracin.com](http://www.thatstracin.com)

### LAST WEEK'S QUESTION

OK, we're almost to the Chase. What do you think of the new points system now?

Number of votes: 6,729



## STOP 'N' GO

### RANDOM THOUGHTS

As the Chase for the Championship begins, a look at who's hot and who's not in the Nextel Cup series:

#### WHO'S HOT

- **Kurt Busch** has scored six consecutive top-15 finishes.
- **Mark Martin** has four top fives in the past five races.
- **Carl Edwards** has three top 10s in his first four Cup races.

#### WHO'S NOT

- Rookie **Brian Vickers** has finished 13th or worse in his past nine races.
- **Kevin Harvick** has finished 12th or worse in his past four races.
- **Mark Martin** has finished 14th or worse in his last five races at the track.

— Jim Utter

## BY THE NUMBERS

### NEXTEL CUP POINTS LEADERS

The top-40 drivers as of Sept. 11:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. J. Gordon (24)	5050	21. J. Burton (30)	2746
2. J. Johnson (48)	5045	22. R. Gordon (31)	2714
3. D. Earnhardt Jr. (8)	5040	23. T. Labonte (5)	2674
4. T. Stewart (20)	5035	24. B. Vickers (25)	2625
5. M. Kenseth (17)	5030	25. J. Nemechek (01)	2580
6. E. Sadler (38)	5025	26. S. Wimmer (22)	2430
7. K. Busch (97)	5020	27. R. Rudd (21)	2412
8. M. Martin (6)	5015	28. W. Burton (0)	2276
9. J. Mayfield (19)	5010	29. S. Riggs (10)	2254
10. R. Newman (12)	5005	30. J. Green (43)	2155
11. J. McMurray (42)	3171	31. B. Gaughan (77)	2127
12. K. Kahne (9)	3158	32. K. Schrader (49)	2106
13. B. Labonte (18)	3137	33. K. Petty (45)	2082
14. K. Harvick (29)	3129	34. R. Craven (32)	1901
15. D. Jarrett (88)	3100	35. J. Spence (4)	1565
16. M. Waltrip (15)	2798	36. D. Blaney	1295
17. R. Wallace (2)	2775	37. J. Sauter	1217
18. C. Mears (41)	2762	38. D. Cope (50)	1058
19. S. Marlin (40)	2752	39. M. Shepherd (89)	747
20. G. Biffle (16)	2749	40. T. Bodine (50)	686

### BUSCH SERIES POINTS LEADERS

The top-20 drivers as of Sept. 10:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. M. Truex Jr.	3954	11. K. Wallace	2858
2. K. Busch	3849	12. C. Attwood	2839
3. J. Leffler	3501	13. T. Kvapil	2812
4. G. Biffle	3436	14. D. Stramme	2812
5. D. Green	3332	15. S. Compton	2773
6. R. Hornaday	3236	16. T. Fedewa	2749
7. J. Keller	3219	17. M. Waltrip	2745
8. M. Bliss	3094	18. J. Sauter	2728
9. B. Hamilton Jr.	2896	19. R. Pressley	2721
10. A. Lewis	2870	20. M. Wallace	2693

NEXT RACE: Sept. 25, Stacker 200, Dover, Del.

### TRUCK SERIES POINTS LEADERS

The top-10 drivers as of Sept. 9:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. B. Hamilton	2500	6. C. Chaffin	2265
2. D. Setzer	2443	7. T. Kvapil	2250
3. C. Edwards	2424	8. D. Starr	2125
4. M. Crafton	2340	9. M. Skinner	2124
5. T. Musgrave	2315	10. R. Crawford	2106

NEXT RACE: Saturday, Sylvania 300, Loudon, N.H.

When Busch, who'd come back to lead again, slowed on the backstretch on Lap 393 to come to pit road for fuel, Mayfield got the lead and, eight laps later, his fourth career victory and his first since June of 2000.

"I am standing here thinking, 'What the heck just happened?'" he said.

It was a valid question.

On a night when story lines from the Cup series' 26-race regular season wrapped up, and 10 more sagas began as the 10-race Chase looms beginning next week at New Hampshire, there were a lot of answers.

Mayfield was leading on Lap 179 when the first big twist came, a wreck on the frontstretch that started when Jimmy Spencer and Casey Mears got



DAVID POOLE

together. Jimmie Johnson, first in the points coming into the race, got more damage than anyone in the big mess, and the ramifications were big.

Johnson was behind the wall, and Jeff Gordon, now the points leader, was setting the bar. He was running 14th and the standings were such that 12 drivers were, at least momentarily, within 400 points of first — close enough to be in the Chase if they could finish that way.

Kevin Harvick, at that moment, was 401 points out. Things were shaping up to be just that close.

On Lap 264, Mayfield pitted under green knowing he could go the rest of the way without stopping and giving up track position. He'd made it back to the lead lap when, on Lap 291, Spencer and Dale Jarrett locked up and brought out a yellow before everyone had stopped.

That left Mayfield fourth on the restart on Lap 298. He gained one spot, but a few laps later when McMurray moved up to seventh, a computer set up to figure points based on where the cars were at the end of each lap showed McMurray 10th in the standings, just two points up on Mayfield.

That changed when Busch slipped and Mayfield went up to second on Lap 331, and Mayfield got some breathing room as Ryan Newman struggled with his Dodge and lost ground, slipping to 10th.

Mayfield's win ensured that all 10 of the Chase participants had at least one victory going into the upcoming "playoffs," further validating his presence among that elite group of drivers.

"There's no reason we can't win the championship," Mayfield said. "You have nothing to lose. You might as well go for it every week."

And, finally, it is time to go.