

THURSDAY

November 4, 2004

WEATHER

Tonight:



PARTLY CLOUDY

TONIGHT 30°-34° TOMORROW 64°-66°

BRIEFLY

**Business Before Hours is Friday**

Business Before Hours will be held from 7:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Friday at the newly renovated Best Western Plaza Inn, located at 300 Tulane.

**Sweet Shoppe UW restaurant of week**

Gale's Sweet Shoppe, 1200 E. Fourth, is the United Way of Big Spring and Howard County featured restaurant this week. A portion of Friday's proceeds from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Gale's Sweet Shoppe will be donated to United Way, which helps 15 area agencies with funding. For information about the local United Way or to make a donation call 267-5201.

**UBS blood drive set at Forsan HS**

A blood drive to benefit United Blood Services is set to begin at 8:30 a.m. Friday in the Forsan High School auditorium. Anyone who wishes to sign up for the blood drive may call Jan Sims at 457-2223. Blood donated here is used to meet the needs of several patients. Every unit of donated blood is sent to the United Blood Services laboratory. Blood donors must be at least 17 years old, weigh at least 110 pounds and be in good general health. Bring a list of medications and a valid identification, such as a driver's license, to the high school. For more information, call United Blood Services at (432) 561-5539, ext. 0.

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

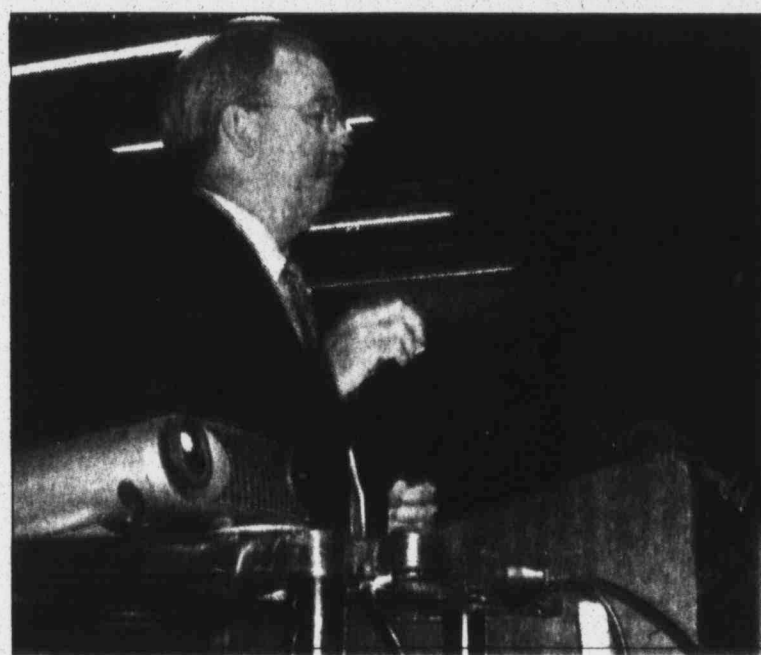
**State hospital supporters tell state panel it is vital that facility remain open**

By KENDRA WISS  
Staff Writer

SAN ANGELO — More than 100 Big Spring State Hospital supporters were on hand when the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) review of state hospitals board met in San Angelo Wednesday. The two-hour forum at the San Angelo Convention Center was

led by committee members Tom Valentine, a senior advisor of HHSC; Joe Bessaway and Kenny Dudley, Mental Health and Mental Retardation representatives; and Cathy Anderson and Colleen Fox, representing Public Consulting Group Inc. (PCG).

"We don't often see this kind of support," said Valentine. Fox described to forum



**Open house planned Friday at newly renovated Big Spring Senior Center**

4-6 p.m., 1901 Simler

By MARSHA STURDIVANT  
Features Editor

An open house to celebrate remodeling and renovations of the Spring City Senior Center is set for 4-6 p.m. Friday at the center, 1901 Simler, in the McMahon-Wrinkle Airpark.



"It looks 900 percent better now. We want the public to come out and see what we've finished so far. We've still plenty more to do, but what we have finished looks great and we want to celebrate," said Jo Ann Staulcup, Big Spring city councilwoman and center volun-

teer. The entire renovation project has been accomplished through volunteer efforts and donations. Staulcup, Joyce Crooker and Judy Little began soliciting volunteers and donations during the summer to renovate the building that was once the officer's club for Webb Air Force Base.

Thus far, new carpet, ceiling and painting transformed the dining room, while new bathroom fixtures and countertops were used to remodel the restrooms.

The serving bar in the dining room was retiled and renovations in the Whiskey Room are also nearly complete.

Outside the building, a new sprinkler system is

See CENTER, Page 3A



More than 100 Big Spring State Hospital supporters made the trip to San Angelo Wednesday to show their solidarity in keeping the hospital in Big Spring. Below, left, Big Spring Mayor Russ McEwen addresses the Texas Health and Human Services Commission review board at the forum.

attendees the overview of the feasibility study. The study is a direct result of the Texas Legislature's Rider 55 of the HHSC General Appropriations Act. This act requires HHSC to study the feasibility of closure and consolidation of state hospitals and state schools.

The board is considering several criteria in preparing its recommendations to the state:

- Proximity to other facilities and geographical distribution of remaining facilities.
- Administrative cost of the facility.
- Availability of other

employment opportunities in the area for employees displaced by the closure.

- Condition of existing facility structures.
- Marketability of the property where the facility is located when considering possible sale of the property or alternate use possibilities.
- Ease of client transfer capability.
- Capacity at remaining facilities to accommodate persons transferred from a facility identified for closure.
- Identification of specialty programs and services.

More than 24 individuals spoke to the committee concerning the benefits of Big Spring State Hospital.

Of those individuals, there were four judges, four sheriffs and a senator's representative.

Stephanie Wilkerson, representing State Sen. Kel Seliger, read a letter Seliger sent to Commissioner Albert Hawkins.

In the letter, Seliger states that BSSH is an invaluable asset to all the communities it serves and the quality of

See FORUM, Page 3A

**Bush lays out goals for future**

By JENNIFER LOVEN  
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — His second term secured, President Bush is reaching out and asking the 55 million people who voted to oust him from office to get behind the ambitious agenda he's laid out for the next four years.

The work of making good on a raft of tough-to-keep campaign promises begins today, when Bush sits down with his Cabinet for their first such meeting since Aug. 2.

In a quietly jubilant victory speech Wednesday that came a full 21 hours after the polls closed, Bush outlined the goals he plans to start work on immediately and pursue in the

See BUSH, Page 3A



President George W. Bush and First Lady Laura Bush wave to supporters following the president's victory speech at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington, D.C., Wednesday.

**Prayer-based ministry gives families hope**

*Isaiah 58 provides food, clothing for those in need*

By KENDRA WISS  
Staff Writer

More than 1,100 people served.

Isaiah 58, located at 107 Runnels Street, is more than a food pantry and clothing closet. It gives families hope.

"Our prayer-based ministry was originally designed to serve people with emergency food needs," said Director Paul Smith. "Now we serve people who suffer from a chronic lack of food."

Isaiah 58 purchases food from the West Texas Food Bank for a discounted price and distributes it to those needing assistance.

When those in need come to the center, they

bring a picture ID and proof of income. The center helps clients who are at or below 185 percent of the federal poverty level. Those who are currently receiving food stamps, Supplemental Security

Income (SSI) or Medicaid automatically qualify for assistance.

Such a client is Jamie, who wished to not reveal her true name. Jamie is a single mother who works 30 hours a week to support herself and her son. She receives \$100 a month in food stamps, but says that doesn't go far enough to feed her growing 9-year-old.

Upon arrival, Jamie, See ISIAH 58, Page 3A



Erma Dunne, left, Sophia Casey and Rafael Lopez, volunteers at Isaiah 58, help director Paul Smith and his wife Pat Smith load a box of food for a needy family. Located at 107 Runnels, the center is open from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Mondays and 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Tuesdays.



## Obituaries

### Samuel Richard 'Dick' Read



Samuel Richard "Dick" Read, 74, of Big Spring died Wednesday, Nov. 3, 2004, in a Midland hospital. Funeral services will be held at 3 p.m. Friday, Nov. 5, 2004, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with the Rev. Dr. Claude Craven, retired Baptist minister, officiating. Interment will follow at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

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

Dick was born June 15, 1930, in Vincent to George Uel and Alta Pearl Read. He was raised in Vincent, graduated from Coahoma High School and received his associate's degree from Howard County Junior College. Dick had worked as a plant operator for Texaco, retiring in 1989 after 36 years. He had also farmed at Vincent for many years.

Dick married Mildred L. Rainey Dec. 29, 1955, in Big Spring and she preceded him in death May 29, 1991. He then married Ethel Joyce "Tommie" Tipton June 17, 2000.

He was a member of Trinity Baptist Church and had served in the United States Army Engineers in the Korean Conflict.

Survivors include his wife, Ethel Joyce "Tommie" Read of Big Spring; two sons and daughters-in-law, Jerry and Debbie Read of Big Spring, and Ricky and Alicia Read of Odessa; one sister, Pearl Barr of Brownfield; three grandchildren, Marc Read and wife, Julie of Austin, Nick Read of Midland and Milynn Read of Odessa and one great grandchild, Hailey Alice Ann Read of Austin.

He was also preceded in death by his parents and one brother, Bobby Read.

The family suggests memorials to Home Hospice, 111 E. Seventh Street, Suite 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*

### Gladys Jones Wilkinson

Gladys Jones Wilkinson, 86, of Austin died Wednesday, Nov. 3, 2004, in Austin. Graveside funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. Friday, Nov. 5, 2004, at the Trinity Memorial Park with the Rev. Dr. Claude Craven, retired Baptist minister, officiating.

She was born Aug. 19, 1918, in Prairieville, Ark., and married Lester Dale "Doc" Wilkinson April 10, 1937, in Big Spring. He preceded her in death Nov. 20, 1968.

Mrs. Wilkinson had worked as a nurse at Hall-Bennett Hospital in Big Spring. After her husband's death, she moved to Dallas in 1969 and worked in nursing at Morton's Cancer Research Hospital.

She retired in 1983 and moved to Brownwood and then moved to Austin in 1986. She was a member of First Christian Church.

Survivors include a son and daughter-in-law, Tommy and Margaret Wilkinson of Austin; three grandchildren and their spouses, Tom W. and Courtney Wilkinson of Austin, Holly and Capt. Michael Davidge of Carlsbad, Calif., and Stacey and Eddie Greer of Escondido, Calif.; two great grandchildren; and a daughter-in-law, Sharon DeWall of Escondido, Calif.

She was also preceded in death by one son, Donald Dale Wilkinson, June 5, 1968, and by two sisters.

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*

### Danny Priest

Danny Priest, 46, of Big Spring, died Wednesday afternoon, Nov. 3, 2004, at University Medical Center in Lubbock. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

## Support groups

#### THURSDAY

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

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

The Fibromyalgia Autoimmune Disease Support Group will meet on the second and fourth Thursday of the month at noon in the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center. Call 263-8273 for more information.

Alzheimers Support Group meets at 2 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month at The Texas State Veterans Home, 1809 N. Hwy 87. For more information call Orand Carroll 268-8887.

#### FRIDAY

AA open discussion meeting from noon to 1 p.m. at 605 Settles. Noon open Big Book study meeting, 8-9 p.m.

**Bill's Fireplace Center**  
39 Years Experience  
Have Your Fireplace Checked Now!  
★ CHIMNEY SWEEPING & REPAIR ★  
★ REPAIR ROOFLEAKS AROUND FLASHINGS ★  
★ RAINCAPS ★  
Petersen Gas Logs • Glass Doors • Chimney  
Master Plumber Lic. #7733  
682-5157 or 684-6089  
1509 N. Big Spring

## Police blotter

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

- SONIA GAMEZ, 26, 2201 S. Main Street, was arrested Wednesday on a Taylor County warrant.
- GLORIA LORRAINE ARGUIJO, 20, of El Paso, was arrested Wednesday and held for the HCSO.
- STEVEN LOYD BATEMAN, 25, of 538 Westover Road Apt. 119, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of public intoxication.
- JAMIE RAE SMITH, 28, of 1905 Wasson Road Apt. 75, was arrested Thursday on Howard County warrants.
- WAYNE GARY ELLETT, 25, of 1005 Nolan, was arrested Thursday on Mitchell County warrants.
- THEFT was reported:
  - in the 2000 block of Gregg Street.
  - in the 1800 block of Gregg Street.
  - in the 400 block of Birdwell Lane.
- POSSESSION/CONSUMPTION OF TOBACCO BY A MINOR was reported:
  - in the 600 block of Sixth Street.
  - in the 700 block of 11th Place.

## Sheriff's report

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

- MICHAEL MENDOZA, 36, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a parole violation.
- RICARDO RAMIREZ JR., was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on charges of three counts of forgery of a financial instrument and two counts of theft by check with a previous conviction.
- PAUL MORENO JR., 22, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a capias warrant.
- NANCY GONZALES, 27, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana - 2 ounces or less.
- CAROL ANN SCAGGS, 57, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a parole violation.
- IRMA BUSTAMANTE, 31, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of tampering with a governmental record or license/seal/certificate/permit.
- SHANE THOMAS ESTES, 22, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on charges of ride not secured by a safety belt, violation of a promise to appear, possession of marijuana - 2 ounces or less, bondsman off of bond for possession of marijuana - 2 ounces or less, littering and bondsman off of bond for driving while license suspended/invalid.
- BEER THEFT was reported in the 4900 block of South Highway 87.

## Take note

**VENDORS NEEDED FOR CANTERBURY ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR** set for 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. Dec. 4. Call Mandy at 263-1265. Space is limited.

**THE GREATER BIG SPRING ROTARY WILL SELL FAJITAS** beginning at 6:30 p.m. Friday on the west side of Memorial Stadium before the Steer football game. A chicken or beef fajita with a cookie and a drink is \$6. All proceeds benefit the club's community projects. Call Troy Tompkins at 263-0180 for more information.

**AN ACCOUNT TO BENEFIT TRISTAN RANGEL**, son of Ione and Tim Rangel, has been set up at the Big Spring Government Employees Federal Credit Union, 2204 Gregg St., account No. 529903, to help with medical expenses. He has been diagnosed with acute lymphocytic leukemia and is in a Lubbock hospital.

**FALL IN LOVE WITH READING** at Washington Elementary begins at 6 p.m. Tuesday. This is a community of heroes family reading event. All parents are invited. Call Washington Elementary at 264-4126 for more information.

**COAHOMA BAND BOOSTERS TAILGATE PARTY** at 6 p.m. Friday. \$5 per plate for chopped barbecue sandwich, chips, drink and dessert. Call Dale Pittman at 267-9555 for more information.

**BIG SPRING WOMAN'S CLUB HOLIDAY RUMMAGE SALE** is set for 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. Saturday in the St. Paul Lutheran Annex, Ninth and Scurry streets. Donations of good holiday decorations are requested, and are being stored in the back of the United Way office, 811 Scurry. Call 267-5201 to arrange drop off of donated items. Call Lisa Brooks, organizer for the sale, after 3 p.m. at 267-1465 for more information.

**A COMMUNITY-WIDE FLEA MARKET AND ARTS AND CRAFTS SALE** to benefit a local family is set for 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. Nov. 13 at the County Show Barn in Gail. Call 806756-4432 for more information.

**Gale's Sweet Shoppe** Eat in or Carry Out!  
Serving the best sandwiches in West Texas  
**Friday, November 5**  
Serving sandwiches from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
A portion of our sales for Friday is donated to the United Way so have a great meal and help out 15 local agencies!  
1200 E. 4th - NEW LOCATION  
263-2253 (263-cake)  
Dine Out Day United Way

## 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. Call 267-6479.
- Community wide prayer meeting at 7 p.m. in the Municipal Auditorium. Free and open to the public. Contact Everett Bender at 263-0556 for more information.
- Genealogy Society of Big Spring meets at 7 p.m. in the Howard County Library, 500 S. Main. Tumbleweed Smith is the guest speaker. Public invited.
- Masonic Lodge 598 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 219 Main.
- 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

- Business Before Hours is set for 7:30 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. at Best Western Plaza, 300 Tulane, sponsored by the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. Door prizes, refreshments and breakfast will be available.
- 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 meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- Open House from 4-6 p.m. at the Spring City Senior Citizen's Center, 1901 Simler in the industrial park. Free and open to the public.
- Spring City Senior Citizen's country and western dance from 7:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. All area seniors are invited.

#### SATURDAY

- Wildflower Seminar begins at 8:30 a.m. in the Dora Roberts Community Center featuring Larry Wilhelm, the environmental coordinator for the city of Grapevine. Tickets are \$10 which gives each person \$10 worth of wildflower seeds. Call Sara at 263-0680 to make a reservation.
- 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.
- Big Spring Squares. Call 263-6305 for more information.

#### MONDAY

- Big Spring Commandery No. 31 meets at 7:30 p.m. at the Masonic Temple at 221 1/2 Main St. Dinner begins at 6:30 p.m.

## Lottery

The winning Cash Five numbers drawn Wednesday by the Texas Lottery: 7-13-24-25-37

The winning numbers drawn in the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night: 10-16-24-25-44

Bonus Ball: 25  
(ten, sixteen, twenty-four, twenty-five, forty-four; Bonus Ball: twenty-five)  
Estimated jackpot: \$8 million  
Next Lotto Texas game: Saturday night.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 9-7-2

## Weather

Tonight - Clear. Lows near 30. Northeast winds near 10 mph.

Friday - Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 60s. Light and variable winds becoming southeast near 10 mph in the afternoon.

Friday night - Mostly clear. Lows near 40. South winds near 10 mph.

Saturday - Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 70s. South winds 10 to 15 mph.

Saturday night - Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 40s.

Sunday - Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 70s.

Sunday night - Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 40s.

Monday - Partly cloudy. Highs near 70.

Monday night - Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 40s.

Tuesday - Partly cloudy. Highs near 70.

Tuesday night - Mostly cloudy. Lows in the mid 40s.

Wednesday - Partly cloudy. Highs near 70.

**BIG SPRING HERALD**  
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## DARE from D

By THOMAS JEN  
Staff Writer

Local DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) have received the arm from Department of Safety Association, as nization donate the programs. Sgt. Jason H. DPS Officer's A district repre presented check \$1,500 to Howa Sheriff Dale W. Big Spring Po Lonnie Smith c Spring City Co week.

Hester said h see the money smaller cr DARE program those supporte BSPD and Sheri

"These funds nated for anti-paigns, and the lar funds will b DARE progra sored by the Office and B Police Departm Hester. "We wa these program children in schools. DPS Association lik

back to the c any way we being a district tive, I can see er communitie Spring and County really help - more some of your l munities. The can get out to and help the stand how imp anti-drug camp the better it is one."

Walker sai funding from tions such as

Continued from F

like every cli by the cente through an process. The time consists ing clients for allowing their known any co prayer suppor need, helping make their household ite and introduci to a literacy p their children.

Jamie said enjoy the bo gave her and can't wait to with her son.

While her bo being prepar encouraged to center's cloth Jamie chooses each of them.

With a box c and toiletry hand, Jamie aged to come t lowing month ly is still in ne may receive every 30 days.

"Poverty is t tual and econ tion. Our pray some small w help people selves," said S

"I'm really center is h Jamie. "They me to feel li mom by maki son isn't hung

The center clients with prescription h eration with Opportunities gency rent y help on a oi year basis.

The United Spring and County gave \$10,900 to th tion this year



# DARE programs receive aid from DPS Officer's Association

By THOMAS JENKINS  
Staff Writer

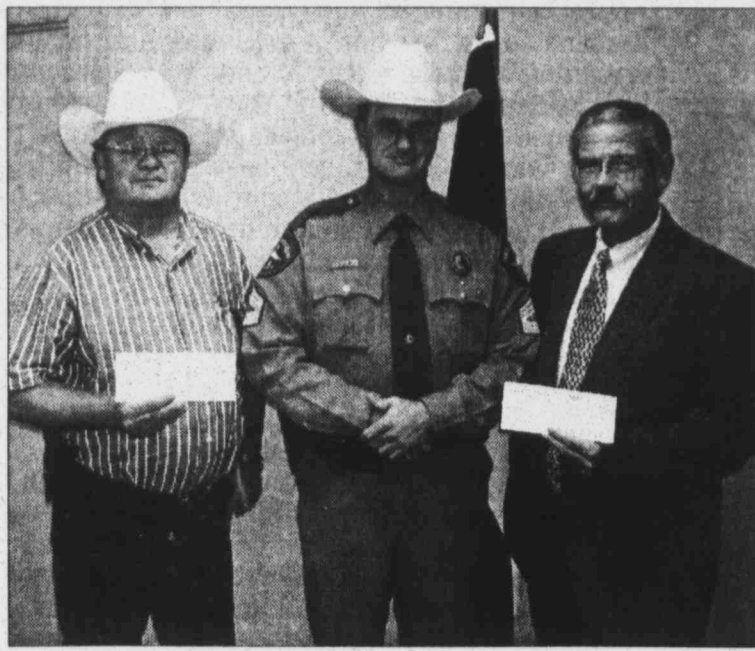
Local DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) programs have received a shot in the arm from the Department of Public Safety Officer's Association, as the organization donated \$1,500 to the programs.

Sgt. Jason Hester, the DPS Officer's Association district representative, presented checks totaling \$1,500 to Howard County Sheriff Dale Walker and Big Spring Police Chief Lonnie Smith during Big Spring City Council last week.

Hester said he's glad to see the money going to smaller community DARE programs such as those supported by the BSPD and Sheriff's Office.

"These funds are designated for anti-drug campaigns, and these particular funds will be used for DARE programs sponsored by the Sheriff's Office and Big Spring Police Department," said Hester. "We want to fund these programs for the children in the local schools. DPS Officer's Association likes to give back to the community any way we can, and being a district representative, I can see the smaller communities like Big Spring and Howard County really need the help — more so than some of your larger communities. The more we can get out to the kids and help them understand how important the anti-drug campaigns are, the better it is for everyone."

Walker said private funding from organizations such as the DPS



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins  
Department of Public Safety Officer's Association district representative Sgt. Jason Hester, center, presents checks totaling \$1,500 to Howard County Sheriff Dale Walker, left, and Big Spring Police Chief Lonnie Smith. The funds will be used to support both agencies' DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) programs.

Officer's Association means the difference between having a DARE program and falling through the fiscal cracks.

"This covers any expenses it takes to put the program on," said Walker. "It helps pay for the books for the kids, stickers and pencils — anything at all — we give to these children through the program. It has to be paid for, and the Sheriff's Office doesn't even have an item on its budget to pay for this, so it's been run by private donation all along."

"This money from the DPS Officer's Association is a fantastic thing for our program," said Walker. "It provides another year of education for our youth in the county, and as sheriff, I believe it's my responsibility to provide a DARE officer and a program, and we'll be able to do that now."

Walker said he's seen

first-hand the positive effect the DARE program can have on area children, and from the law enforcement side of his job, he's seen the effects not having a program can have as well.

"It's very, very important," Walker said emphatically. "It's something that's been seen nationwide. It's been a tremendous program that I've seen through other agencies and I know it can be for our youth. It catches them when they're young and still in the elementary grades and starts teaching them immediately how to resist drug and alcohol offers. It's reassurance and education for them about the dangers associated with drugs."

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

We have some hams that we should hold until Christmas, but I feel that when we get food, we have to get it distributed," said Smith. He is hoping for a donation of holiday foods for those families that are experiencing financial difficulties.

In 2001 the center helped 2,056 families and in 2002, it helped 3,158 families. Last year, the center helped 4,079 families and has already helped more people this year than it did in 2003.

For more information about Isaiah 58 or to donate to the center, contact Smith at 263-4758.

For information about the local United Way or to make a donation, call 267-5201.

## BUSH

Continued from Page 1A

next four years, a period he termed "a season of hope."

He pledged to keep up the fight against terrorism, press for stable democracies in Iraq and Afghanistan, simplify the tax code, allow younger workers to invest some of

## FORUM

Continued from Page 1A

treatment provided to its service area must be preserved.

Big Spring Mayor Russ McEwen told the board about the hospital's benefit to the city, the county and to West Texas.

"The funded capacity for 2005 is set for 146 patients," said McEwen, "but of the past 170 days, 76 have been at levels of 110 percent or more. It makes no sense to consider closing the hospital. It makes more sense to expand it."

Many of those who benefit from BSSH services are law enforcement agencies and their personnel.

"Our deputies are law enforcement officers, not mental health professionals," said Howard County Sheriff Dale Walker. "They are not equipped to handle those that need this type of care."

"Our costs to send those needing mental help to El Paso with two officers for their protection, will cost our county over \$627 for one trip," said Mitchell County Sheriff Patrick Toombs. "That cost will be devastating to us."

Many sheriff's department representatives brought the same message — rural West Texas towns have limited resources and limited officers. Big Spring State Hospital is a huge resource for these 78 counties.

"We are facing a 250 to 300-mile trip one way if our hospital is closed," said Ward County Sheriff Michael Strickland. "The safety of the patient and our deputies would be at risk with such a long drive."

Terry McDaniel, a certified land appraiser, explained to the committee that the land the hospital sits on is worth little to the state.

"The land around the hospital sold for only \$442 an acre. For all of the hospital's land, the sale would only come to

## CENTER

Continued from Page 1A

nearly complete and operating. The front of the building has a new awning, a new sign with the address on it and the side of the building has the name of the center painted.

"We did this so people could find the center," Staulcup said.

The handicapped ramp has been refurbished on the east side of the building, and the front steps row have carpet leading

their Social Security withholdings in the stock market, continue to raise accountability standards in public schools and "uphold our deepest values and family and faith." Other items include reforms to the nation's intelligence community, halving the record \$413 billion deficit, expanding health care coverage, a constitutional ban on gay marriage and moving

\$103,000. A few of the buildings have been identified as having asbestos and the costs to demolish and contain the chemicals would reach over the sale price of the land. This land, therefore, has a negative value if sold."

Ed Moughon, the hospital's CEO, told the committee that while their numbers were correct, some definition needed to be made as to the cost per day for the facility. The committee had included such figures as depreciation and insurance costs for retirees.

Shelley Smith, CEO of the West Texas Centers for MHMR, said the state hospital is a valuable asset to not only MHMR, but to all of West Texas. "We need to help the least of our population get the care they deserve," she said.

Permian Basin MHMR's Larry Carol told the board he has admitted more than 200 clients to the Big Spring facility.

"This hospital has always been there for us," he said.

Kent Sharp, executive director of Moore Development for Big Spring Inc., brought a Texas Workforce Commission report outlining the economic effect closing the hospital would have on Big Spring.

"The hospital has 530 employees with a \$15.8 million payroll. There are 2,281 family members insured by the hospital, 295 retired employees receive \$4.6 million in benefits each year and there are over 360 visitors to the hospital and thus to Big Spring each month.

"Using a wage multiplier, that equates to 787 jobs taking \$38 million out of the region," he added.

Leo Welch, a World War II veteran, attended to support the hospital.

"The city came out to the VA to show its support; it's only appropriate that we support our state hospital," he said. Welch ended his comments to the board by stating, "Our hospital ain't broke; don't fix it."

Greg Butler, a psychia-

trist from the VA Medical Center told the board, "It's not unfathomable to close the hospital; it's crazy."

In an emotion-filled presentation, Lenore Rakes told the committee that she has chronic physical and mental disabilities and that the hospital literally saved her life when she tried to overdose on blood thinners.

"They loved me back to life," Rakes said. "They made me a person again. If I have to drive 300 miles to see a staff I don't know and that doesn't know me, it will be devastating."

Please don't take our hospital."

Rakes' testimony brought the audience to its feet with applause.

"I was very pleased with the turnout," said Moughon. "Everyone did a great job supporting the hospital."

Thursday, the review board will travel to Lubbock to attend another forum. Big Spring State Hospital supporters who are expected to address the board include: Garza County Judge Giles Dalby, Borden County Judge Van York, Yoakum County Judge Dallas Brewer and Yoakum County Sheriff Don Corzine, as well as Woody Jumper, incoming president of the Texas Public Employees Association, who will also represent the Big Spring City Council.

Local officials are still urging anyone interested in sending letters of support for the facility to do so by writing HHS Commissioner Albert Hawkins, c/o the Texas Health and Human Services Commission, P.O. Box 13247, Austin, Texas 78711-3247.

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

Prowlers is set for 7:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. The cost for the dance is \$5 per person.

For more information, contact the center at 267-1628.

Contact Staff Writer Marsha Sturdivant at 263-7331 ext. 236 or by e-mail at life@bigspringherald.com

**MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL**  
24th & Johnson 267-8288  
Danny Priest, 46, died Wednesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

## ISAIAH 58

Continued from Page 1A

like every client helped by the center, is led through an interview process. The interview time consists of qualifying clients for assistance, allowing them to make known any counseling or prayer support they may need, helping them to make their food and household item choices and introducing parents to a literacy program for their children.

Jamie said she will enjoy the books Smith gave her and that she can't wait to read them with her son.

While her box of food is being prepared, she is encouraged to visit the center's clothing closet. Jamie chooses jackets for each of them.

With a box of groceries and toiletry items in hand, Jamie is encouraged to come back the following month if her family is still in need. Clients may receive assistance every 30 days.

"Poverty is both a spiritual and economic condition. Our prayer is that in some small way, we can help people help themselves," said Smith.

"I'm really glad this center is here," said Jamie. "They are helping me to feel like a good mom by making sure my son isn't hungry."

The center also assists clients with emergency prescription help in cooperation with West Texas Opportunities and emergency rent and utility help on a one-time per year basis.

The United Way of Big Spring and Howard County gave more than \$10,900 to the organization this year.

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## EDITORIAL

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

FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Susanne Reed  
Publisher

John A. Moseley  
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan  
News Editor

## OUR VIEWS

## It's now time to end rancor and press on

Most of us could never have imagined a presidential election so close, so contentious. Seems like we wrote that four years ago, didn't we? This time around, however, it's not going to take several weeks after the polls closed to know the winner.

This time around, it's clear that Americans supported George W. Bush in the popular vote — something he couldn't accomplish four years ago. As a matter of fact, he received more votes than any other presidential candidate in U.S. history.

As optimists, we want very much to see that in a positive light.

That's very important, because to our way of thinking, we all need some positives following all the rancor.

Sadly, we have learned a great many things from this election, just as we did four years ago.

While more Americans went to the polls and voted in 2004 than in 2000, young people who had their first opportunity to vote in a presidential race on Nov. 2 voted at about the same percentage as usual. That is nothing but unfortunate.

But perhaps the most troubling revelation from this election is the same we lamented four years ago. It seems there is no end to how mean-spirited the American political scene can become.

Even more unfortunate is how quickly negative campaigning and attack ads are seeming to become the norm in all levels of political endeavor.

The framers of our Constitution, believing that patriotism would outweigh politics, originally envisioned a system whereby the runner-up in the presidential election would serve as our vice president.

They were clearly mistaken, but for almost 200 years, the losers in our elections were content to serve as the "loyal opposition."

We still believe that's a concept that needs to be rekindled.

It's time now for us to end the rancor ... time to unify behind our leaders, expecting them to work in a bipartisan manner and move forward for all Americans.

## HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

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

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

## LETTER POLICIES

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

## Inside report: Democratic disaster

No wonder that John Kerry, after conferring at his Boston mansion with Ted Kennedy in the wee hours Wednesday morning, did not immediately concede the election to George W. Bush before giving up nine hours later. Remote though his chance was of turning around the crucial outcome in Ohio, it seemed to provide a frail final chance of averting total disaster for the Democratic Party.

The devastation of Tuesday's returns cannot be minimized. The transformation of the "Solid South" from Democrat to Republican was completed. Not only were all 11 states of the old Confederacy carried by President Bush, but the pickup of all five Senate seats left vacant by retiring Democrats means 18 of the region's 22 senators are Republican. Domination of Congress by the GOP now enters its second decade with Democrats largely restricted to enclaves on both coasts and some Midwestern industrial areas.

Democrats confront a grim future. Bush's 3.5-million-vote edge in the popular vote reflects a party out of touch with the country on social issues, the role of government and the war against terrorism. Democrats face the bitter reality of minority party status and what to do about it.

Facing reality is difficult because of unjustified confidence among high-level Democrats. All year long I was told by them that

Kerry would win comfortably. They dismissed Republican inroads on normal Democratic voters by the same-sex marriage issue. They laughed off warnings from defecting Democratic Sen. Zell Miller of Georgia that the party had lost rural America.

This venture into unreality was buttressed by supposedly confidential exit polls that leaked to both presidential campaigns late Tuesday afternoon. They showed Kerry riding a landslide, reversing Bush's 2000 wins in Ohio and Florida — in Ohio by a big margin. One of Kerry's top political operatives thought the time was appropriate to deliver to me an exposition of what Bush did wrong to lose the presidency.

Well-placed Republicans were not immune from exit poll mania. Based almost entirely on these flawed studies, one of Ohio's leading Republicans gave up when the third and final series of exit polls was leaked around 7 p.m. The gloom was thick, even among professionally cheerful staffers at the Republican National Committee.

Karl Rove, designer and executor of the Bush campaign, moved to avert the panic. He dispatched e-mails noting that the early exit polls in 2000 and 2002 had incorrectly forecast Democratic landslides. This year's polls, he said, were similarly flawed with massive oversampling of women.

Reliance on exit polls is only a surface manifestation of what ails the Democrats. Rove was correct and Democrats guessed wrong in assessing the American mood. A symptom was Democratic belief that former Rep. Tom Coburn in Oklahoma and Rep. Jim DeMint in South Carolina were just too conservative to defeat moderate

Democrats for the Senate. In fact, each won easily.

The electorate is simply too conservative for the Democrats, as shown by the defeat of Senate Democratic Leader Tom Daschle in South Dakota. The formula of taking the straight liberal line in Washington and talking conservative at home does not work when a Democrat's every move becomes visible as a member of the leadership.

In the wake of Kerry's unimpressive candidacy, Democrats ponder the alternative of Howard Dean's radicalism that is even further removed from the political mainstream. The more attractive course would be a return to the artful Southerner model of Jimmy Carter or Bill Clinton — conservative in style, liberal in substance. But with the Republican sweep in Dixie, there are no such Democrats to choose from — certainly not Sen. John Edwards, who as vice-presidential candidate exerted no impact in his own state of North Carolina. Sen. Hillary Clinton as the presidential nominee in 2008 would only compound the party's dilemma.

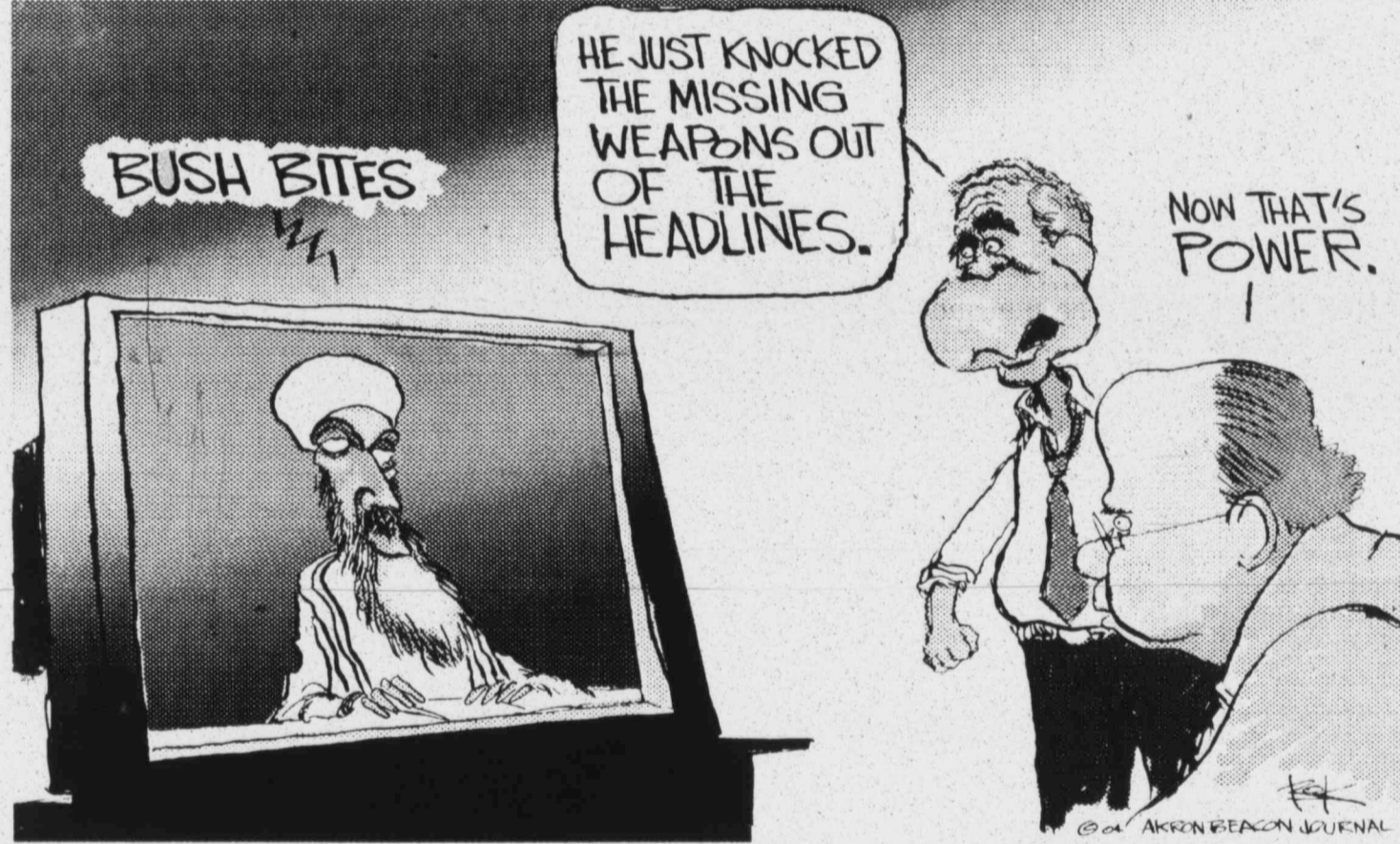
It is Republicans who would be facing internal carnage had Bush been defeated. Karl Rove would have been blamed for catering to the religious right, and the battle to moderate the party would be joined. Instead, the anti-abortion, anti-gay marriage, socially conservative agenda is ascendant, and the GOP will not abandon it any time soon.

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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ROBERT NOVAK



## The Ruzicka prophecy ends with "Y"

It was back in 1991, after we had won the Persian Gulf War and George H.W. Bush's approval ratings were in the stratosphere, that I first heard from Corey Ruzicka.

He called to tell me that Bush would lose re-election and a semi-obscure politician named Bill Clinton would win.

Ruzicka, who today is an advertising executive living in Arlington, Texas, is almost never wrong about his presidential predictions, even though he does no polling, conducts no focus groups and talks to not a single voter.

How does Ruzicka do it? Easy. He looks at the last letter of the last name of each candidate.

"Clinton is going to win," Ruzicka told me back then, "because his name ends in N. Of America's 51 presidential elections, 22 of them have been won by the candidate whose last name ended in N. Would you like me to name the N-enders who won?"

Not really, I said. "Washington, Van Buren, Buchanan, William Henry Harrison, Benjamin Harrison, Reagan ..." Ruzicka began. "Are these in order? I asked. "No," Ruzicka said. "Jefferson, Lyndon Johnson, Lincoln, Madison, Jackson ..."

Michael Jackson was never president! I said. You are making this up!

"Not Michael Jackson, Andrew

Jackson," Ruzicka said. "Can I go on?"

Would it do any good if I said no? I said.

"Nixon, Wilson and Truman," Ruzicka said. "Only two times in history have we had major presidential nominees whose name ended in H, and each time the economy has gone to hell. Al Smith was the Democratic presidential nominee in 1928, and the country then faced the 1929 Depression."

But Al Smith lost the presidential race, I said.

"Doesn't matter," Ruzicka said. "His name ended in H."

So who's the other H?

"George H.W. Bush," Ruzicka said. "As soon as Bush was nominated, I knew the economy would go bad. Everyone thought I was nuts because the economy was robust. But I was right."

In July 2000, I called Ruzicka and asked who was going to win: George W. Bush or Al Gore.

And he gave a tiny edge to Gore. "When we have had candidates whose name ends in an E, they have had four wins and eight losses," Ruzicka said. "When we have had candidates whose name ends in H, they have had one win and two losses."

And since Gore won the popular vote, you can say Ruzicka was correct.

According to Ruzicka, the last letter of the vice president's name also has a lot to do with things. "Whenever we have a Y- or L-ending winning or losing presidential or vice presidential candidate, we have a major war with casualties

within four years," he said.

I printed that, and sure enough, Dick Cheney got elected vice president and we went to war in Iraq, the curse of the Y-enders. (The economy also turned bad, the curse of the H-enders.)

So who will win this time, I asked Ruzicka recently.

"This is the toughest election I've ever predicted," he said. "I've got Bush winning, but by a hair. Y-enders (as in John Kerry) are 3 wins and 9 losses since George Washington, and H-enders are now two and two. But we have never re-elected a Y-ending vice president."

"Regardless of who wins, we will be in Iraq for the next 4 years, because Cheney ends in Y and Kerry ends in Y," Ruzicka went on. "There will be more terrorism around the world and North Korea will heat up because of the Y."

Ruzicka said 2008 would be better because both Hillary Clinton and John McCain have N-ending names, and N-enders are always popular.

Swell, I said. But why do Americans like people whose names end in N?

"Your name ends in N," Ruzicka said.

Good point, I said.

To find out more about Roger Simon, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com).

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## Reflex

By MARSHA S

Features Editor  
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## Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy devastates lives

By **MARSHA STURDIVANT**  
Features Editor

A loving mother's most rewarding task may be to comfort and support her child in times of sickness and injuries.

But for Marilyn Miers, whose daughter, Debbie Rawls, of Austin, suffers from Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy Syndrome (RSD), a sinking feeling of helplessness permeates all her motherly love.

"This has turned our entire world upside down.

"It is heartbreaking, hearing her tell us every day that she hurts so bad that her legs feel like they're in a vat of hot oil," Miers said.

RSD, also called Complex Regional Pain Syndrome, may effect as many as 1.5 million Americans, according to the Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy Syndrome

Association of American. Rawls sustained an injury to her right foot when she was involved in an automobile accident near her home in Austin last May.

RSD settled into her foot and today effects the nerves in her leg up to her knee.

In fact, research concludes that RSD will often travel to different areas of the body, different limbs or opposite limbs from where the syndrome first manifest.

According to the RSD Web site, [www.rds.org](http://www.rds.org), RSD is a chronic neurological syndrome.

Symptoms include constant, agonizing, burning pain, changes in bone and skin, excessive sweating, tissue swelling and extreme sensitivity to touch.

RSD may manifest in a limb following a break, such as with Rawls, but it may also occur after minor sprains as well.

Anyone can suffer from the condition, although it is more prevalent in women than in men.

"This is like when a family member has cancer. Some days I just sit and cry for my daughter, and I feel so powerless," she said.

Rawls' daily activities are limited and she has not been able to drive a car for several months, Miers said.

"She has some good days and some bad day, and we haven't lost our faith.

"Our prayer is that God will help her and we know it's all in God's hands now," Miers said.

Making the public and insurance companies

aware of RSD is one ongoing purpose of the RSD foundation.

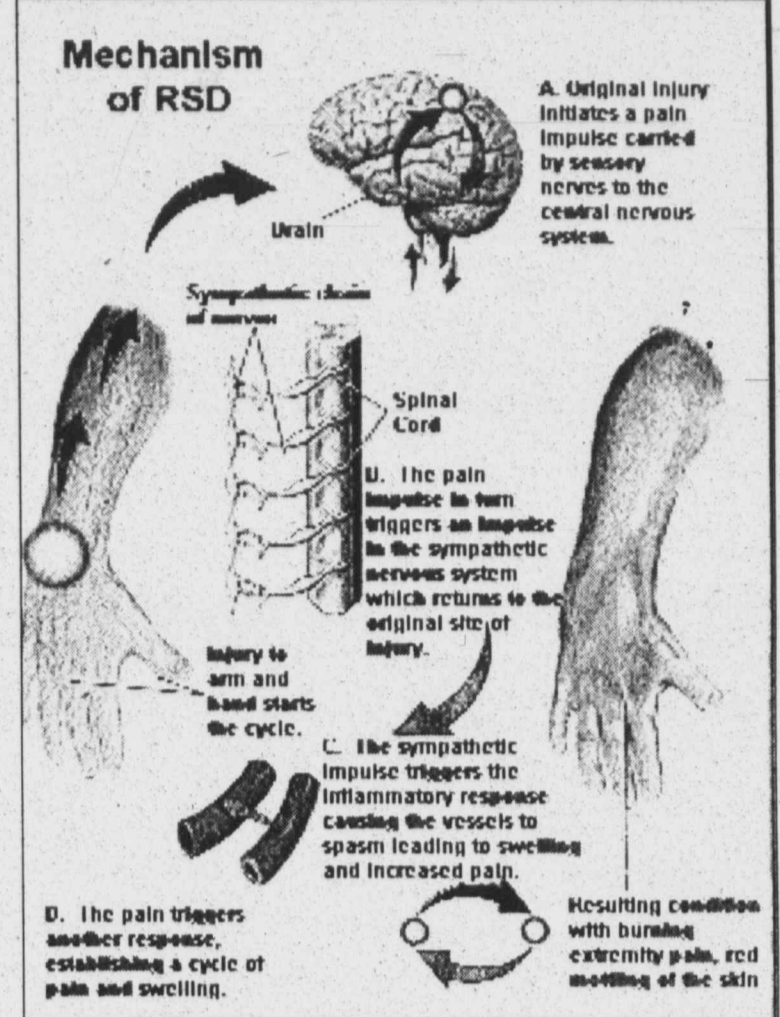
To bring education and awareness to the community, Miers has a bake sale beginning at 8 a.m. Saturday at the west doors of Wal-Mart, and all proceeds will go to the RSD foundation.

"I will have information to give to people about RSD.

And Debbie made some orange ribbons to pass out. Orange is the official color for RSD foundation, symbolizing the need to help put out the flames," she said.

For more information, contact Miers at 267-1135. Or visit [www.rds.org](http://www.rds.org).

Contact **Marsha Sturdivant**, features editor, through e-mail, [life@bigspringherald.com](mailto:life@bigspringherald.com) or call 263-7331.



The mechanisms of Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy Syndrome Association. It is estimated as many as 1.5 million Americans suffer from this condition. An education and awareness bake sale, with all proceeds going to the RSD foundation, is set for Saturday beginning at 8 a.m. at Wal-Mart's west doors.

## Community wide prayer meeting tonight unites believers in faith and purpose to pray for specific areas of need

Special to the Herald

A quarterly Community Wide Prayer meeting at 7 p.m. today in the Municipal Auditorium provides an opportunity for community members to gather together, united in faith and purpose, to pray for specific areas of need.

And this program will focus more on prayer with audience participation and less on program, according to event organizer Everett Bender. The event, which will last about one hour, is free and open to the public.

All community ministers will be invited to the stage at the beginning of the meeting, to demonstrate unity of faith and a joined effort.

Mayor Russ McEwen will open the meeting by sharing his vision for the community. His prayer will be followed by four separate individuals who will lead the audience in prayer for specific topics.

Each leader will spend about three minutes leading prayer, followed by about two minutes where the audience is encouraged to pray quietly in their seats. The Rev. Randy Cotton of Trinity Baptist Church will lead prayer aimed at repentance.

The Rev. Christina Segundo of Family Faith Victory Center will lead prayer for a spiritual awakening, focusing on family, relationships and finances. The Rev. Michael Willard of Mount Bethel Baptist Church will lead prayer for special needs, such as the Big Spring State Hospital, the VA Medical Center,

the economy and economic opportunity of Big Spring and the MaMahon-Wrinkle Airpark.

118th District Court Judge Robert H. Moore III will pray for the military and the war on terrorism as well as our national, state and local leaders.

Music will be provided by the King's Men, led by Big Spring Independent School District Superintendent Michael Downes. Joe Whitten Prison Ministries will perform the national anthem.

According to the local Web site, [www.hchurch.org](http://www.hchurch.org), directives for specific need include:

1. For blessings in the community and its leaders to set a spiritual example for others. 1 Timothy 2, Matthew 5:16, Matthew 6:33.

2. For the movie, "The Passion of The Christ" to have great impact locally and nationwide.

3. For a stirring of hearts and motivating of people to share their faith in the community. Matthew 9:37-38

4. For the V.A. Medical Center's administrator selection and restructuring process.

5. For the Big Spring State Hospital's future in this community.

6. For an abundance of rain with no damage.

7. For the state structuring of school finance.

Church historians of every denomination agree that every society-changing revival or spiritual awakening in

history, including the first one, the Day of Pentecost, was preceded by bonding among leaders and extraordinary prayer.

Therefore local community leaders and clergy have united their faith in a commitment to encourage on-going prayer for our community. Anyone who

is interested in participating in on-going prayer for our community is encouraged to contact any local church or Howard County minister.

Contact **Marsha Sturdivant**, features editor, through e-mail, [life@bigspringherald.com](mailto:life@bigspringherald.com) or call 263-7331.

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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

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# Escape Hybrid

The 2005 Ford Escape Hybrid won't begin arriving in dealer showrooms until later this summer, but you can order one now from your local Ford dealer.

I begin with that statement because if you are interested in owning a fully-functional, five-passenger SUV with the equivalent power of a V-6 engine that gets 40 mpg in city driving, be prepared to stand in line. Once the Escape Hybrid begins rolling off the assembly line in July, a lot of people are going to want one.

This is the real deal. During a recent test drive through Los Angeles city streets, through the winding hills of Topanga Canyon and even off roading in the mountains, the Escape Hybrid lived up to its billing as a "no compromise" SUV that consistently achieved a fuel economy rating around 40 mpg.

I know because there is a gauge on the dash that allows you to monitor fuel economy. We stayed in the 35-40 mpg range for much of the four-hour media test drive.

In terms of pollution, it is one of the cleanest vehicles on the road with near zero emissions.

And yes, we really did take it off roading in the mountains and didn't have a lick of trouble climbing hills or traversing rough terrain — in both the front-wheel drive and 4X4 models.

The Escape Hybrid is powered by a 2.3-liter I-4 gasoline engine and an electric traction motor that combined to provide the equivalent output of a V-6 engine.

Before scoffing at the word "electric," this is a true hybrid vehicle. You don't plug it in, the vehicle constantly recharges the battery through regular operation.

During idle driving — at stop lights or while parked — the vehicle is powered solely by the electric traction motor to improve fuel economy and reduce emissions. The electric motor can also provide sole power for the vehicle at low speeds — like stop-and-go city driving situations.

When you need quick acceleration, or additional power on hills, both powerplants work in unison to provide maximum horsepower and torque.

You can even tow up to a 1,000 pound trailer.

In fact, when it comes to quick acceleration conditions, I believe the Escape Hybrid is actually more responsive than the V-6 Escape.

This truly is a "no com-

promise" vehicle. Inside, it is nearly identical to the gas-powered Escape. The only difference is the analogue gauge on the dash to inform the driver when the vehicle is using regenerative braking to recharge the battery.

The 2005 Escape Hybrid is a remarkable vehicle that offers consumers the ability to carry both passengers and cargo, on or off road — and do it while saving a ton of money on gas. And yes, at lower emissions.

During a press briefing Tuesday, Ford executives said pricing for the 2005 Escape Hybrid won't be released until July.

Judging from experience, I estimate the hybrid version will likely cost between \$1,000 - \$2,000 above similarly equipped gas powered Escape models (2004 models range from \$19,000 - \$27,000). However, federal tax credits for purchasing fuel efficient, low emission vehicles should offset any difference.

In some areas of the country — like California, which also offers state and city tax credits to enlist citizens to do their part to help reduce air pollution caused by vehicles — purchasing a hybrid vehicle may actually cost less than its gas counterpart.

Hybrids are here. During the next five to 20 years, you can expect the bulk of industry production to be hybrid vehicles.

It is not only "what's next," hybrids are "what's now."

While all the manufacturers are introducing hybrids, Ford has chosen to begin its push with trucks and SUVs — the most popular-selling vehicles in America. Ford officials said the Escape Hybrid is just the first of many hybrid-available models to come — all developed with a "no compromise" attitude that gives consumers everything they expect, but with a lot less pain at the pump.

With gas prices hovering near (or in some places above) the \$2 mark, Ford's biggest challenge is going to be keeping the dealers stocked with inventory.

As I said earlier, you can order one now.

Neal White has been covering the automotive industry for 15 years and is affiliated with the Texas Auto Writers Association and the Midwest Automotive Media Association. Comments may be sent to Neal at neal.white@wax-ahachiedaily.com.



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**RECIPE ENTRY DEADLINE:** Monday: November 8 at 5 p.m.  
Limit 3 recipes per person.

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<b>Gaze Crystal Kitchen</b> 3 1/2 Qt. Stainless Steel Skillet w/Cover - Valued @ \$60.00	<b>Higginbotham-Bartlett</b> Nelson Rain Train Sprinkler #722251 - Valued @ \$60.00	

### 2nd Place Prizes

<b>Faye's Flowers</b> Christmas Centerpiece Valued @ \$50.00	<b>Dakota's Flowers</b> Fresh Flower Thanksgiving Centerpiece Valued @ \$50.00	<b>Uptown Salon &amp; Day Spa</b> Complete Makeover Valued @ \$50.00
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### 3rd Place Prizes

<b>Blum's Jewelers</b> Cross Ion Gel Ink Pen w/Refill Valued @ \$35.00	<b>Culligan</b> Case Crystal Clear Drinking Water Valued @ \$25.00	<b>Comfort Keepers</b> 2 Hrs of Inhome Non-Medical Care Valued @ \$30.00	<b>Gregg's Grill</b> Dinner for Two Valued @ \$25.00
<b>Jiffy Car Wash</b> Showroom Car Wash Valued @ \$25.00	<b>Koshmoore Kasuals</b> Gift Certificate Valued @ \$25.00	<b>Ponderosa Nursery</b> 3 Christmas Poinsettias Valued @ \$30.00	<b>Pizza Inn</b> 4 Buffets & Drinks Valued @ \$30.00

**TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES**

Centurion Pipeline, L.P. has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for issuance of an Existing Facility Air Permit, Air Quality Permit No. 73411, which would authorize operation of the previously grandfathered emission sources at Iatan Station. Driving directions to the site: take I-25 East of Coahoma to Howard Field Rd, go South 2.25 miles, turn east on CR 16 for 1 mile, Coahoma, Howard County, Texas. Additional information concerning this application is contained in the public notice section of this newspaper.

**G**

**OTH DISTRICT BATTLE**

**Hawley Stanton**  
The Stanton clinched its berth since weeks ago at Coahoma. They were down week by week in a decided title. This week returns home the 2-7 Bearcats, winning off a 22 home against last Friday. Stanton worse than the district loss Friday, improves the record to 6-4-1 in district. Hawley's this year former district Forsan at the Bowl in S. They won the 13. The Bear averaged 31. its two wins but have given points per losses, while ing just over. The Buffalo offensively back Washington ning back E

**Stamford Coahon**  
A pair of square off Stadium Coahoma se its first dist the year a Cardinals of. The Bulldo ing off a 22 Hawley, Stamford Friday to Al The Cardina Hawley, 34 this season only win of Coahoma's of the year week one Seagraves. Bulldogs, wtdled injurie are winles: this season,

**T**

**At Horn**  
Big Spring Grady vs. Stamford Hawley v Garden C

**On the Sands @**

**If You**

**Hair**



# Gameday

**BIG SPRING HERALD**

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

Page 1B  
Thursday, November 4, 2004

## OTHER DISTRICT BATTLES

### Hawley @ Stanton

The Stanton Buffaloes clinched its first playoff berth since 2000 two weeks ago after defeating Coahoma at home. They were defeated last week by rival Colorado City in a game that decided the district title.

This week, Stanton returns home to take on the 2-7 Hawley Bearcats, which is coming off a 22-20 win at home against Coahoma last Friday.

Stanton can do no worse than second in the district even with a loss Friday, but a win improves the Buffaloes' record to 6-4 overall and 4-1 in district play.

Hawley's other win this year came against former district rival Forsan at the Mustang Bowl in Sweetwater. They won that game 41-13. The Bearcats have averaged 31.5 points in its two wins this year, but have given up 43 points per game in the losses, while only scoring just over eight.

The Buffaloes are led offensively by quarterback Michael Washington and running back Emilio Villa.

### Stamford @ Coahoma

A pair of 1-8 teams square off at Bulldog Stadium Friday as Coahoma searches for its first district win of the year against the Cardinals of Stamford.

The Bulldogs are coming off a 22-20 loss to Hawley, while Stamford lost last Friday to Anson, 45-12. The Cardinals defeated Hawley, 34-6, earlier this season for their only win of the year.

Coahoma's only win of the year came in week one against Seagraves. The Bulldogs, who have battled injuries all year, are winless at home this season, as well.

## Do or die for 'Cats, 'Stangs at Tunnel

By TROY HYDE  
Sports Editor

It doesn't get much better than what the Grady and Sands football programs face Thursday night as the two rivals collide with a playoff spot at stake.

"It is win or go home for both teams," said Grady head coach Joe Helms. "It should be a tough game and I expect a dog fight."

Both teams enter the game with identical 3-1 district records as both teams fell to district champion Wellman-Union earlier this season. Sands is 5-4 overall, while Grady is one game behind at 4-5. And they came within two spots of each other in this week's rankings, as well.

Grady features quarterback Andrew Villa and running back Ben Hirth, while the Mustangs like to run the ball at teams with the speed of junior Santos Ybarra and the power of junior Cevan Smithson.

"We have to step up and



YBARRA



A member of the Grady football team takes down an opposing quarterback in a previous game. The Wildcats face rival Sands tonight in Lenora and the winner earns a trip to the playoffs, which begin next week.

HERALD photo/Bruce Schooler

stop those two guys," said Helms. "They don't run many plays, but they run a lot of plays for them."

Offensively, Helms wants to utilize Villa and establish the pass.

"It has been what we have done all year and I think they are a little more vulnerable through the air," he added.

The homefield advantage for Grady has not been all of an advantage

this year, but Helms sees it to be a bit of a factor Friday.

"The homefield advantage should help, but it is such a big rivalry that both teams will have fans here," added Helms. "We are not that far apart distance wise so both sides should be packed."

The Wildcats are 0-4 this year at Tunnel Stadium. Sands is 2-2 this year on the road.

### CORRECTION

Past issues of the Herald have stated that both Grady and Sands have qualified for the playoffs. That statement was incorrect as only two teams in Class A and six-man advance to state.

Wellman-Union is the District 5 champion and Grady and Sands will battle for a playoff spot tonight in Lenora.

## Bearcats prepare for playoffs with champs

By TROY HYDE  
Sports Editor

The road to Garden City's district title this year came a little easier than head coach Ken Hoskins expected as the Bearcats were not really tested by any District 8 six-man team this year.

However, with one game to go before the playoffs begin, Hoskins wanted to make sure his team was ready for post-season play. And to do that, he scheduled the

defending Texas Christian Athletic League (TCAL) champions from Valley Christian Academy out of Roswell, N.M. Valley Christian, which is 8-0 this year, took the place of district rival Blackwell on Garden City's schedule because Blackwell cancelled its season three weeks ago.

"This should be the best team talent-wise that we have faced all year," said Hoskins. "They have a lot of experience and are senior-dominated."

"It should be a good game for both of us because it gets us ready for the playoffs start. It gets us in the playoff mode."

Valley Christian is led offensively by running back Craig Villalpando and defensively by linebacker Erik Marquez.

"Those seniors lead their team," said Hoskins. "If Villalpando gets outside we will never catch him. He has tons of speed."

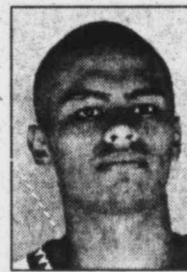
The eighth-ranked Bearcats will see seven seniors play in their final home game Friday night. Tim Schniers, Trey Hillger, Colby Hirt, Robert Lopez, Wade

Machick, Travis Coats and Mitch Rider will all play for the last time at Bearkat Stadium.

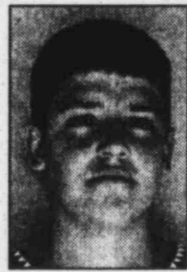
"They have stepped up for us and made the transition from 11-man to six-man well this year," said Hoskins. "They have all had their moments at one point or another this season."

Valley Christian's playoff run consists of one game as they will take on Midland Trinity next week for the TCAL title.

If 10th-ranked Highland defeats 16th-ranked Westbrook Friday then Garden City takes on 11th-ranked Ira next Friday at Borden County in the bi-district round of the playoffs.



LOPEZ



HIRT

## This Week

### At Home:

Big Spring vs. Plainview, 7:30 p.m.  
Grady vs. Sands, 7:30 p.m. (Thursday)  
Stamford vs. Coahoma, 7:30 p.m.  
Hawley vs. Stanton, 7:30 p.m.  
Garden City vs. Valley Christian, 7:30 p.m.

### On the Road:

Sands @ Grady, 7:30 p.m. (Thursday)

## Good Luck To All Area Teams!

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## IN BRIEF

**Bulldog band to host tailgate party Friday**

The Coahoma band boosters will be hosting a tailgate party Friday at Bulldog Stadium beginning at 6 p.m. and lasting until the food is gone.

The cost is \$5 per plate and each plate consists of a chopped BBQ sandwich, chips, dessert and a drink.

For more information, contact Dale Pittman at 267-9555.

**Ragball tournament set for November**

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.

**YMCA basketball registration nearing**

The YMCA has announced that basketball registration for the upcoming season will start Monday and run through Nov. 20.

Boys and girls age five through 12 may register to take part in one of four age groups.

The registration fee is \$30 and all sign-ups will take place at the YMCA.

There will be no fund-raiser this year, but financial assistance is available for families who require assistance.

An organizational meeting for adults who would like to be age group coordinators has been scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 30 and Saturday, Dec. 4. Everyone interested in coaching must attend one of these two scheduled meetings.

The games are scheduled to begin Saturday, Jan. 8.

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

**Steer basketball clinic set for Nov. 6**

There will be a Steers basketball clinic Saturday, Nov. 6, at the Big Spring YMCA from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

Registration for the event will be from 9:00-9:45 a.m. at the YMCA and boys and girls in grades kindergarten through fourth can attend.

The cost is \$30 and if more than one child per family attends the price is reduced to \$20 each.

Each participant will receive a black and gold T-shirt and a gift certificate.

For more information, call 267-1267.

**Odessa sets softball "madness" toumey**

The Odessa Softball Association has set up a softball tournament for Nov. 13 at the UTPB softball complex.

The double elimination tournament costs \$100.

The deadline to sign up is Nov. 10.

For more information, contact Gabriel or Michelle at 552-7426.

## Hot shooting sends Howard past Cisco

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor  
Sophomore Jessica Shusteric's hot-shooting led the Howard College women's basketball team to a 99-88 victory Wednesday against Cisco at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

The Hawks had six players in double figures on the night and the women won despite foul troubles from several players.

"We are happy to win and hopefully we can keep this string going for awhile," said Howard head coach Lorin Miller.

The game started with two consecutive turnovers (one by each team) and then two straight inside baskets by Howard freshman Latoya Fairley.

After a Ciara Tidwell 3-pointer put Howard up 7-0, Cisco answered with back-to-back 3-pointers by Candice Taylor.

The game turned to a back-and-forth affair midway through the first half. Cisco scored four straight points to close the deficit to 13-12 and took the lead on its next possession. Then, freshman Charmaine Callahan put Howard back on top with an inside jumper before another basket by Taylor put Cisco up 16-15. Not to be outdone by Taylor, Callahan responded at the other end with another basket, giving the lead back to the Lady Hawks.

Fairley picked up her third foul at the 11:50 mark and was forced to sit on the bench the rest of the half.

The game would remain tight — tied 29-29 with 9:00 to play before halftime — before Howard's shooters took over.

Led by five 3-point baskets by Shusteric, including four consecutive, the Hawks outscored Cisco 24-8 in the final seven minutes and took a 56-36 halftime advantage into the locker room.

The Wrangler women continued to fight in the second half as Howard struggled to maintain a large lead. Cisco started the half on a 5-0 run and then Fairley picked up her fourth with 16:41 to play.

Two free throws by sophomore Julie Gorski put Howard back on top by 20 at 66-46 with 15:50 to play, but Cisco responded with another mini-run. This time the Wrangler women scored 12 straight points in a span of two minutes and cut the lead to eight with just under 14 minutes to play in the game.

Howard pushed its lead back to 12 points, however, as Callahan and Gorski put in back-to-back layups.

## Mavericks win second straight

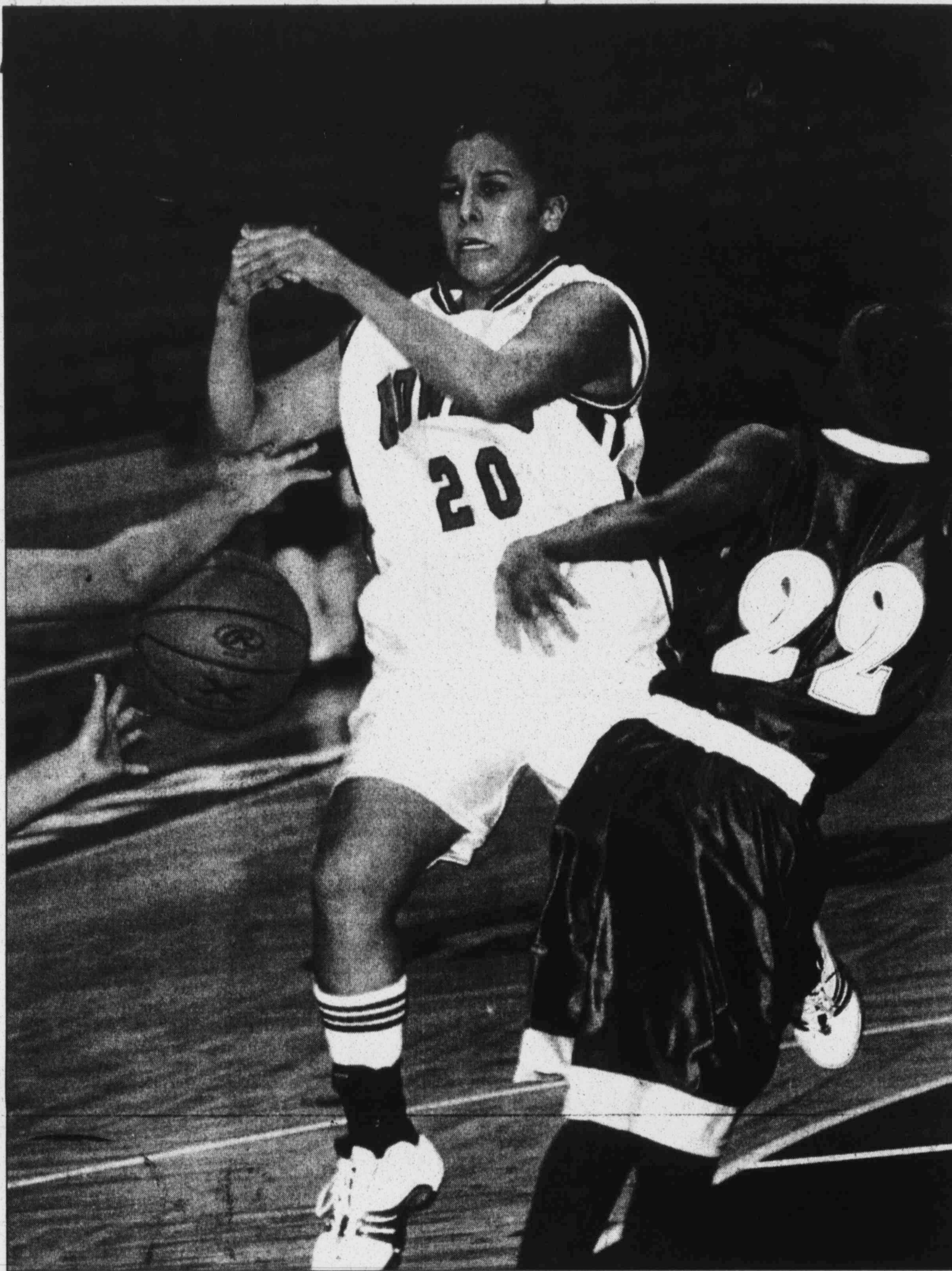
By BRETT MARTEL

AP Sports Writer

NEW ORLEANS — After only two games, Dirk Nowitzki thinks this year's Dallas Mavericks may be their best team yet.

Nowitzki, Michael Finley and new sixth-man Jerry Stackhouse each scored 19 points Wednesday night, and Dallas improved to 2-0 with a 106-91 victory that tarnished Byron Scott's debut as the New Orleans Hornets' head coach.

"You get a Stackhouse and a (Jason) Terry coming off the bench — that's amazing. Not a lot of teams have that," Nowitzki said. "We have a great luxury ... the deep bench is going to win us a lot of games this year."



Howard freshman Jennifer Pena gets fouled on her way to the basket Wednesday night at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum as the Lady Hawks defeated Cisco, 99-88. Sophomore Jessica Shusteric led Howard with 19 points. Pena was right behind her with 18. The Hawks had five players in double figures in the game, as well.

Fairley returned the game with 10:34 to play, but she replaced Callahan after she picked up her fourth foul. The Wrangler women trimmed its deficit to five points before freshman Jennifer Pena took over. Her 3-pointer on Howard's next possession was answered by a Cisco 3-pointer, but two free throws and another 3-pointer gave her Hawk team another double-digit lead with six minutes to play.

"The game was in question in the second half for awhile," said Miller. "But the girls hung in there and got the job done."

Callahan, who returned to the game with about seven minutes to go, fouled out with 5:43 to play and was relieved by

freshman Milica Rogic. Howard's foul trouble proved to hurt the Hawks as Cisco just wouldn't go away. Cisco cut the lead to four points with over four minutes to play, but a 3-pointer by freshman Ariel Rhodes put the Hawks up 89-82. Then a Fairley free throw and layup put the Hawks up nine.

Tidwell, a sophomore from Boyd, fouled out with 1:19 to play as offensive rebounds kept Cisco in the game. The Cisco deficit was six points with just over 43 seconds to play in the game but a free throw by Shusteric, a putback by Fairley and two more free throws by Pena put the game out of reach for the Wrangler women.

"We finished strong in the second half and played with a lot of enthusiasm down the stretch," said Miller. "And we had to do that to win."

Howard improves its record to 2-0. Shusteric led the Hawk women with 19 points, while Pena added 18. Fairley finished with 15 points and Tidwell added 13.

Gorski and Callahan added 10 apiece for Howard, as well. Rhodes and Rogic nearly reached double figures as they scored eight and six, respectively. Pena was eight-for-eight from the foul stripe.

Cisco's Jennifer Arenas led all scorers with 39 points. She scored 32 in the second half alone as she had three 3-pointers

and was eight-for-12 from the line. Taylor added 17.

The win over Cisco was very significant for the Hawks, as well. Cisco's 11-point loss to Howard was the third game in three nights for the Wrangler women. They lost to Howard's conference rivals the two previous nights as Midland College won by nine and Odessa College won by six.

The Hawk women play Lubbock Christian's JV tonight in the Coliseum beginning at 6 p.m. The Hawk men, who are 1-0 this season, play after the women against Monterrey Tech, who lost to Iowa State by just two points in an exhibition game earlier this year. The men's game begins at 8 p.m.



Orlando's Steve Francis dunks over the Milwaukee defense in the second half of their game at the TD Waterhouse Centre in Orlando, Florida, Tuesday.

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**Garage Sales**

**BENEFIT GARAGE Sale**, Coahoma Fire Station, North 1st St. Saturday, 8:00-? Donations will go to the Toy Drive.

**THE TRADING Post**, 1806 N. Hwy 87 Across from State Hospital, Taking consignments. Furniture, clothes, jewelry, cars, boats, trailers. 10:00 am-5:00 pm. Monday-Saturday, (432)263-1938.

**IN-HOUSE SALE:** 1322 Madison St. Three chests of drawers, two refrigerators, Maytag washer, baby crib, Lazy Boy rocker, couch and chairs. Friday & Saturday 8 am until last person.

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**GARAGE SALE**, 1716 Yale. Saturday, 8:00-12:00. Furniture, holiday items, home decor, some name brand clothes. Brisket burritos.

**GARAGE SALE**, 5906 E. Midway Rd. Friday & Saturday, 8:00-5:00. Waterbed, refrigerator, desk, couch, Christmas & craft items, miscellaneous items.

**GARAGE SALE**, Saturday & Sunday, 9:00-5:00. 305 S.W. Broadway, service road (Coahoma). Furniture, clothes, toys, white Mercury Topaz, misc. items.

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**GARAGE SALE:** 1014 Baylor, Saturday 8:30-4:00. Furniture, tools, knick knacks, shoes, dishes, stuffed animals & toys and lots and lots of misc. items.

**GARAGE SALE:** 2107 Alabama. Saturday Only 8-?. Lots of women's clothes, shoes, men's clothing and lots off misc. items.

**GARAGE SALE:** Fri. & Sat. 9:00-6:00, 1317 Wood. Children clothes, jackets, sweaters, Xmas Decorations, drill, lots of misc.

**HOLIDAY RUMMAGE Sale:** Hosted by Big Spring Woman's Club. Sat. 8:00-2:00 at St. Paul Lutheran Annex at 9th and Scurry. All profits donated to local charities.

**MOVING SALE**, Saturday, 8:00am to 2:00pm. 700 Frank Davis, (Coahoma). Dinette set, TV's, waterbeds, couches, dresser, lots of misc.

**Help Wanted**

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

**CITY OF Big Spring** is taking applications for ID Technician. This position is responsible for recovering and storing evidence from crime scenes. Apply at the Personnel Department, 310 Nolan, Big Spring, TX 79720 or call 432-264-2346. The City of Big Spring is EOE. Applications may also be obtained from website: [www.ci.big-spring.tx.us](http://www.ci.big-spring.tx.us)

**Help Wanted**

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

**FORSAN ISD** has openings for part-time, full-time, and substitute bus drivers. Driver training will be provided. Please call (432)457-2223 ext. 2 for an application.

**HEAVY EQUIPMENT** Operator with CDL. Must have at least 5 yrs. experience & be able to pass drug test. Call (432)238-7650 in Big Spring.

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**OLDER GENTLEMEN** who lost his car & license. Needs to find part-time driver for local trips and a few longer trips. Call (432)263-2974.

**PARK VILLAGE** Apartments is taking applications for an assistant maintenance person who is self-motivated. Make ready experience required. Must pass drug test and background check. No Phone Calls Please! Apply at 1905 Wasson Rd. or Fax resume, (432)267-3049. 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

**PART TIME** Seasonal Scale Clerk. Salary open depending on experience. Call (432)353-4444.

**Help Wanted**

**THE CITY** of Big Spring will be testing for the position of Certified and Non-Certified Police Officer at 8:30 A.M. on Thursday, December 2, 2004 at the Police Training Center on 307 E. 4th. Applications are being accepted through Wednesday, December 1, 2004. Preference will be given to Certified Officers. For further information and detailed qualifications contact City Hall Personnel at 310 Nolan, Big Spring, TX 79720 or call (432)264-2346. The City of Big Spring is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Applications may also be obtained from website: [www.ci.big-spring.tx.us](http://www.ci.big-spring.tx.us)

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NOV 04 2004



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**QUEEN BEDROOM** Set. Headboard & footboard w/rails, dresser w/lighted mirror, clothes armoire and night stand. Asking \$500.00 OBO. Call (432)394-4453, no answer, please leave message.

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**FOR SALE** By Owner: Owner financing provided. Low down payment, low monthly, 3 bedroom, 1216 Ridgeroad. Call Kelly 432-425-9994.

**FOR SALE** By Owner: Owner financing provided. Low down payment, low monthly, 3 bedroom, 1216 Ridgeroad. Call Kelly 432-425-9994.

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Legals

**NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION AND INTENT TO OBTAIN AN EXISTING FACILITY AIR PERMIT**  
PROPOSED AIR QUALITY PERMIT NO. 73411

**APPLICATION** Centurion Pipeline, L.P., has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for issuance of an Existing Facility Permit, Air Quality Permit No. 73411, which would authorize operation of the previously grandfathered emission sources at the Latah Station. The applicant has provided the following driving directions to the site: take I-25 east of Coahoma to Howard Field Road, go south 2.25 miles, turn east on County Road 16 for 1 mile, Coahoma, Howard County, Texas. The facility will emit the following air contaminants: organic compounds. This permit will not authorize new construction or an increase in emissions.

This application was received on or before August 31, 2004. The application is available for viewing and copying at the TCEQ central office, the TCEQ Midland regional office, and the Midland County Clerk's Office, 200 West Wall, Suite 105, Midland, Midland County, Texas. The facility's compliance file, if any exists, is available for public review in the Midland regional office of the TCEQ.

The TCEQ executive director has determined the application is administratively complete and will conduct a technical review of the application.

**PUBLIC COMMENT/ PUBLIC MEETING** You may submit public comments or request a public meeting or request a notice and comment hearing to the Office of the chief Clerk at the address below. The TCEQ will consider all public comments in developing a final decision on the application. The deadline to submit public comments is 30 days after newspaper notice is published.

The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit comments or ask questions about the application. A public meeting about the application will be held if the executive director determines that there is a significant degree of public interest in the application or if requested by a local legislator. A public meeting is not a contested case hearing.

After the final deadline for public comments following any public meeting or notice and comment hearing, the executive director will consider the comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material or significant public comments. If comments are received, the response to comments, along with the executive director's action on the application, will be mailed to everyone who submitted comments or is on a mailing list for this application.

**OPPORTUNITY FOR A NOTICE AND COMMENT HEARING** a person who may be affected by the emission of air pollutants from the site may request a notice and comment hearing. The TCEQ may grant a notice and comment hearing on this application if a written hearing request is filed within 30 days after publication of this newspaper notice. The purpose of a notice and comment hearing is to provide an opportunity to submit comments on the draft permit. If a notice and comment hearing is granted, all individuals who submitted written comments or a hearing request will receive written notice of the hearing. This notice will identify the date, time, and location for the hearing. Issues such as property values, noise, traffic safety, and zoning are outside of the Commission's jurisdiction to address in the proceeding.

**MAILING LIST** In addition to submitting public comments, you may ask to be placed on a mailing list to receive future public notices for this specific application mailed by the Office of the chief clerk by sending a written request to the TCEQ office of the Chief Clerk at the address below.

**INFORMATION** Written public comments or requests for a public meeting or requests for a notice and comment hearing should be submitted to the Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, TCEQ, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. For more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the Office of Public Assistance, Toll Free, at 1-800-687-4040. General information regarding the TCEQ can be found at [www.tceq.state.tx.us](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us).

Further information may also be obtained from Centurion Pipeline, L.P., 5 East Greenway Plaza, Suite 110, Houston, Texas 77046-0506 or by calling Mr. Lee Hinman, Big-horn Environmental, LLC at 303-469-4174.

Issuance Date: October 12, 2004  
#4374 November 4, 2004

Tomorrow's Horoscope

**BY HOLIDAY MATHIS** Mercury enters Sagittarius, which brings a new wave of curiosity and expansion to our realm of communication. If you've been wanting to learn a new language, this is the time to start. And you can expect that your vocabulary in your mother tongue will grow as well. It's becoming obvious that in order to attain more, we have to know more people.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). Like the song says, you can't hurry love. You'll just have to wait. Seriously, you're not doing yourself any favors by rushing into a relationship with someone you hardly know. Focus on the process, rather than the finish line.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). Now is an excellent time to mend any broken fences, particularly with family members. If you haven't been speaking to a parent or child, you should try approaching that person with an outstretched olive branch now.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). You get a booster shot of confidence! Suddenly, everything you say seems to hold extra weight and importance. Your charisma is magnetic and draws love and admiration to you from all directions.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). Saturn is activating the big issues for you. Marriage, starting a family, home ownership, career path, financial stability and retirement are on the forefront of your mind. Focus on the broad strokes of how you want your life to be.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). Try to relax and enjoy this quiet time for what it is: the calm before a period of intense change and challenge. You will soon go through a trial by fire. Though you'll be tested in ways you never imagined possible, you will love every minute.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Examine your current love relationship. Are you really getting the level of commitment and stability you crave? If you're doing more

giving than receiving, you need to examine what's motivating you. A Scorpio has an objective view.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your love life shines right now. If you're single, this is one of your best times this year to meet someone new. If you're already in a committed relationship, your love will grow, perhaps bringing with it a marriage proposal.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You will receive an unusual proposition. Consider the source carefully. Listen to your gut. If your intuition tells you that this messenger is a decent human being, allow yourself to explore their offer. It could prove to be lucrative.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Your phone is ringing off the hook with people inviting you to parties, workshops and lectures. You may feel inundated with e-mail. Luckily, you'll be able to discern the important stuff from the spam.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Some people call you obsessive. The truth is, you're just really, really focused. It's that single-mindedness that keeps you on target. Like a laser-guided missile, you know exactly where you need to go to.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Consider taking on an intern, assistant or apprentice. You are such a good teacher that your protegee may soon be able to handle much of the workload alone, freeing you up to focus on the visionary end of things.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). All is not wine and roses at home. Someone is harboring a perhaps not-so-hidden resentment, and it probably has something to do with the in-laws. Find the common ground. Singles are adjusting to a new circumstance.

If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, Joyce Jillson's handpicked heir, please go to [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com) and click on "Write the Author" on the Joyce Jillson page, or you may send her a postcard in the mail.

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Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: I have been married to my wife for over 20 years and recently found out my eldest son is not my biological child. Apparently, his father is my (ex) best friend. He and my wife kept this a secret for over 10 years. She claims he raped her. He claims it was consensual.

I always had been suspicious about the two of them, but both denied any wrongdoing. I finally insisted on a paternity test, which showed I am not the father. (My son thinks the test was for life insurance.)

Should I tell my 11-year-old son that his biological father is someone else? I raised him, and he always will be mine, but isn't he entitled to this information? And, can my wife ever be trusted again? — Hurt and Confused

Dear Hurt: Please say nothing to your son. He is too young to be burdened with such inflammatory news. Apparently, your wife chose not to report this alleged rape to the police, and although she still can do so, it won't accomplish much legally.

Did their liaison continue, or was it a one-time thing? On the assumption that it happened only once, regardless of whether or not it was consensual, we urge you to believe her version of events or forgive her. If necessary, get counseling to help you achieve peace and regain your trust. Yes, it can be done. But you must be willing.

Dear Annie: November is Diabetes Awareness Month. Approximately 17 million Americans have diabetes. I am a physician who specializes in treating patients with chronic wounds (a complication of diabetes) and want to warn them.

Nearly 60 percent of people with diabetes suffer from neuropathy, or nerve damage, and may not be able to feel pain in their feet. Because of circulatory problems, small cuts or blisters can be difficult to heal, and in the most severe cases, may result in amputation.

Please urge your readers to check their feet daily, always wear shoes and visit a podiatrist every 8-12

weeks. Any numbness or tingling in the feet should be reported immediately. Taking proactive steps to improve our overall health is one of the smartest things we can do. — Randy Shafritz, M.D., Medical Director, Bayshore Wound Care Center, Bayshore Community Hospital, Holmdel, N.J.

Dear Dr. Shafritz: Thank you for your timely reminder. Readers who would like more information should contact the American Diabetes Association ([diabetes.org](http://diabetes.org)) at 1-800-DIABETES (1-800-342-2383).

Dear Annie: I was appalled at the letter from "Nameless," who was worried about abusive parents and said, "There is no reason for children to bathe nude with their parents, ever."

I shower with my toddler son, and not once have I come close to thinking about it in a sexual way. My husband is in the military, so I'm almost a single parent. I certainly can't leave my son unsupervised while I lather, so if I don't bring him into the shower with me, I'd never be clean. Before he gets up is too early for me, and his afternoon nap is too late. If I shower at night, my hair doesn't look human in the morning, and hiring a baby sitter is ridiculous (and expensive).

I understand we all should be aware of the dangers of child abuse, but I don't want to feel like a sicko because I shower with my 2-year-old, and until he notices the physical differences between us, I will continue. — Squeaky Clean in Washington

Dear Squeaky: In an effort to avoid any hint of inappropriateness, some people tend to go overboard. One must be cautious and vigilant, but also take care not to poison our world with fear. Thanks for writing.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to [anniesmailbox@comcast.net](mailto:anniesmailbox@comcast.net).

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7	:PM	:30	Extreme Makeover
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9	:PM	:30	PrimeTime Live
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Dear David Le

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MY HUSBAND TELL YA I MISSED YORE WEDDIN' JENNY !!

**BEETL**

OTTO TYPED THIS ALL BY HIMSELF!



THURSDAY

NOV. 4

	WFAA (2)	KMID (3)	UNI (4)	KPEJ (5)	KOSA (7)	KTLE (8)	KWES (9)	WTBS (11)	KMLM (12)	KOCV (13)	DISC (20)	AMC (21)	SPIKE (22)	TNT (23)	BET (26)	DISN (27)	ESPN2 (28)	ESPN (29)	TMC (250)	
	Dallas	Midland	Spanish	Odessa	Odessa	Telemundo	Midland	Atlanta	Odessa	Odessa	Discovery	Classics	Spike TV	Atlanta	Black Ent.	Disney	Sports	Sports	Premium	
6:PM	News (CC)	News Wheel-Fortune	La Mujer de Madera	Malcolm-Mid Raymond	News Ent. Tonight	Anta No Te Rajes	News Seinfeld (CC)	Raymond	Joe McGee John Hagee	News-Lehrer	Monster Nation	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgn.	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Live BET Style	Sister, Sister That's-Raven	NFL Live Interruption	College		(CC)	
7:PM	Extreme Makeover	Extreme Makeover	Rubi	The O.C. (CC)	Survivor: Vanuatu	Prisonera	Joey (CC) Will & Grace	Friends (CC)	Update/Israel Michal Ratiff	West Tex Jml TX Monthly Talk	No Opportunity Wasted	Movie: Unlawful Entry	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgn.	NBA Basketball: The Parkers	Movie: Halloweentown	I'd Do Anything	Football: Louisville at Memphis	Movie: The Usual		
8:PM	Life as we know it (CC)	Life as we know it (CC)	Amor Real	North Shore (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgn.	Gitanas	The Apprentice (CC)	Movie: Rush Hour (CC)	Light of the Southwest	Antiques Roadshow	Big	MXC	MXC	Cleveland Cavaliers at Soul Food (CC)	Comicview	Lizzie McGuire Sister, Sister	Boxing: Friday Night Fights -- Juan Diaz vs. Julien Lorcy	I Love Trouble (CC)		
9:PM	PrimeTime Live	PrimeTime Live	Aqui y Ahora	Malcolm-Mid 70s Show	Without a Trace (CC)	Te Voy a Enseñar a Querer	ER (CC)	10 Movie: A Knight's Tale (CC)	The Hour of Healing	D-Day: Down to Earth	American Chopper	15 Movie: The Gauntlet	MXC	Miami Heat NBA	Comicview	Even Stevens Boy World	NFL Live NFL's Greatest Season	SportsCenter		
10:PM	News Nightline	News Nightline	Primer Impacto Noticiero Univ.	70s Show	News Late Show	Noticias Laura	News The Tonight Show (CC)	Tale (CC)	Sam Peak Jesse Lee Pe.	Sign Off	Big	15 Movie: Sea of Love	Ult. Gamer V-Spot	Basketball: Timberwolves at Nuggets	Midnight Love	Proud Family That's-Raven	NFL Live NFL's Greatest Season	Rome-Burning Outside-Lines	10:50 Movie: China Moon	
11:PM	Ent. Tonight Jimmy Kimmel	Extra (CC) Jimmy Kimmel	El Recuento de los Danos	Becker (CC) Becker (CC)	The Late Late Show (CC)	Al Rogo Vivo (CC)	Show (CC) Maria Celeste (CC)	Update/Israel Michal Ratiff	The Mansion		American Chopper									
12:AM	Oprah Winfrey	PGA Wrap-Up	Mujeres Enganadas	Spin City Dharma-Greg	The Insider	Corte-Familia	Fraser (CC)													

DENNIS THE MENACE



"If you ask me, I'd say that boy went straight from the 'Terrible Twos' to the 'Terrible Fives'."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"I forget what I came here to say. Grandma's right! I sure do take after her."

HAGAR



REMEMBER WHEN WE GOT MARRIED YOU PROMISED TO GIVE ME ANYTHING MY LITTLE HEART DESIRES?



MY LITTLE HEART DESIRES A MAID!

BLONDIE



WHAT SORT OF BIRD IS A COCKATIEL? IT'S RELATED TO THE COCKAPOO



AND WHAT SORT OF BIRD IS THE COCKAPOO? IT'S RELATED TO THE COCKAMAMY



AND WHAT SORT OF BIRD? LOOK, I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU, BUT I COULD GO ON LIKE THIS ALL DAY

BC



HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE 'BEAN FUTURES' MARKET?



EXPLOSIVE



HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE IT IN NON-FLATULENT TERMS?

WIZARD OF ID



BLANCH GAVE ME THIS BOOK ON ANGER MANAGEMENT



HOW COME THE COVER IS TORN?



SHE THREW IT AT ME

AGNES



Dear David Letterman, DON'T WASTE YOUR TIME. LETTERMAN DOESN'T EVEN READ THOSE.



HE DOESN'T?



NAH. HE IS ALL BRAIN-FRIED FROM FAME AND MONEY. HE DOESN'T CARE ABOUT THE LITTLE PEOPLE ANYMORE.

HI AND LOIS



SOMETIMES I FEEL SO UNIMPORTANT



EVERYBODY AT SCHOOL WAS MEAN TO ME TODAY, TRIxie.



GOOD OLD TRIxie! AND THEN THERE ARE OTHER TIMES...

THE OTHER COAST



NOW DO THE 'SLUG'... FABULOUS! I WANT YOU TO TRY TO HOLD THAT POSITION FOR TWENTY MINUTES.

SNUFFY SMITH



MY HUSBAND SAYS TO TELL YA SORRY HE MISSED YORE WEDDIN', JENNY !!

BEETLE BAILEY



OTTO TYPED THIS ALL BY HIMSELF!

This Date In History

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Nov. 4, the 309th day of 2004. There are 57 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

Twenty-five years ago, on Nov. 4, 1979, the Iranian hostage crisis began as militants stormed the United States Embassy in Tehran, seizing its occupants. For some of the hostages, it was the start of 444 days of captivity.

On this date: In 1879, 125 years ago, humorist Will Rogers was born in Oologah, Okla.

In 1884, Democrat Grover Cleveland was elected to his first term as president, defeating Republican James G. Blaine.

In 1922, the entrance to King Tutankhamen's tomb was discovered in Egypt.

In 1924, Nellie T. Ross of Wyoming was elected the nation's first female governor to serve out the remaining term of her late husband, William B. Ross.

In 1942, during World War II, Axis forces retreated from El Alamein in North Africa in a major victory for British forces commanded by Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery.

In 1952, Dwight D. Eisenhower was elected president, defeating Democrat Adlai Stevenson.

In 1956, Soviet troops moved in to crush the Hungarian Revolution.

In 1980, Ronald Reagan won the White House as he defeated President Carter by a strong margin.

In 1991, Ronald Reagan opened his presidential library in Simi Valley, Calif.

In 1995, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated by a right-wing Israeli minutes after attending a festive peace rally.

Today's Birthdays: Former CBS news anchor-

man Walter Cronkite is 88. Actress Doris Roberts is 74. Actress Loretta Swit is 67. R&B singer Harry Elston (Friends of Distinction) is 66. Blues singer Delbert McClinton is 64. First Lady Laura Bush is 58. Actress Markie Post is 54. Pianist Yanni is 50. Rock singer-guitarist Chris Difford (Squeeze) is 50. Country singer Kim Forester (The Forester Sisters) is 44. Actor Ralph Macchio is 43. "Survivor" host Jeff Probst is 43. Actor Matthew McConaughey is 35. Rapper-producer Sean "P. Diddy" Combs is 35. R&B singer Shawn Rivera (Az Yet) is 33. Actress Heather Tom is 29.

Answer to previous puzzle

MESAS	DRAW	THIN
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GAB	THE	CRO
ARRIVE	WRIT	OTT
REBA	TRINI	ORO
SILENCE	IS	GOLDEN
SELA	PAST	NOOSE
EDAM	ALTO	SPOTS

Newsday Crossword

NUN'S THE WORD by Ann W. Masten Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS
- 1 Bring down
- 6 East China Sea island
- 11 Sri Lanka export
- 14 Omega alternative
- 15 Dumas swordsman
- 16 Samovar
- 17 Routine-bound person
- 20 By shanks' mare
- 21 Filbert, for instance
- 22 Soap unit
- 23 Lack of muscle tone
- 25 Central idea
- 27 Cotton pod
- 30 Here, old-style
- 32 Cologne conjunction
- 35 Basso Pinza
- 36 Elemental stat.
- 37 Train of thought
- 39 Customary nature
- 42 Prepare for a dubbing
- 43 Covetousness
- 44 Basic verb in Verdun
- 45 Kobe cash
- 46 Tasty tidbit
- 48 Turn suddenly
- 49 Tennessee team
- 50 Wander around
- 52 Insult, so to speak
- 55 Jima
- 57 Generic, as a product
- 61 Gandhi, notably

8 Considered

9 Pushover

10 Help with seating

11 Marching band instrument

12 Aviator Lindbergh

13 Penny, perhaps

18 Person from Provo

19 It's not real

24 Chocolate flavor

26 Madrid mlle.

27 Vanity Fair character

28 Form of oxygen

29 Kitchen calendar material

31 Zodiac pair

32 Fuse

33 Dame

34 Major appliance

38 Brit's morning break

40 Blondie kid

41 WWII-era scarcity

47 Ma Walton

49 Bank offs.

51 "Presto!" relative

52 Tiff

53 Liquefied rock

54 Right away

56 Black-and-white cetacean

58 time (never)

59 Chow

60 Piscivorous bird

62 Roadhouse

63 Elongated swimmer

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67					68					69		

NOV 04 2004



# That's Racin'

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## TOO CLOSE TO CALL

### Five contenders have a shot at the Nextel Cup Championship

By DAVID POOLE  
Knight Ridder Newspapers

The Chase for the Nextel Cup comes to the desert on Sunday, with five drivers and five teams all within 100 points of the championship lead going into the Checker 500 at Phoenix International Raceway.

Those five drivers head into the weekend, and into the season's final three races that will determine this year's champion, with somewhat dissimilar motions propelling them.

#### KURT BUSCH: REBOUNDED

Busch, who very easily could have lost all of what was a 96-point lead with a 42nd-place finish last week at Atlanta, still has a 59-point edge but is looking to bounce back as he goes as close to home as he'll get during the Chase.

"Phoenix is a track where we finished fourth last year," said Busch, a native of Las Vegas who is no stranger to this track. "It has been a great racetrack for me just because of the experience level that I have — racing in the Southwest Tour and Trucks. And, of course, I enjoy the West."

The most similar track on the circuit to the relatively flat, 1-mile Phoenix course is New Hampshire International Speedway, where Busch won both races this season.

#### JIMMIE JOHNSON: ROLLING

Johnson doesn't seem to mind where he's racing these days. He comes into Phoenix on the strength of three straight victories — at Charlotte, Martinsville and Atlanta. He's looking to become the first driver since Hendrick Motorsports teammate Jeff Gordon, in 1998, to string together four straight victories.

"When we have to go out there and work for it and fight for it and really get in the ditches and dig in, that is where this team comes in and really shows what we are made of," said Johnson, who before his three-race winning streak was ninth in the standings and 247 points behind Busch. "I think at this point, with three races to go, nobody can play defense. Everyone is going to have to be on offense, and that is where this team shines the best."

#### JEFF GORDON: WOBBLING

Gordon, a four-time Cup champion, was 74 points behind in his "Drive for Five" going into Martinsville. He struggled for much of the day there, but finished ninth.

Last weekend at Atlanta, Gordon's struggles continued. This time, he couldn't battle through them, however, and he wound up 34th. But with Busch blowing his engine early and finishing 42nd, Gordon actually gained ground while falling back from second to third in the standings. He's now 72 behind Busch.

"It's anybody's race right now," Gordon said. "When Jimmie's team got in trouble in the Chase

they just went for broke and it has certainly been paying off for them."

As though the championship drive won't provide enough motivation, Gordon comes to the desert with something else spurring him. Phoenix is one of the few tracks on the circuit where Gordon still has never won a Cup race.

#### MARK MARTIN: BATTLING

Martin's second-place finish at Atlanta moved him from 224 points back to just 81 behind Busch in the standings, renewing his chances to claim a first career Cup title.

That points pickup, however, wasn't enough to satisfy Martin's disappointment after he lost a race he led for 227 laps before caution flags and pit strategy worked against him and left him one spot short of his second race win this season.

"It's closer than it was," Martin said. "There are three races to go and we should run well at all of them. We're doing what we do. ... I'm so proud of my team and what they've done and I appreciate the opportunity they've given me to drive race cars that run like mine did at Atlanta. Hopefully, we can keep running like that and maybe we can win some of these last three races."

#### DALE EARNHARDT JR.: DEFENDING

Earnhardt Jr. won at Phoenix last year, and after that race he said that if his team stayed together for 2004, he knew good things would happen.

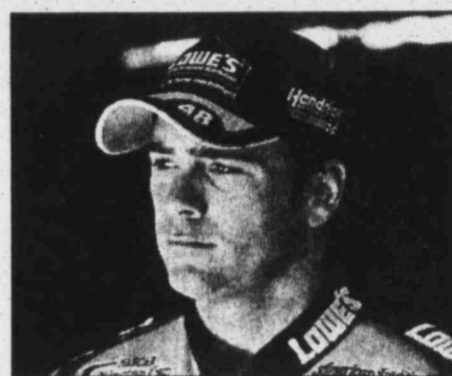
"If they stick around next year," he said that day, "every single one of them is going to win in the championship. I can guarantee you." Earnhardt Jr. will have to make up 98 points and pass four drivers over the next three weeks to make good on that guarantee. But the fact that he's still in the hunt after finishing 33rd the past two weekends shows just how unpredictable this new format is.

Earnhardt Jr. was running fourth late in last Sunday's race, but as he tried to pass Carl Edwards for third their cars got together, and the No. 8 Chevrolet crashed. A fourth-place finish would have left Earnhardt Jr. two points behind Busch going into this weekend.

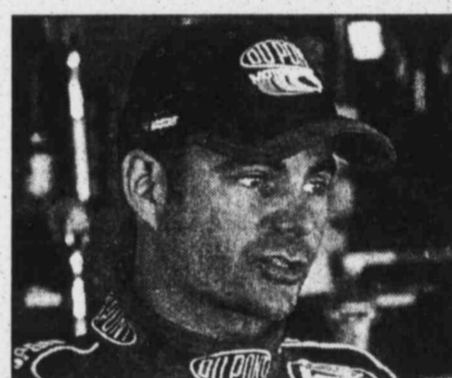
"I am not worried about the points," he said. "We could have gained a lot of points and that would have been nice, but it is hard for me to race like that. I had a car that was good enough to win the race and that is what I was trying to do."



Kurt Busch



Jimmie Johnson



Jeff Gordon



Mark Martin



Dale Earnhardt Jr.

### THIS WEEK'S RACE

#### CHECKER AUTO PARTS 500

Where: Phoenix International Raceway, a 1-mile paved flat oval located in Avondale, Ariz.

When: Sunday at 3 p.m. (all times ET). Qualifying is 4:10 p.m. Friday.

TV: NBC.  
Radio: Motor Racing Network.

Purse: \$4,844,100.

Last year's winner: Dale Earnhardt Jr.

Worth mentioning: The Phoenix Nextel Cup race has never been won from the pole. The winner has started third on three occasions from 11th and 13th-place twice each. Phoenix is one of only four active tracks where Jeff Gordon has not won a Cup race. Chicago, Homestead and Texas are the others.



### POLL POSITION

#### THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

There are five drivers within 100 points of the Nextel Cup points lead. Who will win the title?

Cast your vote at:  
[www.thatstracin.com](http://www.thatstracin.com)

#### LAST WEEK'S QUESTION

With four races left in the Chase for the Nextel Cup, how many drivers still have a chance at the points title?

Number of votes: 6,071

Driver	No. of votes	Percent
Jeff Gordon and Dale Earnhardt Jr. can catch up to Kurt Busch.	3,498	58%
One day of trouble for Busch, and it's wide open.	1,921	32%
Busch has it locked up.	329	5%
Most of the top 10 are still alive.	323	5%

### STOP 'N' GO

#### INSIDE PHOENIX

Trends to watch as the Nextel Cup circuit makes it way to Phoenix International Raceway for the Checker Auto Parts 500.

#### SUCCESSSES

■ **Mark Martin** has eight top-five finishes in 16 races at Phoenix, the only active driver with top fives in at least half of the 16 Phoenix races.

■ **Rusty Wallace** leads all drivers with three poles at Phoenix.

■ **Jeff Burton** leads all active drivers with two victories at the track.

#### STRUGGLES

■ **Elliott Sadler** is the only Chase driver that has not scored a top-five finish at Phoenix.

■ **Jeremy Mayfield** has a 28.4 average finish in nine races at Phoenix, the only Chase driver with an average finish below 25.

■ **Ken Schrader** is the only driver among the seven that have competed in all 16 races at Phoenix that has not scored a victory.

— Jim Utter

### BY THE NUMBERS

#### NEXTEL CUP POINTS LEADERS

The top-40 drivers as of Oct. 31:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. K. Busch (97) ...	6052	21. G. Biffle (16) ...	3492
2. J. Johnson (48) ...	5993	22. C. Mears (41) ...	3459
3. J. Gordon (24) ...	5980	23. R. Gordon (31) ...	3389
4. M. Martin (6) ...	5971	24. T. Labonte (5) ...	3303
5. D. Earnhardt Jr. (8) ...	5954	25. R. Rudd (21) ...	3256
6. T. Stewart (20) ...	5907	26. B. Vickers (25) ...	3203
7. R. Newman (12) ...	5866	27. S. Wimmer (22) ...	2892
8. E. Sadler (38) ...	5815	28. W. Burton (0) ...	2886
9. M. Kenseth (17) ...	5795	29. B. Gaughan (77) ...	2860
10. J. Mayfield (19) ...	5736	30. J. Green (43) ...	2787
11. J. McMurray (42) ...	4195	31. K. Schrader (49) ...	2768
12. D. Jarrett (88) ...	3974	32. S. Riggs (10) ...	2763
13. K. Kahne (9) ...	3915	33. R. Petty (45) ...	2674
14. K. Harvick (29) ...	3867	34. R. Craven ...	2086
15. B. Labonte (18) ...	3864	35. J. Spencer (4) ...	1969
16. J. Burton (30) ...	3593	36. D. Blaney ...	1347
17. M. Waltrip (15) ...	3590	37. J. Sauter (09) ...	1308
18. R. Wallace (2) ...	3558	38. C. Edwards (99) ...	1105
19. J. Nemechek (01) ...	3522	39. D. Cope (50) ...	1058
20. S. Martin (40) ...	3522	40. B. Hamilton Jr. (32) ...	986

#### BUSCH SERIES POINTS LEADERS

The top-20 drivers as of Oct. 30:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. M. Truex Jr. ...	4700	11. D. Stremme ...	3441
2. K. Busch ...	4524	12. K. Kahne ...	3344
3. G. Biffle ...	4227	13. S. Compton ...	3299
4. R. Homaday ...	3946	14. R. Pressley ...	3277
5. D. Green ...	3854	15. M. Waltrip ...	3274
6. J. Keller ...	3773	16. J. Sauter ...	3199
7. M. Bliss ...	3736	17. M. Wallace ...	3174
8. J. Laffler ...	3661	18. T. Fedewa ...	3150
9. K. Wallace ...	3497	19. C. Atwood ...	3130
10. A. Lewis ...	3458	20. B. Hamilton Jr. ...	2896

NEXT RACE: Saturday, Bashas' Supermarkets 200, Avondale, Ariz.

#### TRUCK SERIES POINTS LEADERS

The top-10 drivers as of Oct. 23:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. D. Setzer ...	3189	6. T. Kvapil ...	2822
2. B. Hamilton ...	3188	7. C. Chaffin ...	2813
3. T. Musgrave ...	3098	8. D. Starr ...	2802
4. C. Edwards ...	3067	9. S. Park ...	2734
5. M. Crafton ...	2912	10. J. Sprague ...	2716

NEXT RACE: Friday, Chevy Silverado 150, Avondale, Ariz.

### RANKINGS

#### THAT'S RACIN'S TOP PICKS

1. **Jimmie Johnson (car No. 48):** No question that this team has the momentum in the Chase with three straight wins. Last week: 2.

2. **Kurt Busch (car No. 97):** Championship still well within this team's grasp. Needs a solid rebound

at Phoenix. Last week: 1.  
3. **Mark Martin (car No. 6):** Didn't win at Atlanta, but still showed his team isn't giving up anything in Chase yet. Last week: 5.

4. **Jeff Gordon (car No. 24):** Rowing upstream almost as hard as Johnson's team seems to be going with the flow. Last week: 3.

5. **Dale Earnhardt Jr. (car No. 8):** Give him credit for stepping up and taking the blame for his late-race

Atlanta wreck. Last week: 4.  
6. **Tony Stewart (car No. 20):** It just seems like something systemic is amiss. Team's cars just aren't fast enough. Last week: 7.

7. **Ryan Newman (car No. 12):** Qualifying certainly has been no problem, but you can't win a race going fast one lap. Last week: 8.

8. **Jamie McMurray (car No. 42):** Only Busch has scored more points over the seven Chase races than

McMurray has. Last week: 10.  
9. **Elliott Sadler (car No. 38):** Not going to win a title, but team could have another race win in them. Darlington? Last week: 6.

10. **Matt Kenseth (car No. 17):** Eighteen teams have scored more points in seven Chase races than defending champs. Last week: 9.

For the rest of the top-40 rankings, go online and visit [www.thatstracin.com](http://www.thatstracin.com).

## Jimmie Johnson rides the points roller coaster

Jimmie Johnson says that for now Kurt Busch is welcome to having the lead in the NASCAR Nextel Cup standings.

"If we are fortunate enough to lead the points again this season, I hope it isn't until the very end," Johnson said after winning Sunday's Bass Pro Shops 500 at Atlanta Motor Speedway in Hampton, Ga. "There is a huge burden that comes with being No. 1."

"If you've seen the movie 'Lord of the Rings,' it's like that ring that kid carries the whole way — I don't know what it is, but it makes weird things happen."

Johnson would be in a perfect position to make such an analogy.

When Johnson won at Pocono on Aug. 1, he took a 232-point lead in the Nextel Cup portion of this year's title race. Three races and three straight blown engines later, however, he was 68 points behind teammate Jeff Gordon.

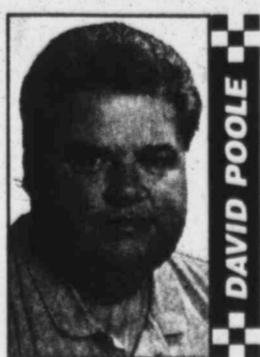
Johnson actually got the lead back after the season's 25th race at California, but finished second to Gordon at the 26-race cutoff, putting him five points out of the lead when the 10-race Chase began.

After a 37th-place finish at Talladega and a 32nd at Kansas, though, Johnson was way back in ninth, 247 points behind Busch, and out of it — or so he thought.

"Three weeks ago, I thought that there'd be no way ... that circumstances would work out to allow us to have a shot at it," Johnson said.

Three weeks ago, Busch led Dale Earnhardt Jr. by 29 points and Gordon by 79 as that group had seemingly moved out to set up a three-way battle in the Chase.

Even when Johnson won at Charlotte, N.C., it didn't seem to make much differ-



DAVID POOLE

ence. At the halfway mark of the Chase, Busch led Earnhardt Jr. by 24 and Gordon by 74 while fourth-place Elliott Sadler was 157 back and Johnson was still eighth, 227 behind.

But Earnhardt Jr. and Gordon had rough outings at Martinsville, and Johnson won again. Then, on Sunday, Busch blew a motor after just 52 laps. Gordon had more of the assorted types of trouble his team can't seem to shake. Earnhardt Jr. made a mistake as he raced for third with Carl Edwards in the waning laps, leading to a crash.

Earnhardt Jr. finished 33rd. Gordon was 34th. Busch, who'd racked up six straight finishes of sixth or better to put himself out front in the Chase, was 42nd.

With just three races left, Busch

leads by 59 points with Johnson second. Gordon is 72 back while Mark Martin, second to Johnson on Sunday, is back in the picture, just 81 points out. Earnhardt Jr. trails by 98. Even Tony Stewart, 145 back in sixth, has to think there's still hope.

The momentum, though, is behind the No. 48 car. The last driver to win three straight Cup races was Gordon, who won the last two races of 1998 and then the 1999 Daytona 500. Gordon is also the last to do it in the same year — he won four straight at Pocono, Indianapolis, Watkins Glen and Michigan in his 13-win season in 1998.

"I am looking forward to the final three races," Johnson said. The circuit goes to Phoenix, Darlington and Homestead to conclude the season. "I want to win the championship, but I want to win the next race. If we just keep going out and doing what we've done these past three races ... it will take care of itself."