

BIG SPRING

HERALD

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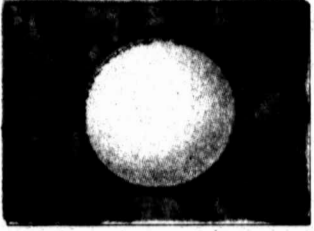
50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 WEEKEND

THURSDAY

January 20, 2005

WEATHER

Tonight:



TONIGHT 39°-41° TOMORROW 64°-66°

BRIEFLY

Coahoma ISD trustees to meet

Coahoma Independent School District trustees are expected to formalize the search process for a new superintendent when they hold their monthly meeting at 6:30 p.m. today in the administration building board room.

Trustees earlier this month accepted the resignation of Dr. Bill Kingston, and will spend time at tonight's meeting hearing options on how to go about naming his replacement.

Sands CISD board to consider vacancy

Sands Consolidated Independent School District trustees will be faced with the task of replacing one of their number when they meet at 7 p.m. today.

Board member Steve Parker will submit his resignation during the meeting.

School officials hope to hire a relative of Parker's as a teacher in the special education department, but state nepotism rules prohibit her hiring while Parker sits on the board.

COMING

THIS WEEKEND



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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.

VMAC to be network site for billing program

□ Facility to hire 14 additional employees.

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

In a move that could impact a feasibility study determining its fate, the Big Spring VA Medical Center has been chosen to serve as the network site for a billing program.

Patricia McKlem, director of the Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN), announced the local VA facility has been selected to be the network site for the VISN 18 Centralized Accounts Receivable Follow-

up Unit Program.

Iva Jo Hanslik, community relations coordinator for the Big Spring VA Medical Center, said the new unit will be located on the sixth floor.

Hanslik said that while the decision to place the new consolidated billing unit in Big Spring is in no way related to the feasibility study that will decide whether to move the VA services elsewhere, it could have an impact on the results of the study.

"The decision to place the unit in Big Spring had nothing to do with the study, which we're expecting to begin in March," said Hanslik. "However, one of the focuses of

"We're going to begin hiring immediately. We expect to have the unit up and running by the first of March."

Iva Jo Hanslik, Big Spring VMAC PR coordinator



the study will be generating revenue without lowering the quality of healthcare, and this program will definitely help in that area."

See VMAC, Page 3A



Boy Scouts Travis Heupel, left, and Billy Richardson unfold an American flag to be decommissioned while local Cub Scouts look on during last year's flag retirement ceremony.

Retiring the flag

Scouts set annual ceremony; celebrate Cub Scout's 75th year

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

It is the symbol of our freedom and its stars and stripes represent a rich and wonderful history. But what do you do when the flag is torn and tattered?

That's a question the local Boy Scouts of America have been answering for years, providing the community the chance to properly retire its flags each year.

Scouts will be holding a flag retirement ceremony Feb. 6. The event is held in connection with the founding of the organization, traditionally celebrated on the second Sunday in February.

"The flag retirement ceremony is something we've done for a while here," said David O'Neill, the Lone Star District Buffalo Trial Council's executive director. "Scouting has a long tradition in this area. We'll be celebrating 94 years of Scouting in Big Spring, not to mention the 75th anniversary of Cub Scouting in the area."

The public is invited to attend the hour-long ceremony which will begin at 2:30 p.m.

What: Flag retirement ceremony, followed by 75th anniversary of Cub Scouting.

Where: Howard County Courthouse east entrance.

When: 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 6.

See SCOUTS, Page 3A

Moore Development to refocus on specifics

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

The Moore Development for Big Spring Inc. Board of Directors held a planning session to discuss goals and strategies for 2005 Wednesday afternoon, with its members opting for a "rifle approach instead of a shotgun approach."

"I think there were a lot of projects that we participated in through 2004 that we probably shouldn't have," said board member Ben Bancroft. "We didn't have the workforce or other requirements for them, but we still went after them with the hope we might get them.

"I think we're in a reactive mode right now, and I think we need to take a more proactive stance."



Tommy Churchwell, Moore Development board president

"I think we need to take a rifle approach and not a shotgun approach. I think we need to identify the target industries and instead of waiting for them to come to us, go out and bring them in ourselves."

Board members also gave a great deal of

consideration to 4-B projects, which by state law, Moore Development would have to get the consent of voters in Howard County to pursue.

"We need to analyze the information we have in front of us and come up with a realistic plan we can achieve," said Tommy Churchwell, the board's president. "I think we're in a reactive mode right now, and I think we need to take a more proactive stance."

During the meeting, board members perused what they considered the strengths and weaknesses of Big Spring and Howard

See MOORE, Page 3A

Bush pledges to seek 'freedom in all the world' as surest path to peace

By DEB RIECHMANN

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — George W. Bush stood at the brink of a second term in turbulent times today with a pledge to seek "freedom in all the world" as the surest path to peace.

"In a world moving toward liberty, we are determined to show the meaning and promise of liberty," the nation's 43rd president said in inaugu-

al address excerpts released in advance of the noontime swearing in at the Capitol.

Bush awoke before dawn in the White House, the nation's cold capital under security so tight that 100 square blocks had been closed to traffic.

Bush, his wife Laura and their twin daughters, Jenna and Barbara, traveled by motorcade to St.

See BUSH, Page 3A



President George W. Bush waves to the crowd at the "America's Future Rocks Today" concert at the D.C. Armory.

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Obituaries

Bessie Caldwell



Bessie Caldwell of McGregor died Monday, Jan. 17, 2005, in Midland at the age of 86.

Graveside services and interment will be 2 p.m. Friday, Jan. 21, 2005, at Comanche Springs Cemetery with the Rev. Robert Parker officiating. Visitation will be 6 p.m. until 7 p.m. today at Cole Funeral Home.

Mrs. Caldwell was born Dec. 17, 1918, in Paoli, Okla., the daughter of James Alva and Bessie Lee (Medley) Gower, where she was a 1936 graduate of Paoli High School. Nov. 1, 1947, she married Horace Glenn (Bill) Caldwell in Breckenridge. He preceded her in death March 25, 1990.

After living in Big Spring since 1947, she moved to McGregor in 1970. In 1996, she moved to Midland. She was a member of the Order of The Eastern Star in Graham and was a Baptist.

A son, William Glenn "Bo" Caldwell, also preceded her in death.

Survivors include a son, Jim Tucker and his wife, Claudine of Big Spring; a daughter, Linda Aaron of Midland and four grandchildren, Bobby Joe Tucker, Terri Jan Tucker, Ronda Bryant and Ronny Aaron.

Please visit www.mem.com to leave a tribute about Bessie.

Arrangements are under the direction of Cole Funeral Home, 1113 W. Fifth Street, McGregor.

Paid obituary

Steve Harvell

Steve Harvell, 52, of Midland died Wednesday, Jan. 19, 2005, in Mooresville, N.C. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Florence Landon

Florence Landon, 96, of Big Spring died Wednesday, Jan. 19, 2005, at Mountain View Lodge. Services are pending at Myes & Smith Funeral Home.

Weather

Tonight - Mostly cloudy. Lows near 40. South winds near 10 mph.
 Friday - Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Highs in the mid 60s. Southwest winds near 10 mph.
 Friday night - Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Lows in the upper 30s.
 Saturday - Mostly cloudy. Highs in the mid 50s.
 Saturday night - Mostly clear. Lows near 30.
 Sunday - Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 50s.
 Sunday night - Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 30s.
 Monday - Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 60s.
 Monday night - Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 30s.
 Tuesday - Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 60s.

Police blotter

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

- ERIC MICHAEL GARZA, 36, of 2507 Kelly Circle, was arrested Wednesday on local traffic warrants.
- WILLIAM CHARLES WILLIAMS IV, 28, of 1308 Sheppard, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of driving while license suspended.
- JOSE LUIS DELACRUZ, 43, of 1002 N. Main Street, was arrested Wednesday on a Howard County warrant.
- THEFT was reported in the 400 block of Fourth Street.
- CRIMINAL TRESPASS was reported in the 2500 block of Gregg Street.
- BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported in the 800 block of 16th Street.
- ASSAULT/CLASS C was reported in the 700 block of 11th Place.
- ASSAULT WITH INTENT TO CAUSE BODILY INJURY was reported in the 1300 block of Mobile.

Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department reported the following activity:

- MEDICAL in the 200 block of Marcy at 3:42 p.m. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA in the 1300 block of Mobile at 7:15 p.m. One person was transported to SMMC.

Sheriff's report

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

- JOSHUA KENT BECK, 22, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana - more than two ounces, less than four ounces.
- DALLAS JORDAN, 34, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on judgment/sentence for possession of a controlled substance and manufacture of a controlled substance.
- BOBBY R.V. CHURCHWELL, 46, was sentenced to 3 years in state prison for failure to register as a sex offender.
- MICHAEL ALLEN RICHTER, 30, was arrested by the HCSO on charges of no liability insurance and violating a promise to appear.
- STEPHEN GREY CATES, 53, was transferred from the Big Spring Police Department after his arrest on fugitive warrants.
- JOSE LUIS DELACRUZ, 43, was transferred from the BSPD after his arrest on a charge of criminal trespass.
- WILLIAM CHARLES WILLIAMS, 28, was transferred from the BSPD after his arrest on a charge of driving while license suspended.

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 the fourth Thursday of the month at noon in the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center beginning in January. Call 263-8273 for more information.

• Alzheimers Support Group meets at 2 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month at The Texas State Veterans Home, 1809 N. Hwy 87. For more information call Orand Carroll 268-8387.

FRIDAY

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

SATURDAY

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

• West Texas Gluten-Free Support Group (Celiacs Helping celiacs) meet from 3 p.m. until 5 p.m. Jan. 15 in the Odessa Regional Hospital.

For more information, contact Barbara at 432-694-3614 days, or 432-520-2119 evenings.

Take note

more information contact Bud Lindsey at 756-2306.

• EAGLES LODGE AUXILIARY MEXICAN DINNER is set to begin at 7 p.m. Friday. \$5 per plate. The lodge is located at 703 W. Third. Call 263-6862 for more information.

• LEGAL AID OF NORTHWEST TEXAS is accepting appointments for 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. the first and third Wednesday of each month, beginning Feb. 2. Individuals seeking legal advice for matters concerning family law, divorce, custody and child support issues, social security cases, employment and housing may contact the office to schedule an appointment. Criminal cases are not accepted. Anyone recently served with legal documents should call the office immediately at 800-926-5630 or 432-686-0647.

• A ONE-DAY SEMINAR, "CREATION: FROM THE BEGINNING - A BIBLICAL VIEW OF THE ORIGINS OF A DEFIANT CULTURE," is set for 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. Saturday in the St. Paul Lutheran Church parish hall. The event is free and open to the public and lunch and child care will be provided at no charge.

• HERITAGE MUSEUM EXHIBIT "TEXAS WATERCOLOR SOCIETY" remains open through Jan. 31. Admission fees are waived for patrons viewing the exhibit. The museum is also accepting donations of costumes to be used with the new theme party area opening in May. Call the museum at 267-8255.

• YELLOWDOG DARE DEVILS RELAY FOR LIFE FUND-RASIER offers individual-sized, heart-shaped cakes with a Valentine's message for \$4. Order and prepay before Feb. 9. Call the bus barn at 264-4108.

• FRIENDS OF THE MARTIN COUNTY LIBRARY have scheduled a used book sale from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Thursday in the new building across from the White Ford Motor Company, near the post office. The sale benefits the restoration of a library building. For

• A FUND HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED FOR 6-WEEK-OLD MAGGIE VASQUEZ TO ASSIST WITH THE EXPENSES OF A KIDNEY TRANSPLANT. She is the daughter of Susan Vasquez and Steve Nail of Big Spring. Maggie was born prematurely and suffers from kidney failure. She remains in Dallas Children's Hospital undergoing daily dialysis treatment until the transplant match is found and the surgery performed. The account number at the bank is 9013091. For more information, contact Parks Convenient Store at 263-4498 or Denise 816-1539.

• THE HARLEM AMBASSADORS BASKETBALL Team has an exhibition game set for 7 p.m. Friday in the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum as a Rotary Club of Big Spring fund-raiser. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for students and \$1 for children with an adult. Children younger than 5 are free. To purchase a ticket contact the YMCA, 267-8234 or the coliseum at 264-5040.

• RELAY RASCAL RAZZMATAZZ is 10 a.m. Feb. 19, 2005, in the Big Spring Municipal Auditorium, sponsored by Big Spring State Hospital's Relay for Life Team. Entry forms are available at the Big Spring Chamber of Commerce, 215 W. Third and KBST 608 Johnson. Entry deadline is Feb. 8, 2005. Any boy or girl between the ages of 1 day old to 11 years may participate.

• THE FAR WEST BOYS HOME is in need of donations of household, office and recreational items to benefit boys 5-17 who are unable to live with their families due to abuse or neglect. Items needed include dressers, bunk beds, mattresses, cookware, recreational and exercise equipment, and a maintenance pickup, can or car. Cash donations to purchase these items are also appreciated. Far West is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization. To arrange pick up of items or for more information, call 432-353-4464.

Bulletin board

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

TODAY

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

FRIDAY

- Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until about 3 p.m. at 1019 Nolan St. Members bring their own lunch. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281 for more information.
- AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant.
- Greater Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- Harlem Ambassadors Basketball Team exhibition game 7 p.m. in the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. Contact the YMCA at 267-8234 or the coliseum at 264-5040 for tickets.
- Spring City Senior Citizen's Center country and western dance from 7:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. All area seniors are invited.

SATURDAY

- Big Spring Shrine Club meets at 6:30 p.m. at Goliad and First streets for a meal with a meeting to follow.
- Eagles Lodge Dance at 8:30 p.m. at 703 W. Third.
- Big Spring Squares. Call 267-7043 or 263-6305 for more information.

MONDAY

- Senior Circle meets at 4 p.m. at Scenic Mountain Medical Center for Sit and Be Fit Chair Aerobics. Those 50 years and older are invited to attend. Call 268-4721.
- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5 p.m. in the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, 306 W. Third, for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 1-800-392-8677 or 263-0391 or 263-1758.
- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. TX 1756 meets at 5:30 p.m. Monday in the 11th and Birdwell Lane Church of Christ. A different program is offered every week, and anyone 7 years old or older is welcome to attend. Please enter through the north-west door. Call 263-2786 for more information.
- Evening Lions Club meets at 6:30 p.m. in La Posada Restaurant.
- Concerned Citizens Council meets at 7 p.m. at 500 S. Main St., in the Dorothy Lamb Meeting Room of the Howard County Library. The public is welcome.
- Prospector's Club work night begins at 7 p.m. at 606 E. Third.

TUESDAY

- Intermediate Line dance classes begin at 9 a.m. in the Spring City Senior Citizen's Center. Call 267-1628.
- Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room.
- A Stitchin' Time Club meets at 3:30 p.m. at Primitive Baptist Church, 201 E. 24th St. Everyone is invited to learn and share sewing skills, and portable sewing machines are welcome. Call Kay Sikes at 394-4835 for more information.
- The Multiple Sclerosis Support Group meets at 7 p.m. in the College Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, 1105 Birdwell Lane. For more information, call Tracey Pounds at 268-4948.

WEDNESDAY

- Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room.
- Senior Circle meets at 11 a.m. in the Scenic Mountain Medical Center classroom for Stretch and Tone. Call 268-4721.
- Downtown Lions Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room.
- Line dancing begins at 1 p.m. in the Spring City Senior Citizen's Center in the Industrial Park. Call 267-6966 or 267-1628.
- Duplicate Bridge Club meets at 1 p.m. in the Big Spring Country Club.
- Eagles Lodge Ladies Auxiliary meets at 7 p.m. in the Eagles Lodge, 703 W. Third.

THURSDAY

- Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant.

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

VAMC

Continued from Pa

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SCOUTS

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MOORE

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"You don't strive for medi already there. to strive for and that take

BUSH

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to order the i Afghanistan. The inaugural unfolded hal away from tha a war and m math that has lives of more Americans an fault line in t last fall.

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"We are led and common s conclusion. T of liberty in increasingly the success o other lands," t remarks said, "The best ho in our world i sion of freedo world."

Bush's fathr president, w family and f joined him fc at the White this historic gural poi pageatory fo family and the The inaugu cause that g the world," Wednesday e

VAMC

Continued from Page 1A

Hanslik said the first phase of the new program, which will focus on third-party collections, will require the local VA hospital to add 14 new employees. Approximately four of the positions will focus on "denial management," and previously denied insurance claims.

"We expect the announcement for hiring to go out in the Big Spring Herald in the weekend edition," said Hanslik. "We're going to begin hiring immediately.

We expect to have the unit up and running by the first of March.

"The sooner we have the unit ready, the sooner we can possibly move into the next phase of the project. It's been broken down into different phases that could mean a lot for the Big Spring VA."

In December 2002, former Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony Principi established the Capital Asset and Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) Commission to provide an independent review of the draft national plan to realign the DAV's health care system. The commission suggested a feasibility study

concerning the Big Spring facility be conducted.

Principi approved the award of the contract earlier this month to PricewaterhouseCoopers to conduct the business plan studies at 18 sites, including Big Spring and Waco, identified by the CARES decision made in May of 2004.

According to information released by the VA, study recommendations — including those from stakeholders — will be reviewed by the VA Under Secretary for Health and CARES Implementation Board, consisting of senior VA officials who will make

recommendations to the secretary.

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

The Big Spring VAMC employs more than 500 full- and part-time workers with an annual payroll of \$32.5 million.

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

Coahoma's Dunn, Stone shine in UIL academics

Herald Staff report

COAHOMA — Sarah Dunn and Logan Stone were the top finishers for Coahoma High School at Saturday's University Interscholastic League academics meet in Andrews.

Dunn, a junior, placed first in editorial writing, sixth in headline writing, and eighth in junior science at the meet.

"It was really impressive, considering it was the first time she's ever done that," CHS sponsor Donna Mansfield said of

Dunn's win. Stone, a freshman, placed second in freshman science and 13th in computer applications.

Other Coahoma finishers included Adriana Rodriguez, sixth in accounting; William Reilly, fifth in freshman science; Simon Stalarczyk, eighth, freshman science and ninth, number sense; Trey Thorton, fourth, junior science; and Chris Weibert, fourth, current issues and events.

Coahoma will compete Saturday at a UIL meet in Stamford.

SCOUTS

Continued from Page 1A

at the Howard County Courthouse in front of the building's east entrance.

"There are a lot of different flag ceremonies out there," said O'Neill. "And the U.S. Flag Code doesn't say which one should be followed, just that a flag must be properly retired."

"The particular ceremony we follow requires the disassembly of the flag during the ceremony — the removal of the stripes from one

another and the field of blue. As each piece is removed, it is placed on the fire. Once the ceremony is completed, the ashes will be taken to the scout camp and buried."

During the year, the organization collects flags from community organizations, businesses and local residents for proper retirement. To turn in a worn or torn flag, drop it off at the Scout Office located at 610 Scurry St.

Following the flag retirement ceremony, the scouts will celebrate the 75th anniversary of Cub Scouting in the Big Spring area with a party at 3:30 p.m. at the same location.

"We'll have cake and snacks," said O'Neill. "We'll also sing 'Happy Birthday' for the Cub Scouts. There will be a special presentation on the history of scouting in our area. This is really a once in a lifetime experience for these Scouts and they'll have the opportunity to earn their 75th anniversary badge."

For more information on either event, contact O'Neill at 263-3407.

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

MOORE

Continued from Page 1A

County, and while each member seemed to have ideas on what will "make or break" the area, one idea was clear: the board and area residents should want more from one another.

"I've seen a real lack of community pride," said Bancroft. "We basically have a dirty community when you compare it to others in the region. I don't see business owners cleaning their windows or sweeping to get ready for customers."

"You don't have to strive for mediocrity. It's already there. You have to strive for excellence, and that takes everyone

doing their part."

"Are we a big town or a small city," asked board member Richard Steel, echoing Bancroft's concerns over community pride. "I've seen a lot of negativity within Big Spring."

"We have to be able to get our arms around these projects and look at them from a farsighted point of view. We have to be willing to look at the long term benefits."

Bancroft expressed a serious desire to pursue the tourism industry in 2005, shifting the board's efforts from solely looking at industrial prospects to finding ways to bring people to Big Spring on the city's entertainment value.

"If we can get a family of four to spend three or

four days in Big Spring, we'll be able to see the returns," said Bancroft. "We talk about the fact that we're (Big Spring, Howard County) located in the middle of a million people. We have the attractions at Comanche Trail Park. We have Big Spring State Park."

Executive Director Kent Sharp listened to the board go over goals and discuss strengths and weaknesses, but urged board members not to forget there is natural order to economic development.

"I believe Moore Development is on target," Sharp said. "We've had successes and failures over the past year. We're currently working on a project that's larger than anything Moore Development or I have

ever worked on. I think we're on track.

"I don't think you can go in and artificially improve the quality of life. When you talk about bringing new restaurants into Big Spring — right now we have as many as the town will support. Our population is down drastically compared to several decades ago, and it's going to take us some time to get out of the hole we've dug. Sometimes it takes longer to get yourself out than it took to get yourself in the hole."

Board members agreed to take a more "aimed" approach at economic development, concentrating more on the industries that can be supported by the local workforce, such as shipping and warehousing.

BUSH

Continued from Page 1A

John's Church a few blocks away for the traditional pre-inauguration prayer service.

A crowd of 100,000 or more was expected outside the Capitol, where Bush stood four years earlier to take the oath of office for the first time.

That was before terrorists struck the United States, plunging America into a new era, and prompting the president to order the invasion of Afghanistan and Iraq. The inaugural pageantry unfolded half a world away from that conflict — a war and messy aftermath that has claimed the lives of more than 1,300 Americans and was a key fault line in the election last fall.

Bush's speech excerpts referred unmistakably to the attack and the events that have followed.

"We are led, by events and common sense, to one conclusion. The survival of liberty in our land increasingly depends on the success of liberty in other lands," the prepared remarks said.

"The best hope for peace in our world is the expansion of freedom in all the world."

Bush's father, the 41st president, was among family and friends who joined him for breakfast at the White House on this historic day of inaugural pomp and pageantry for the first family and the nation.

"The inauguration is a cause that unites our country and gives hope to the world," he said Wednesday evening just

before red, white, blue and gold fireworks showered the dark sky over the National Mall. Then, reaching to his religious faith, Bush said, "We have a calling from beyond the stars to stand for freedom, and America will always be faithful to that cause."

Although Bush extolled that heavenly blessing for the cause of liberation, he also acknowledged an earthly recognition of the limits of power. "I'm going to give it my all for four more years, and then I'm coming home to Texas," he told cheering supporters.

His White House chief of staff, Andy Card, said Bush wants to make the best of the time he has left in office.

"The president fully understands that he has an opportunity to change America and to change the world, and the window of opportunity won't stay open very long," Card told ABC's "Good Morning America."

The nation faces unsettling threats from terrorists and anxiety about the steady uptick of U.S. deaths in Iraq. There are worries about Social Security's future and stress over the pricetag of medical care and a slow job market.

Inaugurations, though, are a time to talk about

hope.

"The survival of liberty in our land increasingly depends on the success of liberty in other lands," Bush was telling inauguration watchers in this country and across the globe. "The best hope for peace in our world is the expansion of freedom in all the world."

More than a half million people were gathering in the snowy capital in near-freezing temperatures for the swearing-in at the West Front of the Capitol and the traditional parade down Pennsylvania Avenue. Snipers were dispatched to rooftops and bomb-sniffing dogs into the streets. Miles of metal barricades gave a fortress-like feel to the city, which is well acquainted with post-Sept. 11 security.

The inauguration was to be witnessed by his mother, Barbara Bush, in addition to his father, along with a host of distinguished guests that included former presidents Carter and Clinton and their wives.

Inauguration is a time of unity for our country, the president said.

"With the campaign behind us, Americans lift up our sights to the years ahead and to the great goals we will achieve for our country. I am eager and ready for the work

ahead."

Bush, 58, begins his new term with the lowest approval rating at that point of any recent two-term president — 49 percent in an Associated Press poll this month. Iraq is the dominant concern of Americans, and Bush is the first U.S. president to be inaugurated in wartime since Richard Nixon in 1973.

Bush's inaugural address had gone through 21 drafts as of Wednesday afternoon and was timed at 17 minutes. The address was designed to be inspirational, leaving new initiatives to be spelled out in the president's State of the Union speech on Feb. 2.

Bush and first lady Laura Bush dashed around the city from one party to another. Some revelers partied into the night, but Bush, never a fan of formal affairs, was back at the White House about 45 minutes ahead of schedule.

Martin County Junior Livestock Show results

Following are results from the 2005 Martin County Junior Livestock Show, held last weekend in Stanton:

LAMB DIVISION

Grand Champion Lamb — Tyler Matthews
Reserve Grand Champion — Lauren Robinson
Champion Medium Wool — Tyler Matthews
Reserve Champion Medium Wool — Lauren Robinson
Champion Southdown — Lauren Robinson
Reserve Champion Southdown — Zane Robinson

SWINE DIVISION

Grand Champion Swine — Dakota Newman
Reserve Grand Champion Swine — Kaitlyn Blocker
Champion Hampshire — Kelsi Howard
Reserve Champion Hampshire — Amber Beasley
Champion Duroc — Maegan Blocker
Reserve Champion Duroc — Julia Schuelke
Champion Cross — Dakota Newman
Reserve Champion Cross — Flint Newman
Champion OPB - Black — Tasha Smith
Reserve Champion OPB - Black — Julia Schuelke
Champion OPB - White — Kaitlyn Blocker
Reserve Champion OPB - White — Sloan Kelly

GOAT DIVISION

Grand Champion Goat — Cayley Oppegard
Reserve Champion Goat — Tyler Matthews
Champion Light Division — Chris Straub
Reserve Champion Light Division — Tyler Matthews
Champion Medium Division — Sarah Jo Matthews
Reserve Champion Medium Division — Sarah Jo Matthews
Champion Heavy Division — Cayley Oppegard
Reserve Champion Heavy Division — Tyler Matthews

BEEF DIVISION

Grand Champion Steer — Dakota Newman
Reserve Grand Champion Steer — Lauren Robinson
Champion British Breed — Flint Newman

Reserve Champion British Breed — Kelsi Howard
Champion Exotic Breed — Dakota Newman
Reserve Champion Exotic Breed — Lauren Robinson

SHOWMANSHIP RESULTS

Intermediate Lamb Showmanship — Lauren Robinson (sponsored by Laura and Larry McCampbell).
Junior Lamb Showmanship — Sarah Jo Matthews (sponsored by Bob and Martha Matthews).
Senior Goat Showmanship — Patricia Howard (sponsored by Bill and Carolyn Stone).
Junior Goat Showmanship — Tyler Matthews (sponsored by Terry and Reggie Franklin).
Senior Swine Showmanship — Sloan Kelly (sponsored by Roy Kelly).
Junior Swine Showmanship — Maegan Blocker (sponsored by Roger and Carla Brooks).
Senior Steer Showmanship — Kelsi Howard (sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Sammy Yates).
Junior Steer Showmanship — Lauren Robinson (sponsored by Rusty and Melinda Allred).

HERDSMAN AWARDS

Lamb Barn — Lauren Robinson (sponsored by Bobby and Janice Kelly).
Goat Barn — Matthew Harris (sponsored by Bobby and Janice Kelly).
Swine Barn — Geoffrey Schuette (sponsored by Bobby and Janice Kelly).

SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Kendall Newman Memorial Scholarship and Melton McMorris Scholarship — Lynsey Pinkerton

TOP HAND AWARD

Kelley Pickens

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288
Steve Harvell, 52, died Wednesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.
Florence Landon, 96, died Wednesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

The Stamps Quartet
7:00 p.m.
Saturday,
January 22, 2005
First Baptist Church
705 West FM 700
Big Spring, Texas
432-267-8223
Admission is free. A love offering will be taken to help support the ministry of The Stamps Quartet

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Pool, Private Patios, Covered Parking & Washer - Dryer Conn.
2-3 Bedroom
"Remember...you deserve the best!"

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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

OTHER VIEWS

The bottom line:
Social Security
has to be fixed

The raging debate over whether and/or how to fix Social Security has produced much noise, but little else. Frankly, it's hard to hear what anyone is saying amid all the accusations and counter-accusations.

Well, hear this: Social Security faces a huge shortfall, and the nation's most beloved entitlement program can't go on much longer unless it's shored up. In 2018, Social Security is projected to officially go into debt, meaning that for that year and every year thereafter the government will pay out more in benefits than it collects in payroll taxes.

We can debate the specifics until we're blue in the face, but surely we can agree that some sort of fix is in order for the program's long-term health. Or can we? The big divide this time is less political than generational although politics, as always, plays a significant role. The president's plan would allow Americans to invest part of their Social Security contribution in personal accounts. How you feel about it has a lot to do with whether you grew up listening to Benny Goodman, Elvis Presley or Eminem.

According to a new USA Today/CNN/Gallup Poll, the younger you are, the more you like private accounts. The older you are, the more you like the current system. Among 18- to 29-year-olds, 55 percent like the president's plan. Among those 50 or older, 63 percent consider the plan a bad idea.

This led the reporter who wrote a recent article in USA Today to conclude that the president's plan was headed for rough seas because it lacks support among older voters. The headline: "Age gap may be trouble for Bush."

We would have preferred this: "Age gap provides opportunity for Bush." Young people deserve a voice, perhaps never more than in this debate. It will be on their watch that Social Security goes into the red, and they are the ones who will be taxed into oblivion to rescue it. It's disappointing that more politicians and pundits don't seem to care about that.

President Bush shouldn't be on the defensive. Defenders of the status quo should be.

THE MORNING NEWS
DALLAS

How To CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions. In order that we might better serve your needs, we offer several ways in which you may contact us:

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

LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

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

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we be open with You, Lord, for You know everything.
Amen

Public "ratified" war in Iraq?

President Bush recently told The Washington Post that the public "ratified" the Iraq war when it re-elected him last November and, therefore, there is no reason to hold him or anyone else accountable for any mistakes made there.

There are any number of problems with this, including the fact that only 50.8 percent of those who voted cast ballots for Bush and only 30.8 percent of eligible voters voted for him.

Not all that huge a ratification. Also, while I certainly don't dispute that Bush won the last election, people voted for him for all sorts of reasons. Some people didn't want to switch presidents during wartime. Others liked and trusted him more than his opponent. Others agreed with his positions on gay marriage and abortion. Others felt his values were the same as their values. And some endorsed his invasion and occupation of Iraq.

There were a lot of reasons that

people voted for George Bush. But to pick just one of them and say the public ratified his Iraq policy by re-electing him seems to be stretching the facts.

There is another problem. Opinions change quickly in this country. The election was held back in November. This is mid-January, and a new poll shows that the public is much less pleased with our Iraq policy than President Bush currently is.

According to a University of Pennsylvania National Annenberg Election Survey conducted last week, "Fifty-four percent said the situation (in Iraq) had not been worth going to war over, only 29 percent said the election Jan. 30 would produce a stable government, and the public was about evenly split over whether the United States should bring troops home as soon as possible or wait until a stable government was established."

The poll went on to say that 67 percent of all respondents, and 46 percent of Bush voters, said they agreed with the statement:

"Democracy and freedom in Iraq are important, but the war has cost the United States too much in lives and money already to stay

much longer."

As far as "ratifications" go, this seems to be a weak one. I suppose it might not matter much — after all, public opinion swings back and forth — but Bush's statement that members of his administration need not be held accountable for their mistakes in Iraq is potentially troublesome.

What if the administration thinks invading Iran will also be easy and that our occupation of Iran will be greeted by Iranians strewn flowers in our path? Shouldn't we learn something — anything — from what happened in Iraq? Aren't mistakes worth examining?

The philosopher George Santayana said, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."

And how much do we really want to repeat Iraq?

Roger Simon can be e-mailed at WriteRoger@aol.com. To find out more about Roger Simon and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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9083; Work (BSISD): 264-
3635.

The killing joke in Key West

Tough gig here. A weekend in Key West holding forth on the subject of humor with a lot of funny people. A pundit's work is never done.

Actually, being earnest about humor is deadly — if you have to explain a joke, you kill it. Fortunately, the participants in the Key West Literary Seminar did little analysis and a lot of rock 'n' roll. Garry Trudeau, creator of "Doonesbury," is also a comic essayist on occasion and was once inspired by Real Life to write the results of an interview of Madonna conducted by a Hungarian journalist. He asked questions in Hungarian, she replied in English, then it was all translated into Hungarian and then re-translated back into English.

Q: Let us cut towards the hunt: Are you a bold hussy woman that feasts on men who are tops?

A: I am working like a canine all the way around the clock.

There was some agreement, I think, on the proposition that jokes, though often funny, are inferior to wit and storytelling as comic art forms. I could be wrong about that. I have always aspired to wit and rarely achieve it — I'm one of those people who always thinks of the right thing to say 20 minutes after the opportunity has passed. Well, sometimes, hours after, days even, OK, years too. I would love to be able to come up with the right line at the right time and am in some awe of those who can. Roger Rosenblatt, the somber essayist on the Lehrer "NewsHour," turns out to be surprisingly good at this. One of my favorite examples of wit came during a game played by the Round Table set at the Algonquin Hotel in New York in the 1920s. They threw a word at you, and you had to use it immediately in a funny sentence. Dorothy Parker got "horticulture" and promptly said, "You can lead a whore to culture, but you can't make her drink."

For those of us who are not so much wit-impaired as just awfully

slow about it, the French, *mais oui*, have an expression for it. *L'esprit de l'escalier*, the spirit of the staircase, refers to the fact that the salons and ballrooms of great French houses are on the second floor, so that it is while descending the staircase as you leave that the perfect line comes to you, once again, too late.

Several speakers tried to tackle the slippery topic of if, when and why there are times when humor is either inappropriate or just cruel and vulgar. I am so sorry I missed the opportunity to hear the beloved Dave Barry on this subject. Barry, to the devastation of all his fans, has at least temporarily retired from column writing, though he says he may be tempted back if he gets a particularly good run of booger jokes or some exceptional exploding cows. May he become the Mme.

Schumann-Heink of his time. Schumann-Heink was an opera singer who was famous in the 1920s for frequently coming out of retirement to hold yet one more final, farewell tour.

In my opinion, nothing is off-limits in theory, but in practice, the dicier the subject, the funnier the material has to be. For example, the Holocaust: not funny. Not even time and distance have produced any Holocaust humor (though Zero Mostel did once observe that the chicken fat at a particular New York restaurant had killed more Jews than Hitler). If you're going to be funny about the Holocaust, it is necessary to be a comic genius on the order of Mel Brooks, author of the immortal love song "It's Springtime for Hitler and Germany." Note that what Brooks is being funny about in the "The Producers" is not Hitler or the Holocaust, it is show business values. Since few of us are comic geniuses, we should not try this at home.

Among the tangentially political types at the conference, there was general agreement that 2004 was a lousy year for political humor. War too upsetting. Too many people mad, too many people ready to take offense. People couldn't talk politics without getting all red in the face and the tendons popping out in their necks and their wattles shaking like a turkey gob-

bler's (an old John Henry Faulk description). I think the only natural joke set-up of the whole year was the time President Bush told the Amish in the Midwest that God speaks through him. A thousand instant punchlines occur, for instance: Darn, I thought the Almighty knew how to pronounce the word nuclear.

Nora Ephron, the wit and filmmaker, is an incredibly skilled debater: she just says, "I'm right, you're wrong," and so she wins. She says the trouble with the last election was bad casting and that bad casting can ruin any film. She believes the Democrats should have cast Tom Hanks as the candidate, or possibly Tom Brokaw, although there was a disturbing rumor that Brokaw was recently booted in Oklahoma. If true, things are worse in the Red States than even I had believed, and it's time to race home before they get even worse.

I took up the storytelling banner just because I cover Texas politics and so have better material than anyone else. It's really hard to miss with the Texas Legislature for ammo. John Henry used to say, "You don't need new stories, you just need a new audience."

I think the best humor comes from character. You have surely had the experience of sitting with two friends who both know someone you don't. They start telling stories about this third person, which you find mildly amusing, but your friends are laughing so helplessly they have tears running down their cheeks. Finally, one says, "Oh, you would know how funny this is if you just knew him," which is always true. The virtue of a story is that they give you the time to set up character, time for a quick sketch of the players, a little background. You can't do that with witty one-liners, so that means real stories are the best. I'm right and you're wrong. So start saving your stories now.

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

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Vinyl

By Cary Darling

Knight Ridder N Paul Langdale, doing around in doing what I do, when they eye: brightly album covers v rious black dis

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Langdale, laughs at the His curiosity

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Relay For Li
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The Yellow Devils are b shaped Valer as a Relay F

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Valentine (n You (name) Valentine's I

All order received by I must be prep is \$4 per cak

Call the bu 4108 to place

Girl Scout
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Big Sprin Scouts be orders for cookies Jan

continue thr Booth sale Harris Luml and the Big

as well as of that will be March 4-20.

Prices for t ety of cooki box.

This fund local Grl earn the fun activities as

vide fundin council. Pa

Gale's Su

Now serving Saturday

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Sat., 8: 1290 E. 4th

Vinyl sightings: Record albums are back in the groove

By Cary Darling

Knightrider Newspapers
Paul Langdale was goofing around in the attic, doing what 10-year-olds do, when they caught his eye: brightly designed album covers with mysterious black discs inside.

Born at the cusp of the digital age, Langdale didn't know what to make of his dad's old record collection. "I recognized the names of some of the artists," he recalls of flipping through the stacks of Jefferson Airplane, Jethro Tull and Billy Idol. "But I had to ask him what they were. I can't put this in my CD player. What is this thing?"

Langdale, now 18, laughs at the memory. His curiosity has exploded into a full-blown passion for vinyl albums, those musical relics that the entertainment industry has tossed into the trash bin of technological history along with 8-tracks and Beta tapes.

The Dallas teen-ager, whose first vinyl purchase was Beck's mid-'90s album "Odelay," now owns hundreds of records, works at Good Records, a store that still stocks vinyl albums, and is part of a small cadre of music fans who refuse to bow down to the digital dictatorship.

Many are baby-boomer rock, jazz and classical-music aficionados who grew up with the tactile pleasures of needle on wax and foldout sleeves. But others, like Langdale, are too young for such memories.

And their ranks are growing. The National Association of Record Merchandisers reported in its 2002 annual survey that between 1999 and 2002, sales of new and used vinyl albums tripled, making it a \$67 million

business. That's chump change compared with the format's former domination or the Recording Industry Association of America's reported \$12 billion generated by compact discs. But it's a testament to the resilience of a technology that had its corporate life-support severed two decades ago by the sharp, sleek edge of CDs.

It's still possible to buy turntables and find major-label artists' recordings on vinyl, even though some are limited-edition. Chains such as Tower and Virgin continue to stock records, and for some indie stores, the format offers a dedicated, specialty market that downloading can't erode.

"It's huge. I go into stores all the time and it's pretty amazing how vinyl does," says Don VanCleave, president of the Coalition of Independent Music Stores, a national trade group of 60 indie record stores. "There are people who want to hold something physical, and vinyl is still very sexy to a lot of people."

Compact discs immediately upended the record business after being introduced in 1982. Hailed for their sonic clarity and durability, they caused music fans to exile their favorite records to attics and garage sales and then re-purchase them on these shiny new discs. By the late '80s/early '90s, it looked as if vinyl were going the way of the black-and-white TV and the Studebaker.

But vinyl enthusiasts fought back. Some jazz and classical buyers carp about CD's "cold" digital sound. (A few even went so far as to dump digital amplifiers/receivers in



Vinyl records, above, for sale at Crazy Wax Records in Arlington on weekends. "Vinyl is the only way to go," says Paul Langdale, 18, right, inside Good Records in Dallas, where he works. Langdale started collecting records eight years ago.



favor of retro tube technology.) Hip-hop and dance-music fans, coming out of a sonic culture of scratching and mixing, found CDs harder to manipulate. Indie-rockers took their best anti-corporate stance and celebrated vinyl's underdog status.

"There's a feeling among a lot of people that there's a soullessness in a lot of current (art) forms. CDs are blamed for sterilizing sound and taking the soul out of it," says Brett Milano, author of "Vinyl Junkies," a portrait of rabid record collectors.

"It's about feeling the groove, putting the needle on the record and you can feel it," says L.A. club DJ and vinyl champion Eric Angelini.

Patrick Amory, general manager for Matador Records, home of the popular band Interpol and a label that issues a vinyl version of all its releases, says that many young fans have a higher respect for vinyl.

"Increasingly, for teenagers and kids, vinyl records seem more important and permanent than CDs, which they just burn and rip all the time anyway."

The demand for vinyl,

while not big enough to command the full-time attention of major labels such as WEA and Universal Music, is strong enough to help sustain smaller labels that often are licensed by the majors to handle their vinyl releases. That's where a company like Sundazed Music comes in, releasing vinyl albums by the likes of Bob Dylan and Wilco.

"When we tell people we've sold 10,000 to 20,000 copies (of an album), that's substantial by indie-label standards," says Sundazed president Bob Irwin.

There are even those who want vinyl to have its own holiday. Gary Freiberg, who runs Rock Art Picture Show, a San Luis Obispo, Calif., company that makes frames for displaying album covers, wants Aug. 12 — the day in 1877 when the phonograph was invented — officially declared Vinyl Record Day. San Luis Obispo County has celebrated it for the past two years.

"I've read that only 5 percent of all recordings have been transferred to compact disc. A lot of music and artists over time will be lost, especially with the corporatiza-

tion of radio and the media," says Freiberg.

"Preservation is very important."

This mixture of human touch and a sense of musical history that vinyl fans celebrate reverberates through their most vocal claim: that vinyl, played through a decent system, simply sounds warmer and better than compact discs. And with recent stories about "CD rot" hitting the media, they claim that vinyl ultimately is as durable.

CD proponents counter that, while there have been some manufacturing glitches that have led to CD degeneration, especially with first-generation CDs from the '80s, most cases of rot are due to mishandling and mistreatment by consumers who believe CDs are completely indestructible.

"If you're having people over for dinner, then load up the CD changer and let it rip. But if it's just about listening, pull out the vinyl," says Sundazed's Irwin.

Which gets to the crux of the matter for most casual listeners lacking fanboy devotion. Whatever vinyl's merits, even its most ardent supporters don't expect it'll ever be more than a niche

market. You can't play vinyl in the car. You can't load up a massive vinyl changer for a party. You can't haul a turntable to the gym. And the vinyl market may have reached its peak. The RIAA reported that new vinyl sales were down slightly in the first half of 2004.

"It's a labor of love for me and a few other people who work here," says Geoffrey Weiss, senior vice president of A&R (artists and repertoire) at Disney-owned Hollywood Records and a vinyl partisan. "I'm not under any illusion that it's a viable business. It's a little nostalgia and a nod to the cognoscenti more than a way to make money."

In fact, Weiss warns not to get too comfortable with your CD collection, either. He's seen the future, and it's downloadable. "Physical sound carriers will disappear completely in the next few years," he says.

But Langdale, a child of the digital era, isn't so sure.

"What happens when your hard drive goes? Your music collection is toast," he warns. "People will always want something physical, something they can hold."

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Local briefs

Relay For Life Valentine's fund-raiser

The Yellow Dog Dare Devils are baking heart-shaped Valentine's cakes as a Relay For Life fund-raiser.

The personalized, individual-sized, heart-shaped cakes are chocolate or white and may be decorated with one of three messages — Be My Valentine (name), I Love You (name), or Happy Valentine's Day (name).

All orders must be received by Feb. 9, and all must be prepaid. The cost is \$4 per cake.

Call the bus barn at 264-4108 to place an order.

Girl Scout cookie sales scheduled

Big Spring area Girl Scouts begin taking orders for Girl Scout cookies Jan. 29 and will continue through Feb. 13. Booth sales will be at Harris Lumber, Wal-Mart and the Big Spring Mall, as well as other locations that will be announced, March 4-20.

Prices for the eight variety of cookies is \$3.25 per box.

This fund-raiser helps local Girl Scout troops earn the funds needed for activities as well as provide funding for the local council. Participation in

the program teaches budgeting, money management and sales skills, goal setting and long term planning for the girls. It also teaches communication, organizational skills and helps improve a girl's self-esteem.

To order cookies or to learn more about Girl Scouting in this area, contact Connie Schooler at 263-4502 or Rachel Stinson at 816-3899.

The West Texas Girl Scout Council serves 16 counties including Howard County. The area is a local United Way agency.

Stanton's Stan Reid birthday celebration

Long time local citizen Stan Reid will soon celebrate his 90th birthday. Friends are invited to help mark the occasion by attending a reception hosted by his family from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Jan. 30, 2005, in the fellowship hall of the First United Methodist Church, Stanton.

Reid was in business in Stanton for about 60 years, operating a barber-shop in the central business district for much of that time. His family moved to Martin County in 1924, when he was 9 years old.

He began cutting hair

when he was a teen-ager and was an accomplished barber even before attending barber college. No "old sorehead", Reid was active in the community and school activities and remains an avid Buffalo sports fan.

Reid's son Gary said, "Most residents of the surrounding area were customers and good friends over the years. We'd like for everyone to come out and help us celebrate this occasion."

Those who are unable to attend are encouraged to send a note or card to add to the recollections to P.O. Box 612, Stanton 79782 that will be shared Jan. 30.

Martin County Library book sale begins

The Friends of the Martin County Library have scheduled a used book sale each Thursday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. in the new building across from the White Ford Motor Company, near the post office.

The sale benefits the restoration of a library building.

A large selection of title, both hard bound and paperback, is available and prices are low.

For more information contact Bud Lindsey at 756-2306.

Blood drives set for school, mall

United Blood Services has a blood drive set for Friday at the New Hope Christian School, 118 Cedar Road, from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m.

Big Spring Mall Director Katharine Lusk and employees are gearing up for a Saturday noon to 4 p.m. blood drive to help avoid possible blood shortages this month.

To make sure there's a dependable blood supply locally, United Blood Services has scheduled several a blood drives, including one from noon until 4 p.m. in the UBS Bloodmobile at the Big Spring Mall.

To sign up please contact Kathy Lusk, (432) 267-3853.

Local radio station

KBYG will hold an "Ask Your Neighbor" blood drive from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. Monday at the station's parking lot.

United Blood Service personnel will conduct the drive. Call radio station at 263-6351.

For more information on requirements to donate blood please call United Blood Services at 432-561-5539 or visit www.UnitedBloodService.org

Then, Jan. 28 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., a blood drive is scheduled in the Comanche Trail Nursing Center, 3200 Parkway.

Blood drives are also scheduled in February.

From 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. Feb. 3 a blood drive will take place in the Rip Griffin Truck and Travel

Center.

From 8 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Feb. 17 a blood drive is set at the VA Medical Center.

And the last opportunity to donate blood in February is from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. at Wal-Mart Feb. 21.

To donate blood an individual must be at least 18 years old or 17 years old with parent's permission and weigh more than 100 pounds.

Bring a list of all medications currently being taken to the site.

For more information, contact Peggy Hards at 432-569-5531.

United Blood Services is this area's nonprofit community blood service provider, serving patients in the Permian Basin.



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Dressing up down New down coats don't have quite the same Michelin-Man profile

By Lisa Jones Townsel

(KRT)
When you think of a down coat, what's the first thing that comes to mind? Warmth? Coziness? A profile resembling the Michelin Man?

Yeah, I thought so. But by far, this synthetic mix of nylon, polyester and, sometimes, down feathers is among the best barriers against winter's fury. The challenge is making it look less, well, inflated.

Let's face it. The coats are big. Bodacious. Even the titles of a few, which refer to "puff" in the name, point to their mammoth size.

"With the older down coats, it was like you were carrying around an extra sleeping bag on top of you," suggests Maeghan O'Hagan, co-owner of Clayton-based Lusso. "Now, they've gone to great lengths to make it more wearable and less like camping gear."

Nowadays, you can dress up down.

"The right pieces together can make a great outfit, like a great pair of cropped pants and a short-waisted down jacket," notes Jacob Laws, visual merchandiser for Splash. To illustrate his point, he paired a tangerine shrunken jacket with cropped pants with lame



banding. People might be surprised to learn that even coats that say down aren't always filled exclusively with feathers.

"There's a lot of simulated down. It has the look and same effect: warmth," Laws says, adding, "The addition of other materials helps to keep your coat's shape."

Coats typically have somewhere between 20 to 80 percent down feathers combined with fillers.

Want something more than the basic blanket form? Laws says check for designers with "a cool edge."

Embellishments also help. Regular white coats with brass gold detailing can't help but stand out. And coats in robust hues, including cotton candy pink and sky blue, look good enough to be plucked.

We caught up with



Down coats include 80 percent down feathers and are designed today to be fashion-conscious without the bulky look of the past.

Monroe G. Milstein, chief executive officer of Burlington Coat Factory recently. During a phone interview, Milstein called the down coat the year's No. 1 fashion, at least in the coat market.

"More than any other coat this year, it's selling," he says. "It's selling this year was far superior to any other year. Ordinarily, they stop buying coats right before Thanksgiving, but this year's going so strong that we put in additional orders for January."

But the coat mogul acknowledges that color variety and easy

maintenance are only a part of the appeal. The puff is a must.

"The truth is, the flatter ones aren't as warm," he says. "It's from the depth of the pile; that's where you get the insulation. It's not like the old Michelin Man, but the puffier ones are warmer."

Does he deny that that depth results in a puffier profile?

"No, it doesn't make you look fat, but it doesn't make you look anorexic either," Milstein says before asking, "Do fur coats make people look fat?"

Working Moms' Most Important Job: Taking Care Of Themselves

In today's career driven society, finding a way to balance work and personal life can prove to be very challenging.

For working moms, this challenge may be even greater. Working mothers may find that between work, family and household duties, there isn't much time left for themselves.

Betty Wong, Executive Editor of "Working Mother" magazine, says that even so-called "Super Moms" need to pamper themselves every once in a while.

"It's important to remember that you're not being selfish as a mom when you occasionally indulge. Most times, the smallest things bring the biggest results," says Wong, who is a mom herself.

Working moms often feel neglected because they do not get enough time for themselves, but what they don't realize is that a week's vacation or expensive spa treatment isn't always the answer. Life's little luxuries can be the best fuel for rundown moms.

Here Wong shares some easy ways to treat yourself without breaking the bank:

- Incorporate some luxury into your daily beauty regimen — Make your beauty routine special by buying something that's just for you.

- Instead of a boring bar of soap used by your whole family, energize in the morning with a grapefruit- or mint-scented body scrub.

- Remember, when you look good, you feel good — Touch up your appearance without wasting valuable time. An overnight tooth whitener such as Crest



Night Effects can brighten up your smile in just 14 nights. Results last up to six months.

- Create a mini spa at your desk — When you're having a stressful day at work, take a few minutes to decompress. Light a scented candle, turn on some soothing music or ease muscle tension with a self-massager.

After a few minutes of relief, not only will you feel better, you may be more productive.

- Wind down each day with time for yourself — Try to devote at least 15 minutes to yourself each and every night. After a long day, you need time to unwind before crashing into bed.

Whether you take a hot bath or just curl up for a few minutes with a good book, that little bit of relaxation can be incredibly restorative.

Generally, when Mom is happy, the family is happy, so go ahead and indulge.

Today's busy moms need to do a few things for themselves, for their families' sakes, as well as their own.

North American Prechts Syndicate Inc.

National Hug Day



Herald photo/Marsha Sturdivant

Comanche Trail Nursing Center celebrated National Hug Day with a bear-costumed Norma Rodriguez, accompanied by Cindy Lopez, marketing director for the center, who traveled to hospitals, retirements homes and other locations giving bear hugs. Sandra Green, Big Spring Herald graphic artist, received a bear hug when the bear visited the newspaper's office. Lopez said she and Rodriguez also visited children at Scenic Mountain Medical Center, passing out hugs, stickers and balloons.

"The purpose of life is a life of purpose."

-Robert Byrne

Life policies and publication deadlines

Wedding, anniversary and engagement announcements with photos are published within three months of the event in a Big Spring Herald weekend edition at no charge.

Birth announcements with or without photos are also published free of charge.

All photos submitted must be of good quality for reproduction purposes.

All articles are edited for style and content and must contain a connection to Big Spring and Howard County.

Articles are due in the Herald's office by noon

each Wednesday for weekend edition publication.

All announcements must be typed on a Big Spring Herald form and contain just the information requested.

Call 263-7331 or submit articles to life@bigspringherald.com

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Lady Steers Club meeting
The Lady Booster Club meeting at 6 p.m. at the ATC, with change from national date.

All parents involved in basketball, ping and encouraged to For more information, contact Kerry Rodriguez at 263-7331.

Softball Booster Club meeting
The Lady Softball Booster Club meeting will meet on Tuesday, January 25, at 7:30 p.m. at the ATC. All parents involved in softball are encouraged to attend. For more information, contact Kerry Rodriguez at 263-7331.

Ambassador at Dorothy
The Ambassador ball team will exhibit at the Spring at the Garrett College Howard College beginning at 7:30 p.m. The cost will be \$3 for adults, \$1 for youth under 18 and \$5 for accompanied adult. Tickets can be purchased at the Spring YMC the Big Spring and at the during the game. The game is a fundraiser for the Club of Big Spring.

Coahoma League set
The Coahoma League will hold its annual election at 1 p.m. at the Coahoma High gym. The league has many volunteers and much effort. If anyone is interested in becoming a member, contact parent through attend the meeting. For more information, contact Melissa Sanborn at 3528 or Jill at 263-2789.

James sets triple-double
PORTLAND (AP) — LeBron James became the first player in NBA history to record a triple-double, with 26 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists in Cleveland's win over Phoenix on Wednesday night. James was marked by 34 points. James Zyrmas with 1:19 left in the game led the teammates to victory during short time.

ON T

IN BRIEF

Lady Steers Booster Club meeting set

The Lady Steers Booster Club will be meeting at 6 p.m. today at the ATC, which is a change from its original date.

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

For more information, contact Janet Abner at 264-0023 or Kerry Rodriguez at 263-6100.

Softball Booster Club meeting set

The Lady Steers Softball Booster Club will meet today. This meeting will start at 7:30 p.m. at the ATC.

All parents of girls involved in softball are encouraged to attend.

For more information, contact Abner at 264-0023 or Veronda Vassar at 267-4657.

Ambassadors to play at Dorothy Garrett

The Harlem Ambassadors basketball team will play an exhibition game in Big Spring at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum at Howard College Friday beginning at 7 p.m.

The cost will be \$5 for adults, \$3 for students and \$1 for youth accompanied by an adult and youth under the age of five are free when accompanied by an adult.

Tickets can be purchased at the Big Spring YMCA, KBST, the Big Spring Herald and at the coliseum during the night of the game.

The game is a fundraiser for the Rotary Club of Big Spring.

Coahoma Little League sets election

The Coahoma Little League will have its annual elections meeting at 1 p.m. Saturday at the Coahoma Junior High gym.

The league needs as many volunteers and as much effort as possible.

If anyone is interested in becoming a board member, coach or team parent they should attend the meeting.

For questions or more information, call Melissa Sanchez at 213-3528 or Jill Ringener at 263-2789.

James sets youngest triple-double mark

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — LeBron James became the youngest player in NBA history to record a triple-double, with 27 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists in Cleveland's 107-101 win over Portland.

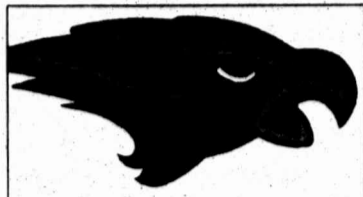
Lamar Odom was 20 years and 54 days on Dec. 30, 1999, when he had one for the Los Angeles Clippers. James beat Odom's mark by 34 days.

James pass to Zydrunas Ilgauskas with 1:19 left gave him 10 assists and completed the feat. His teammates congratulated him during a timeout a short time later.

ON THE AIR

Howard ballers travel to Clarendon tonight

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor



After two good showings in their respective Western Junior College Athletic Conference openers against Frank Phillips College Monday, the Howard College basketball teams hit the road today to take on Clarendon.

The Hawk men are coming off a big victory against then-No. 16 Frank Phillips, while the Hawk women put up a good fight against Frank Phillips and lost by six to a team which has two players getting recruited by Div. I Temple.

HAWK MEN

Howard's victory against the Plainsmen knocked Frank Phillips from the top-20 and was impressive enough to put the Hawk men into the receiving votes category. Midland College is the other team in the WJCAC getting votes.

The Hawk men are led by Charles Burgess and Rashad Mintz, who provide around 32 combined points from the backcourt. Burgess' 18 points

and 3.2 steals per game both rank in the top-21 in the nation.

The frontcourt is led by Brandon Sampay, James Barrett and Munir Shakir. Barrett had a double-double and Shakir scored 14 points in Howard's win over Frank Phillips Monday, while Sampay and Mintz were limited due to fouls. Burgess led the Hawks against the Plainsmen with 18 points.

The Hawks will get a lift off the bench from Dezmon Harris and Louis Rodgers. Harris scored a season-high 15 points Monday, which included a seven-for-eight performance at the foul line in the final two minutes.

Howard's defense ranks No. 1 in the nation as the Hawks give up just over 55 points per game. They held Frank Phillips to 23 points under its season average in the 73-66 win. Offensively, the Hawks

connect on 37 percent of their 3-point shots, which is good for No. 19 nationally.

Howard is 15-2 overall and 1-0 in the WJCAC entering the game, while Clarendon is 9-8 overall and 1-0 in the conference.

The game tonight will begin at 8 p.m.

HAWK WOMEN

Howard's women's basketball team faced three great scorers Monday and nearly beat Frank Phillips at home and tonight will try their luck against a Clarendon team which ranks in the top-25 nationally in offensive and defensive scoring average and field goal percentage and features four players who rank in the top-25 in three different offensive categories.

Clarendon enters its 6 p.m. home contest averaging 82 points per game offensively and 61 points per game defensively, which ranks eighth and 23rd in the nation, respectively. The team's 53 percent shooting from the field also ranks No. 5 nationally.

While Clarendon's team

WJCAC Standings

Men		Women	
Team	WJCAC	Team	WJCAC
Howard	1-0 (15-2)	Clarendon	1-0 (14-4)
Midland	1-0 (14-3)	Frank Phillips	1-0 (12-4)
Clarendon	1-0 (9-8)	Odessa	1-0 (11-5)
Odessa	1-0 (7-8)	Midland	0-0 (13-5)
Frank Phillips	0-1 (13-3)	South Plains	0-1 (15-2)
South Plains	0-1 (12-3)	New Mexico JC	0-1 (13-4)
N.M. Military	0-1 (8-8)	Howard	0-1 (12-8)
New Mexico JC	0-1 (8-9)		

is clearly good, Howard will put its focus on four particular players. Mariesha Jones' 18 points per game ranks 13th nationally, while Sedra Watkins ranks No. 12 in the nation in shooting as she makes shots at a 59 percent rate. Chelo McElrath averages 5.2 assists and Camille Thompson averages 4.3 dimes per game, which rank 14th and 25th, respectively.

Howard is led on both sides of the ball by the freshman duo of Latoya Fairley and Jennifer Pena. This center and guard combo combined

for 45 of the team's 65 points Monday in the Hawk women's six-point loss Frank Phillips. Fairley also pulled down 18 rebounds. She also averages 21 points per game, which ranks No. 5 in the nation.

Sophomores Ciara Tidwell and Jessica Shusteric, along with Pena, pose good outside threats for Howard. Ariel Rhodes is the other starter at guard.

Howard enters the game with a 12-8 overall record and 0-1 conference record, while Clarendon sits atop the conference with records of 14-4 and 1-0.

Bulldogettes fall on road to rival Anson

• Morgan's double-double not enough as Coahoma falls

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

ANSON — The Coahoma girls' basketball team took a 2-1 District 4-2A record on the road to Anson Tuesday and a physical contest resulted in a 45-34 victory for rival Anson.

"Our defense allowed us to stay in the game," said Coahoma coach Sandy Logan. "We played well, but just couldn't get enough shots to fall."

The Tigers jumped out to an 8-4 lead after the first quarter and took a six point lead into the locker room at halftime. Anson finished off Coahoma in the third

quarter, outscoring the Bulldogettes 13-6.

An advantage for Anson in the game came at the free throw line where the Tigers connected on 11-of-12 shots. Coahoma went four-for-six.

Senior Mendy Morgan had eight points in each half and finished with 16 points and

14 rebounds, while senior Sterling Gee scored seven points, grabbed 10 rebounds and turned

away two shots. Freshman Janice Gonzales scored seven points and pulled down four rebounds.

"Each athlete had certain roles and they stepped up to the challenge," said Logan.

The loss drops Coahoma to 7-18 overall and 2-2 in the district race.



KRT PHOTOGRAPH BY CORINNE DUBREUIL/CAMELEON via ABACA PRESS
American Andy Roddick beat Georgian Irakli Labadze 7-5, 6-2, 6-1 in the Australian Open Tuesday, January 18, in Melbourne, Australia.

Hewitt, Williams, Davenport win at Australian Open down under

By PAUL ALEXANDER

Associated Press Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia

— Lleyton Hewitt rallied to beat James Blake 4-6, 7-6 (8), 6-0, 6-3 to advance to the third round of the Australian Open on Thursday.

The tense center-court match, which turned after Blake cut his rack-

et hand, was the highlight on a day when Venus Williams got a rigorous workout while ousting China's Peng Shuai, and No. 1-ranked Lindsay Davenport and French Open champion Anastasia Myskina both struggled before winning.

Seventh-seeded Tim Henman of Britain and ninth-seeded David

Nalbandian also advanced, while No. 2 Andy Roddick was playing at night against Greg Rusedski in a matchup of two of the game's fastest servers.

Hewitt lost the first set against Blake, who broke vertebrae in his neck when he ran into a net post during practice

See OPEN, Page 2B

Forsan JH basketball teams get by Stanton, host 'Dogs Monday

• Burton, Robbins go for 16 in helping team win battle of Buffalo

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

The Forsan junior high boys basketball teams took on Stanton Monday and each team came away with victories.

The seventh-grade team defeated Stanton 20-16, while the eighth-grade team blew out its rival, 37-18, in a battle of the Buffalo.

The seventh-grade team jumped out to a 12-4 half-time lead, led by eight points from Evan Burton. Forsan didn't score in the third quarter and Stanton cut the lead to four. However, Stanton could-

n't get any closer as each team scored eight points in the final frame.

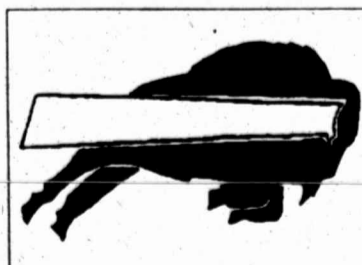
Burton scored all eight of Forsan's fourth quarter points and finished with a game-high 16 points in the contest.

Robert Strickland added four points.

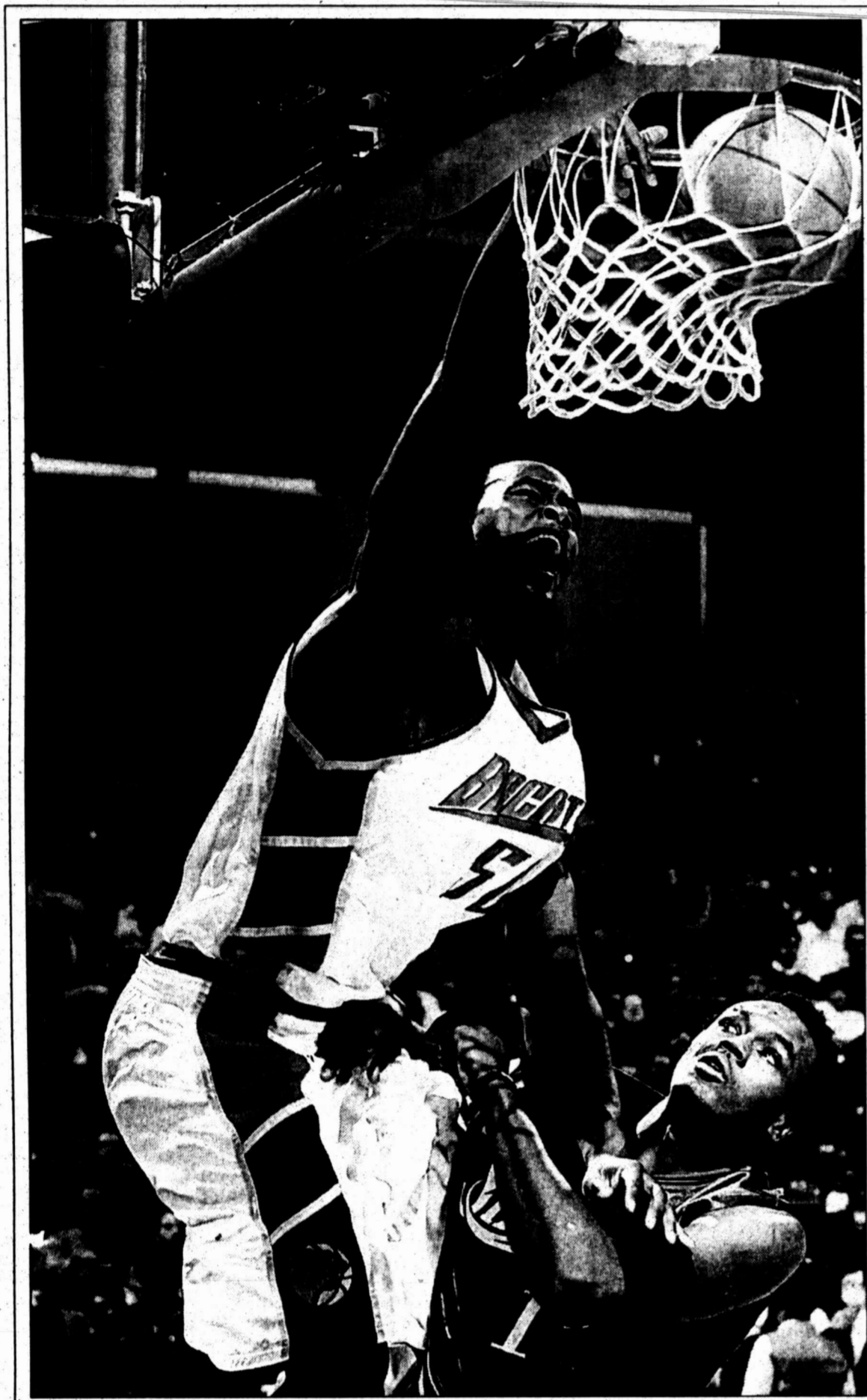
The eighth-grade team dominated Stanton from the start in its game. They led 17-3 at halftime, led by Jeremy Robbins' eight points. Forsan outscored Stanton 14-10 in the third and closed out the game with six points in the fourth.

Robbins finished with 16 points in the game and Vince Penick and Jeremy Frietag added eight and six points, respectively.

Both teams will host Coahoma Monday.



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Charlotte's Emeka Okafor dunks the ball over Philadelphia's Samuel Dalembert during their game Wednesday night at the Charlotte Coliseum.

Parker's layup late sends SA to dramatic win over Clippers

Kaman's decision to not foul dooms Los Angeles in end

By T.A. BADGER

Associated Press Writer
SAN ANTONIO — On a normal night, Chris Kaman might have risked a foul on Tony Parker as the San Antonio Spurs guard drove toward the basket in the final seconds against the Los Angeles Clippers.

The Spurs are erratic from the free throw line most nights, but on Wednesday, they had made 16 of 18, so Kaman pulled back.

The decision was the wrong one, as Parker banked in a layup high off the backboard with 7.8 seconds left to give San Antonio an 80-79 win.

"I moved at the last second," said the 7-foot Kaman, who bumped bodies with the 6-foot-3 Parker on the game-winning play. "It was a call on my part, it wasn't really a mistake. It was just unfortunate he got the

shot off."

The Clippers took a 79-78 lead with 19 seconds remaining on a pair of free throws by Bobby Simmons.

On the next possession, the Spurs' Manu Ginobili curled around the lane and passed to Parker in the left corner.

Parker, who finished with 25 points, faked a 3-pointer to get Simmons off his feet and then drove baseline.

On Kaman's reaction, Parker said, "I think I came too fast for him. He had no chance."

The Clippers' final inbound play went to Elton Brand, who backed Tim Duncan in a couple of steps before his turnaround jumper went off the right side of the rim. The ball bounced around before Ginobili grabbed the rebound as time expired.

Ginobili, who missed

Monday's win over Washington with a thigh bruise, scored 13 points. Duncan had 12 points and 14 rebounds for San Antonio, which improved the NBA's best home record to 21-1.

San Antonio's victory, combined with Phoenix's 88-79 loss to Memphis, gives the Spurs the NBA's best record at 32-9.

Kaman scored 21 points and grabbed 14 rebounds for Los Angeles, which lost its third straight game. Corey Maggette had 20 points for the Clippers.

Parker scored 15 of his points in the third, including his team's final eight points of the quarter as the Spurs built a 65-55 lead going into the fourth. That lead grew to as many as 13 before the Clippers went on an 11-0 run led by Kaman and Maggette.

Texas Tech women end Nebraska's streak

By ERIC OLSON

AP Sports Writer
LINCOLN, Neb. — Nebraska is learning one thing for sure from its stretch of four games against teams ranked in The Associated Press Top 25.

"We know we can compete," guard LaToya Howell said after a 68-58 loss to No. 10 Texas Tech on Wednesday night. "Texas Tech is a great team, and until the last

two minutes, we were right there with them."

The Cornhuskers opened the most difficult part of their schedule with a 103-99 triple-overtime win over then-No. 2 Baylor at home on Jan. 12.

A 74-59 loss at then-No. 23 Kansas State followed Saturday, and then there was Wednesday's loss to Tech.

"We just have to play 40 minutes," Howell said. "We're giving a great 20-

minute, 30-minute game but we're not coming out fired up and we seem to have to claw our way back into the game and try to get it close near the end. We have to come out on top from the tip."

In Wednesday's game, Chesley Dabbs scored 15 of her 21 points in the first 20 minutes and shut down high-scoring Husker guard Kiera Hardy for long stretches to lead Texas Tech to its eighth straight win.

OPEN

Continued from Page 1B

last May, then contracted Zoster, an illness that affected his sight and hearing and temporarily paralyzed part of his face. After reaching the fourth round here last January, he missed the other three Grand Slams as his ranking slipped to 76th.

Blake was serving for the second set after breaking the Australian at 5-5. But Hewitt broke back to force a tiebreaker in which both players had set points.

Hewitt converted his third with a sharply angled volley that Blake made a desperate dive for, flicking the ball back while landing on his racket hand and opening a cut between his ring finger and pinkie that required several treatments.

The eighth-seeded Williams had to run constantly from sideline to sideline to oust Peng 6-3, 6-1. She closed out the win with a stinging crosscourt forehand.

Williams lost her opening service game, but broke right back to start a five-game winning streak. That sent her on the way to eliminating the 19-year-old Peng, who upset French Open champion Anastasia Myskina at the Sydney International last week.

"Wasn't she a beautiful player?" Williams marveled afterward. "I had no idea who she was."

Peng, ranked 48th, broke Williams twice in the first set. But Williams feasted on Peng's serves, particularly the slow second ones. And while Peng's flat groundstrokes — two-handed from both sides — had sting, she had little margin for error.

It was one of the easier victories for the top women on a day when top-seeded Lindsay Davenport and French

Open champion Anastasia Myskina both struggled.

Davenport earned a 2-6, 6-2, 6-2 victory over Michaela Pastikova, the world's 99th-ranked player who was entered in her first Grand Slam tournament after 13 failed qualifying attempts.

Myskina, seeded third, berated herself and looked dismayed after many of the 25 errors she committed while ousting No. 114 Tzipora Obziler of Israel 6-4, 6-2.

On the men's side, second-seeded Andy Roddick and No. 3 Lleyton Hewitt were in action later.

A sprained ankle and wrist and a strained leg muscle slowed Venus Williams' comeback here last year from a six-month absence with an abdominal strain. Her ranking slipped at one point to 18th.

"Things happen that you can't control yourself," she said. "Sometimes you have to step back."

Davenport made 10 errors as she muddled through the first set in which she looked a bit lethargic. She picked up her play and had only one unforced error in the second set before firing five aces in the third — three in one game.

"I just wasn't ready to be at my very best at the beginning," said Davenport, still a little hoarse from a bout of bronchitis just before the tournament started.

Myskina had problems with her serve and trailed 3-1 in the first set, muttering to herself and gesturing at lines after losing points.

"My emotion doesn't really help me on court," she said.

She regained control and won four consecutive games to close out the first set, and then didn't face a break point in the second.

Myskina next plays

25th-seeded Lisa Raymond, a 6-0, 6-1 winner over Clara Koukalova, in the third round. Last year, Raymond made the quarterfinals here, upsetting Venus Williams along the way.

American Abigail Spears, playing only her second major, beat No. 20 Tatiana Golovin of France 7-5, 6-1.

In other women's matches, 14th-seeded Francesca Schiavone beat Tatiana Perebiynis 2-6, 6-3, 6-0, and 26th-seeded Daniela Hantuchova had a 6-4, 6-0 win over 28-year-old Barbara Schett, who retired from singles play after the match.

No. 13 Karolina Sprem and No. 27 Anna Smashnova also advanced, while Czech player Nicole Pietrangeli beat No. 31 Jelena Kostanic of Croatia.

On the men's side, No. 14 Sebastien Grosjean, No. 15 Mikhail Youzhny, No. 17 Andrei Pavel and No. 18 Nicolas Pietrangeli were the four seeded players ousted from the men's draw Thursday, while No. 23 Fernando Gonzalez, No. 25 Juan Ignacio Chela and No. 32 Jurgen Melzer advanced.

Grosjean, a three-time Grand Slam semifinalist, led fellow Frenchman Jean-Rene Lisnard 6-1, 4-1 before calling for a trainer to treat his injured left thigh. Grosjean saved two match points in the fifth set, then dropped his serve and lost 1-6, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-3.

Olympic gold medalist Massu lasted 41 minutes before an injured left foot forced him to quit against Germany's Philipp Kohlschreiber.

Rafael Nadal, an 18-year-old left-hander who upset Roddick and helped Spain to a 3-2 win over the United States in last month's Davis Cup final, ousted Russia's Youzhny, coming back for a 6-1, 4-6, 4-6, 7-5, 6-3 win.

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PUBLIC NOTICE
Sale to satisfy landlord's lien of household furniture, clothes and other items of the following tenants now stored at AAA Mini Storage, 3301 E. FM 700, Big Spring, TX 79720.

Lane McMillan
Tammy Newton
Marshall Bryant
Elias Munoz
Ryan Locke
Elizabeth Nock
Sale to be held at 10AM, February 10th at the AAA Mini Storage, 3301 E. FM 700, Big Spring, to the highest bidder. We reserve the right to accept or reject any bid. #4434 January 20 & 27, 2005.

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS
The sun has entered Aquarius, and the moon transits through fellow air sign Gemini. Mental agility is featured, which shows up most notably in a social context. Wit is an honored characteristic, and new relationships are sparked because somebody made somebody else laugh. Intelligent humor improves areas of romance and finance, too.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Someone dear is concerned with building each "now" moment to the hilt but is gun shy when it comes to making plans. Be willing to forget about the future. It just feels right with a Leo, Libra or Capricorn.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). If there has been confusion about whether or not an attraction is mutual, the answer is now unmistakable. Friends and siblings try to compete with you. Break your own records, and don't worry about anyone else's.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You need freedom to pursue your ideas. Look beyond the immediate limitations for answers. Keep careful track of possessions. People who borrow from you have difficulty making returns.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The morning is rocky, but after lunch, the good news is, there is no more bad news. You're practically chanting for what you want in the afternoon (except you Buddhists out there, who are actually chanting for what you want!).

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The game at work is for the most experienced and mature players, so only jump in if you feel you can really compete. Otherwise, you'll feel like you're a kid playing dress up, hiding behind a fake mustache.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You notice positive changes as the day progresses. A new piece of office equipment makes life easier, or there may be a personnel shift. Perhaps there is even the possibility for romance.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Try to take in as much information as you can. It's too easy to single out the parts that fit your beliefs and block your ears to the rest. Listening selectively inhibits growth. Be open.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Every action you do has potential for enjoyment and pleasure. Right now, you may be the only one smiling as you sort through a big pile of papers or sweep the floor. Others catch on eventually.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Sacrifice is a necessary part of the job, and you're willing. By not expecting a reward, you'll receive more than you would have imagined for yourself. Tonight brings delicious controversy.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). It's easy to put your heart into sensational, glamorous or dramatic efforts. But the real prize comes when you put your heart into the mundane tasks, like doing laundry, bookkeeping and grocery shopping.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Rebellious vibes have you saying "no" just because someone else is saying "yes." Because of your refusal to fall in line, you'll end up doing things the hard way -- but you'll be happier.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Today's activities are similar to yesterday's, but you're framing them differently. Shift your attitude. If you're taking action because you're

obligated to do so, there's no way you're going to do your best.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I'm a female Virgo with some simple questions. Will I get my real estate license? Will I be successful? Am I just an over-worried Virgo?"

My simple answers are: yes, yes and yes. But let me take it to the next level. Will these things make you happy? No happier than you are right now. The key to happiness is in everything that's going on in the present, before you get your license, before you make your first million-dollar deal (it'll happen) and while you're in the thick of organizing your life so that you can have time to study, work and survive. You have a tendency to attach yourself to the future and live there in your mind. You may say to yourself, "Things will be great when I have my real estate license. I'll have money, and I'll buy this and this, and things will be great." I challenge you to limit the time in which you allow yourself to think of the future and instead focus on having more fun this week.

Relax. Get intimate with your sense of humor. And if you can't do it just for you yet, think of using extreme self-care as a way of becoming more likeable to your future clients.

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

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Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: I am in my late 30s and live on a limited income. Three months ago, I joined a dating service in my hometown. I had an interview with the agency's director and almost walked out because of the expensive membership prices and high-pressure sales pitch. At the last minute, however, the interviewer lowered her prices substantially so I could afford it. Because the director did me this favor, I felt compelled to join. I was assured I would "meet a lot of women."



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

Well, I haven't met anyone in the three months I've been a member. The agency's database has a very small number of ladies in my age range. I contacted the few women available, and I heard back from only one, who promptly told me that she already was dating someone. There are no other women to call.

When I joined the dating service, I signed a two-year contract, but I want to cancel. I also feel I should be given a partial refund. When I phoned the director, however, she said I am bound by that two-year contract. I called my local Better Business Bureau, and they contacted the agency. I'm still waiting for a response.

I don't believe I should be stuck in a two-year membership that did nothing for me. What do

you think of this shady outfit? -- Steamed in Sarasota, Fla.

Dear Steamed: A contract generally contains obligations for both sides -- in this instance, you agreed to pay dues, and they agreed to provide a list of available women to date. If they haven't held up their end of the contract, you may indeed have a way out, but it will require seeing a lawyer. Meanwhile, keep in mind that dating services, even legitimate ones, are not guarantees.

Dear Annie: Earlier this year, I thought I smelled gas around our property, but my husband could smell nothing. Today, I returned home from shopping. The house had been closed up for several hours, and as I walked through the living room, I was sure I smelled gas. I opened up the doors and windows, and noticed that I had developed a

slight headache.

I called the gas company, and the representative showed up promptly. When he approached the furnace room, his detector started clicking very fast. He confirmed there was a leak. He explained to me that women seem to be much more sensitive to the odor of gas and men often do not notice it.

This is one time I'm glad I could tell my husband, "I told you so." The repair will cost us, but the alternative could have been so much worse. -- Wapakoneta, Ohio

Dear Ohio: People should not be timid about calling the gas company if they have the slightest suspicion there may be a leak. Better safe than sorry.

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

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7	30	Wheel-Fortune
8	30	Life as we know it (CC)
9	30	Extreme Makeover
10	30	PrimeTime Live
11	30	News (CC) Nightline
12	30	Ent. Tonight Jimmy Kimmel Live (CC) News (CC)



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AGNES



HI AND L



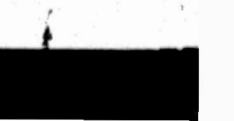
THE OTH



SNUFFY!



BEEBLE



OTTO STAYED ALL NIGHT A

THURSDAY

JAN. 20

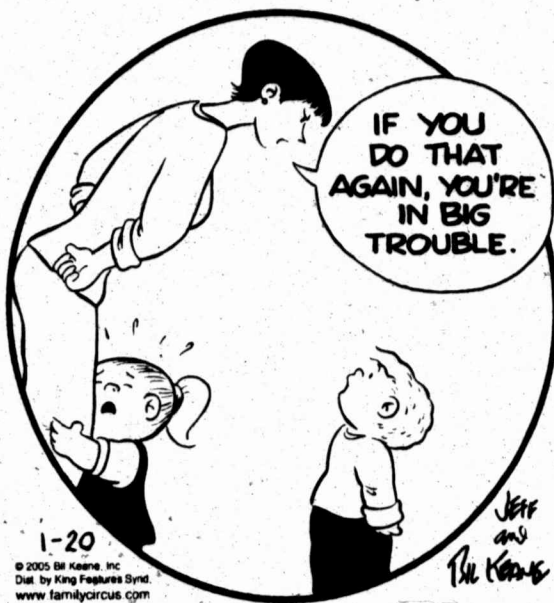
	WFAA (2) Dallas	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KOCV (13) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPICE (22) Spice TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports	TMC (30) Premium
6:30 PM	News (CC)	News Wheel-Fortune	La Mujer de Madera	Malcolm-Mid-Raymond	News Ent. Tonight	Anita No Te Rajes	News Sentinel (CC)	Raymond	Joe McGee John Hagee	News-Lehrer	American Chopper		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgn. (CC)	Law & Order (CC)	Live BET Style	Sister, Sister That's-Raven	NFL Live Super Bowl	College Basketball	
7:30 PM	Life as we know it (CC)	Life as we know it (CC)	Rubi	The O.C. (CC)	Wickedly Perfect (CC)	La Mujer en el Espejo	Joey (CC)	Friends (CC)	Update/Israel Liberty	West Tex Jim TBA	Monster Nation	Movie: Death Wish II	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgn.	NBA Basketball	The Parkers Girlfriends	My Date With the President's Daughter	Tilt (CC)	Iowa at Illinois	Movie: Equilibrium
8:30 PM	Extreme Makeover	Extreme Makeover	Amor Real	Point Pleasant (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgn.	Gitanas	Movie: You've Got Mail	Light of the Southwest	Antiques Roadshow	Extreme Engineering			MXC MXC	Houston Rockets at Soul Food (CC)	Soul Food (CC)	Daughter	College Basketball	Tilt (CC)	(CC)
9:30 PM	PrimeTime Live	PrimeTime Live	Aqui y Ahora	Malcolm-Mid-70s Show	Without a Trace (CC)	Te Voy a Enseñar a Querer	ER (CC)	(CC)	One Man's Journey (CC)	American Casino (CC)	Movie: Death Wish 3	Spring of Trivia	Orlando Magic NBA	Club Comic View	Lizzie McGure Sister, Sister	Marquette at DePaul (CC)	Tilt (CC)	Movie: Jackass: The Movie	
10:30 PM	News (CC)	News Nightline	Primer Impacto Noticias Univ.	Becker (CC)	Letterman Late Late	Al Rop Vivo-Maria Celeste Corte-Familia	Late Night-Conan O'Brien	Fried Green Tomatoes	Sam Peak Jesse Lee Pe	Sign Off	Extreme Engineering	Movie: Death Wish 3	Wildest Police Videos	Kings	Midnight Love	Proud Family That's-Raven	Open - Early Round - Day	Tilt (CC)	Cover
11:30 PM	Ent. Tonight Jimmy Kimmel	Extra (CC)	Los Metches	Becker (CC)	Letterman Late Late	Al Rop Vivo-Maria Celeste Corte-Familia	Late Night-Conan O'Brien	Fried Green Tomatoes	Sam Peak Jesse Lee Pe	Sign Off	Extreme Engineering	Movie: Death Wish 3	Wildest Police Videos	Kings	Midnight Love	Proud Family That's-Raven	Open - Early Round - Day	Tilt (CC)	Cover
12:30 AM	Live (CC)	Live (CC)	Alma Rebelde	Spin City	The Insider						American Casino (CC)		Blind Date Shipmates	Inside the NBA (CC)	Club Comic View	Kim Possible Lizzie McGure	SportsCenter (CC)	Movie:	

DENNIS THE MENACE



"I think we're in pretty deep, Joey."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

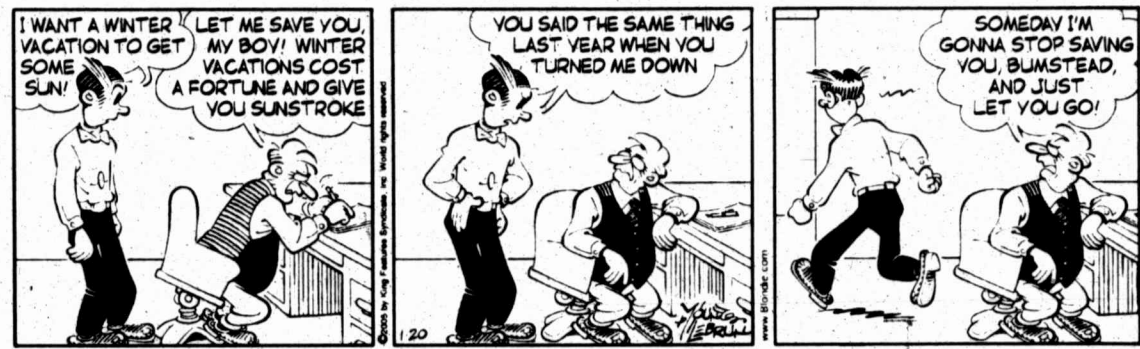


"How big?"

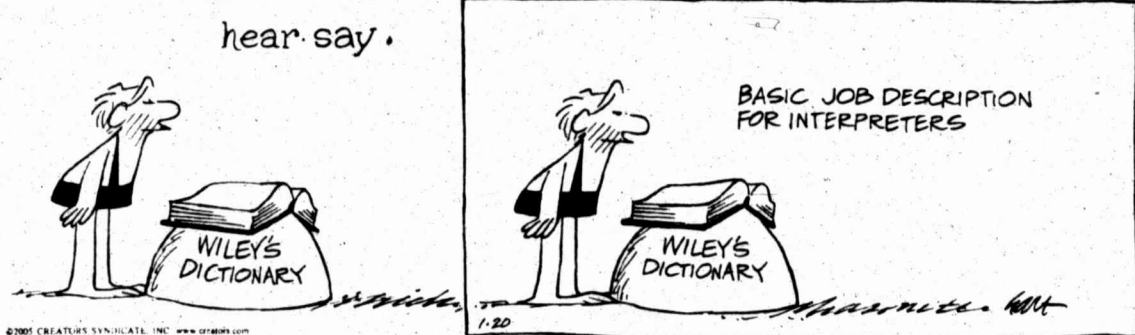
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BC



WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Jan. 20, the 20th day of 2005. There are 345 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 20, 1981, Iran released 52 Americans it had held hostage for 444 days, minutes after the presidency had passed from Jimmy Carter to Ronald Reagan.

On this date: In 1801, John Marshall was appointed chief justice of the United States.

In 1841, the island of Hong Kong was ceded to Great Britain. (It returned to Chinese control in July 1997.)

In 1887, the U.S. Senate approved an agreement to lease Pearl Harbor in Hawaii as a naval base.

In 1942, Nazi officials held

the notorious Wannsee conference, during which they arrived at their "final solution" that called for exterminating Jews.

In 1945, President Roosevelt was sworn into office for an unprecedented fourth term.

In 1954, "The Caine Mutiny Court-Martial," a play by Herman Wouk based on part of his novel "The Caine Mutiny," opened on Broadway.

In 1985, President Reagan and Vice President Bush were sworn in for second terms of office in a brief White House ceremony (it being a Sunday, the public swearing-in was held the following day).

In 1986, the United States observed the first federal holiday in honor of slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.

In 1986, Britain and France announced plans to build the Channel Tunnel.

Today's Birthdays: Country singer Slim Whitman is 81. Actress Patricia Neal is 79.

Comedian Arte Johnson is 76. Former astronaut Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin is 75. Actress Dorothy Provine is 68. Singer Eric Stewart is 60. Movie director David Lynch is 59. Actor Daniel Benzali is 55. Rock musician Paul Stanley (KISS) is 53. Rock musician Ian Hill (Judas Priest) is 53. Comedian Bill Maher is 49. Actor Lorenzo Lamas is 47. Actor James Denton ("Desperate Housewives") is 42. Country singer John Michael Montgomery is 40. Actress Stacey Dash is 38. TV personality Melissa Rivers is 37. Singer Xavier is 37. Singer Edwin McCain is 35.

Answer to previous puzzle

ITCH	HOBBS	PAY
SMAY	ALLAY	COVE
SUSPENDERS	OLIN	
UNTOLD	DATELESS	
EKE	MET	KENO
RODIN	MONKEY	
MESA	ITEM	SNARE
ALTI	NAPES	ANITS
SLANT	NADA	OBEM
CARDIO	LILLE	
ELMS	LATA	TIP
ONELLAMA	ALPINE	
DADA	HIGHWAYMAN	
INDY	ATRIA	LEND
NAY	SHADY	EXES

Newsday Crossword

GETTING AN ASSIST by Robert H. Wolfe Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS
- 1 "Get lost!"
- 6 Small pie
- 10 Whaler of fiction
- 14 Susan Lucci role
- 15 Between ports
- 16 Female star
- 17 Military assistant
- 19 Rug coverage
- 20 Golf area
- 21 Triumphant words
- 22 Stakes money
- 24 Bobby of hockey
- 25 Jewel
- 26 Betrayed amazement
- 27 User
- 29 Little layer
- 32 Kitchen covering
- 35 Against
- 37 Send letters
- 38 Gondola mover
- 40 Ladd or King
- 41 Certain Africans
- 43 More than enough
- 44 High degree
- 45 Carefree venture
- 48 The ones there
- 50 Suffix meaning "sort of"
- 51 Use up
- 54 Wise Greek goddess
- 56 Healing plant
- 57 Thurman of Pulp Fiction
- 58 Neighbor of 51 Down
- 59 Female assistant
- 62 Sharp taste
- 63 Singer
- 64 Rub off
- 65 "Us" or "Them"
- 66 Gang ending
- 67 Taste, for one
- DOWN
- 1 Erstwhile alliance
- 2 Colonial -announcer
- 3 Add-on to a bill
- 4 First-rate
- 5 Elvira (1967 film)
- 6 Washington city
- 7 example (for instance)
- 8 Sleep-stage designation
- 9 Drinking source
- 10 Old saw
- 11 Paid assistant
- 12 State confidently
- 13 Sheepish comments
- 18 Water pitcher
- 23 One who imitates
- 26 Donate
- 27 Riding sport
- 28 Tostada topping
- 30 Relative of etc.
- 31 Not any
- 32 To (unanimously)
- 33 Be out of breath
- 34 Invaluable assistant
- 36 "Ditto!"
- 38 Book excerpts
- 39 Way back when
- 42 Boxer Spinks
- 43 Sticks (to)
- 46 Building support
- 47 Starting
- 49 Fence made of bushes
- 51 African nation
- 52 Pile up
- 53 Check recipient
- 54 New Testament book
- 55 Southeast Asian
- 56 Comic actor Johnson
- 60 Addams cousin
- 61 Strong emotion

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JAN 20 2005

That's Racin'

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

GEARED UP

By DAVID POOLE
Knight Ridder Newspapers

Before finally getting his first Nextel Cup championship as a car owner in 2003, Jack Roush spent 15 years in NASCAR's top series trying to match the success he'd enjoyed in other forms.

Now, after Kurt Busch followed Matt Kenseth's '03 crown by winning the first Chase for the Nextel Cup in 2004, Roush Racing has clearly established itself as the cornerstone operation in Ford's NASCAR fleet.

Roush-owned cars accounted for 180 entries in the Cup series last year, more than half the 351 total Fords that started 2004 events. Chevrolests, by comparison, had 639 combined starts, while Dodge had 554, but still Ford scored 10 victories among five different drivers, and four of its teams made the 10-race title Chase.

Veteran Ford driver Dale Jarrett, who drives for the Robert Yates-owned Ford team, says it's not about outmaneuvering the opposition, it's about outrunning it.

"We have to work together and use those dollars that Ford is putting toward this racing program toward everyone's best effort," Jarrett said. "If we can do that in a smaller group, then that is going to make us more successful."

That strategy of consolidating resources led to last year's big preseason story, the merger of the engine-building efforts of Roush and Yates. As was the case last year, engines from that joint effort will power virtually every Ford in a Nextel Cup race in 2005.

Roush got three teams — Busch's, Kenseth's and veteran Mark Martin's — into the Chase last year and said he was disappointed that the other two didn't get there as well. Could Roush go five for five in '05? That's unlikely, as competitive as the battle for 10 spots would figure to be, but certainly not unthinkable.

Busch, who needed every bit of nine top-10 finishes in the 10-race Chase to hold on and win by eight points over Jimmie Johnson and 16 over Jeff Gordon, is ready to try to become the first repeat champion since Gordon went back-to-back in 1997 and 1998.

"We know we had an extraordinarily awesome year last year," Busch said. "The 17 (Kenseth's team) ... had an awesome year back in 2003, too. It's just that everything has to fall into place. That's what it takes to win a championship — to have your preparation meet those opportunities, whether it's out on the track or behind the scenes. If things fall into place for us, we'll be around for the Chase and have a good 10-race playoff and see what we can do again."

Kenseth won the second and third races of 2004 and added a victory in the Nextel All-Star Challenge, but after finishing second in the first Chase race at New Hampshire

he didn't have another top 10.

Martin got a victory at Dover in June and then had five top-five finishes in the seven races leading up to the Chase to battle his way into the title fray. He was in championship contention going into the final race at Homestead, but needed a lot of things to go his way that didn't and finished fourth in the standings.

Martin, who has not won a Cup title in his brilliant career, was clearly the sentimental choice to win the title last year. If Martin has a shot at the championship again in 2005, that will once again be the case since he has announced this will be his final season of Cup competition.

Greg Biffle, who won the season finale at Homestead for his second race victory of 2004, and Carl Edwards, who showed promise as he closed out 2004 in the No. 99 Fords, would need to step up for Roush to get five teams into the Chase in 2005. While Edwards would be something of a long shot, Biffle believes his own No. 16 team can get there.

"I think we have the tools it takes and the cars that it takes," Biffle said.

Elliott Sadler, Jarrett's Yates teammate, won at Texas and again at California and kept his No. 38 team in the top 10 all last season. After making the Chase, however, Sadler's fortunes waned and he wound up ninth.

"We ran great the first five races of the Chase," Sadler said. "But in the last five ... we made some bad decisions and did some things we shouldn't have done, but it was my first time in that position. I had the full-court press going the whole time and put myself in situations and raced against people that I know I shouldn't have raced (against). I didn't do the things I did to get myself in the Chase and I learned a lot from that."

Jarrett, 48, has now gone 70 points races without a win. Fellow veteran Ricky Rudd, who is also 48 and is a former Jarrett teammate at Yates who now drives the No. 21 Fords owned by the Wood Bros., has a 92-race winless drought despite showing improvement late in 2004 after being reunited with crew chief

Michael McSwain. Jarrett and Rudd both believe they have what it takes to enjoy success in Nextel Cup, but both also know that time is no longer on their side.

John Andretti, driving the No. 14 Fords owned by ppc Racing, joins the Taurus fleet for 2005 with a new team that tried to get its feet wet with four starts near the end of 2004. Hermie Sadler, Elliott's brother, sold the team he owned and will now be its driver, with James Ince as crew chief of the No. 66 Fords sponsored by Peak Fitness. Kirk Shelmerdine will also return in the No. 72 Fords that he also owns.



Kenseth



Martin



Sadler

The Roush-Yates engine partnership has Ford teams outrunning competition

POLL POSITION

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION
Which Ford driver will finish highest in the Nextel Cup standings this season?

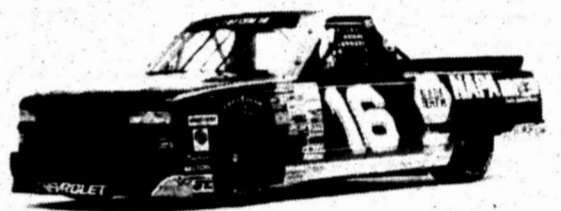
Cast your vote at:
www.thatstracin.com

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION
Which Dodge driver will finish highest in the Nextel Cup standings this season?

Number of votes: 8,863

Driver/Crew Chief	Votes	Percent
Kasey Kahne	3,185	36%
Ryan Newman	2,463	28%
Jamie McMurray	1,740	20%
Rusty Wallace	524	6%
Jeremy Mayfield	348	4%
Sterling Marlin	266	3%
Someone else	224	2%
Casey Mears	113	1%

RACIN' NOTES



WIECK MEDIA
Ron Hornaday was the 1998 series champ.

Love of the series brings Hornaday back to Trucks

There is only one real reason Ron Hornaday is returning to the NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series this season. "It is truly my love," said Hornaday, who won series championships in 1996 and 1998 with Dale Earnhardt Inc.

After spending the past two seasons in the Busch Series with Richard Childress Racing, Hornaday returns to Trucks this season driving the No. 6 Chevrolet owned by RCR Nextel Cup driver Kevin Harvick.

"This is the series that made my name and the reason I got the call from (the late) Dale Earnhardt to drive for him," Hornaday said. "Watching the Kevin Harvick truck last year and knowing what it was capable of, I know I have the equipment to be in (the title) hunt."

In five full seasons in Trucks, Hornaday has 26 wins, 65 top-five and 93 top-10 finishes in 125 starts. His last full season came in 1999, when he finished seventh in points.

Hornaday's team this season will be operated out of Kevin Harvick Inc.'s new 50,000-square-foot facility in Kernersville, N.C. KHI also has a full-time Busch team with drivers Tony Stewart and Tony Raines.

"I have worked for Dale Earnhardt, I have worked for Richard Childress Racing and Kevin has applied a little bit of all of it," Hornaday said.

"As fast as Kevin has grown his organization in the last couple of years, he will be a premier team in our business."

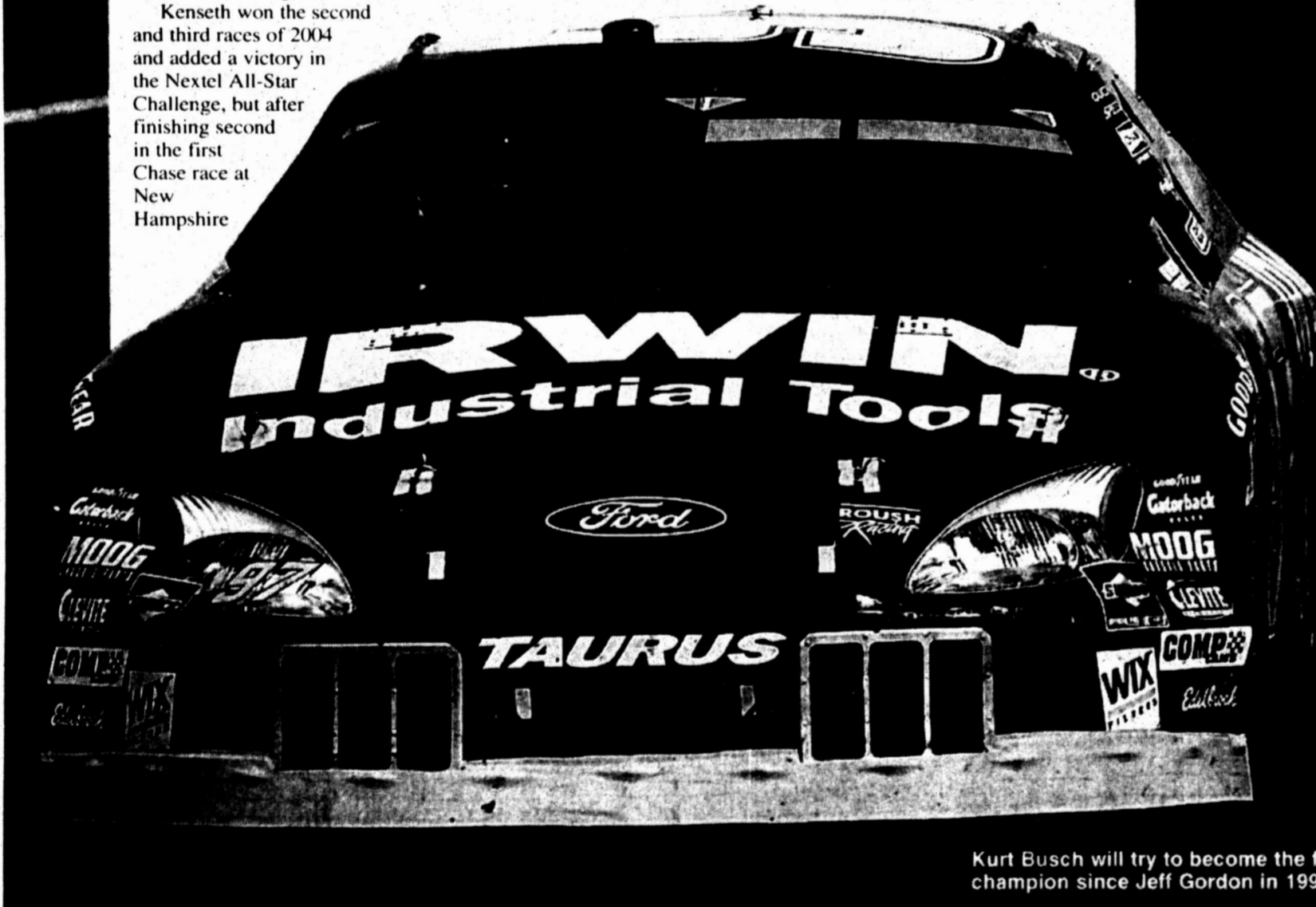
With his prior series success and a strong team behind him, Hornaday has become an easy pick as a preseason favorite to win the 2005 championship.

He will have plenty of tough competition, including three other series champions — Jack Sprague, Mike Skinner and last season's champion, Bobby Hamilton.

"It looks like if you don't work hard to win a bunch of races to finish in the top three, you are going to be out of the points hunt," Hornaday said of the competition he'll face this season.

"You have to keep your equipment there throughout the entire race and you can't afford to get off even a little. You can't manhandle and hussle these things like we used to."

— Jim Utter



AUTOSTOCK
Kurt Busch will try to become the first repeat champion since Jeff Gordon in 1997 and '98.

France Jr: TV deal, NY track steps for growing sport

Leave it to Bill France Jr. to turn the myth of Sisyphus into a motivational speech.

Sisyphus, you know, was that Greek guy who found himself doomed to spend eternity pushing a huge rock to the top of a hill. Every time he gets close to the summit, though, the rock overwhelms him and rolls all the way back down to the bottom.

France, who ran NASCAR for the better part of 30 years before giving over the keys to his son Brian, puts a little different twist on that tale when talking about what he sees as stock-car racing's future.

"We've just got to keep pushing the race cars up the hill," France said. "That's a term I'll coin right now. What I mean is that we have to keep the sport moving forward."

While it's certainly true that no other

form of motorsports in America stands on higher ground than NASCAR does these days, France is right to see that there's still more hill to climb.

When he strolled into the media center at Daytona International Speedway late last week, as preseason testing continued at the track where the 2005 season will begin next month, France quickly drew a crowd of reporters.

He's 71 years old and has faced down cancer, heart surgery and a broken hip.

He's seen the sport his father founded grow from a local curiosity to a regional and then a national passion. But that growth is still far from mature.

Every once in a while, it's important to step back and remember that NASCAR is only now coming toward the end of its first national television contract.

The next round of negotiations will begin sometime this year, and while France won't be at the table himself you can bet he'll have a good handle on what's going on.

"I am not going to talk about that now," France said. "You guys will need something to write about six months from now, I don't want to waste it all now."

But ... "The networks want to take in more revenue and we'd like to get more money," France said. "It's a free enterprise system that we're in. They have to get it from somewhere if they're going to pay us. The NFL got a nice bump."

France also said he's not going to be going "door to door" trying to get the people on Staten Island to fall in love with the idea of International Speedway Corporation building a NASCAR track there. But rest assured that the big decisions there, too, will ultimately find their way across France's desk.

"I think it's important," France said of a track in the New York City area.

"If we're going to keep pushing the cars up the hill, New York is a nice place to help us get up there. It'd be good for ISC, that's why we're doing it, but the whole series would get some benefit. New York is New York. A lot of people don't like it, but that's where it happens. It's challenging just walking into town, but we're optimistic."



France

France wouldn't give his son a grade for the job he's doing as NASCAR's chairman and chief executive officer.

"Since I know him pretty well, I'll let others grade him," France said.

"There were a couple of decisions that have been made that I would have done a little bit different, or a little faster. But I won't get into any of that. It wasn't anything big."

France has been around long enough



DAVID POOLE