



BIG SPRING

HERALD

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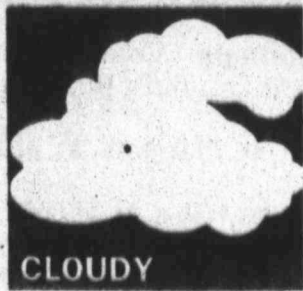
50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 WEEKEND

THURSDAY

October 21, 2004

WEATHER

Tonight:



TONIGHT 57°-60° TOMORROW 76°-80°

BRIEFLY

Make a Difference clean up efforts set for Saturday

Saturday has been designated as "Make A Difference" Day, a project of Keep Big Spring Beautiful projects.

Volunteers are asked to pick up bags at the Chamber of Commerce on Friday. Each volunteer will be issued a ticket that includes a meal and entry into a drawing for a door prize.

All Adopt A Highway volunteers are asked to join in the project.

Participants are also asked to bring some non-perishable food items for RSVP to provide for Adult Services and Meals on Wheels.

For more information, call Pat Simmons at 263-4607 or 213-5444.

Fund established to help Steadhams

The family of Michael Steadham is in desperate need of help to pay for his funeral expenses.

Friends of the family say he had no insurance and died suddenly.

An account has been established at the Cosden Federal Credit Union for those wishing to help the family.

For more information, call 264-0838 or 264-2600.

COMING THIS WEEKEND



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Vol. 100, No. 282

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.

Community leaders discuss threat to BSSH

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

When it rains, it pours. That's the adage most likely in the minds of local officials this week, as the Big Spring State Hospital joins the VA Medical Center fearing the threat of a governmental chopping block thanks to recent state legislation. Officials from several different local agencies, including the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce and Moore Development for Big Spring Inc., met Wednesday afternoon to discuss the process by which the Texas Health and Human

"The legislature will make a decision on closing or consolidating hospitals when it convenes in January. The commissioner has to have his recommendations in to them by the end of December. So it's a very short time line and the Nov. 3 hearing is extremely important that the citizens of Big Spring have the opportunity to express themselves concerning the impact of the possible closure of the state hospital facility."

Ed Moughon
CEO, Big Spring State Hospital

Services Commission will make its recommendations, which is due Dec. 31.

"The legislature will make a decision on closing or consolidating hospitals when it convenes

in January," said Ed Moughon, CEO for the Big Spring State Hospital. "The commissioner has to have his recommendations in to them by the end of December. So it's a very short time line and the Nov. 3 hearing is extremely important that the citizens of Big Spring have the opportunity to express themselves concerning the impact of the possible closure of the state hospital facility."

Forums concerning West Texas' stake in the possible closures and consolidations will be held in San Angelo and Lubbock. Moughon said he and his staff See BSSH, Page 3A

Rehab is serious business

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the first in a series of stories featuring agencies that receive funding from the United Way of Big Spring and Howard County.

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

As we move through our daily routines, taking thousands of steps each day, how many of those steps are taken for granted?

For 24-year-old Bryan Porras, those steps may have been a little quicker than most people, but he stopped taking them for granted the day they were taken away from him on the basketball court due to a knee injury.

"I was just playing basketball," said Porras, as he pedaled a stationary bicycle at Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center. "I came down off of a dunk and stepped to turn back up court and as I stepped, my body went one direction and my knee went the other."

"I guess I just took it for granted how fast I was going. I had surgery about two months ago. I tore my ACL and the doctor had to work on my meniscus as well."

Porras is just one of the hundreds of people that utilize the Dora Roberts Rehab Center every day. While physical therapy is a grueling and painful process, Porras said he's actually having fun with it — thanks largely to the staff at the facility.

"Rehab's actually been fun," Porras said with a laugh. "It's been really challenging.

Everyday that I come in here it's a new challenge. It certainly hasn't been easy. Any time I tell my therapist it's easy, he steps it up another notch just to put a little bit of pressure on me."

Porras watches his therapist, Jason Sims, who guards a stopwatch counting off the minutes his patient pedals on the machine, which is designed to help increase his knee's range of motion following surgery.

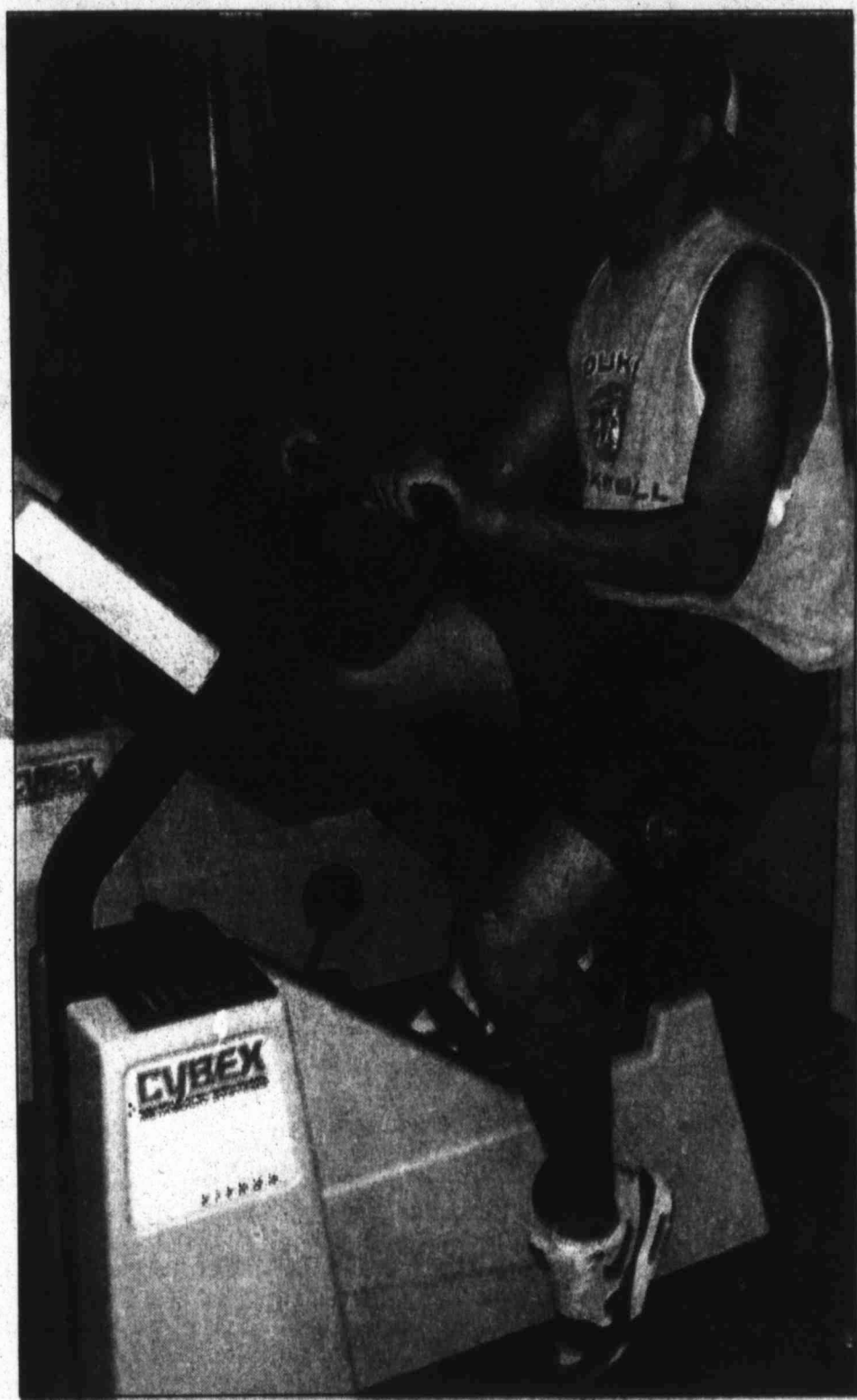
"It's been a big personal challenge for me," said Porras, as he grimaced through another turn of the bicycle's pedals. "I've always been used to working out, playing ball two or three hours a day and lifting weights. And I can't do any of those things as it is right now. It's a real challenge for me to get my knee well so I can get back out on the court."

Porras said the Dora Roberts Rehab Center has played a very important role in helping him regain something he believes most people take for granted — until it's taken away from them.

"I think everyone takes it for granted," said Porras. "When you have both legs and you can run and jump you don't realize how vital these ligaments in your knee are, or even how vital your knee itself is. When you get injured, you realize what you can't do and what you're limited to."

"The staff is really cool," said Porras. "They've been real nice people. I really like the staff and it's been really interesting. This place is really important. There might be other places in town for physical therapy, but everyone here is just so outgoing and willing to help with everything you have to do. I feel like this place is really important to Big Spring. I really do."

See REHAB, Page 3A



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins
24-year-old Bryan Porras turns the pain of a knee injury into a positive challenge as he pedals his way to recovery at Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center. Porras is just one of many area residents that have benefited from the rehab center, which receives funding from the United Way of Big Spring and Howard County.

College's new music professor has big plans for department

By KENDRA WISS
Staff Writer

When Howard College found itself in need of an associate professor of music, the name Ross Litman was music to its ears.

Litman joined the staff in August and not only instructs 10 courses in music — music theory, sight reading and dictation, music appreciation and American music literature — he also gives private lessons to eight students in: guitar, saxophone, flute, trumpet, classical voice, trombone and clarinet. In addition, he directs the Howard College jazz band — the Night Hawks.

Litman says he has great goals set for the music program at Howard College.

"We want to revamp the music department to be of greater use to our students," said Litman. "Our goal is for students to complete their associate's degrees in music and be able to enter mainstream universities in junior standing by offering a better course load."

Only two months into his Howard College career, Litman has already made numerous changes in the music depart-

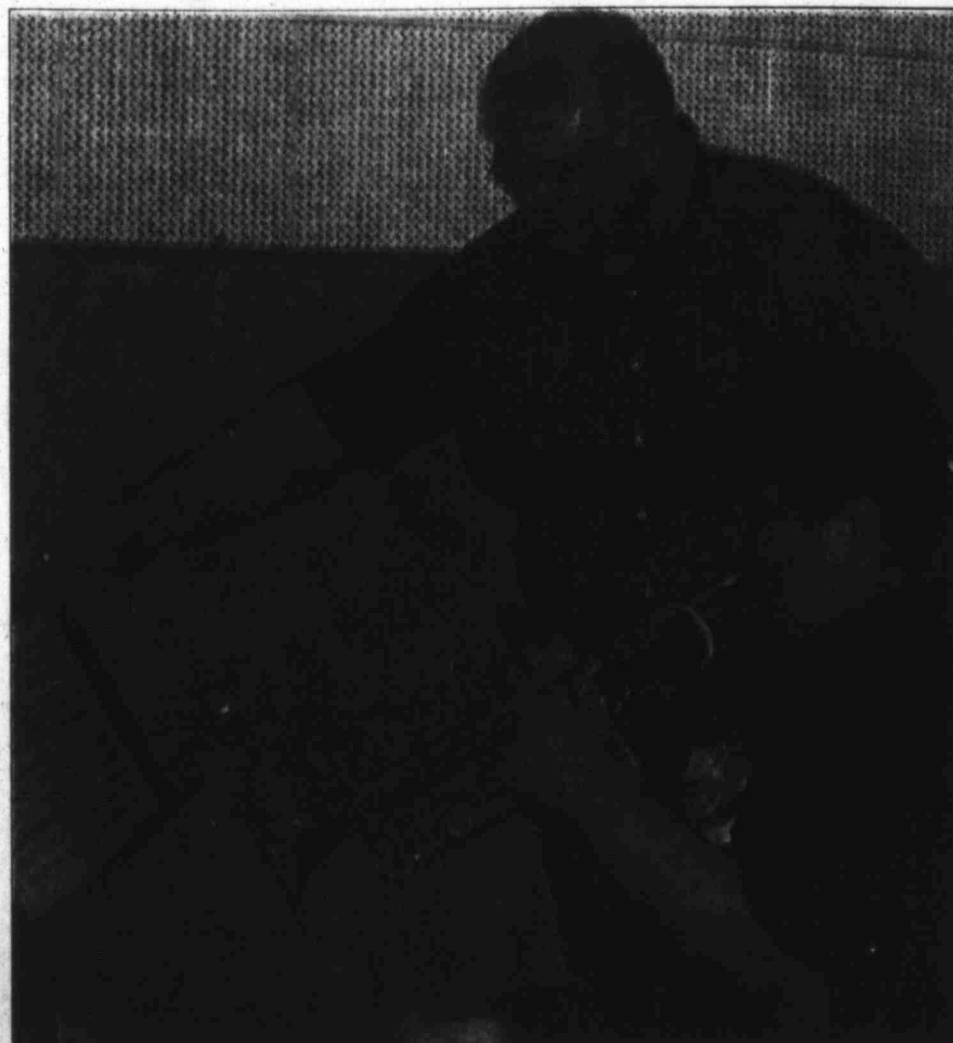
ment. Under his guidance, the college is able to make use of practice rooms, studio space and in the near future, a listening lab — all to help students have exposure to music. He also has plans for a listening library to house the numerous records, tapes and CDs already at the college.

Next semester, Litman is planning a focus on the history of rock and roll for his American music literature class. He hopes students will enjoy learning about the country's rich musical history.

Litman and his wife, Susan Fowler have five grown children between them.

Before coming to the college, Litman had a wide range of musical and professional experience. From his years as an Air Force musician and working in the Strategic Air Command's special operations to obtaining his master of arts in music from the University of Alaska, and from becoming the emergency management coordinator for the city of Denton to playing with some of the nation's best musicians, Litman believes his experiences help him to relate to his

See PLANS, Page 3A



HERALD photo/Kendra Wiss
Howard College music student John Ontiveras plays his trumpet Wednesday as Associate Professor Ross Litman points out a challenging measure.

OCT 21 2004

Obituaries

Minnie Mays Cranfill



Minnie Mays Cranfill, 92, of Coahoma died Wednesday, Oct. 20, 2004, at her residence. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 23, 2004, at the Coahoma Church of Christ with Russell Mullins, minister, officiating, and Don Allen assisting. Interment will follow at Coahoma Cemetery.

Born July 11, 1912, in Jack County, she was one of 10 children of Luther and Annie Sullivan Mays. She moved with her family to Howard County in 1920 from Jack County. Minnye married C.A. Cranfill, April 12, 1930, in Lovington, N.M. and he preceded her in death July 11, 1995.

Minnie helped write the "History of Howard County 1882 - 1982." She was a longtime member of the Coahoma Church of Christ and taught the Ladies Bible Class for many years.

Survivors include her daughter, Wanda Bristo, of Coahoma; her grandson, Wayne Bristo, of Big Spring; her granddaughter, Luanne and her husband, Clifford McCartney, of Coahoma; four great granddaughters, Jennifer Henderson, Kelli McAdams, Sheree Bristo and Latisha McCartney; and two great great grandchildren.

She was also preceded in death by two brothers and four sisters.

The family suggests memorials to Manuelito Navajo Children's Home, P.O. Box 58, Gallup, N.M. 87305-0058 or to Home Hospice, 111 E. Seventh St., Ste. A, Big Spring 79720.

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

Paid obituary

Erin Marcum Wall



Erin Wall of Midland passed away Tuesday, Oct. 19, 2004.

She was born Sept. 23, 1947, to Carl B. Marcum and Veronica Maloney Marcum in Lexington, Ky. Erin was raised and educated in Big Spring, graduating from Big Spring High School in 1965.

She continued her education at Texas Christian University, graduating in 1969 with a bachelor of science in nursing degree. On Sept. 25, 1982, she married J.K. "Rusty" Wall in Houston. Erin had been employed with the city of Midland health department as nursing supervisor, was the city health nurse for Midland and was a school nurse with Ector County Independent School District.

She was preceded in death by her father in 1996. Erin is survived by her husband, J.K. "Rusty" Wall, of Midland; son, Toby Wall and stepson, Marlow D. Wall, both of Midland; mother, Veronica "Mickey" Marcum of Houston; sister, Candy Marcum and her partner, Carolyn Hall, of Dallas; sister, Pamela Marcum and her husband, Bill Crowden, of Waco; sister-in-law, Linda Bickel and her husband, Steve, of Houston; aunt and uncle, Oona and Dr. Vincent Kitowski, of Houston; aunt, Kathleen Brumfield, of Baton Rouge, La.; and numerous cousins.

The family will receive friends at Ellis Funeral Home between the hours of 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 22, 2004.

Funeral services have been scheduled for 11 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 23, 2004, at Ellis Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. Rodney White officiating. Graveside services will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday at Ector County Cemetery, Rosehill Section, in Odessa.

Honorary pallbearers are Nancy Thomas Allen, Kerry Peters, Cheryl Cahill, Jean Armstrong and Laura Mathew. Arrangements are under the direction of Ellis Funeral Home, 801 Andrews Highway Midland (432) 683-5555.

Memorials may be directed to Hospice of Midland, P.O. Box 2621, Midland 79702; Noel Elementary School, 2200 Newcomb Drive, Odessa 79764 or Burleson Elementary School, 3900 Golder Ave., Odessa 79764.

Paid obituary

Weather

Today — Areas of dense fog this morning. Otherwise partly cloudy. Isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs near 90. South winds 10 to 15 mph.

Tonight — Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and thunderstorms. Lows near 60. South winds 10 to 15 mph. Chance of rain is 30 percent.

Friday — Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs near 80. Southwest winds 15 to 25 mph.

Friday night — Decreasing clouds. A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the mid 50s. West winds 10 to 15 mph.

Saturday — Partly cloudy. Highs near 80. Light and variable winds in the morning becoming southwest near 10 mph in the afternoon.

Saturday night — Mostly cloudy. Lows in the mid 50s.

Sunday — Partly cloudy. Highs near 80.

Sunday night — Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 50s.

Monday — Partly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Highs near 80.

Monday night — Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 50s.

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Wayne Dugan

Wayne Dugan, 67, of Abbott died Tuesday, Oct. 19, 2004, in Abbott. Services are set for 2 p.m. Friday, Oct. 22, 2004, at the First United Pentecostal Church in Hillsboro, with the Rev. Clay Strawn officiating. Interment will follow in Liberty Grove Cemetery near Abbott.

Visitation will be from 6-8 p.m. today at Marshall & Marshall Funeral Directors in Hillsboro.

He was born Feb. 20, 1937, in Archer City to Walter and Mildred Frances (Bradshaw) Dugan. March 6, 1956, he married Mary Hunt in Colorado City. He owned D & M Paint Company in Abbott for more than 35 years.

Preceding him in death were twin daughters, Terrie and Carrie; his parents; one brother, Jerry Dugan; and one sister, Shirley Hodges.

He was a member of the First United Pentecostal Church in Hillsboro.

Survivors include his wife, Mary Dugan; of Abbott; four children, Brad Dugan and wife, Pam, of Big Spring, Danny Dugan and wife, Rhonda, of Stanton, Shelby Dugan and wife, Sherrie, of Abbott and Lisa Garms and husband, Robert, of Midland; three brothers, Randall Dugan of Wichita Falls, Larry Dugan of Dallas and Johnny Dugan of Paradise; two sisters, Wanda Wasson and Mary Miller, both of Big Spring; and nine grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to First United Pentecostal Church, P.O. Box 694 Hillsboro 76645.

Arrangements are under the direction of Marshall & Marshall Funeral Directors 200 E. Franklin Hillsboro.

Ivan L. Conard

Ivan L. Conard, 74, of Big Spring died Wednesday, Oct. 20, 2004, in a Midland hospital. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

James R. Piper

James R. Piper, 88, of Big Spring, died Thursday, Oct. 21, 2004, in the VA Hospital in Tucson. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Police blotter


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

- **FABIAN RIOS**, 30, of 1507 Sycamore, was arrested Wednesday on an Ector County warrant.
- **DAVID CERDA FLORES**, 27, of Abilene, was arrested Wednesday on a Taylor County warrant.
- **JESSIE JAY HERNANDEZ**, 20, of 1003 NW Third Street, was arrested Wednesday on local warrants and a Howard County warrant.
- **LONDON JO SIEG**, 20, of 1001 Birdwell, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of burglary of a vehicle.
- **ERIC URANGA**, 19, of Coahoma, was arrested Wednesday on local warrants.
- **PATRICIA ROBERSON**, 21, of 1310 Lindbergh, was arrested Wednesday on charges of interfering with public duties, assaulting a public servant and resisting arrest.
- **THEFT** was reported:
- in the 1800 block of Gregg Street.
- in the 1800 block of FM 700.
- in the 300 block of Gregg Street.
- in the 1100 block of Lamesa.
- **BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE** was reported in the 800 block of Owens.
- **BURGLARY OF A HABITATION** was reported:
- in the 2900 block of Highway 80.
- in the 1500 block of Bluebird.
- **INTERFERING WITH DUTIES OF A PUBLIC SERVANT** was reported in the 1200 block of W Second Street.
- **RESISTING ARREST, SEARCH OR TRANSPORTATION** was reported in the 1200 block of W Second Street.
- **ASSAULTING A PUBLIC SERVANT** was reported in the 1200 block of W. Second Street.

Sheriff's report

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

- **GAYE LEONARD KEY**, 51, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of evading arrest or detention with a vehicle.
- **SELESTINO HERNANDEZ III**, 19, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of bondsman off of bond - consumption of alcohol by a minor, third offense enhanced.
- **FABIAN RIOS**, 30, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a motion to revoke probation.
- **THEFT** was reported in the 1500 block of Highway 350.



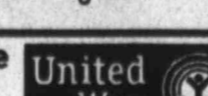
SONIC
America's Drive-In

Eat at either location
Friday, October 22

Where a portion of Friday's sales will go to benefit our community!
So have a great meal and help out 15 local agencies!

1200 Gregg Street
or
601 E. FM 700

Dine Out Day



Bulletin board

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

TODAY

- Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane. Call 267-6479.
- Citizen's Police Academy Alumni Association meets at 5:30 p.m. in the RSVP office at 501 Rannels.
- Taste of Home Cooking in the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. Doors open at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$7 available at the chamber of commerce.
- 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.
- The Prospector's Club meets at 7:30 p.m. at 606 E. Third St. The public is invited to these meetings. For more information contact Lola Lamb at 263-3340 or Doyle and Virginia McClain at 263-8407.

FRIDAY

- Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at 1019 Nolan St. Members bring their own lunch. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281 for more information.
- AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant.
- Greater Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room.
- 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

- A come and go reception honoring the Rev. Wanda Hill of United Methodist Church in Coahoma is set for 2-4 p.m. in the church. Public invited.
- Make A Difference Day.
- 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.
- Eagles Lodge Dance at 8:30 p.m. at 703 W. Third.

MONDAY

- 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 Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5 p.m. in the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, 306 W. Third, for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 1-800-392-8677 or 263-0391 or 263-1758.
- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. TX 1756 meets at 5:30 p.m. Monday in the 11th and Birdwell Lane Church of Christ. A different program is offered every week, and anyone 7 years old or older is welcome to attend. Please enter through the northwest door. Call 263-2786 for more information.
- Evening Lions Club meets at 6:30 p.m. in La Posada Restaurant.
- Concerned Citizens Council meets at 7 p.m. at 500 S. Main St., in the Dorothy Lamb Meeting Room of the Howard County Library. The public is welcome.

TUESDAY

- Intermediate Line dance classes begin at 9 a.m. in the Spring City Senior Citizen's Center. Call 267-1628.
- Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room.
- A Stitchin' Time Club meets at 3:30 p.m. at Primitive Baptist Church, 201 E. 24th St. Everyone is invited to learn and share sewing skills, and portable sewing machines are welcome. Call Kay Sikes at 394-4835 for more information.

Lottery

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 2-4-6-8-18. Bonus Ball: 18. Number matching five of five, plus Bonus Ball: 0. Estimated jackpot for Saturday night drawing: \$5 million.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 3-8-15-26-34. Number matching five of five: 2. Prize per winner: \$17,468. Winning tickets sold in: McAllen, Wylie. Next Cash 5 drawing: Tonight.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday night: 0-8-9

BIG SPRING HERALD
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The Herald is a member of The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, West Texas Press Association, Texas Daily Newspaper Association, The Associated Press, Texas Press Association, Inland Press Association, National Newspaper Association, Newspaper Association of America, Small Newspaper Federation, Southern Newspaper Publishers Association and American Newspaper Association.

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

REHAB

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The center isn't physical therapy ing to Executive Penny Phillips. the list of serv agency provides lengthy.

"Where do you asked Phillips laugh. "Of course vide physical occupational the cardiac rehabili also have varioi res programs.

"The wellness p

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Continued from Pa

are concentr the Nov. 3 meeti Angelo, slated fo until 8 p.m. at Angelo Co Center, located a Concho Drive.

Among those a the meeting a Spring Mayor McEwen, who ha a vital role in the keep the VA Center in Big Sp

"I think what w look at doing is an ad hoc comi gather informati state hospital meeting," McEw "We need to take approach to the s and not an e one."

Chamber I John Weeks s filling the ad hoc tee with repres from local agen are served or ef the state hospita ing officials from county, local law ment and the o Big Spring hea ties, the VA Center and Mountain Center.

While Mough quick to point o uation concerni ble closure of Medical Center i ed to the study conducted on t hospital, he understands the it will create w community.

"For the comm

PLANS

Continued from Pa

students. Most recently, taught music in F the middle sch continued to pur lance work pla the numerous b orchestras that se services.

Litman plays instruments but known for his tu ing for which he a college sch from the Unive Ohio.

"Most people d ize that this colle best deal in the c said Litman. "N else can you go t for only \$700 a s

HEAR



Michael King, CCC-A Clinical Audiologist

FREE HEARIN

W. TX. Medica (Covenant Ma Call for an ap toll fr Offices also in S

REHAB

Continued from Page 1A

The center isn't just for physical therapy, according to Executive Director Penny Phillips. In fact, the list of services the agency provides is quite lengthy.

"Where do you begin?" asked Phillips with a laugh. "Of course we provide physical therapy, occupational therapy and cardiac rehabilitation. We also have various wellness programs."

"The wellness programs

are made up of different types of exercise. There's after-care for people who have just completed physical therapy or cardiac rehab, and they want to continue to exercise independently since they won't be supervised by the therapist. However, we do have trained staff in the wellness center to sort of help them if they need it. It's been a huge success."

While many of the people toiling on the machines at the facility are recovering from injuries or medical conditions, Phillips said there

are just as many people that use the center to stave off those same type of injuries and conditions before they develop.

"You also have your people that just want to stay fit," said Phillips. "They're using our fitness center, which is excellent. We have aerobics classes and special water aerobics classes for people with arthritis. We also have audiology services again. Joel Jennings, who is a native of Big Spring, is providing the audiology services every Thursday, which includes hearing tests, fittings for hearing

aids and that sort of thing."

The Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center is just one of 14 local agencies that receive funding from the United Way of Big Spring and Howard County.

"Private donations have helped us, and of course there is the Dora Roberts Foundation," said Phillips. "The United way is also a contributor. Approximately 20 percent of our expenses have to be covered by donor funding, which includes the United Way."

Phillips said supporting

the United Way is important because of the role the center plays in the community, especially for the less fortunate.

"We provide thousands and thousands of dollars of free care to the people of Big Spring each year, and we treat everyone, regardless of their ability to pay," said Phillips. "Physical therapy and other services are available from other places in Big Spring, but we're the ones that are set up to take care of everyone, regardless of their ability to pay. And it's our supporters that make sure we

have the things we need to take care of those people."

For more information on the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, call 267-3806.

For more information on the United Way and their \$275,000 goal for 2004, or for information on how to make a donation, call 267-5201.

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

BSSH

Continued from Page 1A

are concentrating on the Nov. 3 meeting in San Angelo, slated for 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. at the San Angelo Convention Center, located at 500 Rio Concho Drive.

Among those attending the meeting was Big Spring Mayor Russ McEwen, who has played a vital role in the fight to keep the VA Medical Center in Big Spring.

"I think what we need to look at doing is creating an ad hoc committee to gather information on the state hospital for this meeting," McEwen said. "We need to take a logical approach to the situation, and not an emotional one."

Chamber President John Weeks suggested filling the ad hoc committee with representatives from local agencies that are served or effected by the state hospital, including officials from the city, county, local law enforcement and the other two Big Spring health entities, the VA Medical Center and Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

While Moughon was quick to point out the situation concerning possible closure of the VA Medical Center isn't related to the study set to be conducted on the state hospital, he said he understands the feelings it will create within the community.

"For the community —

from what I heard today from the Chamber and Moore Board representatives — of course it does. It would be almost fatal if both facilities were relocated. I think it creates a sense of instability the community doesn't want to face.

"This issue has been brewing since the last (legislative) session in Texas, and is really independent of the current situation with the VA Medical Center."

The upcoming study, which is part of Rider 55 of the General Appropriations Act which was passed during the last state legislative session, is something Moughon said he and his staff have been concerned with since the act's passage.

"In our business case, we know to be viable we have to be cost efficient and effective," said Moughon. "We have to have a physical plant that is in good repair and doesn't have a high need for capital investment. We've had our eye on this ball for a long time. I don't think we're caught off guard by this. But the new impact is if they did do something, how does it really ripple down into the community."

Moughon went through the list of items that will be considered during the study, including the proximity to other state hospitals and the cost of patient care on a daily basis, citing the later as the biggest concern for the Big Spring facility.

"We're a little higher

than some of the other facilities on our cost per day," said Moughon. "We run close to \$90 to \$100 more per day than some of the really big facilities. The North Texas facility up in Wichita Falls, Terrell State Hospital and San Antonio State Hospital are all really large hospitals, and you get a really good economy of scale in large hospitals."

"Little hospitals are more expensive for the state per day, so we go in explaining that. But it is what it is. When you run a 350-bed hospital, compared to a 150-bed hospi-

tal, a lot of that overhead cost gets spread to more of the patients."

Big Spring is no stranger to feasibility studies.

In December 2002, Veterans Affairs Secretary Anthony J. Principi established the Capitol Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) Commission to provide an independent review of the draft national plan to realign the DAV's health care system. Among the list of sites to be studied for possible closure was the Big

Spring VA Medical Center.

The fate of the Big Spring VA Hospital is expected to be known at the beginning of 2005, approximately the same time the HHSC is expected to turn over the results of its study.

Chamber Executive Director Debbye Valverde said she and her staff are looking into possibly providing transportation to and from the Nov. 3 hearing.

Local officials are encouraging anyone who would like to send letters of support for the Big

Spring State Hospital to do so by writing HHSC Commissioner Albert Hawkins, c/o the Texas Health and Human Services Commission, PO Box 13247, Austin 78711-3247.

For more information, call 267-8216.

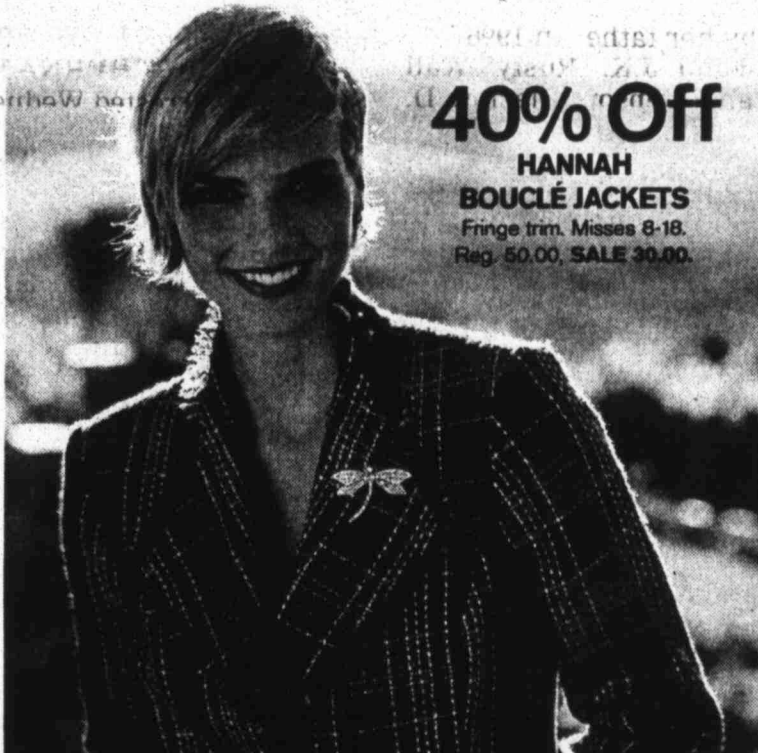
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OCT 21 2004

EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Susanne Reed
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OTHER VIEWS

A shortage of flu vaccine unacceptable

Did you get your flu shot yet? Probably not, and if you're like most folks, you probably aren't going to be able to get one, either. This is unacceptable.

Production problems at a lab that makes half of the U.S. flu vaccine supply means tens of millions of doses the American market was counting on won't be arriving. It is no doubt shocking to many Americans to learn that the nation's defense against a flu pandemic is so fragile. Worse, Dr. Julie Gerberding, head of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, warned Congress that "it is getting more fragile every day."

The problem is complex, but the simple reality is this: Drug manufacturers no longer produce vaccines because it is risky and expensive to do so, and the potential rewards for such work are relatively small. A generation ago, at least a dozen manufacturers provided the annual U.S. supply of flu vaccine; today, that number is down to a mere two.

What's wrong with nationalizing flu vaccine production, putting the federal government in charge of this vital public health service? Many experts fear that concentrating this responsibility in government hands would lead to a loss of innovation and flexibility typical of monopolies. A better approach would be for lawmakers to provide the private sector with incentives to re-enter domestic vaccine production.

The solution would likely involve:

- Strengthening the Vaccine Injury Compensation Program and closing legal loopholes that allow plaintiffs to sue vaccine makers for enormous sums.
- Streamlining the Food and Drug Administration approval process for vaccines.
- Creating tax and patent incentives to research and develop flu vaccines.
- Promoting widespread flu vaccination, thus increasing demand.
- Increasing communication among government health officials, the drug industry and university researchers to anticipate public health needs.

The fractured vaccine system will not be easy to fix nor can that be accomplished overnight. One vaccine maker told Congress that it takes from five to seven years to build a vaccine production facility and bring it online. But we have to start somewhere.

Meanwhile, the American public can only hope and pray that the deadly avian flu strain that appears to be incubating among human hosts in Southeast Asia does not go global. Hope and prayer are not, alas, a reliable long-term public health strategy.

THE MORNING NEWS
DALLAS

LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

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

Inside report: A Kerry mistake

John Kerry clearly felt he was riding high in the final presidential debate last week at Tempe, Ariz., when he impulsively and inexplicably noted that Vice President Dick Cheney's daughter Mary is a lesbian. That shocked politicians of both parties, focus group participants and just plain voters. What happened next could affect the outcome of the closely contested election for president.



ROGER
SIMON

The negative reaction by prominent Democrats was conveyed to the Kerry campaign plane with this recommendation: apologize for any inadvertent insult. That received some support within Sen. Kerry's staff, but not much. The overwhelming sentiment was for no apology. Indeed, the hard language from principal Kerry surrogates described Mary Cheney as "fair game" and asserted that her mother is ashamed of her.

It is hard to believe that in the closing weeks of a campaign where great issues are debated, the sexuality of the vice president's daughter could be determinant. Still, overnight polling after the Cheney flap showed a sharp gain by George W. Bush. Whether this is coincidental or cause-and-effect is a subject for backstage political discussion in both parties.

Kerry campaign sources say there was no plan for Kerry to talk about Ms. Cheney last Wednesday, and it never came up in the debate prep. The senator's

intimates say he was trying to compliment the Cheneys, but there is absolutely nothing complimentary in what he said. Many Republicans see a calculated plot to depress Bush's social conservative base by revealing the vice president's daughter as a lesbian. But her sexual orientation is such common knowledge on the right that the alleged Democratic plot would be foolish to undertake.

Rather, Kerry's comments appear to be spontaneous — and unpleasant. Faced with President Bush's answer in the debate that he did not know whether he believed "homosexuality is a choice," Kerry blurted out they should go ask Mary Cheney, who "would tell you that she's being who she was, she's being who she was born as." This sounded like an effort to impute hypocrisy on the part of an opponent seeking to ban gay marriage.

Whatever Kerry's intent, there can be no doubt about the reaction. Democrats at debate-watching parties gasped in surprise. Wired focus group members across the country displayed an instant negative reaction. Old Democratic political hands, in disbelief, tried to convey their unhappiness to Kerry. Even Kerry's Republican friend, Sen. John McCain, publicly criticized the Democratic nominee.

The only Kerry aide on the plane who wanted the senator to quickly issue an apology for any perceived insult was senior adviser Mike McCurry, the former Clinton spokesman who is a calm, cool voice among the overheated Kerryites. McCurry was alone. The Kerry brain trust argued that the Bush people were even nastier, and this was no time to be soft. Instead of an apology, the

rhetoric escalated. Democrats outside the campaign were stunned by the words that followed.

Kerry's usually serene campaign manager Mary Beth Cahill referred to Mary Cheney as "fair game." The peak in meanness was attained by Elizabeth Edwards, the motherly wife of vice-presidential candidate John Edwards. She contended the outburst against Kerry by Mary's mother, Lynne, "indicates a certain degree of shame" toward her daughter. It is difficult to exaggerate Mrs. Cheney's outrage over Mrs. Edwards's suggestion of a mother's non-support for her daughter.

Most of the Kerry camp, desensitized by political combat, saw nothing wrong with all this. His aides could find fault only with Lynne Cheney, because she was enraged by the sight of Kerry invoking her daughter's name and then professing to read Mary's mind and express her thoughts.

Overnight polls by several organizations last Thursday night indicated a little slip by Kerry replacing a virtual deadlock between the candidates that followed the first debate. Pollster John Zogby's nightly tracking last week for the first time showed a few Democrats moving from Kerry to Bush. When Mary Cheney was mentioned, "soft Kerry" voters at pollster Frank Luntz's Arizona debate focus group

for the first time electronically indicated displeasure with the senator. It was a mistake by John Kerry, and it might well prove a serious one.

To find out more about Robert D. Novak and read his past columns, visit the [Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com).

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YOUR VIEWS

TO THE EDITOR:

The first issue to come before the House of Representatives each year is the election of the House majority leader and the minority leader. This vote is crucial, as it sets the tone for all legislation to be presented in that session of Congress. Of course this vote is always along party lines.

Last year Charles Stenholm voted for Nancy Pelosi. Before that he voted for Dick Gephardt and before that he voted for Tom Foley. That's why I'm voting for Randy Neugebauer

RALPH MCLAUGHLIN
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

In this last Presidential debate Bush said: "I do not think I ever said I am not worried about Osama bin Laden. That is an exaggeration."

However, I remember that Bush did say those words, because when he said them, I almost fell out of my chair. In fact these are the exact words he said when the reporter asked him about bin Laden.

The reporter asked, "But don't you believe that the threat that bin Laden posed won't truly be eliminated until he is found either dead or alive?"

BUSH: "And [Osama bin Laden is] just — he's a person who has now been marginalized. His network is — his host government has been destroyed. He's the ultimate parasite who found weakness, exploited it, and met his match. So I don't know where he is. Nor — you know, I just don't spend that much time on him really, to be honest with you. I, I truly am not that concerned about him." [Bush remarks, March 13, 2002]

I agree with Sen. Kerry that Bush's failing to go after a cornered bin Laden the "grave error" in the war on terror. "The Bush administration has concluded that Osama bin Laden was present during the battle for Tora Bora late last year and that failure to commit U.S. ground troops to hunt him was its gravest error in the war against al Qaeda, according to civilian and military officials with firsthand knowledge."

We cannot afford another four years of George W. Bush's incompetence and lack of integrity.

RESA HARRISON
AUBREY

TO THE EDITOR:

John Kerry Looked and sounded presidential and informed on how to correct the state of the nation in the final debate. He was steadfast in his approach to address the nations

problems here and abroad.

President Bush, while looking at least contentant in this debate failed to see any problem or error in his administrations policies and the results. Clearly, if you are better off today than you were 4 years ago and want 4 more years of the same. George Bush is your man.

John Kerry will put a new face on international problems and has effective direction on addressing the National problems of health-care, education, jobs and the environment.

JAMES TRUSSELL
FORT DAVIS

TO THE EDITOR:

In view of Wednesday night's debate between Bush and Kerry, I am left to ponder why there is even a debate at all. To the average American this debate has done little to persuade the voters of America to vote for the right leader.

But after three debates and a vice presidential debate, I cannot help but wonder how anyone in there right mind can elect a man of Kerry's intelligence when he made the low class statement about Vice President Cheney's daughter.

Regardless, that was as low class as anyone with class at all could get. I would not have been appalled at all if Bush had just flat out cold cocked Kerry right between the eyes for such an uncalled for statement. The statement in itself did nothing to prove a point but degrade the Democratic party and Kerry's view of the American people in general.

I will tell you now that I vote for the man and not by party affiliation. After reviewing the voting records of the Kerry years as senator, it is awesome that he can even stand on the platform and say that he has a plan.

Not once has that plan come out in full view of all to see and hear. As for Bush, yes, he has made some big mistakes, but he is man enough to admit it as in the last debate. I don't always agree with his decisions. Remember, a president must first consult all of his cabinet and congress before any final decision is made and that includes the Democrats and Republicans.

I was so glad when after the debate that Peter Jennings set the record straight on job losses. Kerry's figures were so far off that he must need a new accountant.

And Bush was right on the head when he commented on Kerry's pay and go system — you pay and Kerry goes and spends it. I needed that laugh after listening to all these debates.

You cannot but help feel in your bones that Kerry is going to raise

your taxes as soon as he can if he were elected. Clinton did it and so will Kerry. After all, if Kerry is elected the taxpayers will have to bear the burden of hiring bodyguards and security measures for all six of his resort and personal properties that he owns here and abroad.

Well the choice is yours America. Regardless who is elected we as Americans control our own destiny. The president does not control rising health care costs, insurance, gas prices and so on. That responsibility lies on us.

See you at the polls!
G.C. HARDING
COAHOMA

TO THE EDITOR:

For all citizens who are concerned about taking charge of their health through natural means, please read on. The freedom Americans have right now to purchase nutritional supplements, vitamins, minerals and herbs is in very real danger of being taken away by August 2005, if we do not act immediately.

Few people know about the European Union (EU) Directive on Dietary Supplements. It is part of a larger form of legislation called "Codex Alimentarius", which will severely restrict your access to natural health products. This has already happened in Europe and can and will happen in the USA if nothing is done to stop it.

The few things that you will be able to get if this passes will be restricted to multi-vitamins containing no more than 100 percent of the established RDA amounts and will be far more expensive than we have now. Anything else will require a prescription! Of course, these regulations were all passed under the guise of "protecting the public".

Don't wake up next August to find your supplements gone for good. The time to take action on this issue is now!

Write, call or email your senators and congressmen. Tell your senators to oppose SB 722, the "Dietary Supplement Safety Act" and tell your congressmen to oppose HR 3377, the Dietary Supplement Access and Awareness Act. Also tell them to support U.S. Rep. Ron Paul's HR 1146, the American Sovereignty Restoration Act.

You can get more information on this issue by going to the Alliance for Natural Health (www.alliance-natural-health.org) or the International Advocates for Health Freedom (www.iahf.com)

Please act now to preserve your choices — before it's too late.

SHARON SMITH
BIG SPRING

Z

Z

3 or 6,

W

First, I get week behind new Mazda3 sedan. This an absolute vining the Mazda6 sports sedan.

Mazda has packed a lot of style, value and most importantly — zoom, zoom — into both ve

Let's start new Mazda3 in both four five-door bo

It's not re call the Maz pact. Yes, it fied as a cor entry-level v it does have price startin \$14,000.

But don't second this car totally v or glory.

The Mazda

In clos are co

By DAVID A. Associated Pr

JEFFERSON - Like instead politicians a catch votes phone calls voters who l applied for a lots.

Under laws to political st perhaps not t candidates in can ask local cials for list who have absentee bal then campaign them.

The tactic c critical differ tight election cially given t absentee vote ly likely to c lots. The stra ing out in se states that c the president including Missouri.

"It's Handbook 10: tions exper Smolka, a reti science prof American Un "if anything, probably incr number of a lots has been

In Missouri tice has com by Democrats renewed effort to cont voters.

Missouri S

Alla Furn Best Price in 202 Scurry

Zoom, zoom

3 or 6, Mazda rolls a winner

What a treat the past two weeks have been. First, I get to spend a week behind the all-new Mazda3 compact sedan. This week, I had an absolute blast driving the Mazda6 sports sedan.

ON THE ROAD



BY NEAL WHITE

Mazda has packed a lot of style, value and most importantly — zoom, zoom — into both vehicles.

Let's start with the new Mazda3, available in both four-door and five-door body styles.

It's not really fair to call the Mazda3 a compact. Yes, it is classified as a compact, entry-level vehicle and it does have a base price starting below \$14,000.

But don't think for a second this is a tiny car totally void of guts or glory.

The Mazda3 is roomy,

and with two available engines, it's packed with power.

Two trim lines are available — i and s. The four-door i is powered by a 2.0-liter I-4 (148 horsepower/135 lb.-ft. torque) with an EPA

fuel economy rating of 28 mpg city, 35 mpg highway. The four-door and five-door s models are powered by the 2.3-liter I-4 (160 horsepower/150

lb.-ft. torque) with an EPA fuel economy rating of 25 mpg city, 32 mpg highway.

A four-door Mazda3 s was driven for this review.

Acceleration and handling were exceptional.

The Mazda3 is highly recommended for anyone in the market for a compact vehicle.

If I had to describe the Mazda6 sedan in one word, that word would have to be "wow!"



Above, the Mazda6 sedan. At right, the Mazda3 sedan.

Since its debut in 2003, the Mazda6 sports sedan has been racking up awards from both the industry and media.

It's not surprising, because this mid-size sports sedan is truly remarkable.

Like the Mazda3, the Mazda6 is available in two trim lines — s and i. The i is powered by a 2.3-liter I-4 (160 horsepower/155 lb.-ft. torque), while the s is powered by a 3.0-liter V-6 (220 horsepower/192 lb.-ft. torque).

Ride and handling are exceptional, and the Mazda6 is loaded with standard amenities.

It has a base price starting around \$19,000,



and is highly recommended for a test drive for everyone in the market for a mid-size sedan.

Neal White has been covering the automotive industry for 15 years and is affiliated with the Texas Auto Writers Association and the

Midwest Automotive Media Association. Comments may be sent to Neal at editor@wax-hachiedaily.com.

In close election year, political parties are contacting absentee voters directly

By DAVID A. LIEB

Associated Press Writer

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — Like fishing in a stocked pond instead of an ocean, politicians are trying to catch votes by targeting phone calls and fliers at voters who have already applied for absentee ballots.

Under laws well known to political strategists but perhaps not to the public, candidates in some states can ask local election officials for lists of people who have requested absentee ballots — and then campaign directly to them.

The tactic could make a critical difference in this tight election year, especially given the fact that absentee voters are highly likely to cast their ballots. The strategy is playing out in several swing states that could decide the presidential election, including Ohio and Missouri.

"It's Campaign Handbook 101," said elections expert Richard Smolka, a retired political science professor from American University. But "if anything, I think it's probably increased as the number of absentee ballots has been increasing."

In Missouri, the practice has come under fire by Democrats upset by a renewed Republican effort to contact absentee voters.

Missouri Secretary of

State Matt Blunt — the chief election official and the GOP candidate for governor — sent a campaign letter to county clerks asking them to provide the names of absentee ballot applicants to the state Republican Party.

The state party has been calling those absentee voters with a pitch for President Bush, Blunt and the rest of its candidates.

"It's part of our overall strategy of get out the vote," said state Republican Party spokesman Paul Sloca, who declined to say how many absentee voters had been called.

But the Missouri Democratic Party compares it to the illegal practice of campaigning inside a polling place on Election Day.

"They're not allowing absentee voters to cast their votes in private," said Missouri Democratic Party spokesman Jack Cardetti. "They are, in essence, invading the polling places."

Missouri's Democratic and Republican candidates for secretary of state each have proposed to end the campaign practice by closing absentee voter lists statewide.

Yet while the Missouri Democratic Party complains, its counterpart in Ohio is daily gathering absentee voter applications from all 88 counties

so its candidates can send campaign materials to Democratic or independent voters.

"Having a (campaign) piece go out to absentees when they apply is fairly effective," said Ohio Democratic Party spokesman Dan Trevas. But he added that "you have to do it right way" — before they can cast the ballot.

The Ohio Republican Party is doing almost exactly the same thing.

"The goal is to find out who is requesting an absentee ballot and, hopefully, get them some information that may be helpful in nudging them toward voting for Republicans," said Ohio GOP spokesman Jason Mauk.

Getting absentee voter lists is relatively easy in states such as Ohio and Illinois, where the records are open to the public. JoAnn Thomas, the county clerk in Peoria, Ill., keeps an updated list on an office counter where "anyone can come in and look at it at anytime." Many people do, she said.

In other states, however, getting the lists can be more difficult or less productive.

Pennsylvania law does not require local election officials to release absentee voter lists until Oct. 26 — just three days before absentee ballots are due for state elections.



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OCT 21 2004

Historical Society meeting gathered 91 West Texans in Big Spring

Special to the Herald

The Permian Historical Society meeting Saturday gathered 91 West Texans at the Dora Roberts Community Center.

Stan Cosby presented his paper, "Range War Tragedy: The High Price of Settlement," a story of the 1902 round-up shooting of Robert C. Johnson, a lone wolf settler of Howard and Dawson counties.

This was followed by a video by the Tumbleweed Smith, "The Big Spring Refinery: More Than Just Oil." It covered the 75-year history, spirit, flavor and character of the refinery, the people who work there and its influence on the city of Big Spring.

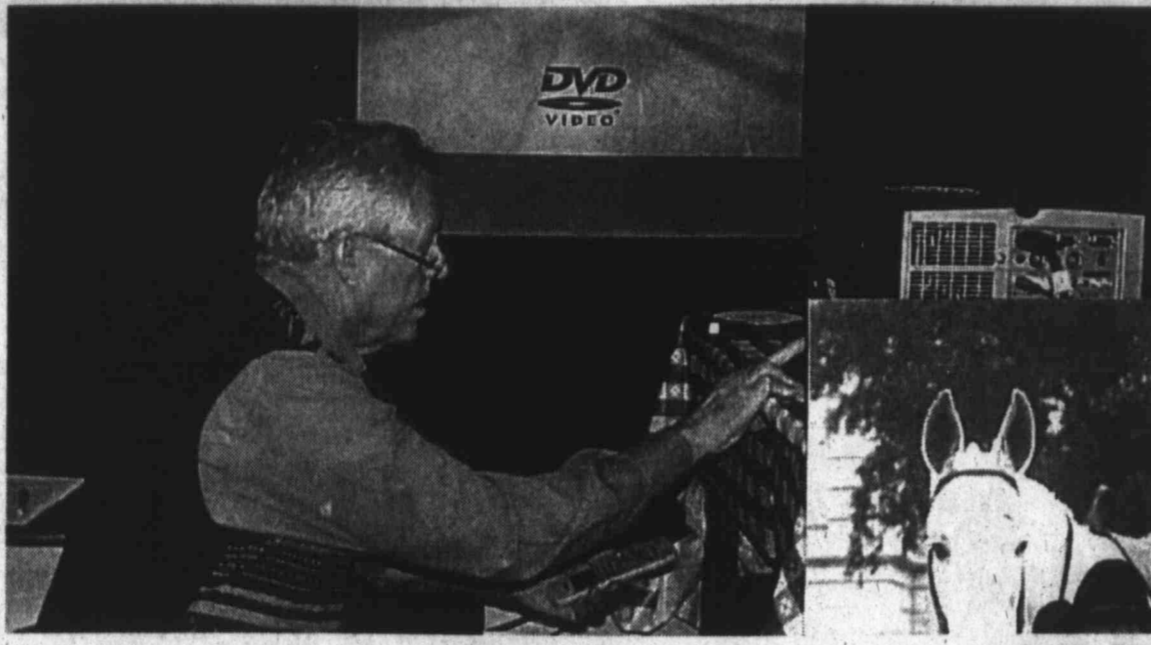
Clarence Hartfield Jr. presented, "Lakeview School As I Remember It." This was based on his experience from 1947 to 1961 at the segregated school in Big Spring.

Next came Quail Dobbs, world renown rodeo clown, who makes his home in Coahoma. "My 35 Years As A Rodeo Clown" was his topic. He told of experiences, his travels throughout the country to appear at rodeos, and topped it off with a humorous video highlighting his career.

Finishing out the program of papers was Rhonda Campbell, curator of the Hangar 25 Museum, with the history of the museum. She highlighted the establishment and growth of an air museum that is dedicated to the men and women who served in the military from 1942 to 1977, and to the preservation of the aircraft used throughout those years.

Judge John Hyde received the honor of best presentation from the previous spring meeting. The winner of the best presentation as voted by those attending will be announced at the spring meeting at the Petroleum Museum in Midland April 23, 2005. Mrs. Eddie Mae Woodward was rewarded for having the "best article" in the annual of 2002.

A catered lunch was



Tumbleweed Smith presented a video he made of the history of the Big Spring refinery during the Permian Basin Historical Society meeting Saturday.

served by Christene's of Coahoma. The Howard County Historical Commission, along with Big Spring members of the Permian Historical Society, provided breakfast sweets, coffee and juice during the early morning Happy Hour. The Heritage Museum provided photographs and posters displayed at the event.

A new slate of board of directors was voted into place with a drawing of lots for the length of term. One-year members are Jim Humphrey, Betty Orbeck and June Reid. Two-year members are Nancy McKinley, Mary Prudie Brown and Patsy White. Three-year members are Charlene Chandler, Mary Lou Midkiff, Eddie Mae Woodward and Rosemary Rogers.

The Big Spring Chamber of Commerce provided goodie bags for the group. Businesses and people that provided door prizes included the Big Spring Refinery, the Heritage Museum, Tumbleweed Smith, R.E. "Peppy" Blount, Jody Nix, Robert Ragan, Sue Ann Damron, Tuffy Skelton and Dorothy Jones.

Those receiving the door prizes were Lorene Barbee, Susie Skelton, Gail Seerey, Jim Humphrey, Charlene Ragan, Bobbie Nix, Roylene C. Davis, Evelyn Stroder, Janice Bond, Sue

Ann Damron and Jimmie Hopper.

There were also prizes for the shortest member in attendance, Frances McCasland; the member who brought the most guests, Lorene Barbee; the one who traveled the farthest, Patsy White of Ozona, the youngest, Tabitha Barbee (under 40); and the oldest, a tie between Nancy McKinley and Paul Patterson, both who admit to being over 90.

PHS in recent years has chosen a theme for each meeting honoring different counties and members come dressed according to the theme. Midland was cowboys, Crane was the good old days, Ward was the oil field, Ector

was career hats and this time no county was honored, but the dress and theme was for rodeo clowns.

There was a contest for the best dressed clown, with three contestants. They were Dr. Terry Shultz, Mayor Sherry Phillips and Peggy Kelton. With the audience voting, Peggy won the

BSHS celebrates Red Ribbon Week

Special to the Herald

Big Spring High School will be participating in the Texans' War on Drugs Red Ribbon Week beginning Monday and continuing through Oct. 29.

BSHS Student Council has many activities planned for Red Ribbon Week.

Monday is Decoration Day.

Students will tie red ribbons around all the trees on campus, and will give red ribbons to the faculty.

Tuesday, these red ribbons and bracelets will be worn by the faculty and

the students to show their support.

Community members are also asked to wear red ribbons to show support.

Red ribbons will be tied to all the doors for the building.

Wednesday, the student body and faculty will continue to wear red ribbons and bracelets.

Red ribbons will be tied on the cars.

Oct. 28 is designated as Wear Red Day.

Community members are asked to wear red.

Friday, students and faculty will be asked to wear their bracelets and ribbons with their black and gold.

RSVP collecting food

The Retired Senior Volunteer Program is collecting non-perishable food items.

Collection boxes are in the Big Spring schools, the chamber of commerce, Canterbury North and South and Adult Protective Services.

Contact RSVP at 264-2397 for more information.

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Dave Duncan
Gets his food fast thru the Drive-Thru

24th annual Big Spring Herald Community Christmas Parade
5:30 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 4

Parade theme: "100 Years of West Texas Christmases"
Entry deadline — Noon, Friday, Nov. 19

The parade will begin promptly at 5:30 p.m. and head north on Gregg Street toward downtown, arriving in time for the downtown Christmas celebration.

First-place plaques will be awarded in the following categories:

- 1. Individual or family
 - 2. School or church
 - 3. Commercial
 - 4. Civic organizations
- In addition, certificates of commendation will be awarded to the second- and third-place entries in each of those categories.

ENTRY FORM

Name of organization: _____

Name of contact person: _____

Mailing address: _____

Telephone number: _____

Individual/Family Church/school

Civic Commercial

Brief description of entry: _____

SPECIAL 100TH ANNIVERSARY AWARDS

In addition to the standard awards given to division winners, this year's parade entries will be judged for recognition of three special awards.

- Herald's Best of Show Award: \$100 for best interpretation of theme.
- Mayor's Trophy: \$75 for best use of lighting.
- Grand Marshall's Award: \$50 for best costuming.

PARADE RULES

1. The parade's official Santa Claus will be provided by the Herald. No other Santa Claus will be permitted in the parade.
2. Floats should not exceed 65 feet in length, 8 feet in width and 14 feet in height.
3. Antique vehicles will be the only undecorated vehicles permitted without special permission from Parade Committee.
4. Vehicles of a strictly commercial nature will not be permitted.
5. Parade entries not in line by the start of the parade will be placed at the end of the parade and will not be eligible for awards.
6. Mail, fax or hand deliver entry forms to:

PARADE COMMITTEE
Big Spring Herald
P.O. Box 1431
710 Scurry St.
(432) 264-7205 (fax)

QUESTIONS? CALL (432) 263-7331, Ask for Elizabeth Flores

YoungLife seeks adult volunteers

YoungLife, a volunteer Christian organization for high school students, is seeking adult leaders.

Volunteer leaders must be a member of a church and attend services regularly. They must also submit to a background check.

Adult volunteer leaders meet at 7 p.m. each Monday for prayer, training and rehearsal.

Adult leaders invest their time in the youth of this community.

Several YoungLife events throughout the year include MuckFest

each fall and YoungLife camp each June in Colorado.

Each week focuses on fun with activities, songs, and skits. The club meets each Monday at 7:59 p.m.

YoungLife is a national, nondenominational organization dedicated to establishing Christian relationships with teenagers.

To volunteer with YoungLife contact Shelly or Matthew Warren at 264-1234.

The YoungLife building in on Owens Street south of Cornerstone Church.

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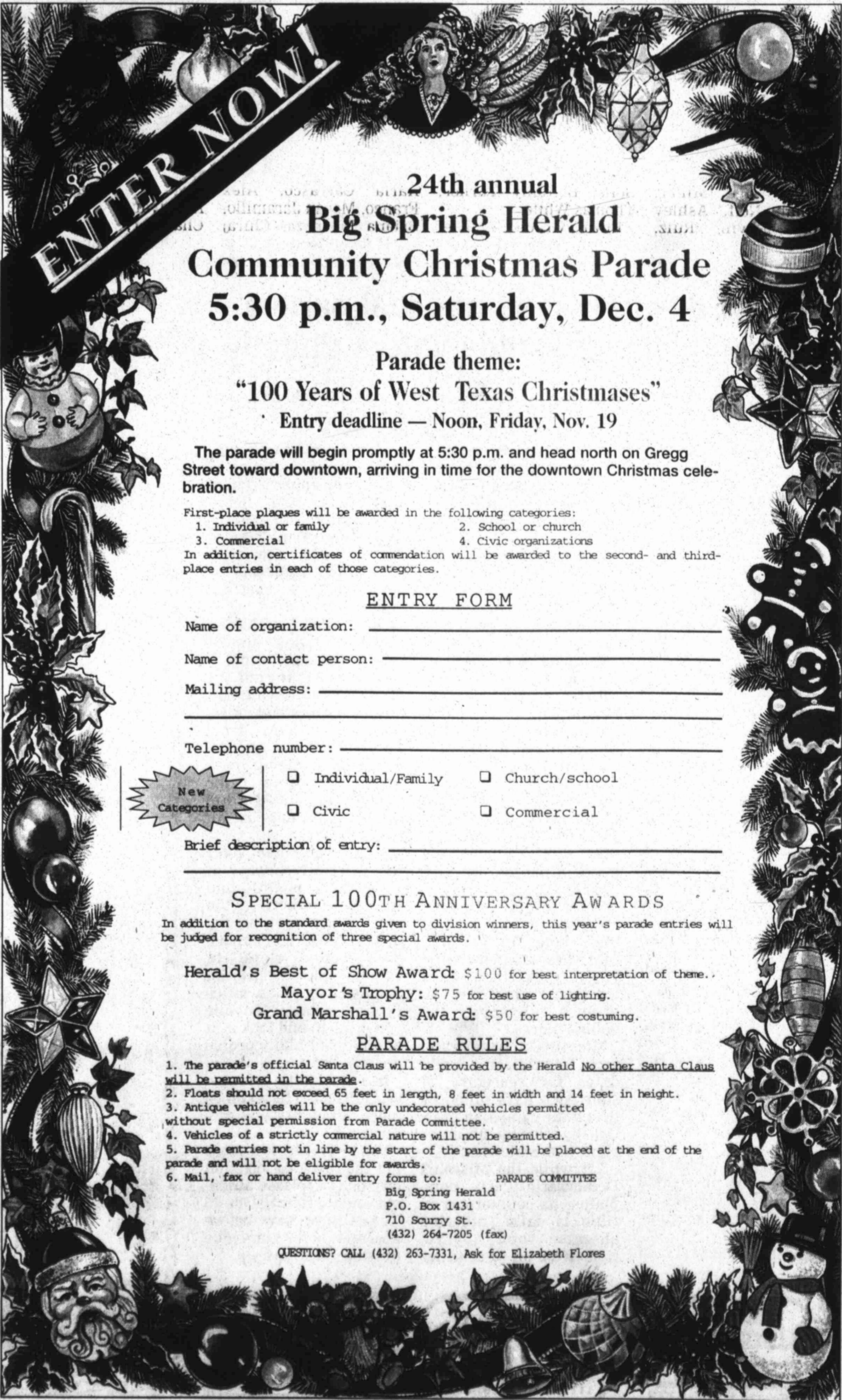
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Alexis Jacks
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Third Grad
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Casey Robert
Michael, Devin
Michael Weir
Williams

Coahoma Elementary
"A" Honor Roll:

First Grade - Kelsey Allen, Makaila Arnold, Tiffany Bakley, Lee Balderas, Donald Barber, Jesse Berner, Trevor Bingham, Julia Castilaw, Lauren Cevallos, Kassi Coker, William Davis, Karissa Dixon, Christopher Dominguez, Skydra-Lynn Farmer, Kaytlin Feemster, Brice Fortenberry, William Franks, Brandi Gammons, Jose Garay, Donavan Garcia, Quentin Gaston, Kenneth Hagins, Shea Hildebrand, Amber Hinojos, Hannah Hobby, Anastacia Hudgins, Megan Izzard, Caitlin Jones, Jordyn Logan, Ashley Luce, Christian Lytle, Matthew Mackey, Crystal McCutchan, Taylor Mendez, Kappi Moron, Jessica Privett, Tara Robinson, Lillian Rodriguez, Abigail Sanchez, Nathan Schneider, Aimee Solis, Miranda Swinney, Hannah Tucker, Isaiah Villareal, Baley White, Tanner Wilson, Tyler Witkowski, Margarito Yanez, Blake Zitterkopf

Second Grade - Ashlynn Armstrong, Bailee Barber, Christopher Biddison, Brandon Clark, Brandon Coker, Trenton Crenshaw, Whitney Dodson, Donald Ewing, Gabrielle Fair, Erin Fontana, Alexandria Gibbs, Braxton Iden, Alexis Jackson, Katie King, Namen McCullough, Nicholas Paige, Garrett Parrish, Kayla Sanders, Kelli Schaedel, Christian Van Wey, Noah Wagenman, Yanci Yeater

Third Grade - Kyla Clanton, Kali Gilbert, Kaylea Holbrook, Kayla Jernigan, Amanda King, Shayla Martin, Briana McCally, Miranda McNew, Caige Miller, Savannah Neff, Ashley Obrien, Devin Ruiz, Shanen Warneke, Tamala Wilson

Fourth Grade - Shea Campbell, Katie Castillo, Zachary Dickerson, Dustin Fontana, Rikkie Gilbert, Morgan Luce, Shelbi Montgomery, Ryan Reid, Michael Villareal, Marla Wilson

Fifth Grade - Katherine Calvert, Jennifer Castilaw, Justin Coker, Keveen Gilbert, Minnie Goodblanket, Vanessa Hernandez, Heather Hildebrand, Mathew Horvathich, Heather Kirby, Sion Long, McKenzie Moore, Jessi Morgan, Haley Pace, Cayla Rodriguez, Paul Salazar, Coleman Sneed, MacKenzie Stone, Nikita Wagenman, Hayden Ware

Sixth Grade - Rachel Barbee, Morgan Barker, Robert Barlow, Joshua Castilaw, Aaron Gonzales, Joanna Gonzales, Jessica Gutierrez, Rachel Kennedy, Jason Martinez, Mia Medina, Reagan Reid, Shelby Reid, Austin Rinard, Jacob Robbins, Casey Roberts, Brandi Smith, Devin Thomason, Michael Weihert, John Williams

"A-B" Honor Roll

First Grade - Aaron Ferguson, Breanna Grant, Michael Grissom, Kayle Hill, Dylan Jetton, Brandy Mier, Taylee Miller, Alex Munoz, Jaden Pollock, Marisa Ramirez, Elissa Thompson

Second Grade - Breanna Cervantes, Brody Coates, Brendann Finch, Kelsey Garza, Jalin Gilbert, Arturo Gonzales, Marypaz Herrera, Hunter Hill, Bailey Kennedy, Jordan Matthews, Joseph Melendez, Tabytha Mendoza, Logan Nachlinger, John Padden, Victor Paniagua, Hailey Ridge, Tera Rinard, Jamen Sanchez, Alysha Swinney, Brayden Thompson, Zakary Walton, Fisher Williams

Third Grade - Joseph Acosta, Richard Adamson, Brittany Bakley, Breann Castillo, Brian Cravens, Mercedes Estes, Tyler Frazier, Tristan Gutierrez, Kimberly Henry, Gabriel Hewtly, Dakota Hodnett, Brent Lambdin, Ka'Lee Loyd, Sarah Melendez, Joshua Metcalf, Loren Moore, Jordan Moron, Ariel Oliver, Tanner Tucker, Eron Urias

Fourth Grade - Jessica Alvarado, Wendy Andersen, Payton Anderson, Devin Barbee, William Barker, Samuel Cornutt, Brandie Gutierrez, Olivia Gutierrez, Stephen Hiler, Alex Hill, Tanner Lain, Hunter Lowery, Sarah Macik, Jacqueline Martin, Maeghan Mauzey, Kaleb McAdams, Clay Monroe, David Morales, Krista Murphree, Jose Nino, Laurel Nix, Santos Orozco, Kasey Osborne, Brandie Phillips, Rachel Robbins, Tobin Robinson, Gilbert Rodriguez, Daniel Solis, Brittany Turner, Thomas White

Fifth Grade - Kief Black, Kendra Carey, Timothy Cravens, Jimmy Cruz, John Flores, Alejandro Gonzalez, Silvia Gonzalez, Dustin Gutierrez, Robert Guzman, Kaitlyn Hector, Christopher Henry, Breanna Hilario, Ambra Hill, Jackie Kirkham, Rebecca Mince, Marco Molina, Randy Paige, Bailey Russell, Calvin Stansel, Julian Uranga

Sixth Grade - Pete Acosta, Kyle Bales, Macheloe Barr, Jaurdin Briscoe, Sergio Calixto, Shae Carroll, Skyler Coates, Bianca Cruz, Lane Gammons, Alena Garibay, Itzel Gomez, Joshua Gonzales, Dakota Griffith, Martin Gutierrez, Brayden Iden, Rusty Martin, Jackie Murphree, Melanie Olivares, Brooks Osborne, Maggie Pollock, Zackery Posey, Ashley Rodriguez, Elijah Salazar, Victoria Schneider, David Thompson, Jose Urias, Kaelyn Waters, Brent Wright, Brooke Zitterkopf

"A-B" Honor Roll

Eighth Grade - Megan Conley, Ashley Martin, Alexandra Moore, Laci Sterling

Seventh Grade - Austin Campbell, Elisha Carroll, Milton Castillo, Kenneth Cates, Judson Chevalier, Britt Dickenson, Katie Dunn, Kenzie Hunt, Krista Lyons, Jordan Martin, Kourtney McAdams, Hayli McCullough, Ashleigh McFadden, Joshua Paniagua, Megan Parrish, Kirstyn Pullis, Reagan Rainey, Jared Ringener, Jacqueline Ruiz, Lauren Ruiz, Riley Wood

Eighth Grade - Isaac Arguello, Kimberly Calvert, Harrison Chevalier, Nathan Gomez, Danja Gonzales, Karly Green, Braden Griffin, Melanie Gutierrez, Camryn Herrera, Kayla Holleman, Berkley Iden, Kelly Lee, Jesus Medina, Shelbi Paige, Jovi Paniagua, Alexis Ruiz, James Taylor, Hilari White, Katelyn Wilson, Brandy Winters

"A-B" Honor Roll

First Grade - Ryan Billingsley, Sebastian Calderon, Terry Carter, Macie Daniels, Victoria Deubler, Ethan Garcia, Fernando Gonzalez, Ashley Hernandez, Stacey Hernandez, Rene Juarez, Julian Larez, Crystal Martinez, Ana Mendez, Trista Mize, Trisha Nieto, Alexis Ovalle, Devin Perez, Noe Ramirez, Corban Ramos, Timothy Rios, Alex Rivera, Jimmy Rodriguez, Jimmy Roper, Nicholas Sosa, Brandon Sparks, Allison Tanis, Travis Threats, Ruben Villagrana, David William, Jessica Yanez

"A" Honor Roll

Second Grade - Esmeralda Athayde, Analicia Cervantes, Cindy Chavera, Remington Colette, Isabella Delatour, Alexis Garcia, Kenna Gomez, Jose Gonzales, Zachary Gonzales, Derek Gusman, Kiowa Lesser, Andrew Martnez, Cynthia Mendoza, Frank Montemayor, Ethan Morellon, Andrew Paredz, Serena Ramirez, Kelli Ruth, Louis Salazar, Parth Shroff, Kain Spivey, Haddan Stokes, Destiny Zamora

2nd Grade - Hannah Biemeret, Luis Casillas, Karla Carrasco, Alex Franco, Megan Jaramillo, Briana Mendoza, Chiraj Patel, Brittnee Rios, Jasmine Westbrook

3rd Grade - Tyler Avant, Crystal Ballin

4th Grade - Hope Beimeret, Kelsey Chavarria, Justine Delatour, Kaley Duncan, Elena Flores, Jose Jimenez, Crystal Juarez, Marissa Hernandez, Paige Knowlton, Chelsea Ramirez, Vanessa Shellman, Savi Vela, Megan Warner

"A" Honor Roll

1st Grade - Balee Allen, Esmeralda Athayde, Analicia Cervantes, Cindy Chavera, Remington Colette, Isabella Delatour, Alexis Garcia, Kenna Gomez, Jose Gonzales, Zachary Gonzales, Derek Gusman, Kiowa Lesser, Andrew Martnez, Cynthia Mendoza, Frank Montemayor, Ethan Morellon, Andrew Paredz, Serena Ramirez, Kelli Ruth, Louis Salazar, Parth Shroff, Kain Spivey, Haddan Stokes, Destiny Zamora

"A" Honor Roll

2nd Grade - Nydia Annivar, Camie Chandler, Matthew Doporto, Kendra Dyer, Blake Freshour, Marissa Garcia, Kaci Hale, Zachary Hollis, Brycen Kiker, Ty Lawrence, Autumn Moore, Kara Saunders, Oscar Barraza, Marcela Norman, Erin Pollard, Kaleb Rankin, Nicholas Sotelo, Stevi Ward

3rd Grade - Matt Beal, Sarah Black, Brett Brorman, Kelsie Guinn, Brianne Kight, Joshua Morgan, Aaron Rios, April Valle, Kinsey Wash, Tony Solis, Kristin Tubera

4th Grade - Charles Anderson, Juli Jimenez, Chelsey Parker, Hannah Spence, Meagan Bordayo, Haley Dimidjian, Tyler Graves, Carson Reibe, Trent Thomas, Mackenzie Wolf

"A-B" Honor Roll

1st Grade - Jason Garcia, John Fierro, McKenzie Horton, August Alexander, Valdomero Contreras, Edward Gamez, Samantha Garcia, Jonathan Garza

2nd Grade - Valarie Haro, Ashton Hendrickson, Meagan Lopez, Corey Potter, Tyler Powell, Kelli Wolf, Mariah Alexander, Joshua Brown, Sean Cannon, Jacob Garcia, Brooke Lindsey, McKenzie Lopez, Delilyah Perez

3rd Grade - Colby Adams, Lane Cannon, Shiloh Creswell, Jacob Davis, Meagan Graves, Taylor Heckler, Alex Lujan, Seth Mitchem, Drake Worthan, Keagan Baucum, Austin Claburn, Crystal

"A" Honor Roll

1st Grade - Ashton Beach, Lindsey Boeker, Alex Bowman, Julia Box, Kaytlin Brock, Mason Burton, Nova Caldwell, Samantha Carriger, Jesse Cervantes, Caden Davidson, Abby De Toro, Peter Dubose, Ross Freeman, Chirstina Gaw, Anthony Gipson, Kerigann Harbour, Brennan Highfield, Stacy Jennings, Kaylee Kemper, MacKenzie Kennedy, Taylor Morin, Granger Newton, Nina Ortiz, Ian Park, Destiney Patterson, Destiny Polk, Keifer Pulis, Gilbert Reyna, Alexis Roach, Madi Roman, Abby Saucedo, Brayden Settles, Sadie Wheeler

2nd Grade - Ryan Armstrong, Mason Coor, Darby DePauw, Ashley Garcia, Chris Gomez, Sam Harris, Emily Hatfield, Trace Hearn, Alicia Hernandez, Ashlie Knox, Zachary Long, Breana Madry, Christopher Mims, Jessica Mince, Hannah Minchew, Nicole Niklasch, Hannah Thompson, Brianna Welch, Nick Williams

3rd Grade - Jammie Armstead, John Tyler Breyman, Kenna Colvin, Caleb Davenport, Covan Davidson, Eric Edwards, Aley Ellison, Tyler Evans, Kade Fannin, Taybor Flores, Corbin Foster, Chandler Freeman, Clayton Galloway, Rachel Haggard, Tristan Hearn, Marisol Hernandez, Vanessa Highfield, Ali Knight, Eindra Lwin, Matthew Mims, Polo Morin, Falon Newton, Maria Ortiz, Mikael Pappajohn, Elizabeth Rhodes, Esteban Serrano, Kelcy Truszkowski, Whitnee Walker, Colton Wheeler

4th Grade - Alexis Armstrong, Dillon Bagnall, Tanner Ballard, Gabrielle Borel, Trevor Burchett, Anthony Chappell, Case Ingram, Treagan Kendrick, Leah Kay Lloyd, Cole Long, Jansen McDonald, Brianna Park, Bethany Roach, Brian Tribolet, Kelsey Westbrook

5th Grade - Autumn Alton, Foster burchett, Ashley Buzbee, Hope Cimmino, Sydney Holdampf, Kara Hughey, Jodi Jones, Alex Park, Peyton Parker

6th Grade - Preston Alexander, Wade Alexander, Jeremy Brooks, Kody Bryant, Clayton Chappell, Bradley Chavez, Christopher Chavez, Kameron Cooper, Kaitlyn Creswell, Christopher Dunlap-Baldwin, Joel Espino, Katelynn Kennemur, Amanda Lopez, Akkey McVae, Walker Park, Isebella Rivera, Skydra Sanford, Kenneth Scholes, Jon-Paul

"A" Honor Roll

2nd Grade - Erin Bagnall, Travis Ballard, Patrick Goodgame, Gabriel Leal, Bailey Lyons, Victoria Martinez, Mary-Ashley McDaniel, Erin Payne, Ryan Pearson, Andy Qualls, Summer Rainer, Alexis Smith, Kaleb Stanley, Dalton Taylor

3rd Grade - Hannah Cates, Austin Grantham, Reagan Haggard, Devin Long, BreAnna Martinez, Ausden Medrano, Kaitlyn Rhoudes, Aaron Salazar, Ke'Arra Scroggins, Kolby Self, Cowboy Sheets, Sara Stevenson, Cody Thomas, Dyrshae Vanderbilt, Beth Warnick, Debora Wood

4th Grade - Landon Boeker, London Carpenter, Madison Churchwell, Dustin Crider, Dalton Doss, Danielle Drury, Dylan Edwards, Nicholas Emerson, Amanda Grisham, Jesse Harmon, Aric Hernandez, Kelcee Hillis, Shandi Huittt, Kie Jones, Max Pappajohn, Copeland Riddell, Shelby Roemer, Kayla Tilley, Jordan Whetsel, Sarah Will

5th Grade - LaShaunte Anderson, Courtney Blair, Austin Bynum, Phillip Cummings, Victoria Dunnam, Patrick Greer, Dymeachia Hall, Lindsey Heckler, Alejandra Hernandez, Shelby Hudgins, Amber Neighbors, Felixianna Pantoja, Caden Rosenbaum, Mara Sheets, Kyle Stevenson, Darien Walker, Kayla Warnick, Spencer Wells, Stevie Wilson

"A" Honor Roll

1st Grade - Felipe Aguinaga, Johan Giesbrecht, Austin Nichols, Angelica Rogers, Dylan Segundo, Dyllan Tindol

2nd Grade - Austin Blount, Davis Browne, George Elias

3rd Grade - Cornelius Giesbrecht, Martia Gonzales, Kendra Staggs

4th Grade - Jake Browne, Jennifer Franco, Preston Zant

5th Grade - Albert Ybarra

6th Grade - Landon Parker, Meagan Yarbrough

7th Grade - Kimberly Wigington

8th Grade - Logan Gaskins, Richard Lucio, Tamara Nichols

10th Grade - Carol Martinez, Garrett Nichols

11th Grade - Hannah Lester, Oralia Mojica, Cevan Smithson

12th Grade - Ashley Allen, Marcelo Barraza, Ruben Dominguez, Corey Ramey

"A-B" Honor Roll

1st Grade - Melissa Brisenno, Benny Butler, Nicholas Cisneros, Agatha Friesen, Daniel Gomez, Desiree Guerra, Samuel Yzaguirre

2nd Grade - Isabella Flores, Luis Gonzales, Colten Hughes, Elizabeth Martinez, Kyler Nichols, Sergio Plata, Sloan Shaw

3rd Grade - Ben Lester, Jorge Pena, Aaron Ragle, Sloan Robinson, Jerad Staggs

5th Grade - Sean Blagrove, Jordan Cuellar, Franz Elias, Michael Gomez, Zaira Pena, Ryan Stockton

6th Grade - Caleb Lester, Kelsea Moore

7th Grade - Isabella

See HONOR, Page 8A

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY JOYCE JILLSON
This is the last full day of the Libran sun, as the sun goes into Scorpio a bit early this year. In the past weeks, life has balanced out, problems have been sorted through, and solutions have occurred rather organically. The holistic approach to living has taught us that it's important to depend on one another — no person is an island.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Small shifts make a big difference over time. Honor the 80/20 rule at work — 20 percent of your activities contribute to 80 percent of your work. So do the important 20 percent, cover your bases, and let the busy-work slide.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You are skeptical of anything that looks too easy, but don't be. Not every gift from the universe requires a big effort on your behalf. Did you ever stop and think that happiness might be your birthright?

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Emotional complexities wrap you up in their sticky web. Show up when you feel like bailing. It's not so bad really — everyone is too busy fighting for his or her own place in the world to worry about how you're coming off.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Look for something interesting in situations that on the surface seem deadly dull. You'll gain resources by connecting with the very people who on the surface seem like they've got little to offer. Romantic issues surface tonight.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The world is not out to get you, though after this

morning, you'll probably think so. The confrontational attitude that some people take with you is actually an opportunity to redefine boundaries of a relationship or terms of an agreement.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The intensity is turned up, and you'll wonder if you can handle it, emotionally, physically and financially. Of course you can, but you'll need to be gentle with yourself. The one being hardest on you is you, as usual.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Tricky situations are your specialty. There's nothing you can't figure out, and you love the challenge. In relationships, be the one to put things to the next level. Partners may lag behind unless you push them onward and upward.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Sure, you're very intuitive, but it's still difficult to see what's ahead when the road winds, dips and ascends as much as it has lately. You'll have to employ your faith. Don't entertain your own skeptical thoughts.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Get your attitude in alignment, and things go smoothly. Use a pen to empty your mind to paper. This gives you much more mental space to deal skillfully with the people and situations that need your attention.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Under current scattered planetary influences, it's so easy to be preoccupied when you need to be focused. Making sure you've got a Taurus or Aquarius on your team will help you keep things in the proper perspective.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Much of your success depends on being a good friend. Start by greeting the world with a pleasant expression on your face, laughing at

people's jokes and offering to share. Before you know it, you're back in the groove.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Your emotions lead you into dicey territory — but just because you feel a feeling doesn't mean you have to act on it. Try and see your impulses for what they are — a response. You always have a choice about how you'll react.

ASTROLOGICAL PROFILES: "I'm a female Libra (born Oct. 13, 1967). In 1993, I dated a Leo (born Aug. 20, 1964) for just a few months. We had a great time together on every level, and it was fun! But I broke it off because I heard from a very reliable source that he was fooling around on me (which of course to this day he denies). We remained very good friends over the years and have seen each other go through several relationships. Currently, I've been single for a year, and he lives in a house he bought with his girlfriend of four years. This Leo keeps telling me it's me he wants. Lately, he's been very persistent. I like his girlfriend, I don't want to be the other woman, and I told him he's got to resolve his current relationship before we can be together. Would we be a good match after all this time?"

For your Leo, old patterns die hard. He's a cheater — it's his vice. He thrives on excitement and drama, and right now, you just happen to be in a position to play a certain role in his life. Stay friends, but distance yourself for a while. And don't let him talk to you in any way other than a friend would, or you'll regret it.

Annie's Mailbox®:
Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: My husband has two sisters. "Heather" is very nice, but "Eileen" is another story. She is bossy and arrogant, and has a bad habit of talking about people behind their backs. Of course, most of what she says is not true.

Recently, my husband's father had a heart attack. While he was in the hospital, my husband and I helped Heather tidy up his house because it hadn't been thoroughly cleaned since his wife died three years ago. Eileen was out of town.

Now Eileen is telling Heather that my husband and I went through Dad's house because we wanted to steal from him. She also told Heather that we tried to break into her house while she was out of town. We have never done anything remotely like that in all our lives.

My husband and I are furious about Eileen's gossip, but if we confront her, she will find out that Heather told on her. We don't want to put Heather in the middle of an argument with her sister.

How can we solve this problem and let Eileen know that this is not acceptable behavior? This is not the first time she's lied about us, and I'm sick of it. — Burned Up

Dear Burned Up: Has Eileen had a check-up lately? It sounds as if she could be mentally ill. Her accusations border on paranoia.

You cannot control how Eileen behaves, but you do not have to dignify her lies with protestations of innocence. If she says anything to your face, reply, "Eileen, it's too bad you feel you must lie about us, and we have no intention of listening to your attacks." Then leave, change the subject,



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

ignore her, whatever works to shut her down. It would help if you could enlist Heather and others into doing the same.

Dear Annie: You've printed several letters about brides and grooms who ask for money. When I was younger, I found cash requests for weddings and showers totally repulsive. However, my 40-something self is relieved at not having to guess what the bride wants, or worry about her returning a gift I spent way too much time selecting and buying. If something saves me time and energy, while giving the guest of honor exactly what she wants, then why not? — Changed My Mind in Michigan

Dear Michigan: We have no objection to giving money as a gift, if that is what the guest prefers to do. It is the crass demands for money coming from the brides and grooms that are galling. There's no question that writing a check is easier, but it does seem sad when guests give money because they simply don't care enough about the couple to spend the time selecting something personal and special — and when bridal couples treat their guests as cash machines.

Dear Annie: I have been dating a wonderful man for eight months, and we have spoken of marriage. The only problem is that "Jerrod" was previously burned by his ex-wife and insists on a prenuptial agreement, even though he isn't rich.

Why is Jerrod already looking at the end of the relationship before it has begun? He sees the prenup as a protective device, but I don't think I can sign such an agreement when it makes me think that he is already looking at divorce.

Am I being old-fashioned? Please help before I blow the best relationship I have ever had. — Baltimore, Md.

Dear Baltimore: Prenuptial agreements are quite common and can protect you as well as Jerrod if both of you are bringing assets into the relationship. It also protects you in case one of you dies, or you decide to give up a lucrative career to be a stay-at-home mother. Prenups are not romantic, but they are practical and allow you to work through financial issues before making a lifetime commitment. If you love Jerrod, don't let this be a source of conflict.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to annies-mailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, P.O. Box 118190, Chicago, IL 60611. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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HONOR

Continued from Page 7A

Cuellar, Abril Garcia, Gabriel Guillen, Noemi Martinez, Ashli Stockton

8th Grade-Brittini Blagrove, William Carson, Kayla Franco, Seth Fry, Ashley Guerra, Miranda Gutierrez, David Martinez, Jesse McDonough, Mason Parker, Valinda Saldivar

9th Grade-Ronnie Peacock

10th Grade-Jarrold Fry, Erik Gutierrez, Kenneth Peacock, Samantha Peacock, Mathew Ybarra

11th Grade-Matthew Benavides, Dan Campbell, Dee Fryar, Clemente Gomez, Brenda Martinez, Juan Mojica, Junior Varela, Santos Ybarra

12th Grade-Kandis Carson, Marlana Gomez, Shaunessy Hagins, Celestino Leal, Tisha Lucio.

MOSS ELEMENTARY
"A" Honor Roll

1st Grade-Kaylee Acosta, Elias Aguirre, Jon Bermea, Mikaela Biddison, Aimee Cervantes, Bailee Chase, Toby Cotton, Cameron Crabtree, Melinda Duck, Valarie Estill, Charisma Fierro, Destinee Fowler, Madyson Gartman, Madison Gibson, Mary Gomez, Jorge Hernandez, Sarinity Klug, Lee Karwedsky, Kyle Larson, Ben Mikeska, Wyatt Morgan, Faith Norman, Faith Parum, Sidney Patterson, Makaylah Ramos, Dominic Reyes, Triston Rios, Makenzie Roberts, Francisco Rodriguez, Jacob Scott, Joe Torres, Lexie Trevino, Noah Vera, Dylan Watson, Matthew Wood

2nd Grade-Caleb Benson, Charlie Boling, Tyler Bryan, Brianna Cobos, Carlee Daniel, Fabian Garcia, Angela Garza, Breeana Jeter, Jensen Jeter, Will Lopez, Whitney Luna, Serena Payen, Rebecka Quillen, Julianna Rodriguez, Dylan Ross, Madison Seely, Bailey Sharp, Jennie Steel, Tobyn Tannehill

3rd Grade-Taylor Arista, Dalton Bradbury, Casey Cervantes, Bryson Dunn,

Catherine Harris, Alex Hughes, Brady Mikeska, Devin Roberson, Kayla Sigmom, Brandon Soliz, Conner Steel, Gabbie Trevino, Briana Valencia, Nadya Viasana, Amy Winters

4th Grade-Jarred Doport, Amanda Duck, Connor Furqueron, Alex Gartman, Austin Gibson, Sydney Larson, Michael Oliva, Emilo Ortiz, Bryanna Raney, Logan Yarbar

"A-B" Honor Roll

1st Grade-Julia Aguilar, Nicklas Cotton, Dario Eggleston, Moran Flores, Ryan Gallardo, Brianna Guzman, Rafael Hernandez, Jeremiah Holguin, Miranda Johnson, Alex Mills, Brody Mills, Melina Molina, Fernando Morales, Isaih Porras, Austin Viera, George Viera

2nd Grade-Karina Alvarado, Fabian Barrientes, Jacqueline Castillo, Oasis Cervantes, Alyssa Deanda, Chase Dunnam, Travis Garrard, Taryn Haynes, Kaeli Hines, Alex Lopez, Isaiah Luna, Anais Martinez, Emily McKinley, Jared Nieto, Adam Olivas, Marisol Ortega, Savannah Robinson, Priscilla

Salazar, Aloura Scott, Ty Sealy, Gloria Stinson, Camron Torres, Leksey Yarbar

3rd Grade-Ian Acosta, Zach Crabtree, Tabitha Dedmon, Ariana Diaz, Daric Gill, Harley Gray, Omar Hernandez, Tabitha Keaton, Joey Lara, Zachary Ludington, Austin Mize, Kasie Olivares, Mayra Ortega, Kristen Poffinbarger, Madeline Ramos, Jessica Spears, Trace Telchick, Jahari Vanover, Garrett Wheeler

4th Grade-Vanessa Alvarado, Fortune Barrientes, Emilea Brumley, Matthew Burnett, Cloee Camden, Ty Camden, Jake Cervantes, Adolfo Franco, Gloria Garcia, Brandon Gonzales, Emeree Gonzales, Chris Hughes, Megan Islas, Taylor Johnson, Caleb Lewis, Adam Lloyd, Ransom Parks, Allison Payen, Alex Reagan, Colton Roberts, Rande Soto, Topaze White, Ariel York, Matthew Zubiate.

10th Grade-Shani Coker, Stephen Ewing, Jacob McCain, Cody Price, Adriana Rodriguez, Dakota Teaff, Briana Thurman, Chlesea Watts, Christopher Weiher, Michael Yeater.

11th Grade-Terrell Bibb, Liz Conley, Sarah Dunn, Amy Hiler, LaTisha McCartney, Ashle New, Tori Paige.

12th Grade-Isaac Brewer, Garret Cline, Brittany Cook, Gene Corse, Vickie Cortez, Jerod Flohr, Tyler Fowler, Magun Gutierrez, Brittany Hankins, Danielle Hess, Megan Jackson, Ginni Metcalf, Mendy Morgan, Zack Phillips, Travis Simpson, Alicia Thurman, Michelle Villa, Clint Walker, Lauren Yeater.

"A-B" Honor Roll

9th Grade-Vanessa Cortez, Amanda Fernandez, Randi Gerstenberger, Chelsea Gonzales, Janice Gonzales, Channel Griffin, Kayla Gutierrez, Blaine Henderson, Stacy Hernandez, Casey Kilpatrick, Joseph Mackey, Justin McCrea, Justin Rau, Reagan Rupard, Heather Sheppard, Tessa Williamson, Caylea Wood.

10th Grade-Justin Cline, Nick Denton, Jason Gonzales, Kamrun Green, Kayla Hall, Brandon Hildebrand, Blaine Kerby, Katelin Lyons, Ami Martinez, Rebecca McEndree, Collin McMillan, Tabitha Medina, Brittnee Nix, Callie Paige, Jessica Pittman, Christin Powell, Taylor Rainey, Domingo Rodriguez, Ryan Walker, Rickey White, Jeremy Winn, Dustin Wright, Miguel Yanez.

11th Grade-Amber Arthur, Sarah Bartlett, Crystal Bridges, Patrick Croft, Sterling Gee, Ryan Green, Cody Griffith, Joe Holguin, Kassi Hutchison, Sini Laurikkala, Shawna Sullivan, Trey Thornton, Drew Wells.

12th Grade-Adrian Abrego, Kimberlee Baugus, Chad Born, Tania Bradley, Chris Bustamante, Christine Coker, Sarah Collom, Benjamin Deanda, Ruby Garcia, Christina Garza, Kevin Grove, Krystal Herrera, Brandi Kilpatrick, Nick Maddox, Dustin Martin, Adam Padron, Daniel Posey, Callie Price, Tiffany Reid, Travis Roberts, Rocky Salazar, Tyler Sheppard, Michael Smith, Cory Wilson.

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OTH DIST BATH
Hermle Forsan
Forsan will its first vic season Fri they host di Hermleigh team's regu home finale. "Hermleigh strong defe and they lik offense," sa head coac Thompson. stop the run and take wh us on offens probably receivers to downfield. think we h chance to l anced attack The Buff coming off loss to Di leading Ros Hermleigh, also seekin win, is com 6 loss to Rol The Card been shut times this scoring just seven game Friday nigh senior nigh Buffalo se group will before the 7

Sands Loop
The strea Mustangs f hits the r and puts it winning st line agains Longhorns The Mus been runni past four ga have defea trict oppo Home and district riva and Dawson Last week point merc ry over D Mustangs y junior Sam who ran fro on the gr junior Ceva had 144 rus The combu for nine to the night.

At Hor
Big Sprin Forsan v Stanton

On the
Garden Coahom Grady @ Sands @

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OTHER DISTRICT BATTLES

Hermleigh @ Forsan

Forsan will search for its first victory of the season Friday when they host district rival Hermleigh in the team's regular season home finale.

"Hermleigh has a strong defensive front and they like to run on offense," said Forsan head coach Tommy Thompson. "We need to stop the run on defense and take what they give us on offense. They will probably allow our receivers to get open downfield, but I also think we have a good chance to have a balanced attack, as well."

The Buffaloes are coming off a 78-12 road loss to District 10-A leading Roscoe, while Hermleigh, which is also seeking its first win, is coming off a 60-6 loss to Roby.

The Cardinals have been shutout three times this year while scoring just 35 points in seven games.

Friday night will be senior night for five Buffalo seniors. The group will be honored before the 7:30 kickoff.

Sands @ Loop

The streaking Sands Mustangs football team hits the road Friday and puts its four-game winning streak on the line against the rival Longhorns in Loop.

The Mustangs have been running wild the past four games as they have defeated non-district opponents New Home and Lorraine and district rivals Klondike and Dawson.

Last week, in their 45-point mercy rule victory over Dawson, the Mustangs were led by junior Santos Ybarra, who ran for 289 yards on the ground, while junior Cevan Smithson had 144 rushing yards. The combo combined for nine touchdowns on the night.

Estacado brings speed to table at Memorial

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor

The Big Spring football team can look forward to speed and lots of it Friday night at Memorial Stadium when they take on winless Lubbock Estacado.

The Estacado speed will mostly come from junior running back Tony Glenn, who is a tremendous athlete and member of the Lubbock Estacado

track team, as well, said Big Spring head coach Dwight Butler.

"We have to get to him before he turns his shoulders to get up field because if he gets in the open field we have no one that can catch him," he added.

The Estacado offense also features two quarterbacks. The first is sophomore Reggie Thompson and the second is senior

L.A. Willis.

"They have struggled offensively just like we have," said Butler. "Their athletic ability scares every coach because damage can be done with that much speed. We just need to keep the speed of their offense and our defense off the field as much as possible."

The Steers' spread offense will go up against a 50 formation defense led

by Dejuan Hill, who, according to Butler, is a big, athletic defensive lineman.

"We just have to worry about getting first downs and not so much on scoring touchdowns," said Butler. "The team has been so inconsistent on offense that it has affected our defense in the fact that they stay on the field longer."

And besides inconsis-

tency, turnovers have also affected the Steers on offense this year.

"Those have been our two main things offensively," said Butler. "And when we aren't turning the ball over we aren't able to stay consistent. It can be very frustrating for a coach."

Lubbock Estacado (0-7) will take on Big Spring (2-5) at 7:30 p.m. Friday at Memorial Stadium.

Red-hot Buffaloes try to stretch streak to four with victory

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor

The Class 2A rivalry between Stanton and Coahoma will be renewed Friday as the Buffaloes host the Bulldogs at 7:30 p.m.

The game this year is different than last year, however. Coahoma is struggling to find the win column and Stanton is streaking at the right point this season. The Buffaloes have won three straight games, which includes a 2-0 District 4-2A start, while the Bulldogs are 1-6 overall and 0-2 in the district.

"Things are starting to click for us," said Stanton head coach Lee McCown. "The guys are just getting after it."

Part of Coahoma's problem this year has come with injuries. They have seldom had every starter in the lineup on Fridays. They also lost star quarterback Adrian Abrego two weeks ago, who is possibly out for the season.

"They are going to play hard regardless of who they put on the field," said McCown, whose team, unlike Coahoma, is starting to get healthy. "We are preparing for

them to all be there and our guys are going to have to play hard."

McCown said Coahoma's defense is big and the offense is unpredictable because they have had different personnel each week.

"We have to be sound in our coverages and play defense with intensity," he added. "We also need to execute and be able to play with whatever they throw at us."

Because of injuries and different personnel that Coahoma has used this year, Stanton will not be able to key on one particular person.

"We won't be keying on one guy because they have used so many players this year in different positions," said McCown. "We have to be ready for whoever plays and our guys certainly need to be aware of (Andrew) Brown when he is in the backfield."

Brown is a lineman who has played running back for Coahoma in several games this year.

Coahoma is expected to start senior Lance Roberts behind center Friday due to Abrego's injury.

Stanton is led by sophomore quarterback Michael Washington and running back Emilio Villa. The Buffaloes line is led by senior Alex Shafer and junior Marcus Arguello.

Washington has accounted for three or more touchdowns each game during Stanton's three-game winning streak.



ROBERTS



SHAFER



Grady's Nedy Flores makes the tackle against a ballcarrier from Wellman-Union last Friday during the Wildcats' home loss to their district rival. This week, the Wildcats travel to Dawson to take on the rival Dragons at 7:30 p.m.

Bearkats prepare for Veri"best"

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor

With just two games remaining on its district schedule, the Garden City football team could take one step closer to winning the district title Friday when they travel to rival Veribest.

The Bearkats are 2-0 thus far in District 8 Six-man play and had three games remaining, but rival Blackwell lost a player to an injury last week and was forced to stop varsity games this year.

Blackwell was scheduled to play Garden City during the regular season's final week. Garden City has not found a replacement game, but hopes to find one soon, said Bearkats head coach

Ken Hoskins.

First things first, however. The Bearkats will prepare this week for rival Veribest, who gets its best player back this week.

"They have had some guys hurt this year, but they will get Zach Delagarza back this week and he is a strong runner with good moves that plays a lot of positions," said Hoskins. "They will run several sets, try to spread us out, use their quickness and rely on the big play to get points on the board. We need to be disciplined, play our area and make the sure tackle."

Delagarza has been sidelined due to injury since week two or three, added Hoskins.

The ninth ranked Bearkats won't change much on offense and will rely again on depth and fundamentals.

"We just want to play a solid fundamental offense by running and throwing and not doing anything too fancy," said Hoskins. "They only play seven or eight kids, so our depth should be an advantage."

Hoskins expects a battle Friday because he feels his team will get everyone's best shot.

"They'll be fired up at home," said Hoskins. "We need to be mentally ready to go and have our heads in the game from the start."

Veribest is 1-5 this year, but got its first victory last Friday against rival Blackwell, 66-45.

This Week

At Home:

Big Spring vs. Lubbock Estacado, 7:30 p.m.
Forsan vs. Hermleigh, 7:30 p.m.
Stanton vs. Coahoma, 7:30 p.m.

On the Road:

Garden City @Veribest, 7:30 p.m.
Coahoma @Stanton, 7:30 p.m.
Grady @Dawson, 7:30 p.m.
Sands @Loop, 7:30 p.m.

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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

IN BRIEF

Basketball referees needed for season

The Crossroads area is looking for basketball officials for the upcoming season in November.

For more information, contact Adam Rodriguez at 263-8731 or 517-0300.

The games will be played in local areas such as Big Spring, Forsan and Coahoma and will be for the junior high and high school levels.

Ragball tournament set for early Nov.

A ragball tournament has been set up to help raise money for Relay for Life.

The tournament will take place Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 6-7, at Cotton Mize Field inside of Comanche Trail Park. Registration will take place that Saturday at 1 p.m.

The teams are made up of five men and five women and it costs \$10 per player to participate.

For more information, contact Angel at the bus barn at 264-4108.

Lady Steers Booster Club sets meeting

The Big Spring Lady Steers Booster Club will hold a meeting at 6 p.m. tonight at the Athletic Training Center.

All parents of girls in volleyball, basketball, track, training and cheerleading are encouraged to attend.

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

Rangers, Stars owner Hicks retires early

DALLAS (AP) — Tom Hicks, multimillionaire owner of the Texas Rangers and Dallas Stars, has reportedly told investors of the buyout firm he co-founded that he will retire on Jan. 1, three months ahead of schedule.

Hicks' retirement party is planned for Tuesday evening at a private home, according to The Dallas Morning News.

"It just feels right," Hicks, the 58-year-old chairman of Dallas-based Hicks, Muse, Tate & Furst Inc., told the newspaper in a telephone interview Monday. "I want to start the new year with a fresh focus."

Hicks made the announcement to investors for the firm's annual partners' meeting, which began Monday at the Four Seasons Resort in Las Colinas.

In March, Hicks had announced that he would step down in a year from Hicks Muse, one of the country's largest buyout firms.

Hicks said then he wanted to spend more time on his sports teams, real estate holdings and with his family.

ON THE AIR

Sports Broadcast Schedule

Day	Time	Station
Friday	7:00 p.m.	5800 AM
Saturday	11:30 a.m.	1490 AM
Sunday	5:30 p.m.	1490 AM

Edmonds' homer forces one game showdown in STL

By BEN WALKER

ST. LOUIS — Jim Edmonds skipped around the bases, jumping into a cluster of St. Louis Cardinals waiting for him at home plate.

Now, waiting for all of them is Roger Clemens in an all-or-nothing Game 7.

Edmonds blasted a two-run homer in the 12th inning and the rejuvenated Cardinals turned Busch Stadium into a red frenzy, beating the Houston Astros 6-4 Wednesday to even the NL championship series at 3-all.

"We all watched TV as kids. We all hear all the stuff you guys say and write and show us. I finally get to play in a Game 7," Edmonds said.

"I think how much better does it get? Game 7 vs. Roger Clemens," he said.

After Jeff Bagwell's two-out single in the ninth off Cardinals closer Jason

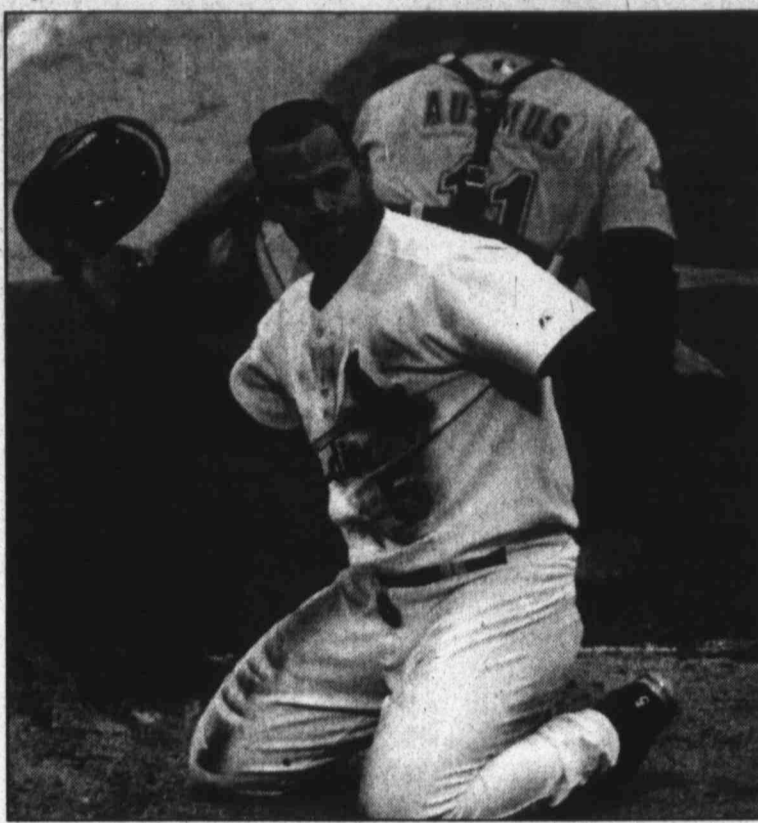
Isringhausen tied it at 4, Edmonds won it with a one-out shot off Dan Miceli.

Bagwell didn't even bother watching as Edmonds' shot sailed way over the St. Louis bullpen in right field. The star first baseman simply walked across the field while the Cardinals streamed out of the dugout.

"A very winnable game for us, so I'm disappointed," Astros manager Phil Garner said. "Haven't given much thought to tomorrow's game, only that I had scheduled the Rocket to go."

Clemens came out of retirement for the sole purpose of pitching his hometown Astros into their first World Series.

Now, the 42-year-old ace will get that chance Thursday night when he starts against former Boston teammate Jeff Suppan.



KRT photo/J.B. Forbes, St. Louis Post-Dispatch
The Cardinals' Albert Pujols throws his batting helmet after being tagged out at home plate by Houston's Brad Ausmus in the fourth inning of game six of the NLCS Wednesday in St. Louis.

"What's there to say?" Clemens said, excusing himself to go watch Game 7 of the ALCS in which Boston beat New York 10-3. "We've got to win tomorrow."

It will be will Clemens' fourth career start in a Game 7 — he's 1-0 in those outings after getting knocked out early last year in the ALCS for the

Yankees. "I've never seen him pitch when he wasn't tough to beat," Cardinals manager Tony La Russa said. "It shapes up to be a terrific matchup."

Righty Julian Tavarez went two innings for the victory. He pitched with a left hand that he broke in a dugout tantrum in Houston.

Morgan feels at home in D-town

By STEPHEN HAWKINS

AP Sports Writer IRVING — Quincy Morgan isn't going to be a starter for the Dallas Cowboys. No big deal, he didn't feel like one in Cleveland even in that role.

"The way it was going in Ohio, it was like I wasn't a starter anyway. I was starting and catching one ball a game," Morgan said Wednesday, before taking part in his first Cowboys practice. "I'd rather sit here and come in as a third (receiver) and play ball."

Morgan got his wish to leave the Browns, where the fourth-year player had started 45 of 54 games since being drafted. The added bonus was that he got traded to his hometown team.

Even while starting five of Cleveland's six games this season and catching a team-high three touchdown passes from Jeff Garcia, Morgan had just nine total catches for 144 yards. He was disappointed with his reduced role and last week complained about not getting the ball enough.

"Personally, I just don't think they used me to the best of my abilities," Morgan said.

To complete the deal Tuesday, Morgan agreed to a one-year extension through 2005 for which he will get a \$750,000 base salary and \$250,000 roster bonus. His 2004 salary of \$560,000 won't change.

The Cowboys sent Antonio Bryant, their own disgruntled receiver and like Morgan a former second-round pick, to Cleveland.

Bryant started 15 games and had 44 catches for 733 yards and six TDs as a rookie in 2002 before Parcells arrived. He lost his starting job to Terry Glenn last season, and Keyshawn Johnson — another receiver who had played for Parcells in the past — joined the team this year.

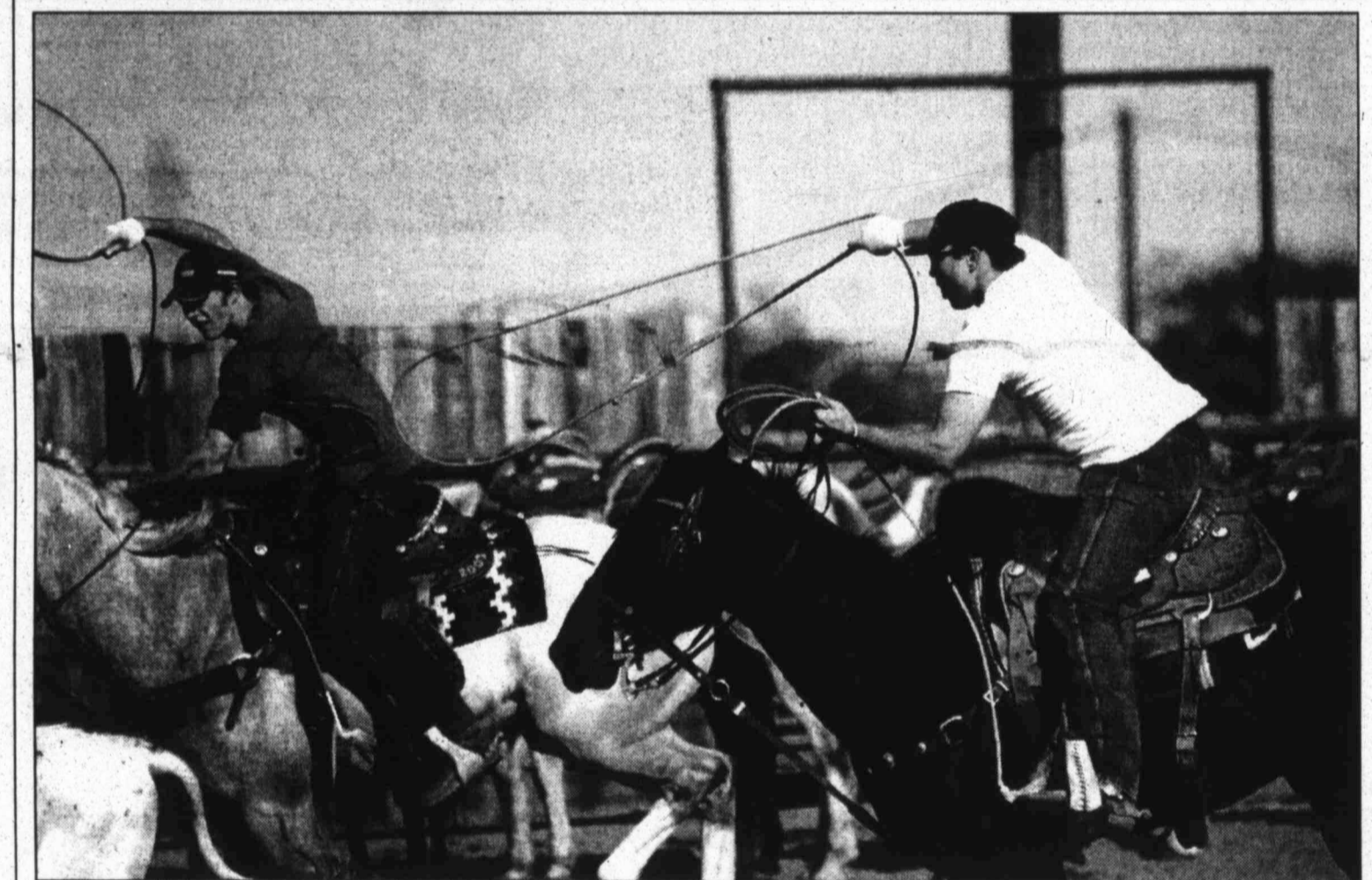
Upset about his role as the third receiver, Bryant threw a sweaty jersey into the face of Parcells during a June workout. Bryant was removed by security and didn't rejoin the team until training camp.

Parcells wouldn't elaborate on his relationship with Bryant, and echoed comments made Tuesday by Cowboys owner Jerry Jones that Morgan would be a better fit for the Cowboys.

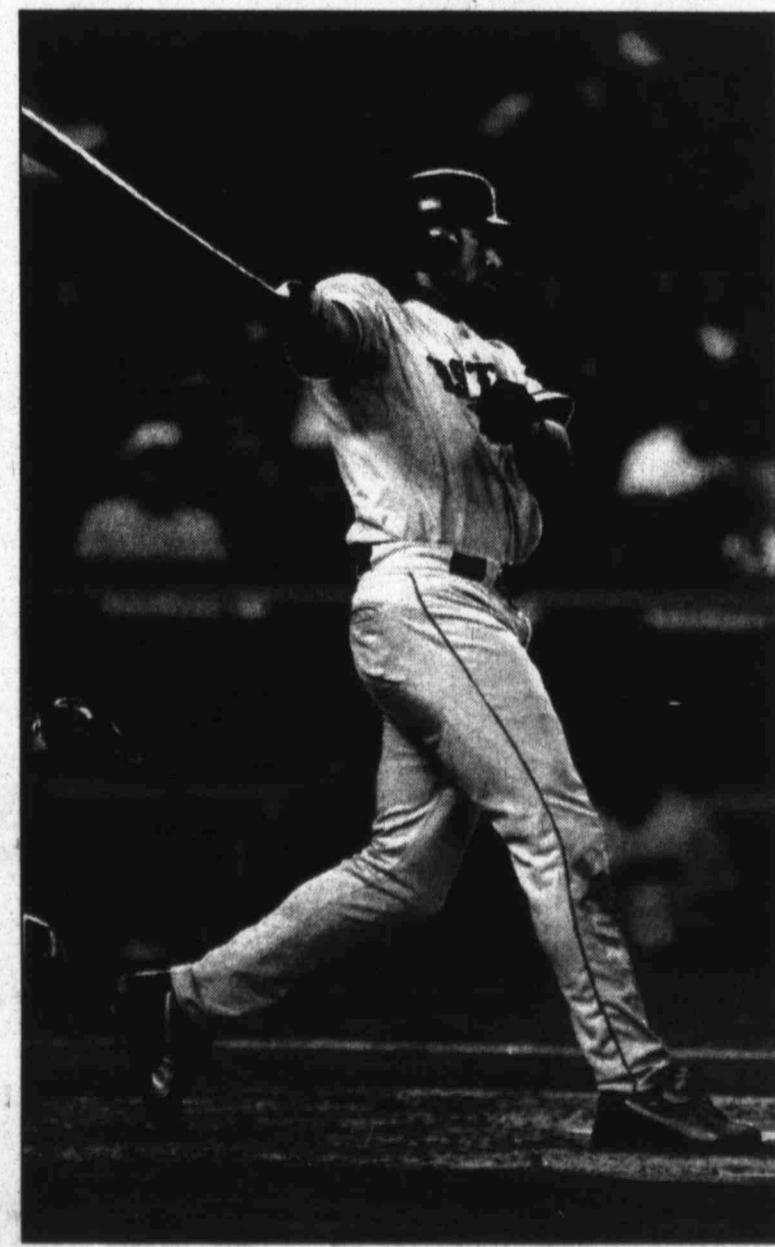
"I wish things had worked out. Yeah, I do," Parcells said Wednesday. "But they didn't. ... It was just something that we felt long-term was better and that's what Jerry said and that's what I'm saying."

Morgan was at the Cowboys' facility early Wednesday. He met with coaches and went through a team walk-through before lunch, then had more meetings after practice. The process will be repeated Thursday in hopes that he can be ready to play this weekend.

"I think so, very doable," Morgan said of playing Sunday at Green Bay.



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde
Former Howard College rodeo team member Trent Cornelius, right, works out his horse during a Howard College rodeo practice Wednesday afternoon. Cornelius and his partner, Kaleb Twissilman, are team ropers in the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA) and currently ranked in the top-25 in the world. Cornelius, who is shown here team roping with current Howard College rodeo team member Ryan O'Donnell, was a member of the Hawk team for three years. He performed in the College National Rodeo Finals in 2003.



KRT photo/Paul Benswiler, Newsday
Boston's Johnny Damon watches his grand slam in the second inning of game seven of the ALCS at Yankee Stadium Wednesday.

Finally...Boston ousts Yankees, advances to championship series

By RONALD BLUM

AP Sports Writer NEW YORK — Cursed for 86 years, these Red Sox just might be charmed.

Believe it, New England — the Boston Red Sox are in the World Series. And they got there with the most unbelievable comeback of all, with four sweet swings after decades of defeat, shaming the New York Yankees.

David Ortiz, Johnny Damon and Derek Lowe made sure of it.

Just three outs from getting swept in the AL championship series three nights earlier, the Red Sox finally humbled the Evil Empire, winning Game 7 in a 10-3 shocker Wednesday to become the first major league team to overcome a 3-0 postseason series deficit.

Boston didn't need any of the late-inning dramatics that marked the last

three games, leading 6-0 after two innings. Ortiz, the series MVP, started it with a two-run homer in the first off broken-down Kevin Brown, and Damon quieted Yankee Stadium in the second inning with a grand slam on Javier Vazquez's first pitch.

After Derek Jeter sparked hope of a comeback with a run-scoring single in the third, Damon put a two-run homer into the upper deck for an 8-1 lead in the fourth.

Lowe pitched on two days' rest and allowed one hit in six innings. He silenced the Yankees' bats and boasting fans, who just last weekend assumed New York's seventh pennant in nine years was all but a lock. Pedro Martinez started the seventh, his first relief appearance in five years, which sparked chants of the now famous "Who's Your Daddy?"

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Business Opportunity

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Cemetery Lots

2 SPACES side-by-side in Trinity Memorial Park (Garden of Lebanon). \$1200.00 each. Call (405)830-9087.

Garage Sales

3 FAMILY Garage Sale, Saturday, 8:00-? 2725 East 25th (Kentwood area). Clothes, household items, lots of everything!

Garage Sales

3200 GREENBRIAR Ave. on the corner of Baylor & Greenbriar by Moss Elementary. 7:30 a.m.-? Lots of baby items, clothes, crib set, toys, miscellaneous items.

3610 CALVIN Saturday 8 - 2 Porcelain dolls, full and twin bed, large & extra large women clothes, baby furniture, toys, X-Box games & more.

5 FAMILY Back yard Sale: 2003 Johnson, Saturday Only 8-?. Tykes toys, plus size clothes, doll collection, too much to list. Also Computer Repair. (432)264-6526.

5 FAMILY sale 2302 Roberts Dr. Sat. 7-3. Furniture, aquarium, decorator items, car TV's, comforters, kids toys, clothes-size lady's 16, car rims, misc.

806 KENT Ave (By Moss Elem.), Friday & Saturday 7:30-4:30. Clothes, house items, shoes, lots of things. Breakfast Burritos.

BACKYARD SALE: 3313 Duke, Saturday 8-1. Lots of Summer & Winter clothes for kids 2T to grownup sizes and lots of misc. items.

BACKYARD SALE: Saturday, 8am-? 1402 Birdwell. Lots of different stuff. Two households merged. If you don't see it, ask for it. No Checks Please!

BENEFIT FOR United Way: ATMOS Energy - 2002 E. FM 700, Saturday 8-?. Too many things to list. Also will be selling Hot dogs & Coke for United Way.

Garage Sales

BIG INSIDE Sale, Saturday only! 8:00-5:00. Primitive Baptist Church, 201 East 24th St. across from Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Clothes, furniture, lots of miscellaneous.

CARPOR SALE, 2004 Morrison Dr. Saturday, 8:00 a.m. Large desk, small appliances, dining table, lots of misc.

GARAGE SALE and Open House: 1607 & 1609 East 16th. Saturday Only. Houses and lots also for sale. Left-handed golf clubs, exercise equip., Christmas decorations, angel figurines, bedding, stoves, lots of stuff! Call (325)728-8662 and leave message for info on houses.

GARAGE SALE: 3205 Auburn, Fri. & Sat. 8-?. Movies, CD's, books, toys, dye cast cars, and misc.

GARAGE SALE: VCR, small kitchen appliances, pictures, rugs, shelves, decorative items, Xmas decorations, jewelry, clothes, shoes, and much more. 2613 Rebecca (Kentwood Addition), Saturday 7:00am-3:00pm.

NO EARLY BIRDS PLEASE. Saturday Only 8:30-5:00, Big Sale at 707 West 16th. Furniture, deco. items, extra nice clothing, toys and lots of misc.

DONT LET SOMEONE MAKE YOUR DECISIONS FOR YOU. VOTE!

Garage Sales

THE TRADING Post, 1806 N. Hwy 87, now taking consignments. Buy, Sell, Trade. Across from state hospital. Furniture, clothes, jewelry, toys, dishes, whatnots. (432)263-1938.

Garage Sales

YARD SALE, Saturday, 8:00-? 1909 Alabama. Lots of ladies clothes & shoes, kitchen items, Southwest, baby items, toys.

SATURDAY 8-2. Housewares, linens, nice clothes & shoes all sizes, furniture, chrome head-ache rack & grillguard. 5405 Rockhouse Road.

Help Wanted

ATTENTION PROFESSIONALS: We need Administrators, Managers, Supervisors, Health Professionals, CPA's, Financial Planner's, and Attorney's. Special Project! Flexible hours! Extraordinary Income! For interview call 800-497-2180.

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Help Wanted

BACKHOE OPERATOR with at least 1 year experience. Apply at Rusty's Oilfield Service in Stanton. (432)756-2821.

BEST HOME Care continues to grow and need RN to fill case manager position. Good working environment and competitive salary with \$2000 sign on bonus. Call (432)263-3851 to inquire or come by 111 E. 7th, Suite C, to apply.

BEST HOME Care has a clerical position available. Computer experience required and medical background preferred. Salary DOE. Please apply at 111 E. 7th, Suite C.

CANTEEN CORRECTIONS now hiring for Cook Supervisor. Starting pay is \$9.37. Training provided, 3 day work week. Must pass criminal and credit check. Pick up application at 2001 First Ave. or call (432)263-2366.

STOP & SHOP. Looking for Cashier. Must be able to work nights & weekends. Apply @ store. Located @ 1506 East FM 700. Please No Calls.

CHILD CAREGIVER position, full or part-time. Day or evening hours. Apply in person at Jack & Jill, 1708 Nolan. Prior applicants, please reapply. No phone calls please.

CITY OF Big Spring is taking applications for a Convention and Visitor Bureau Coordinator. This position is responsible for promoting and marketing activities that will encourage tourism and convention activities in Big Spring. Salary is \$15.70/hr. Apply at the personnel department at city hall, 310 Nolan, Big Spring, TX 79720 or call (432)264-2346. Applications may also be obtained from website: www.ci.big-spring.tx.us The City of Big Spring is EOE.

DANCER/ COCKTAIL waitress needed. Must be 18 yrs. old. Call San Franciscan Bar & Grill (432)267-1767 leave message.

LOOKING FOR experienced nail tech & hair stylist, willing to do part time or full time. Only serious applicants need to apply. Call (432)349-0105.

NEED MACHINE maintenance person with hydraulic and electrical basic knowledge. Person needs to work with schematics. Competitive salary and benefits. Fax resume to 432-354-2669.

NEEDED EXPERIENCE HVAC & sheetmetal duct installer. Call (432)263-1902 in Big Spring.

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

For a full time Manager Trainee/Asst. Mgr.. Must have dependable transportation, High School diploma or GED Equivalent. Must be willing to work a flexible schedule. No phone calls please. Apply in person at TEXAS FINANCE, 1100 Gregg Street, Big Spring, TX.

Previous management or collection experience preferred.

PART TIME WORK \$10.00 Base/Appt. STUDENTS WELCOME

Flex schedule, sales/service, all ages 18+, conditions exist. Apply in Midland work in Big Spring. Call (432)699-6782.

PART-TIME EDUCATION

Coordinator needed for local service agency to work with all age groups. Twenty-nine hours a week, flexible schedule with local travel required. Must have dependable transportation, outgoing personality and be self-motivated. Salary plus travel reimbursement, background check required. Send resume c/o: P.O. Box 1431/102, Big Spring, Tx. 79721.

CITY OF Big Spring is taking applications for Utility Service Worker. Apply at The Personnel Department at City Hall, 310 Nolan, Big Spring, TX 79720 or Call (432)264-2346. The City of Big Spring is EOE.

Help Wanted

SCS TRANSPORTATION Accepting applications for professional drivers to haul fuel. A prior steady work history along with an acceptable D & A background will be verified. TX CDL, Tanker, HAZMAT and active medical card required. Prior fuel hauling experience a plus. Fax resume to (432)337-1676 or call (432)337-1675 and ask Ron for application between 9:00 & 5:00 pm Mon.-Fri..

United Petroleum

United Petroleum Transports hiring Company Drivers in the Big Spring area to gas & diesel. This is a day position. Qualifications * 2 yrs. recent T/T driving exp. * OR 1 yr. Tanker Exp. * Class A, w/X end. * UPT offers * Home every night * And low cost health insurance for Company drivers

Apply in person @ 1600 Barrett St., Odessa TX OR Call to complete a phone application 800-353-5606.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! Odyssey Hospice is seeking volunteers for Big Spring, Lamesa, Snyder, and surrounding areas. FREE TRAINING. Contact Sadie Watkins at 1-877-200-1410.

WANTED RECEPTIONIST 40 hours a week. Prefer non-smokers. Drug test. Mail resume to PO Box 214, Big Spring, TX 79721, Fax 1-888-267-5280.

Items for Sale

ELECTRIC BICYCLE, red, nice condition, no pedaling necessary. No license or registration required. Pulls hills goes 1.3mph, 25 miles, fully loaded, plenty storage. \$800. (432)466-0800.

LITTLE BIT of everything. Odds & Ends. If you don't see what you want Ask! Daily 9-4, 404 State.

Lost and Found

FOUND GOLDEN retriever/ Chow mixed dog (female). Looks to be 1 year old. Found near Comanche Trail Park, 1 week ago. Call (432)816-1730.

Miscellaneous

FOR SALE: Brand New Full Size Air Hockey Table. Mechanical scoreboard. Paid \$300., asking \$250.00. Call 432-398-5416 or 432-816-6999.

FOR SALE: Tan colored metal perforated shelving. Good condition. Screen print equipment. 432-267-5645.

QUAIL HUNTING Day Lease & 3 Day deer hunts (1 doe, 1 buck). Mitchell County. Call (479)880-8759.

USED ELECTRIC stove, and twin captain's bed w/nightstand. Call (432)268-3693 after 5:00.

WEDDING CAKES!! Silk floral, arches, candelabra. FREE Throw Away Bouquet with Cake order. Call The Grishams now for appointment and more INFO (432)267-8191.

National Ads

FREE MONEY for 2004! Private-Government Grants for Personal bills, School, Business, etc. Never Repay. Live Operators. \$47 billion dollars unclaimed 2003. 1-800-420-8344 ext. 31.

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500 ACRE cotton farm for sale in Elbow area. Section 36 Blk 34 ls, Clanton Estate. Will accept best offer on or before Nov. 1st. 140 acre pasture with houses optional. Call Shane Clanton at 512-755-1697.

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1111 SETTLES: 3 Bedroom 2 bath. Inside redone. House has inlaws house in back. Fenced yard, CH/A, Out door pets OK. \$650/mo. \$350/deposit. Call 915-252-8842.

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

1207 RIDGEROAD. For rent - Two bedroom, one bath, one car garage. \$450. monthly, \$250. deposit. Call (432)394-4671.

1208 MAIN. 2 Bedroom, 1 bath. \$250 month, \$100 deposit. Call (830)875-2511 (432)213-1612.

1315 TUCSON. 3 Bedrooms, 1 bath, washer/ dryer connections, fenced backyard. Deposit \$100. Rent \$350. Call (432)267-2112, leave message.

1408 DONELLY. Clean, Furnished 1 bedroom 1 bath Apartment. Water & Gas Paid. \$300. month, \$150. deposit. Sorry No Pets. (432)263-4922.

1507 AUSTIN. 1 Bedroom, 1 bath. Water Paid. \$315.00 month, \$150.00 deposit. Call (432)263-1792 or 816-9984.

1613 JENNINGS. Two bedroom, one bath, CH/A, nice fenced yard. \$335. month, \$150. deposit. Call (432)263-1792 or 816-9984.

3202 AUBURN. 3 Bedroom, 1 bath, in-close garage, fenced yard, central evaporative A/C, nice neighborhood. \$500. month, \$500. deposit. No inside pets. References required. Call (432)267-6667.

3913 HAMILTON. Possible 4 bedrooms, 1 bath, central heat and air, washer/ dryer connections, fenced backyard. Deposit \$100. Rent \$400. Call (432)267-2112, leave message.

410 WEST 5th. Clean, Furnished efficiency Apartment. Bills paid. \$275. Month, \$150. deposit. Sorry No Pets. Call (432)263-4922.

412 WESTOVER. Remodeled 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Good location. New CH/A, large fenced yard. \$410.00 month, \$295.00 deposit. Call (432)263-3689.

Real Estate for Rent

448 B. ARMSTRONG. 4 Bedroom, 1 bath. CH/A, Very large. \$425.00 month, \$200.00 deposit. Call (432)263-1792 or 816-9984.

602 1/2 GEORGE- Close to College. 1 Bedroom House. Stove & refrigerator, 1 car carport, CH/A. \$350.00 month plus deposit. No pets. No HUD. Call (432)267-2296.

624 CAYLOR. Very nice brick home. Possible 4 bedrooms, 1 bath, central heat and air, washer/ dryer connections, fenced backyard. Deposit \$200. Rent \$550. Call (432)267-2112, leave message.

914 EAST 6TH. 2 Bedroom 1 bath. No Pets. Call (432)267-3841 or 517-0642.

CLEANEST 1 Bedroom in town. \$300. Month, \$150. deposit. No pets. References required. Carport. Call (432)213-2319.

COUNTRY LIVING, 5 minutes out of Big Spring. 3 bedroom, 2 bath doublewide. Fireplace, deck, carport, large yard, water well. \$500. month. Available November 1st. Call (432)263-0260.

HIGHLAND BEAUTY, 3 bedroom, 2 bath, privacy fence, many extras. Call (432) 263-4528 or (432) 296-1523, (432) 296-0277.

OFFICE SPACE for rent. Approximately 700 sq. ft. 400 E. FM 700. Water and electricity paid. \$500.00 a month. Call (432)267-9455.

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TWO BEDROOM, two bath, CH/A, carpet, quiet area, 4104 Muir. Call (432)270-3848.

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

FOR SALE By Owner: Owner Financing Provided. Low down payment, low monthly. 2 Bedroom, 1 1/2 bath. Stucco, fenced yard. 1505 South Johnson. Call Kelly (432)425-9994.

1723 PURDUE- Lease to Own. 3 Bedroom, 2 bath, garage, CH/A, fenced backyard. Recently remodeled inside. \$625.00 month, \$500.00 deposit. Call (432)268-8353 or (325)699-1042.



BEAUTIFUL TWO-STORY home. 2150 sq.-ft. 3 Bedroom, 2 bath, office, 2 living areas, ash cabinets in kitchen, fireplace. Gazebo, 2 storage bldgs, 3/4 acre, private location. \$110,000. Call (432)263-4080.

BY OWNER: 3 bedroom, 1 bath on Vines St. Also, 2 bedroom, 1 bath on 11th Place. Both Central H/A, new carpet, single garage, fenced backyard. Very Clean! (432)263-6887 or 270-1743.

FOR SALE: "AS IS" for \$265.79 per month. 609 Holbert. 1-800-804-7110.

Real Estate for Sale

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

FOR SALE: 2 Houses and 2 vacant lots on East 16th Street in Big Spring, Tx. OPEN HOUSE/GARAGE SALE on Sat. Oct. 23 from 8 AM till?. These house will sell well below market value because they need LOTS of work, but they could e a landlord's jackpot. Each has an attached but unfinished apartment giving you 4 rental units next to each other! ASKING PRICES: 1607, \$8500. 1609, \$9500. 1607 has 1791 sq. ft. living area and two water wells. 1609 has a double lot and 2060 sq. ft. Both have storage buildings and attached garages. Call 325-728-8662 for more info and leave message. E-mail joyce@bluehungarians.com.

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

NICE 3 bedroom, 2 bath home. New kitchen. Owner will finance with good down payment. \$40's. Call Joe Hughes at Home Real Estate, (432)263-1284, (432)353-4751, or (432)270-7877.

NO DOWN Payment on 2-3-4-5 & 6 Bedroom Brick Homes. 2 Bedroom homes that need work starting at \$9,000.00 to \$25,000.00 that need no work. We can adjust your monthly payments to fit your Budget. Call (432)263-3461.

NO DOWN PAYMENT. 204 East 22nd. Extra clean 1 bedroom, 1 bath, large kitchen, utility room with washer & dryer connections. Payments \$179.00 month + taxes and insurance. Call (432)263-4922.

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

PROPERTIES FOR Sale! \$40,000 or less. Low credit, no problem! Low payments. Please call Matt, (512)750-2360.

Real Estate for Sale

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

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

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1989 FORD Mustang. 5 Speed with 4 cylinder. \$600.00. Call (432)268-8464.

1992 PONTIAC Sunbird, Manual. Looks good runs great. \$1,800.00 Call (432)267-1447.

1996 PALOMINO Filly SDI camper trailer, sleeps 6, etc. very good condition. \$3,000. Call (432)398-5491.

'95 CONQUEST Gulf Stream 21 ft. Very good condition, new awning, generator. Warranty. Call (432)267-2418.

FOR SALE: 2004 GMC Envoy XUV, 6,500 miles, retractable roof, CD & cassette, Silver. \$28,500, or best offer. Call (432)466-2060.

Legals

PUBLIC NOTICE CITY OF COAHOMA TEXAS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

The City of Coahoma is giving notice of the City's intent to submit Texas Community Development Program grant applications for a Community Development Fund grant request of \$350,000 for wastewater system improvements throughout the City and a Planning and Capacity Building Fund grant request of \$26,800 for citywide comprehensive planning studies. The applications are available for review at City Hall during regular business hours. #4361 October 21, 2004

PUBLIC NOTICE CITY OF FORSAN TEXAS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The City of Forsan is giving notice of the City's intent to submit Texas Community Development Program grant application for a Community Development Fund grant request of \$350,000 for water system improvements throughout the City. The application is available for review at City Hall during regular business hours. #4362 October 21, 2004

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Contractors Computers Jewelry Baby Items
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THURSDAY

OCT. 21

Table with 23 columns (WFAA 2, KMID 3, UNI 4, KPEJ 5, KOSA 7, KTLN 8, KWES 9, WTBS 11, KMLN 12, KOCV 13, DISC 20, AMC 21, SPIKE 22, TNT 23, BET 26, DISN 27, ESPN2 28, ESPN 29, TMC 29) and 12 rows (6:30 PM to 12:30 AM) listing various TV programs and channels.

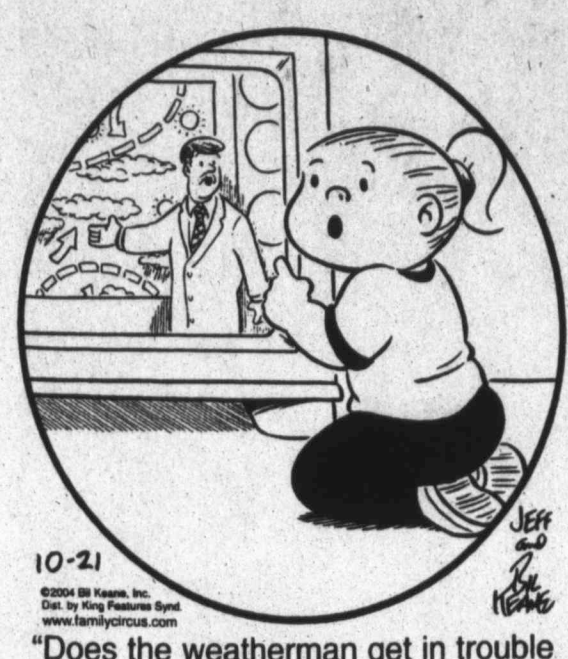
DENNIS THE MENACE

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

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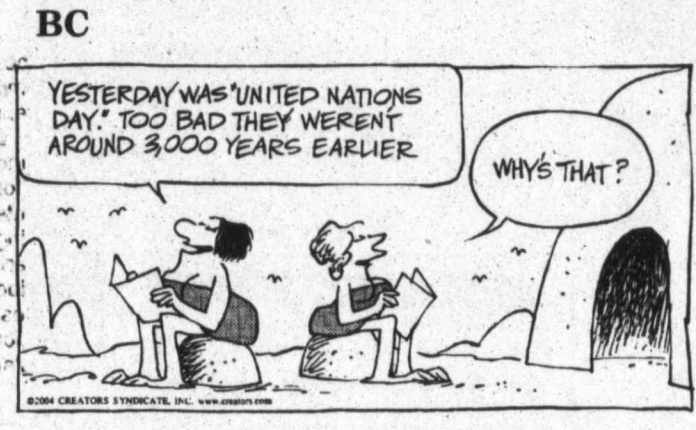
"Hi, Mr. Wilson. Trade you a frog for a cup of hot chocolate."



"Does the weatherman get in trouble when he fibs?"



BLONDIE



WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILEY



This Date In History

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Oct. 21, the 295th day of 2004. There are 71 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On Oct. 21, 1879, Thomas Edison invented a workable electric light at his lab in Menlo Park, N.J. On this date: In 1797, the U.S. Navy frigate Constitution, also known as "Old Ironsides," was launched in Boston's harbor. In 1805, a British fleet commanded by Adm. Horatio Nelson defeated a French-Spanish fleet in the Battle of Trafalgar; Nelson, however, was killed. In 1944, during World War II, U.S. troops captured the German city of Aachen. In 1945, women in France were allowed to vote for the first time.

In 1959, the Guggenheim Museum in New York opened to the public. In 1960, Democrat John F. Kennedy and Republican Richard M. Nixon clashed in their fourth and final presidential debate. In 1964, the movie musical "My Fair Lady," starring Audrey Hepburn and Rex Harrison, had its world premiere at the Criterion Theater in New York. In 1966, more than 140 people, mostly children, were killed when a coal waste landslide engulfed a school and several houses in south Wales. In 1967, tens of thousands of Vietnam War protesters "marched" in Washington, D.C. In 1971, President Nixon nominated Lewis F. Powell and William H. Rehnquist to the U.S. Supreme Court. Ten years ago: United States and North Korea signed an agreement requiring the communist nation to halt its nuclear program and agree to inspections. Thirty-two people were killed when a section of a bridge collapsed in Seoul, South Korea. President Clinton conceded in a news conference that Democrats would lose seats in the upcoming election. Today's Birthdays: Baseball Hall-of-Famer Whitey Ford is 76. Rock singer Manfred Mann is 64. Musician Steve Cropper (Booker T. & the MG's) is 63. Singer Elvin Bishop is 62. TV's Judge Judy Sheindlin is 62. Actor Everett McGill is 59. Musician Lee Loughnane (Chicago) is 58. Former Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is 55.

Answer to previous puzzle: ALLA SCADS COP LOOIE TOMEI ONA TOWNMEETING URL INSTORE SYNONYM TINE SITES HASTEN VERILY ACTED SEVEN DER SHAM TIRED RULE HET CIDER AIMED ELOPES SOPPED DEMON TBAR EXOTICA OUTSOLD APT CITYSLICKER NET ATTIC CARTA SLO LEAPS NAST

Newsday Crossword

SECOND JOBS? by Ann W. Masten Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

Crossword puzzle grid with clues: ACROSS 1 "Rose is a rose..." writer, 6 Unkempt one, 10 Read electronically, 14 Soprano Marilyn, 15 Pip, 16 1960 Summer Olympics locale, 17 "Misnamed" singer of "Giving You the Best That I Got", 19 Midmonth day, 20 Signify, 21 Trattoria order, 23 Day-care candidates, 25 Na Na, 26 Slightly, in a score, 29 Chance to play, 32 First stage, 36 Dhabi, 37 Herculean labor site, 38 Giraffe kin, 39 "Misnamed" Alien actress, 42 Picked up aurally, 43 Opinion piece, 44 Gaggle formation, 45 Lord of the Rings star, 46 Bring up, 47 Swiss Family Robinson author, 48 German article, 50 Place to learn CPR, 52 1776 sage, 57 Cape waver, 61 Mame, to Patrick, 62 "Misnamed" Blackboard Jungle novelist, 64 Skosh, 65 Princess of India, 66 Make a new bow, 67 Writer Bagnold, 68 Something simple, 69 It means "across", 8 Designer Cassini, 9 Small towns, 10 Indian Ocean island, 11 "Moonlight Sonata" feature, 12 Solemn assent, 13 Robin's residence, 18 Getting well, 22 "Rats!", 24 Diplomat Welles, 26 Turkish title, 27 Village Voice bestowals, 28 Rumba bandleader, 30 '50s Dodger captain, 31 Oppose, 33 Common sense, 34 Blunted blades, 35 Convertible quintet, 37 Pain in the neck, 40 Pointed properly, 41 Friendliness, 47 Movie mogul family name, 49 Cards and Giants, 51 Volleyball locale, 52 Stardom, 53 Undo permanently, 54 Opposer, 55 Scientist Pavlov, 56 Peter Pan dog, 58 Kett of comics, 59 Control, with "in", 60 Rocks to refine, 63 Bit of cold in the air.

Vertical text on the left edge of the page, including "For Sale", "Own your...", "Vans", "Ford", "5 Speed", "Mandrill", "Filly SD", "Gulf Stream", "GMC Envoy", "TICE HOMA", "i is giving", "submit Texas", "Community", "request of", "system Imu", "the City", "available for", "during regular", "ent", "ware", "Items", "Autos", "payment", "enware", "by Items", "Autos", "payment", "by Items", "ieds", "ALE", "7424".

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



PHOTOS COURTESY OF AUTOSTOCK

THE LEADING MAN

When Kurt Busch dropped the window net and climbed out of his car after Saturday's Nextel Cup race at Lowe's Motor Speedway, there was this slightest of tastes in his mouth.

It was a tiny taste of winning this year's Chase for the Nextel Cup Championship. His fourth-place finish at the Concord, N.C., track put his lead over second-place Dale Earnhardt Jr. at 24 points.

It also put the separation between himself and third-place Jeff Gordon at 74 points. With five Chase races down and five to go, it now looks as if this playoff-type thing may have a favorite.

As slim of a favorite as that might be. "I would say it's a front-runner's type race," Busch said of the rest of the Chase. Busch got to the front by executing the strategy that he and his team set for the 10-race Chase.

He got there by being consistent. Busch won the first race of the Chase, which was at New Hampshire International Speedway. He then notched fifth-place finishes at the next two races — Dover and Talladega.

Then came his sixth-place finish at Kansas followed by his fourth-place finish at Lowe's Motor Speedway. Consistent. In the Chase, he said, "It's a matter of executing every race perfectly and being able to bounce back quickly from mistakes and not drag your feet on making decisions. With the consistency that we've had, along with our win — to win one of four races — that's a pretty good average."

In auto racing, a driver's fate is never really in his own hands. Equipment can fail, drivers can get caught up in other people's mistakes, and untimely yellow flags can all ruin well-laid plans.

About seven of the nine drivers chasing Busch will need him to encounter one or more

Kurt Busch enjoys his place in front of the Chase

of those variables in the next six races if they are going to get back into the Chase. Busch knows he has to be careful not to give any of the others in the Chase any help as they chase him.

"Each race there are going to be guys (that) bump up and there are going to be guys that slide back," Busch said. "If we continue the pace that we're on, we'll be OK to set a nice pace for people to shoot for."

Those behind Busch are adopting different attitudes and strategies for catching and passing the current leader. Those strategies are based on how far they have to climb to catch and pass. Earnhardt and Gordon can probably afford to remain with conservative strategies.

And that appears to be breeding some confidence. "If we get a top 10 at every race these last races, I'll be real proud of my team and myself," Earnhardt said. "That's what it's going to take to win this championship and that's

probably what's going to happen." Gordon said, "There's still a lot of racing left, and we're still very close. We haven't lived up to our potential in (the first five races of) the Chase.... We know we're better than that."

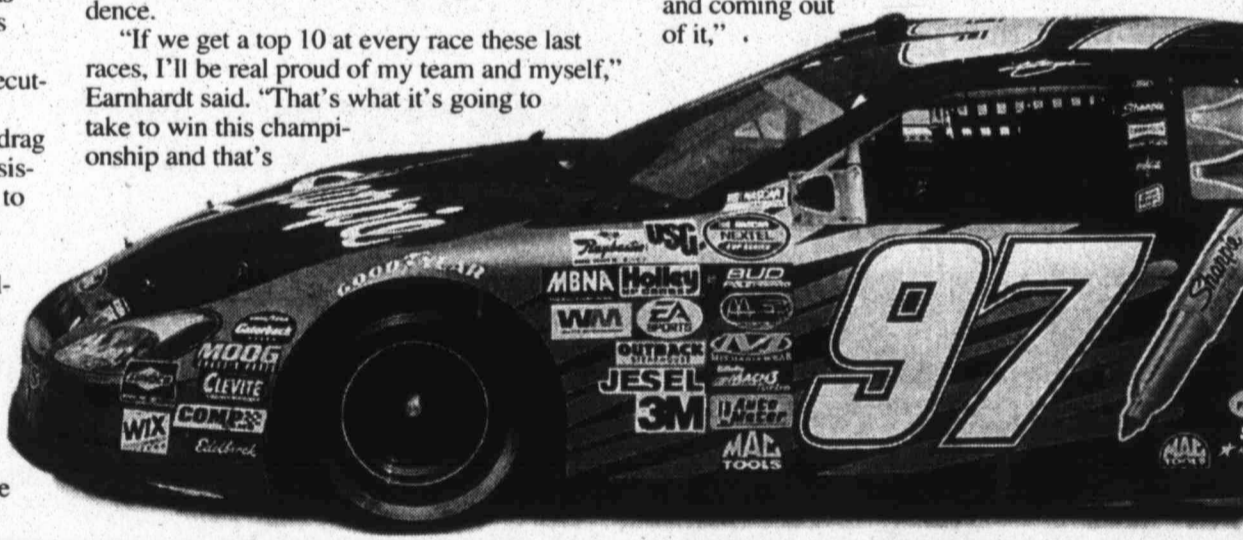
Most of the others know they are going to have to fight a bit harder. Some know they may have to take some big chances in the final five races.

Elliott Sadler, who is behind Gordon and 157 points behind Busch, said he gambled on fuel strategy at Kansas. He said he stayed out on a late pit stop even though he risked running dry.

"It's the attitude we've got," Sadler said. "I said, 'Todd (Parrott, his crew chief), what do we have to lose? Who cares if we run out of gas with two or three laps to go? We came here to win this race. This is the best opportunity for us to win the race. Let's stay out.' And we did, and it ended up giving us a fourth-place finish, which is almost like a win to us because we outran everybody else that's in the points chase with us. That's the attitude we have."

Busch knows that the nice taste he got Saturday could turn nasty this Sunday at Martinsville. Or the week after that at Atlanta, or the week after that.

"We could be leading going into next week and coming out of it,"



RANKINGS THAT'S RACIN'S TOP PICKS

- 1. Kurt Busch (car No. 97):** Even when things don't go just right, this team is doing what it takes to win a title. Last week: 2.
- 2. Dale Earnhardt Jr. (car No. 8):** As long as he's close, there will be a buzz surrounding the Chase for the

- Nextel Cup. Last week: 1.
- 3. Jeff Gordon (car No. 24):** Eager to get to Martinsville, where he feels he can make hay in his bid for a fifth title. Last week: 3.
- 4. Elliott Sadler (car No. 38):** Trying to hang in there in case the three guys ahead of him find trouble and slip back. Last week: 6.
- 5. Mark Martin (car No. 6):** Out of it? Hey, he made up 287 points in the final five races before the Chase cut-

- off. Last week: 5.
- 6. Jimmie Johnson (car No. 48):** When all the weird stuff stopped happening at Charlotte, there he was out front again. Last week: 9.
- 7. Tony Stewart (car No. 20):** Do this team's malaise and Bobby Labonte's woes suggest issues at Joe Gibbs Racing? Last week: 4.
- 8. Matt Kenseth (car No. 17):** Teammate Busch is leading the title Chase using the same pattern this

- team used in 2003. Last week: 7.
- 9. Dale Jarrett (car No. 88):** Still think he'll be the one to beat at Martinsville. He's now just 74 points out of 11th. Last week: 10.
- 10. Ryan Newman (car No. 12):** He's been just a little bit off just about every time out this year. And that's all it really takes. Last week: 8.

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

Some 'what-ifs' from the race, the Chase

When it was over Saturday, the results of the UAW-GM 500 at Lowe's Motor Speedway made perfect sense.

Jimmie Johnson completed a season's sweep at Charlotte by winning his fifth Nextel Cup race of the season. Kurt Busch notched another top-five finish and kept the lead in the Chase for the Nextel Cup. Drivers in the championship Chase swept the top-four spots and nine of the 10 finished in the top 14.

The road to those eventualities, however, was a treacherous path. Eighty laps into the race, for example, the idea that Hendrick Motorsports teammates Johnson and Jeff Gordon would finish 1-2 seemed ludicrous.

By that point, Kasey Kahne was burying the field behind his strong No. 9 Dodge and Gordon's team was trying to piece his Chevrolet back together after his second mishap of the evening, this one resulting in the No. 24's rear bumper being knocked off

after it spun in front of Rusty Wallace. Kahne remained dominant to the 400-mile mark, when after complaining of a vibration for several laps he felt the right front of his car "fall down" in

With Kahne out, possibilities abounded. Mark Martin got the lead after pit stops following the caution for Kahne, but Johnson's car was coming to life. Meanwhile, Gordon and Busch were also back in the picture.

Johnson swept past Martin to take the lead on Lap 302, then Martin and Ryan Newman got caught up when Jimmy Spencer and Brendan Gaughan crashed off Turn 4. To miss that wreck, Busch drove through the grass down the length of the frontstretch without losing control of his Ford.

Gordon was right on Johnson's bumper on Lap 319 when Michael Waltrip's brush with the wall brought out another yellow, but after that, Johnson easily held off Gordon, Dale Earnhardt Jr. and Busch to win.

When it was over, the "what ifs" were flying. What if Busch hadn't made it through the first-lap wreck relatively unscathed? Greg Biffle got the worst of that wreck and he wound up 33rd. Had Busch finished 33rd, he'd be third in the

points today and Earnhardt Jr. would lead Gordon by 50. What if Gordon's car had been damaged as badly as Wallace's was in their Lap 76 wreck? Wallace finished 31st, and if Gordon had finished there,

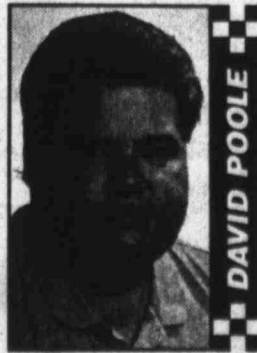
he'd have scored 100 fewer points. Today, we'd be looking at Busch vs. Earnhardt Jr. head-to-head with five races left in the Chase.

What if Earnhardt Jr. hadn't been penalized for inappropriate language after his Talladega win? Earnhardt Jr. would be one point ahead of Busch and 75 up on Gordon heading to Martinsville.

And finally, what if the Chase for the Nextel Cup format didn't exist? Adding up the points that way, Gordon would now lead Earnhardt Jr. by one point with five races to go.

We're halfway through the 10 Chase races and Busch, Earnhardt Jr. and Gordon have separated from the pack. Elliott Sadler, seventh on Saturday night, is 157 behind Busch and 83 behind third-place Gordon.

At halfway, the UAW-GM 500 looked like a cakewalk for Kahne. But it wasn't over at halfway. Neither is the Chase.



DAVID POOLE

THIS WEEK'S RACE

SUBWAY 500
Where: Martinsville Speedway, a 0.526-mile flat concrete oval located in Martinsville, Va.
When: Sunday at 1 p.m. (all times ET).
Qualifying is: 3:10 p.m. Friday.
TV: NBC.
Radio: Motor Racing Network.
Purse: \$4,690,147.
Last year's winner: Jeff Gordon.
Also this week: Rookie Kyle Busch will look to continue to chip away at Martin Truex Jr.'s lead in the NASCAR Busch Series race Saturday at Memphis, Tenn. ... Bobby Hamilton leads the Truck Series race entering Saturday's race at Martinsville.

Gordon

POLE POSITION

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION
Halfway through the Chase, what do you think of the new points format?
Cast your vote at: www.thatstracin.com

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION
Many of racing's old guard are retiring or announcing reduced schedules. How would the late Dale Earnhardt have handled the end of his career?
Number of votes: 7,559

Earnhardt's career end	No. of votes	
Part-time schedule/farewell tour	312	4%
Run flat out until retirement	3,009	40%
Don't know	4,238	56%

STOP 'N' GO

INSIDE MARTINSVILLE
Trends to keep in mind as the Nextel Cup circuit heads to Martinsville Speedway for the Subway 500:
SUCCESSSES
■ **Jeff Gordon** has been running at the finish in all 23 races at Martinsville Speedway. This is the longest career streak for any of the 593 drivers who have competed at the track since 1949.
■ **Dale Earnhardt Jr.** has five straight top-five finishes at Martinsville.
■ **Rusty Wallace** ended a 105-race winless streak with his victory this spring at Martinsville — his first win since California in 2001. He has led 3,551 laps at Martinsville, more than any other active driver and third all-time.
STRUGGLES
■ **Kurt Busch** earned a victory at Martinsville in October 2002. Since his victory he finished 28th, 39th and then 11th.
■ **Mark Martin** has finished 17th, 14th and 34th in his last three races at Martinsville.
■ **Jeremy Mayfield** has not had a top-10 finish in his past seven races at the track.
— Jim Utter

BY THE NUMBERS

NEXTEL CUP POINTS LEADERS

The top-40 drivers as of Oct. 16:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. K. Busch (97) . . . 5850		21. S. Martin (40) . . . 3251	
2. D. Earnhardt Jr. (8) . . . 5826		22. G. Biffle (16) . . . 3246	
3. J. Gordon (24) . . . 5776		23. R. Gordon (31) . . . 3180	
4. E. Sadler (38) . . . 5693		24. T. Labonte (5) . . . 3140	
5. M. Martin (6) . . . 5664		25. R. Rudd (21) . . . 3008	
6. T. Stewart (20) . . . 5646		26. B. Vickers (25) . . . 2975	
7. M. Kenseth (17) . . . 5635		27. S. Wimmer (22) . . . 2789	
8. J. Johnson (48) . . . 5623		28. W. Burton (0) . . . 2734	
9. R. Newman (12) . . . 5579		29. B. Gaughan (77) . . . 2690	
10. J. Mayfield (19) . . . 5501		30. S. Riggs (10) . . . 2678	
11. J. McMurray (42) . . . 3878		31. K. Schrader (49) . . . 2604	
12. D. Jarrett (88) . . . 3804		32. J. Green (43) . . . 2541	
13. K. Harvick (29) . . . 3662		33. K. Petty (45) . . . 2541	
14. B. Labonte (18) . . . 3652		34. R. Craven 2068	
15. K. Kahne (9) . . . 3626		35. J. Spencer (4) . . . 1911	
16. M. Waltrip (15) . . . 3358		36. D. Blaney (9) . . . 1347	
17. J. Burton (30) . . . 3313		37. J. Sauter (09) . . . 1308	
18. R. Wallace (2) . . . 3289		38. D. Cope (50) . . . 1058	
19. J. Nemechak (01) . . . 3284		39. B. Hamilton Jr. (32) . . . 982	
20. C. Mears (41) . . . 3259		40. M. Shepherd (89) . . . 851	

BUSCH SERIES POINTS LEADERS

The top-20 drivers as of Oct. 15:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. M. Truex Jr. . . . 4367		11. K. Kahne 3174	
2. K. Busch 4223		12. D. Stremme 3153	
3. G. Biffle 3892		13. C. Atwood 3130	
4. J. Leffler 3661		14. M. Waltrip 3101	
5. R. Hornaday 3660		15. S. Compton 3072	
6. D. Green 3648		16. R. Pressley 3041	
7. J. Keller 3565		17. J. Sauter 3023	
8. M. Bliss 3499		18. M. Wallace 3001	
9. K. Wallace 3227		19. T. Fedewa 2992	
10. A. Lewis 3193		20. B. Hamilton Jr. 2896	

NEXT RACE: Saturday, 2003 Sam's Town 250, Memphis, Tenn.

TRUCK SERIES POINTS LEADERS

The top-10 drivers as of Oct. 16:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. B. Hamilton 3098		6. C. Chaffin 2740	
2. D. Setzer 3019		7. D. Starr 2726	
3. T. Musgrave 2933		8. T. Kvapil 2717	
4. C. Edwards 2925		9. S. Paik 2640	
5. M. Crafton 2762		10. J. Sprague 2637	

NEXT RACE: Saturday, Kroger 200, Martinsville, Va.