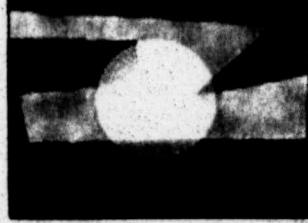


THURSDAY

February 10, 2005

WEATHER

Tonight:



TONIGHT 34°-36° TOMORROW 48°-52°

BRIEFLY

State hospital offering treats

Big Spring State Hospital volunteers will offer Valentine's Day treats and provide free delivery of gift items to raise money for the hospital's patients.

Plants, stuffed animals, candy and singing telegrams are just a few of the gifts being provided by the hospital's Volunteer Services Council for Valentine's Day.

Singing telegrams will be delivered Monday, Feb. 14, but other items will be available for Friday, Feb. 11, and Monday, Feb. 14 delivery.

COMING THIS WEEKEND



Cover Story: Although actor Jeff Daniels has been extremely successful in Hollywood, he has remained true to his small-town Michigan roots.

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Candidate filing light; incumbents leading the way

By STEVE REAGAN Staff Writer

Candidate filings for upcoming city and school elections have been light, officials report.

Monday was the first day for prospective candidates to file in many of the area elections, which will be held in May. But there has not exactly been a press of people anxious to get their names on the ballot.

The two Big Spring City Council incumbents up for re-election — Stephanie Horton in



Staulcup Horton

District 1 and Joanne Staulcup in District 3 — have filed their candidacies. So far, no challengers have filed, city officials say.

The same is true at Big Spring Independent School District, where incumbents Irene Bustamante (District 1) and Alan

Partee (District 3) are the only people to announce their candidacies.

There have been no candidate filings as yet for either the Coahoma city council or school board elections.

Three spots on the Coahoma city council are open this year, seats currently held by Mayor Bill Read and council members Ricky Stone and David Elmore, officials said. Coahoma school board seats currently held by Dale Coates and John Wayne Metcalf also are up for election

this year.

The news is same in Stanton, where no candidate filings have been announced in either the city or school board elections.

The Stanton City Council will have two seats up for election this year, spots currently held by Mark Briseno (at-large) and Carmen Cazares (District 4). Candidate filings for the Stanton school board begins Tuesday. Seats currently held by Johnny Lowder (District 3) and Todd

See FILING, Page 5A

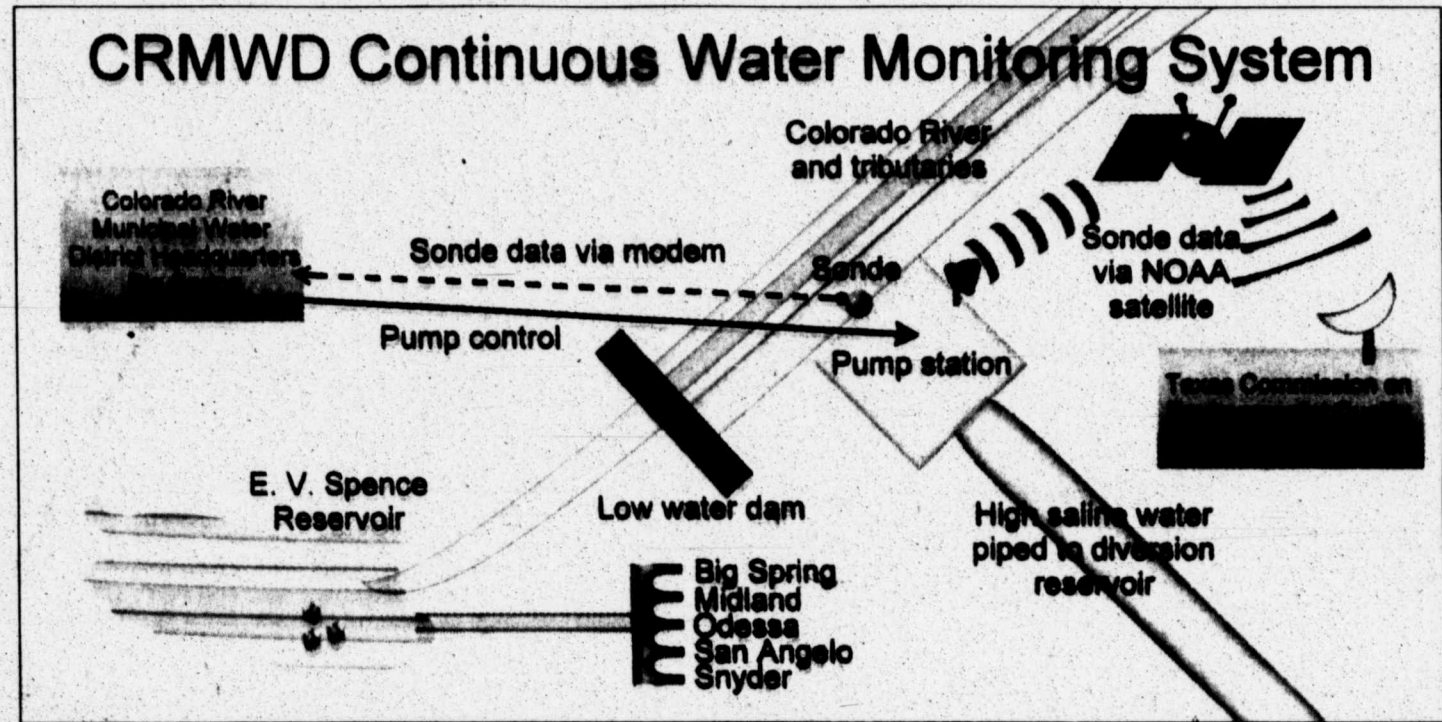
Water

Water quality monitors an asset to area

By THOMAS JENKINS Staff Writer

New water quality monitors at Beals Creek and on the Colorado River could mean better water quality for much of the Howard County area, according to local officials.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has installed new, continuous water monitoring systems at two



Colorado River Municipal Water District pump stations, located southeast of Big Spring and northwest of Colorado City.

CRMWD General Manager John Grant said the partnership between the district and the state

of Texas is beneficial for everyone involved.

"We've had similar monitors in place since the 1970s, so I suppose we were a little ahead of our time," said Grant with a laugh. "We were at a point when we

were going to need to replace those monitors, but the state stepped in and provided them so they could receive the reports as well. It's going to be very helpful

See WATER, Page 5A



KRT photo/Red Huber, Orlando Sentinel

Lake County, Fla., Deputy Sheriff Chaplin Bob Whitworth (right, back to camera) comforts unidentified people in front of Florida Hospital Waterman emergency room in Lake County. Three Lake County deputies responded to an assault complaint and were allegedly shot by suspect Jason Wheeler. One has died, and two are recovering from their wounds.

Deputy killed, 2 wounded in Florida; suspect captured

LAKE KATHRYN, Fla. (KRT) — A man who police say ambushed three Lake County sheriff's deputies, killing one, was captured at dusk Wednesday in the Ocala National Forest after a daylong manhunt involving more than 500 officers. Jason Lee Wheeler, 29, of Lake Kathryn, was apprehended after a gunbattle in a wooded area about six miles from his home. Wheeler was wounded and his injuries appeared to be worse than initially thought, sheriff's Capt. Nick Pallitto said.

See DEPUTY, Page 5A

Wanna bet?

Video gambling gaining momentum in Legislature

By APRIL CASTRO Associated Press Writer

AUSTIN (AP) — The fight for state-taxed video slot machines is again gaining steam in the Texas House, where a Houston lawmaker is proposing at least one video gambling casino within a short distance from every Texan.

Democratic Rep. Sylvester Turner filed legislation Tuesday that would generate about \$1 billion every year for the state. His plan would allow one video gambling retailer in each of nine geographic regions across Texas, as well as at dog and horse racing tracks and Texas' Indian reservations.

Revenue would be dedicated to public education. But some Republicans argue that gambling goes against the state GOP party platform, is destructive to family values and preys on Texas' poorest population.

Though supported by Republican Gov. Rick Perry last year, a similar proposal failed during a

"...what I'm asking House members to do is to vote to allow the people in the state of Texas to decide whether or not they want VLTs. ..."



Turner

special session last spring. Perry has since distanced himself from the idea. A projected budget surplus of about \$400 million has reduced the need to raise money from slot machines, he said.

"It'll go through the process, but any gambling prospects are poorer than they were two years ago; for that matter, even six months ago, after the revenue estimate came back very positive," he said Wednesday. Any gambling bill would face an uphill climb, he said.

Any video gambling leg- See GAMBLE, Page 5A

Rascal Razzmatazz entries due Friday

By VALERIE AVERY

Special to the Herald

Children, ages birth through 11 years old who like to dress up and appear on stage are encouraged to enter the Relay for Life Razzmatazz.

The children's pageant is a low-key affair where children appear on stage in their "Sunday Best" and answer a few questions from the emcee.

"They can talk about themselves and their hobbies, their ambitions, where they go to

school," said Linda Billington, Relay Rascal Razzmatazz chair. "The children get low-key, on-stage experience to boost their self-esteem, have fun and help in a community-wide event. Parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles get to show off their precious children."

The Big Spring State Hospital Relay for Life team, "Body, Mind and Soul," sponsors Relay Rascal Razzmatazz, and has done so for three years.

The pageant is set for Feb. 19 and will begin at 10 a.m. at the

Big Spring Municipal Auditorium, Third St. and Nolan Ave. The deadline to enter is 5 p.m. Friday.

Children who do enter will participate in various age groups and trophies will be awarded to the first place male and female winners in each group; second-place ribbons also will be awarded to the male and female winners in each age category.

Each participant will receive a certificate and a ribbon along See RAZZ, Page 5A

AT A GLANCE

What: Relay Rascal Razzmatazz pageant for children.

Where: Big Spring Municipal Auditorium, Third and Nolan.

When: 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 19.

Entry deadline: 5 p.m. Friday.

To enter: Contact Linda Billington or Jacque Moore at 267-8216. Entry fee is \$10.

FEB 10 2005





The Forsan High School scholastic team won Sweepstakes Honors at last weekend's University Interscholastic League meet at Abilene Wylie.

## Forsan High takes sweepstakes

Herald Staff Report

The Forsan High School University Interscholastic League team participating at the Abilene Wylie meet last weekend came home with the 1A sweepstakes trophy. Members of the team getting medals and points were:  
• Levi Johnson won first place in calculator, third place in number sense and a third in headline writing.  
• Audrey Montgomery won second place in number sense and sixth place

in mathematics.  
• The math team, coached by Susan Alexander, received medals for the first place number sense team and third place calculator team.  
Also, Crystal McNew, coached by Jim Rhodes, won a fifth place ribbon in poetry. Kyle Briggs won third place in Lincoln-Douglas Debate and Clint Lockhart was sixth in informative speaking.  
Briggs and Lockhart are coached by Jan Sims.

## Band leader charged with sexual abuse of students

By TARA BURGHART

Associated Press Writer  
BERWYN, Ill. (AP) — When a band teacher was arrested here and charged with sexually abusing 16 students, jaws dropped at the allegations: Police said the teacher had tied young girls to chairs with duct tape and rope and then re-enacted bondage scenes from his porn collection.

Investigators now say the school district in this blue-collar Chicago suburb had received complaints about the teacher years earlier and had warned him in 2001 against "inappropriate touching" but never reported him.

Robert Sperlik Jr., 45, was still teaching last month when the parents of a 15-year-old girl contacted police with her story of abuse and he was arrested.

Sperlik was formally indicted Wednesday on multiple counts of kidnapping, sexual abuse and unlawful restraint.

The case has led to a flurry of allegations and legal actions. Two former students have filed federal lawsuits against the district over its handling of their allegations. And Sperlik's lawyer has demanded a gag order, saying police have talked so much about the case it could be hard to find an impartial jury or un-

lied defense witness.

Police say the investigation into what really happened in Sperlik's classrooms over a six-year period ending in 2003 is continuing and the number of alleged victims could grow. They have yet to identify two students in Polaroid pictures found in Sperlik's North Riverside home, partly because the girls have so much duct tape on their faces, police say.

"It's a troubling time," said Patricia Wernet, superintendent of Berwyn School District 100. She was not in the job when the alleged abuse occurred.

Sperlik, who is being held without bond, did not speak at Wednesday's preliminary hearing. But his attorney, William Hedrick, used the opportunity to blast Berwyn police for "parading" his client in front of news cameras and mailing a letter to residents saying Sperlik's arrest "should put an end to this behavior."

"As opposed to acting as a police department, they appear to be acting as leaders of a mob action," Hedrick told Judge Daniel Weber. Weber set a Monday hearing on the gag order request.

Outside court, Hedrick said Sperlik maintains his innocence.

"He did not commit any

of the crimes charged. Period," Hedrick said. "He will be vindicated in a trial if we're ever allowed to get a fair trial."

Sperlik taught in Berwyn for almost 18 years. Authorities say the alleged abuse occurred in six Berwyn schools between 1998 and 2003 and involved girls ages 9 to 14.

Frank Marzullo, Berwyn's public safety director, said police found two reprimands in Sperlik's file from 2001 and 2002, warning him against "inappropriate touching" and reminding him to keep his door open while teaching.

Marzullo said none of the instances were reported to police or the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, as required by state law of school officials who suspect abuse. The state's attorney's office has subpoenaed records to see if the district violated state law, he said.

William Jordan, Berwyn's superintendent from 1996 to 2003, said he has a "weak recollection" of a reprimand about five years ago involving Sperlik, but he said it wasn't sexual.

### MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288  
Sharon Hardeman, 43, died Friday. Memorial Services will be at 4:00 PM Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel.  
Raymundo Rodriguez, 73, died Monday. Funeral Mass will be at 1:00 PM Thursday at St. Thomas Catholic Church with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.

## Senate nears vote on class action lawsuits

By JESSE J. HOLLAND

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate appears to be nearing a final vote on a bill that would give President Bush one of his top second-term priorities by shifting many class action lawsuits from state to federal courts.

By successfully fighting off Democratic amendments Wednesday, the GOP-controlled Senate has so far preserved an agreement with the Republican-controlled House to move the legislation through unchanged.

If senators can finish the carefully compromised measure Thursday without allowing major change, the House plans to pass it next week and quickly get it to Bush for his signature.

Bush is urging senators to pass the measure without changing the version he is ready to sign.

"They're trying to amend the bill," Bush said Wednesday of the Democratic efforts. "That's code word for they're trying to weaken the bill. They're trying to make the bill not effective."

Bush and other supporters say the bill, which would send most multi-state class action lawsuits to federal court instead of allowing them to be heard in state courts, is needed because lawyers try to file their lawsuits in friendly state court jurisdictions where they are more likely to get large payouts.

Senators who back the bill say greedy lawyers make more money from such cases than do the actual victims, and that lawyers sometimes threaten companies with class action suits just to get quick financial settlements.

"This bill, like most, is

not perfect. But I believe that it represents the best that can be done to solve what is a real problem in our legal system," said Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif.

Opponents of the bill say it is aimed at helping businesses escape multi-million-dollar judgments for their wrongdoing and would hurt lawyers trying to litigate those cases.

"It is wrong to allow corporations to avoid responsibility simply because they harmed a large number of people in small amounts rather than a small number of people in large amounts," said Nan Aron, president of the liberal Alliance for Justice.

The Senate rejected, 60-39, an amendment by Sen. Mark Pryor, D-Ark., that would have made state attorneys general exempt from the legislation's restrictions.

The bill's opponents contend federal judges routinely dismiss class action suits that deal with multistate law, saying that applying more than one state's law to a case

makes it too unwieldily. If this legislation passes, those case will have nowhere to be heard, since state courts will be banned from hearing them, they said.

## Robbery suspect caught after leaving his wallet in store

EULESS (AP) — A robbery suspect was caught after leaving his wallet on the store counter — and then going to the police station to pick it up.

Joseph Fahnbulleh, 22, of Arlington, remained in the Euless City Jail on

Thursday night with bail set at \$10,000. He faces a robbery charge.

A few days after the robbery, he walked into the Euless police station to pick up his wallet after a detective called to tell him someone had found

it.  
"Once we had the wallet, we called him to say it had been turned in to our lost and found," Euless police Detective Marco Valladares said.  
"We don't really have one."

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## DONKEY BASKETBALL

**Presented By The Coahoma PTA**  
**Saturday, Coahoma High School Gym**

**1st Game - 2 pm** Coahoma Elementary Teachers  
**2nd Game - 7 pm** Sheriff's Dept.

US. Coahoma Parents vs. Fire Dept. & Coahoma Parents

**All Advance \$5 - At The Door \$6**

Tickets available at Coahoma High School, Coahoma Jr. High, Coahoma Elementary School, Chamber of Commerce, KBST or call Laura, 267-8660.

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FEB 10 2005

## 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  
PublisherJohn A. Moseley  
Managing EditorBill McClellan  
News Editor

## OUR VIEWS

## Public must educate itself on Bush plan

The chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, predicts that Congress will not pass President Bush's Social Security proposals without public support. Grassley gives Bush three months to build that support.

If the fate of Social Security reforms, particularly Bush's proposed personal investment accounts, lies with the public, it becomes the duty of every American to be familiar with how the system works and what would change if Congress approves the president's proposals. At a minimum, Americans should consider the following points and expect the administration to explain how the finances of workers, retirees and the federal government would improve, or at least escape harm:

Most Americans have little savings and large debt. The desirability of personal retirement accounts is tempered by the need for trillions of dollars in additional federal borrowing.

Bush says there is not enough money coming in to meet the promises made to retiring baby boomers. But diverting payroll taxes to personal accounts for younger Americans would reduce the money to pay baby boomer benefits, exacerbating the problem and enlarging the runaway national debt.

New White House budget figures predict that the rising federal deficit, now more than \$400 billion annually, will decline by half by 2009. However, those figures do not include war-fighting costs or the trillions in federal borrowing necessary to establish personal retirement accounts. How can the administration simultaneously predict deficits cut in half and make its No. 1 priority a program that would increase the deficits?

Some calculations indicate that tomorrow's workers would benefit from the personal accounts, adding \$2,000-\$3,000 a year to their retirement benefits. In order for that to happen, however, each account must generate an average return of 4.5 percent over inflation. In the event of a deep or prolonged recession, that target would not be met, leaving personal account holders worse off than they would be under the traditional Social Security system. Is a possible increase in retirement income worth the risk?

Bush says personal accounts would allow Americans the chance to pass on a nest egg to their survivors. But in most cases that scenario would require premature death. In order to ensure adequate retirement income from a personal account, most retirees would have to purchase an annuity, depleting their nest egg.

Three months should be plenty of time for the administration to assemble the numbers and present them to the public. Unfortunately, establishing personal accounts would not improve the shortfall that will overtake Social Security in 2042. Measures other than personal accounts will have to be adopted to sustain benefits.

THE CHRONICLE  
HOUSTON

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- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

## Inside report: Chairman Bill's deal

Rep. Bill Thomas of California, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, is the ultimate legislative poker player who keeps his hand shielded even from partners. But he showed a few cards during the recent Republican retreat at the Greenbrier resort in White Sulphur Springs, W. Va. His fellow Republican congressmen were astounded.

The chairman's deal bore little resemblance to George W. Bush's plan for Social Security and tax reform. Thomas indicated he would marry Social Security with total repeal of the corporate income tax, which would be replaced by a value-added tax (VAT). As for simplification of individual taxes, he indicated that is off the board — contradicting desires of many Republican congressmen.

As he enters his fifth year as chairman, has Thomas overstepped himself? Social Security reform is a massive legislative undertaking, and he magnifies the difficulty with the additional complicated task of establishing a VAT. Furthermore, he is pressing his own policy without guidance or approval from the White House. He is a masterful, domineering personality who until now has bent Ways and Means and the House itself to his will, but never on an agenda of this dimension.

President Bush always intended to pass Social Security reform this year, postponing an unspecified

tax reform until an undetermined time in the future. However, Thomas has been suggesting it would be efficient to combine Social Security and tax reform. But Bill Thomas and George W. Bush are on very different wavelengths when it comes to reforming taxes. Bush contemplates an overall simplification of the Internal Revenue Code. Thomas does not.

During the retreat starting Jan. 28, Thomas revealed some of his cards. While transforming Social Security, he also would repeal the corporate income tax and replace it with a VAT paid by the consumer. Thomas told his colleagues of multiple advantages for the U.S. in international trade and hinted at a bountiful increase in federal revenue — money that would be useful in addressing the Social Security shortfall.

Thomas's uncharacteristically buoyant optimism abruptly ended when he turned to the flat tax as a possible simplification of individual taxes. He posed difficult questions to the assembled House members. Would you and your constituents be willing to give up the home mortgage deduction? The charitable contributions deduction? The deduction for state and local income taxes?

Since the answer to all of these questions is obviously no, Thomas went on, the tax rate would have to rise to recapture revenue. But that rate would be too high for low-income taxpayers, and there would have to be at least two rates. There goes your flat tax, with one low rate and no deductions.

This logical recognition of the flat tax as a non-starter has led many in Congress to a different

path to reform based on taxing consumption. The "fair tax" — repealing all income taxes and replacing them with a national sales tax — has attracted 44 House sponsors and interest from no less than President Bush and House Speaker Dennis Hastert.

At this point, still using the Socratic method, Thomas asked how many of his colleagues' constituents would welcome walking into a store and paying 30 percent of the retail cost with a sales tax. Once again, the answer was no. Thus, the chairman had swiftly ruled out both the flat tax and the national sales tax, and therefore vetoed individual income tax reform.

A tax agenda that eliminates the corporate tax but otherwise retains the horrid complexity of the Revenue Code and establishes a VAT will draw huzzahs from the business lobbyists of K Street who normally balk at tax reform. However, the lethal combination of a VAT and the present federal income tax that Thomas proposes always has been unacceptable to conservatives.

House Republicans at the Greenbrier, including even some Ways and Means members, don't like the hand dealt them by the chairman. The speculation on Capitol Hill that the House will play these cards anyway is based on Thomas's legislative mastery the past four years. But that record was forged in partnership with the president and the speaker. He is going it alone this time.

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

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ROBERT NOVAK

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## A club too exclusive for GOP's good

The Republican Party rules the White House, as well as a majority in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, which means the party is flying so high that only Republicans can muck it up.

Enter the Club for Growth, a group of supply-side economists on a jihad to bury Republicans they don't deem to be pure enough. Given a choice between half a loaf and none, the club says: none.

So last week, the club's new president, former Rep. Pat Toomey, R-Pa., announced a campaign to send a "gentle message" to three Republicans — Sen. Lincoln Chafee, R-R.I., Rep. Joe Schwarz, R-Mich., and Rep. Sherwood Boehlert, R-N.Y. — by airing ads in their districts telling voters to urge their lawmaker to support private savings accounts as part of a Social Security reform package.

Who cares if no one knows what will be in the Social Security reform package suggested by President Bush in concept but with no details? Not the club.

Sen. Ben Nelson, D-Neb., who supports the concept of investment accounts, had the right approach when he told the Los Angeles Times that until a solid plan is in place, "you've got a lot of people debating empty boxes." Which makes the club, as self-appointed enforcer for the GOP, the enforcer of support for empty boxes.

On Friday, Toomey told Chris Matthews of MSNBC's "Hardball," "One of the things the Club for Growth does very well is that it sometimes instills some political courage where it is needed on Capitol Hill."

Au contraire, only cowardice or stupidity could prompt a member to sign on to a reform package

that doesn't exist.

"I don't see any downside," said club executive director David Keating. The ads aren't "critical" of the three Repubs — not as critical as past club campaigns, which really hammered wayward Repubs. This is a nice way of getting their attention and drawing them to the light.

But what if the Bush plan isn't fiscally sound — which is supposed to be important to the club? Does it then run ads taking back the old ads?

There's also a California Club for Growth. A Club for Growth in California, where John Kerry beat George W. Bush by 10 points and every statewide elected official is a Democrat — except for Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger. Next, they'll try to grow wheat in a sunless room.

Former Assemblyman Tony Strickland, who heads the California branch, said his group may well go after any Republican who votes for tax increases. "We will hold legislators accountable, if they raises taxes," he explained.

You ignore the math, I countered, citing the need to win two-thirds of the votes in the Assembly and Senate, which are heavily Democratic. No, Strickland responded, the last three budgets had no broad tax increase — even when there was a Democratic governor. True, I note, but those were not balanced budgets — they were borrow-big budgets.

"Here's what frustrates me," said state GOP Vice Chairman Jim Hartman. "I actually supported Ronald Reagan for president in 1976 against Gerald Ford. I consider myself a mainstream conservative Republican, but I'm also a Republican who can look at election results and recognize the realities in this state and what it takes to get elected in this state." Hartman opposes any effort to go after moderate Republicans or Republicans who cut deals.



DEBRA SAUNDERS

## GAMBLE

Continued from Page

isolation would likely approval by 100 of House members because it would a change to the stitution. Two-th

## DEPUTY

Continued from Page

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"We were able out of the wood: County Sheriff C "There was a ( There was gunfir Wheeler's captu

## WATER

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## FILING

Continued from Pa

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## RAZZ

Continued from Pa

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All proceeds b American Canc "The most "

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**GAMBLE**

Continued from Page 1A

isolation would likely need approval by 100 of the 150 House members to pass because it would require a change to the state constitution. Two-thirds of

the Senate and a majority of Texas voters also would have to approve the plan.

"Ultimately, what I'm asking House members to do is to vote to allow the people in the state of Texas to decide whether or not they want VLTs (video slot machines) in

this state," Turner said Wednesday.

Republican House Speaker Tom Craddick has said he recognizes that getting 100 votes in the chamber could be tough, and high-powered lobbyists from both sides of the battle have converged on the Capitol,

hoping to sway lawmakers to vote their way.

Advocates from horse racing tracks are hoping that the state will allow video gambling at their facilities, which would subsidize purses and inject new life into the waning Texas racing industry.

Other proponents of the bill argue that Texas is losing millions in potential revenue when gamblers trek to Louisiana to try their luck in casinos that are legal there.

But conservative groups such as the Baptist General Convention of Texas are vehemently

opposed. They argue that video gambling targets the poor and ultimately would cost the state more money.

Another bill expected to be filed this week would dedicate video gambling proceeds to further reduce property taxes.

**DEPUTY**

Continued from Page 1A

Police tracked him with bloodhounds that picked up his scent. Wheeler had been shot but authorities said they didn't immediately know whether he had been hit during the morning shootout or before he was captured.

"We were able to flush him out of the woods," said Lake County Sheriff Chris Daniels. "There was a confrontation. There was gunfire." Wheeler's capture put an end

to a tense drama that began nine hours earlier when Lake County Deputy Wayne Koester was killed and two other deputies were wounded while responding to an assault complaint in a rural area about 40 miles north of Orlando.

According to investigators, the deputies each arrived in their own vehicles and were ambushed at a locked gate to Wheeler's house. Wheeler had a police scanner and knew deputies were coming, investigators said, and came out of the woods firing a sawed-off shotgun.

Deputies Tom McKane and Bill Crotty were each shot in the leg and underwent treatment at the hospital. Their injuries were not life-threatening.

"You could hear shotguns, you could hear pistols. It sounded like a gunbattle, and it went on for several minutes," said neighbor Paulette McKinnon. McKinnon said Wheeler's long-time girlfriend, Sara Heckerman, was with the deputies when the shooting began.

McKinnon said a bruised Heckerman came to her house

Wednesday morning asking to use her phone. Heckerman told McKinnon she had had friends take her two small children to a motel.

The deputies who responded inspected the house, found no sign of Wheeler and thought he had left, she said.

"The last thing I said to them was, 'Please be careful. He's crazy,'" McKinnon said.

Authorities from Volusia, Seminole and Lake counties and the Florida Highway Patrol quickly fanned out in this densely wooded area to search for Wheeler.

Officers cordoned off the area around Wheeler's home. Along County Road 42, officers checked drivers and looked into vehicles. Traffic was backed up in all directions.

Officials locked down nearby Spring Creek and Seminole Springs elementaries, school-district spokesperson Janice Karst said.

Wheeler, who moved between the Ohio towns of Defiance, Napoleon and Grelton as well as Fort Lauderdale, Fla., during the mid-1990s, has been arrested at least four times in Florida.

**WATER**

Continued from Page 1A

to everyone involved. "Combined with CRMWD's experience, knowledge, and on-site management of this area of the state, our agencies are able to use resources more efficiently while fulfilling our commitments as stewards of the state's

resources."

The monitors, which measure salinity, temperature and water level, can help improve the overall quality of the water supply, according to Grant.

"These monitors allow us to divert water if its quality goes below a certain point," said Grant. "The water that's diverted isn't wasted, however. It's sold to oil companies for

salt water injection and other functions.

"By keeping that water out of Lake Spence we can improve the quality. Of course it's going to take a lot more inflow to see the increase in quality, but these monitors make it easier."

The monitors feed data to the TCEQ in Austin and to the CRMWD headquarters in Big Spring,

helping further efforts both locally and statewide.

"CRMWD and TCEQ have entered into a partnership which allows both agencies to share resources and extend capabilities in an effort to better manage water quality," said TCEQ Commissioner Larry R. Soward. "The TCEQ and the CRMWD are using

water quality monitoring and communication technologies in new ways."

The information is used to determine when to divert poor quality water and thereby prevent it from entering the E.V. Spence Reservoir, which is a primary water supply

source for the district. Some water from the reservoir is also used by San Angelo.

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

**FILING**

Continued from Page 1A

Smith (District 4) are to be contested.

In Forsan, there have been two announced candidate filings in the school board election. Incumbents Dale Humphreys and Beckie Wash have filed for re-election for their at-large positions. The school board seat currently held by Marty Whetsel also is up for election this year.

The Forsan city council has no announced candidate filings for its three positions to be contested this year. At-large seats currently held by Jim Alexander, Mary Gressett and Fred Holguin are up for election this year.

At-large positions currently held by Jimmy Eggemeyer and Karla Hoelscher will be up for election at Glasscock County ISD, though no candidate filings have been announced.

Sands CISD will have three seats up for election

this year. Three-year seats currently held by Mark Nichols and Robin Barraza will be contested, and there will be a special election to fill the remaining year on the seat vacated by Steve Parker last month. The election has not been officially called for as yet, but candidates may file at the school administration office, Superintendent Wayne Blount said.

Grady ISD has two single-member districts up for election — District 3, currently held by Tony Sawyer, and District 4, where Brad Tunnell is the incumbent. No filings have been announced.

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

**RAZZ**

Continued from Page 1A

with ice cream tokens from the Dairy Queen on North Lamesa Highway.

Entry fee is \$10 per child. VHS tapes of the pageant will be available for \$7. Spectator fees are \$2 per person. Children younger than 6 years old are admitted free of charge. Pictures also will be available.

All proceeds benefit the American Cancer Society. "The most wonderful

thing about the Relay Rascal Razzmatazz is watching all of the children enjoy themselves," said Jacquie Moore, Mind, Body and Soul Co-chair. "You just never know what will be done or said on that stage by the children."

"The best part is that all the money goes toward our fight against cancer because everyone involved donates their time for this fun event."

For more information, contact Moore or Billington at (432) 267-8216.

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Reason For Nomination \_\_\_\_\_

FEB 10 2005

# 6 new vehicles unveiled at auto show

By MARK PHELAN

Knight Ridder Newspapers

CHICAGO — General Motors Corp. and Ford Motor Co. are hoping to bolster sales of their lower-luxury brands with four new models that debuted at the Chicago auto show Wednesday. At the same time, Dodge introduced a new pickup truck with the industry's largest passenger compartment while Toyota unveiled a little SUV intended to win young customers.

The 2006 Buick Lucerne large front-wheel-drive sedan replaces the Park Avenue as the brand's flagship model and will be built at GM's Detroit/Hamtramck assembly plant. The conservatively styled Lucerne features front fenders with portholes reminiscent of cars from Buick's glory years.

The Lucerne is the first Buick sedan with a V8 engine in a decade, with an optional 270-horsepower version of GM's 4.6-liter, 32-valve DOHC Northstar engine. Buick's longstanding 195-horsepower, 3.8-liter V6 is the standard engine.

Buick hopes to make quiet and luxurious interiors the hallmark of its new model line. The Lucerne uses many of the same materials as the midsize 2005 LaCrosse sedan that debuted late last year.

Side-impact and roof-curtain airbags are standard equipment. Other features include an adaptive electronically controlled suspension, stability control, remote start, DVD navigation, heated and cooled front seats and a 245-watt Harman/Kardon stereo.

The 2006 Cadillac DTS is a restyled version of the brand's DeVille large front-drive sedan. The front end features a new grille, headlights and sheet metal. The rear gets new sheet metal and LED taillights. Cadillac wants to make its sole remaining front-wheel-drive model look more at home alongside sporty and sophisticated new models like the CTS, STS and XLR.

The DTS uses 275- and 291-horsepower versions of the same Northstar V8 that powers the Lucerne. It will be built alongside the Lucerne at the Detroit/Hamtramck plant. That plant will cease production of the big Pontiac Bonneville sedan this year, freeing up production capacity for what GM hopes will be higher sales of the new Buick and Cadillac.

The DTS' interior is all new, with an extra inch of travel for the front seats and a redesigned and repositioned instrument panel intended to create the feeling of a more spacious passenger compartment. Major engineering changes from the DeVille include a new front structure designed to give the car a smoother and quieter ride.

The DTS has standard side and roof airbags. Other features include remote start, three-zone climate control heated and cooled front seats, and an MP3-compatible six-disc in-dash CD player.

The Lucerne and DTS feature GM's patented "dual-depth" front-passenger air bag. The bag's deployment adjusts

depending on the severity of the crash, seat position and seat belt usage. GM's two big sedans are to go on sale this fall.

Mercury will show its all-new 2006 Milan midsize five-passenger sedan. The Milan is a stablemate of the upcoming Ford Fusion and Lincoln Zephyr front-wheel-drive sedans.

All three cars share their basic structure and engineering with the sporty Mazda6 sedan.

The top Milan model will have a 210-horsepower, 3.0-liter V6 and a six-speed automatic transmission. Lower models will use a 160-horsepower, 2.3-liter four-cylinder engine mated to either a five-speed manual or automatic transmission. Ford plans to add an all-wheel-drive version of the Milan sometime in 2006.

The Milan showcases many of the styling touches Ford hopes will help reinvigorate the Mercury brand, including an attractive satin-alu-

minum finished waterfall grille, soft paint tones, two-tone leather upholstery and a choice of faux wood or satin-aluminum interior trim.

The Milan is set for sale this fall.

Mercury also showed the face-lifted 2006 Mountaineer midsize SUV, which features a more powerful V8 and new interior and exterior styling that includes a satin-aluminum grille like the Milan.

The Mountaineer's 4.6-liter V8 engine's output

increases 22 percent to 292 horsepower thanks to a new three-valve cylinder head. The 2006 model also gets a six-speed automatic transmission and a revised suspension for better ride and handling. The 2006 Mountaineer is to go on sale this fall.

Finally, Mercury featured its hybrid Mariner compact SUV, which shares its gasoline-electric powertrain with the popular Ford Escape hybrid. Mercury had not planned to sell the hybrid Mariner until sometime

in 2006, but Ford pulled the fuel-efficient SUV forward due to strong demand. The 2006 Mariner hybrid is to go on sale in the fourth quarter of this year.

Toyota's FJ Cruiser small SUV borrows its looks from the rugged early Land Cruiser models that helped the automaker gain its reputation for building tough and durable trucks. It will also complement the excellent new Tacoma midsize pickup Toyota introduced late last year,

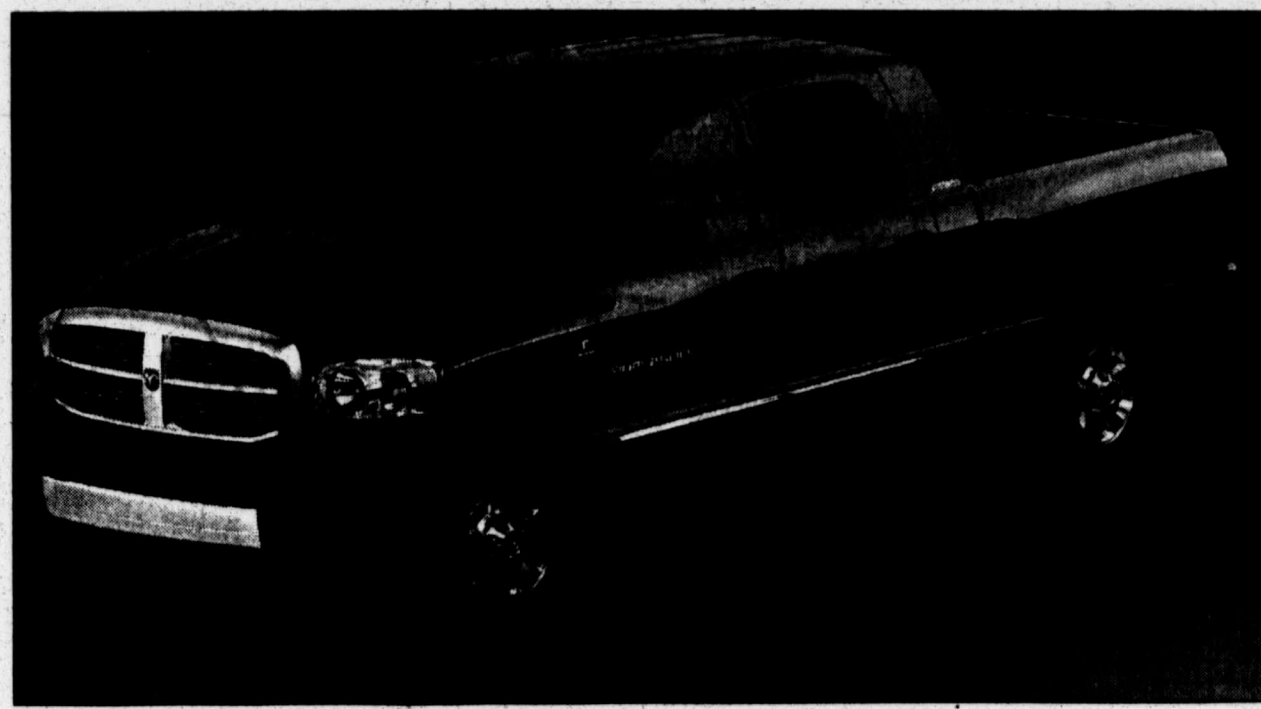
giving the automaker two affordable trucks to draw young buyers to its showrooms. The little SUV is scheduled for sale later this year.

The Dodge Ram Mega Cab six-passenger truck features the biggest pickup cab ever, with an astounding 145.2 cubic feet of interior space that's comparable to the largest cars on the market.

The interior features 7.6 cubic feet of storage space behind its rear seat and the most rear legroom of any pickup. The cab measures 111.1 inches long, more than a foot longer than the four-door Ford F-250 Crew Cab model.

The pickup bed shrinks from 8 feet long to 6 feet, 3 inches. The reclining rear seats also split 60/40 and move forward to increase cargo flexibility. The Mega Cab will be available with either a 345-horsepower, 5.7-liter Hemi gasoline V8 or a 5.9-liter, inline-six Cummins turbo-diesel producing 325 horsepower. The Mega Cab can tow up to 15,800 pounds.

The truck comes from DaimlerChrysler's Saltillo, Mexico, assembly plant and is to go on sale this fall.



The 2006 Dodge Ram Mega Cab debuts at the Chicago auto show

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**S**  
**IN BR**  
**Coahoma's 'Alumni Day'**  
Coahoma ball coach Dickenson announced annual All-softball game place Saturday p.m. at the softball field.  
The game v this year's team agal Coahoma so ni.  
For more tion, contact at the Coaho 394-4536.  
**Coahoma to 'donkey bas**  
The Coah will be brin key basketb high scho Saturday games sch begin at 2 p.m.  
The first feature stude faculty from while the which will p.m., will fea bers from th department, department Big Spring.  
Advance t be \$5, but can purchas the door for may be pu the Coaho School, Junior High Elementary, of commerce ing lunch), K calling Lau 8660 or Nea 4443.  
For more tion, conta Martin at 2 466-1950.  
**Lady Steer Club meeti**  
The Lad Booster Club Monday, Feb ATC at 6 p.m.  
All parents involved in basketball, ing, track an are encou attend.  
For more tion, conta Abner at 2 Kerry Rodrig 6100.  
**Lady Steer Booster me**  
The Lad Softball Bo will meet Mo 21, in the A p.m.  
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**Softball un needed for**  
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**C.G.A. sets toumey of n**  
The Chic Associat first toumey year for Sp 20 at Ocmat Golf Course.  
For tion, contact at 264-7116.

### IN BRIEF

#### Coahoma's softball 'Alumni Day' set

Coahoma head softball coach Robby Dickenson has announced that the annual Alumni Day softball game will take place Saturday at 1 p.m. at the Coahoma softball field.

The game will feature this year's upcoming team against past Coahoma softball alumni.

For more information, contact Dickenson at the Coahoma ISD at 394-4536.

#### Coahoma to host 'donkey basketball'

The Coahoma PTA will be bringing "donkey basketball" to the high school gym Saturday with two games scheduled to begin at 2 p.m.

The first game will feature students and/or faculty from Coahoma, while the second, which will begin at 7 p.m., will feature members from the sheriff's department, fire department and city of Big Spring.

Advance tickets will be \$5, but spectators can purchase tickets at the door for \$6. Tickets may be purchased at the Coahoma High School, Coahoma Junior High, Coahoma Elementary, chamber of commerce (open during lunch), KBST or by calling Laura at 267-8660 or Neasa at 389-4443.

For more information, contact Laura Martin at 263-8421 or 466-1950.

#### Lady Steer Booster Club meeting set

The Lady Steers Booster Club will meet Monday, Feb. 21, in the ATC at 6 p.m.

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

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

#### Lady Steer Softball Booster meeting set

The Lady Steers Softball Booster Club will meet Monday, Feb. 21, in the ATC at 7:30 p.m.

All parents of girls involved with the softball program are encouraged to attend.

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

#### Softball umpires needed for season

Anyone interested in becoming an ASA certified umpire for the upcoming softball season can obtain information from Francisco Ramirez at 263-3670.

#### C.G.A. sets first tourney of new year

The Chicano Golf Association has set its first tournament of the year for Sunday, Feb. 20 at Comanche Trail Golf Course.

For more information, contact Pineda at 264-7111.

## Coahoma girls add name to postseason bracket

### • Bulldogs lose game, not playoff hopes

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

COLORADO CITY — The Coahoma girl's basketball team added its name to the Class 2A state playoff brackets Tuesday after traveling to rival Colorado City and coming away with a 49-39 victory.

The Coahoma boy's team failed to clinch its playoff berth against the Wolves, but holds its own destiny during the final two games next week.

The Bulldogs lost to Colorado City Tuesday, 56-49.

#### GIRLS

The Bulldogettes led by eight points at halftime and didn't let the Lady Wolves back in the game in the second half. Colorado City outscored Coahoma by one point in the third quarter, but the Bulldogettes took care of business in the fourth with a 15-12 advantage.

Coahoma (10-21, 5-5) entered the game in a three-way tie for the third and final playoff spot with rivals Stanton and Hawley. They clinched a playoff berth after Stanton lost to second place Stamford and Hawley fell to district

leading Anson.

The Bulldogettes will travel to San Angelo for their first round game Monday. Coahoma will take on Jim Ned at the Junell Center, beginning at 7 p.m.

Senior Mendy Morgan led Coahoma against Colorado City as she finished with 15 points and 11 rebounds. Junior Sterling Gee added a team-high 16 points, five rebounds, two steals and two assists.

Christie Rich finished with six rebounds, while senior Liz Conley and freshman Janice Gonzales had four and three steals, respectively.

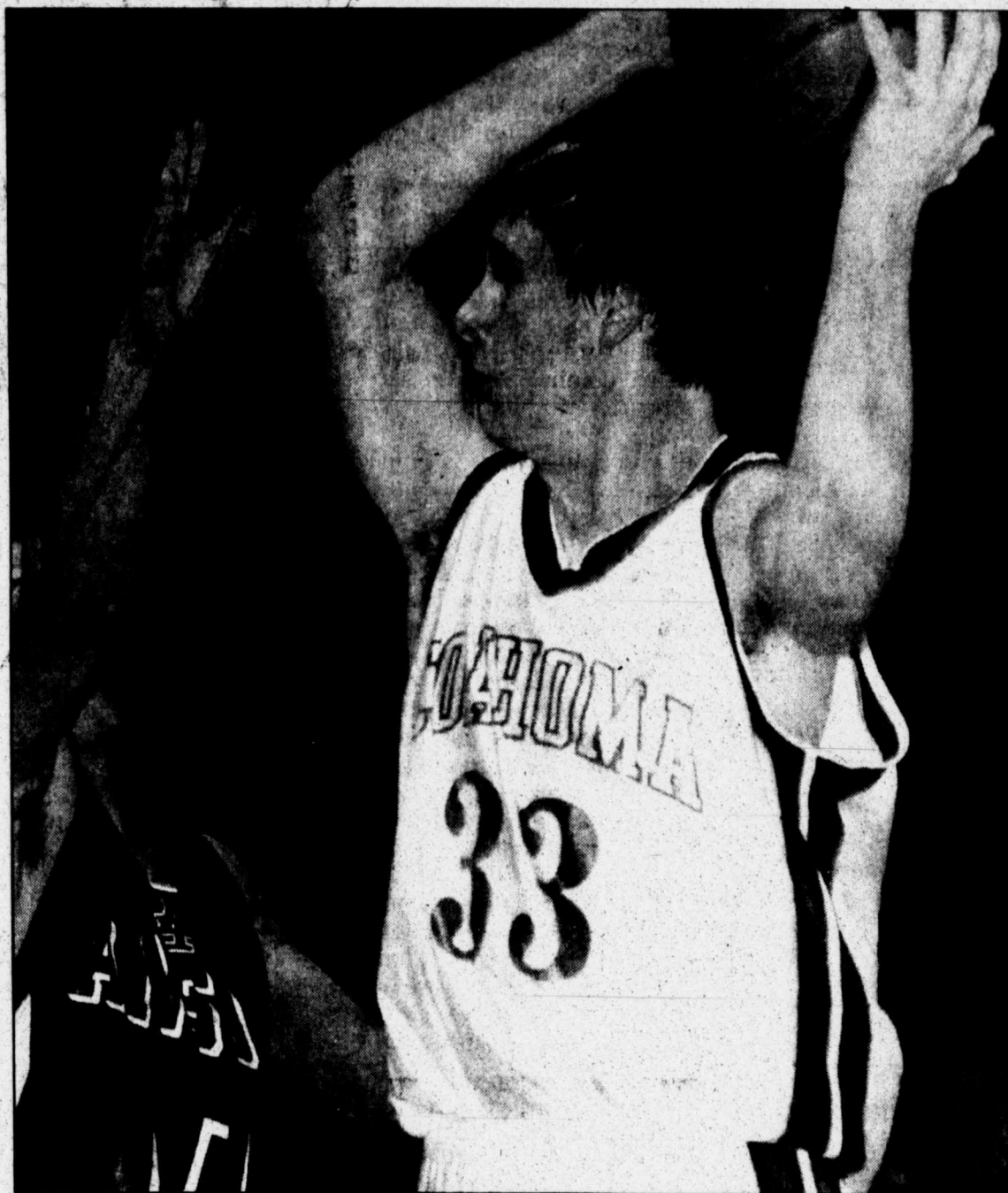
Coahoma deflected 17 passes on defense as a team, but struggled from the foul line again, connecting on just 15 of 24 attempts.

The Bulldogettes advance to their second straight playoff berth under second year head coach Sandy Logan. Last year, Coahoma lost to New Deal in the bi-district round. The team finished 2-22 in 2002-03.

#### BOYS

The Bulldogs were outscored 28-23 in the second half against Colorado City, which led to the seven point defeat.

See COAHOMA, Page 2B



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde  
Coahoma's Terrell Bibb tries to find a teammate while avoiding an Anson defender during the Bulldogs' loss to the Tigers last Friday. The Bulldogs lost to Colorado City Tuesday and now must win their final two games to guarantee a playoff berth.

## Graves' 28 points not enough as Forsan ends year with loss

By TROY HYDE

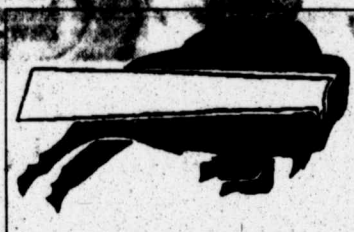
Sports Editor

WINK — The Forsan girl's basketball team finished up its season Tuesday on the road against district rival Wink and came home with a 72-61 loss.

"The girls played very hard," said Forsan coach Brandye Hughey.

Senior Casi Graves concluded her final campaign at Forsan with a team-high 28 points.

"Casi had a fantastic game," said Hughey. "She



will be missed tremendously next year."

Kaylon Stanley also reached double figures with 10 points.

Forsan will graduate four seniors — Graves, Cynthia Becerra, Haylea Belew and Karmin King — from this year's team. "These four young

ladies have give 100 percent of themselves this year," said Hughey. "I will miss their hard work, leadership and dedication."

Forsan finished the year with a 9-19 overall record and a 1-8 District 8-A record.

## Forsan JH trips Coahoma at district tourney

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

Forsan's seventh-grade girls basketball team won the District 4-2A District Tournament in Hawley Saturday night after defeating Stanton in the semifinals and Coahoma in the championship game.

The Lady Buffaloes defeated Stanton 26-16 in the battle of the Buffaloes and were led in scoring by Amanda Longorio,

who finished with 13 points. Forsan jumped out to a 14-5 halftime lead before closing out Stanton in the second half.

The seventh graders then defeated Coahoma Saturday night in the title game, 35-27.

Noelle McDowell led Forsan with 13 points, while Longorio also reached double figures with 12.

Coahoma led Forsan 11-6 after one quarter, but Forsan responded in the

second frame with a 15-6 advantage. Coahoma took the lead back in the third quarter, but Forsan's 11-0 advantage in the fourth quarter was enough to capture the win.

The Forsan seventh-grade team is made up of McDowell, Longorio, Macy Briggs, Kelsey Jones, Shelby Jones, Brittny Roemer, Laura Spence and Kelsie Wallace.

They finished the season with a 10-4 record.



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde  
Garden City senior Krystal Sullivan consoles David Weishuhn on senior in between games Tuesday during the Bearkats and Lady Kats playoff clinching wins against Klondike. Weishuhn is the father of would-be Garden City senior Todd Weishuhn, who was killed in an automobile accident last April. The school honored David and wife Belinda with roses. The boy's basketball team also played Tuesday's game with a No. 31 patch on the back of each member's shoes.

## Cameron crazies help No. 8 Duke continue dominance over Carolina

By AARON BEARD

AP Sports Writer

DURHAM, N.C. (AP) — For the second straight year, Roy Williams watched as North Carolina squandered a chance to win in Cameron Indoor Stadium.

David Noel dribbled the ball out of bounds as the buzzer sounded, sealing the second-ranked Tar Heels' 71-70 loss to No. 7 Duke Wednesday night. It was their 15th loss in the last 18 meetings with the Blue Devils, and fourth in a row at Duke.

It was another painful finish for the Tar Heels

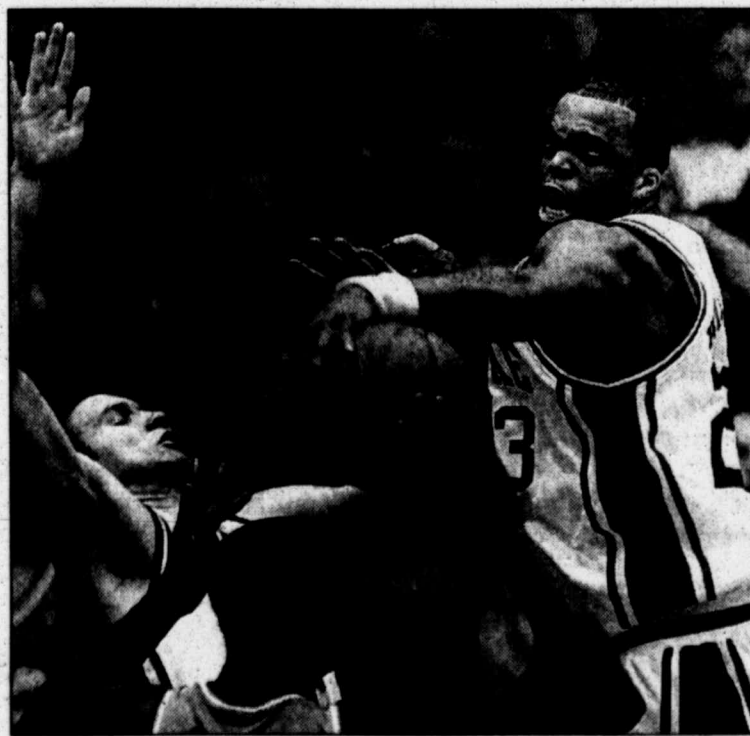
(19-3, 8-2 Atlantic Coast Conference) in an arena where they have won just once in nine years. Last season, they trailed by three points when Rashad McCants lost the ball in front of the Carolina bench with 4.4 seconds left in a 70-65 loss.

This time, they couldn't get off a final shot in a game in which they trailed most of the way.

"We'd have folded last year and got beat by 20," said Sean May, who had 23 points and 18 rebounds. "We had an opportunity to win. We just didn't make the play at the end."

The botched possession capped a night in which Duke's defense harassed Raymond Felton and the Tar Heels, who couldn't protect the ball, get out in transition or score the points that have come so easily all season.

Duke (18-2, 8-2) kept the game almost entirely in the halfcourt, slowing the pace and derailing an offense that came in averaging a national-best 92 points per game. North Carolina finished with 23 turnovers — eight coming from the normally sure-handed Felton — that led



HERALD photo/Patrick Schneider, Charlotte Observer  
Duke's Shavlik Randolph (left) and teammate Sheldon Williams work to block a shot by North Carolina's Marvin Williams in the first half of their game in Durham, North Carolina Wednesday.

See RIVALRY, Page 2B

FEB 10 2005

**IN BRIEF**

**Dallas' Nowitzki earns all-star spot**  
NEW YORK (AP) — Dwyane Wade, Manu Ginobili, Gilbert Arenas and Rashard Lewis are NBA All-Stars. Jason Kidd and Steve Francis are not — nor are any members of the Sacramento Kings.

The league's 30 coaches chose the reserves for the Feb. 20 game in Denver, rewarding several young players whose teams have exceeded expectations. The Phoenix Suns will be sending Steve Nash, Amare Stoudemire and Shawn Marion, while Cleveland, Washington and Seattle are sending two players apiece.

Ray Allen of Seattle and forward Dirk Nowitzki of Dallas rounded out the Western Conference selections. The East's other reserves are centers Zydrunas Ilgauskas of Cleveland and Ben Wallace of Detroit, forward Jermaine O'Neal of Indiana, and guard Paul Pierce of Boston. The Kings had all their players left off the All-Star team for the first time since 1989.

**High school coach sentenced after football violation**

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — A high school football coach who accepted \$150,000 from an Alabama booster to steer his standout football player to the Crimson Tide was sentenced to two years' supervised probation and 500 hours of com-

pleted \$2,500 after pleading guilty to conspiring to get defensive lineman Albert Means to sign with the Crimson Tide in 2000.

Lang, former head coach at Trezevant High in Memphis, said he took the money from wealthy businessman Logan Young to make sure Means went to Alabama.

**Patriots' Crennel hired in Cleveland**

BEREA, Ohio (AP) — New England defensive coordinator Romeo Crennel was named coach of the Cleveland Browns, agreeing to a five-year contract with the club.

The 57-year-old Crennel is the 11th full-time coach in Browns history and the team's first black coach. He's the NFL's sixth minority coach, but the only one with a Super Bowl ring for each finger of one hand.

The Browns are coming off a disastrous 4-12 season that was scuttled by major injuries and highlighted by the resignation of Butch Davis Nov. 30.

Crennel, who began his pro coaching career with the New York Giants in 1981, was Cleveland's defensive coordinator in 2000.

**WNBA awards new franchise to Chicago**

CHICAGO (AP) — The WNBA awarded an expansion team to Chicago, returning women's professional basketball to the home of the Chicago Hustle.

The Chicago team is owned by Michael Alter and will begin play in 2006. It will be the league's 14th team.

**RIVALRY**

Continued from Page 1B

to 26 points for the Blue Devils.

Instead of running with the Tar Heels, Duke held the ball on many possessions, milking time and letting J.J. Redick, DeMarcus Nelson or Daniel Ewing drive in the waning seconds of the shot clock. The strategy worked perfectly.

"They slowed us down when they got the job done on offense," Williams said. "I mean, they spread the floor and controlled the tempo that way. And in their pressure defense, there's no question that bothered us, too."

The Blue Devils committed 15 turnovers and shot just 36 percent, but built an early lead and answered every North Carolina run to keep momentum in front of a raucous crowd.

North Carolina, which trailed 36-29 at halftime, twice tied the game only to see Redick and Ewing hit 3-pointers on the following possessions.

Redick finished with 18 points and hit four 3-pointers, while Nelson provided a huge contribution with 16 points. That included two 3-pointers in a span of about 90 seconds in the second half to help Duke take a 49-42 lead. The freshman also made all four of his free throws, belying his 51 percent season average — something a despondent McCants pointed out in the locker room after the game.

"It was obvious that DeMarcus just played at a level, or even a couple of

levels, higher than he's played," Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski said. "We really needed that. To win a game like this, at times you need something that's different from what you normally do. DeMarcus did that."

After Redick missed a 3-pointer with the shot clock winding down, North Carolina got the ball with 18 seconds left. The play was designed for Felton to hit McCants on the wing or May inside, but neither was open. Felton spun away from Ewing and had an open look, but passed it up.

With the seconds ticking away, he forced a pass to Noel, who lost the ball on the sideline and sent the Cameron Craziies into an earsplitting celebration.

"It seemed like a long time, and I was just hoping that that clock went down before they got a shot off," Nelson said. "We played some great defense, and we made them try to do something that they weren't ready for."

**High school playoff basketball games at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum**

Friday, Feb. 11 (girls)  
Snyder vs. Merkel, 6 p.m.  
Sweetwater vs. Abilene  
Wylie, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 15 (girls)  
Seagraves vs. Haskell, 6 p.m.  
Smyer vs. Hamlin, 8 p.m.

\*more games will be announced when schools confirm.

**COAHOMA**

Continued from Page 1B

Coahoma (18-10, 5-3) trailed by five after the first quarter but a 16-13 advantage in the second quarter cut its deficit to two.

"We played hard, but missed some opportunities and ran into foul trouble," said Coahoma coach Kim Nichols.

Senior Isaac Brewer led



the Bulldogs with 18 points. Seniors Tyler Fowler and Adrian Abrego scored nine and seven points, respectively.

Han Ollison had 18 points to lead the Wolves. Coahoma still stands in

second place in District 4-2A with two games to go. Anson holds a three game lead and has locked up the district title, while Stanton and Colorado City — both 4-4 — are tied for the third and final playoff spot.

The Bulldogs will try to move one step closer to the playoffs Friday when they host last place Hawley in Coahoma. The game will begin at 7:30 p.m.



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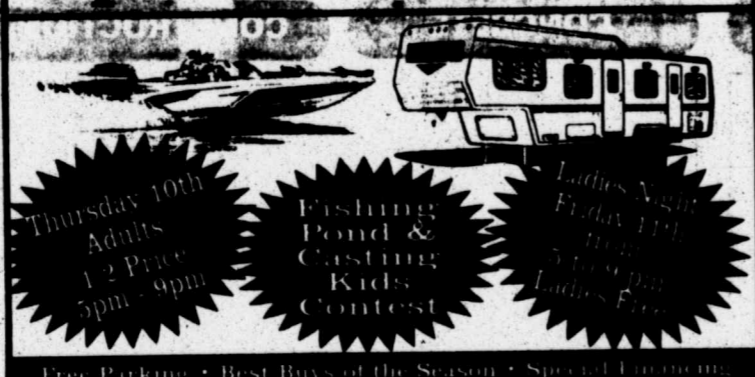
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FEB 10 2005

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THURSDAY

FEB. 10

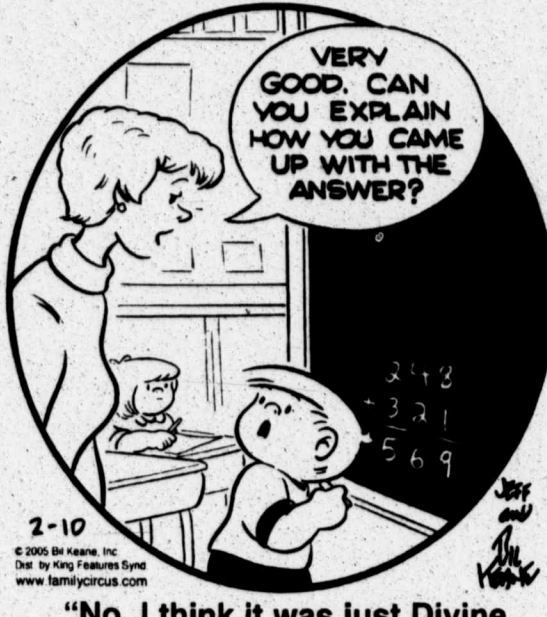
Table listing TV channels (WFAA, KMD, UNI, etc.) and their corresponding programs for Thursday, Feb 10, 2005.

DENNIS THE MENACE



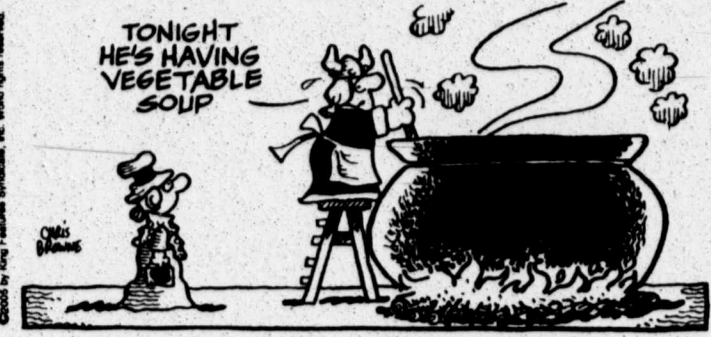
"Okay, this time I'll be the traffic cop, and you can be my mom."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"No, I think it was just Divine intervention."

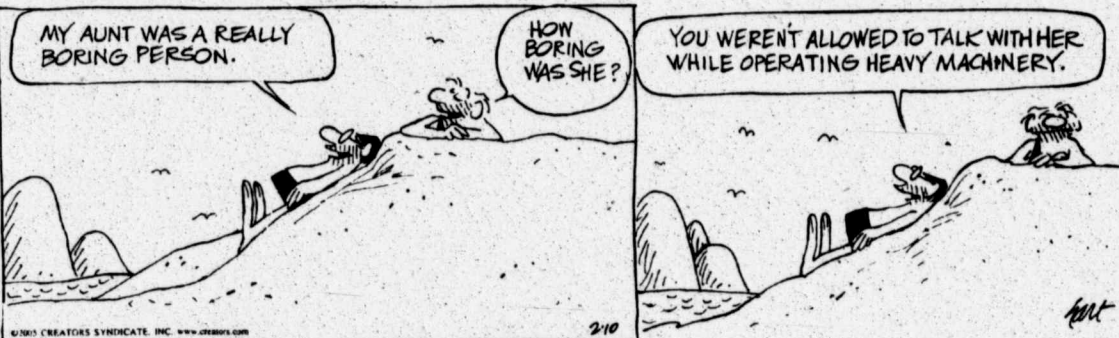
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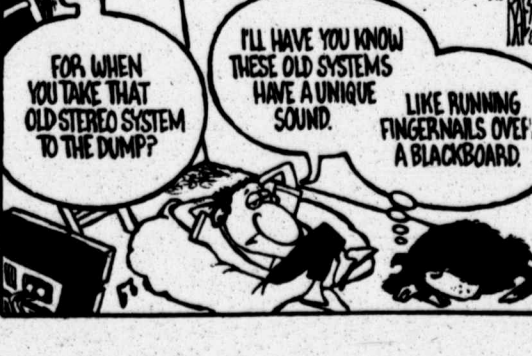
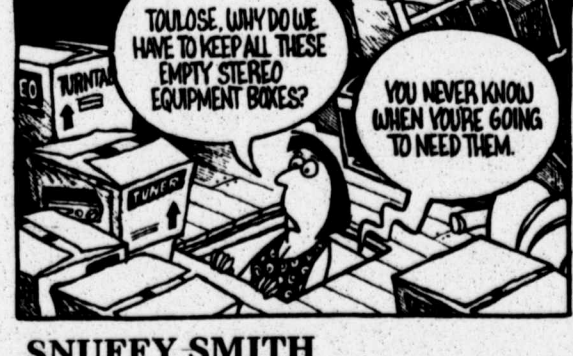
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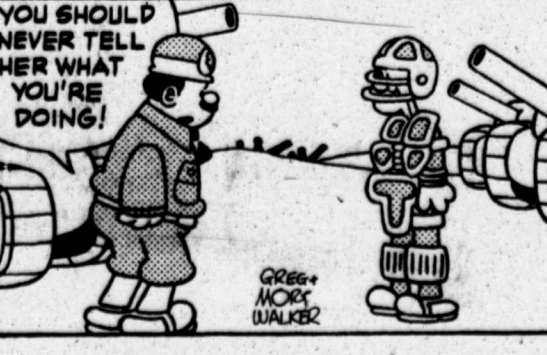
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Feb. 10, the 41st day of 2005. There are 324 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 10, 1967, the 25th Amendment to the Constitution, dealing with presidential disability and succession, went into effect.

On this date:

In 1763, France ceded Canada to England under the Treaty of Paris, which ended the French and Indian War.

In 1840, Britain's Queen Victoria married Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha.

In 1846, members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, the Mormons, began an exodus to the west from Illinois.

In 1942, the former French

liner "Normandie" capsized in New York Harbor a day after it caught fire while being refitted for the U.S. Navy.

In 1942, RCA Victor presented Glenn Miller and his Orchestra with a "gold record" for their recording of "Chattanooga Choo Choo," which had sold more than one million copies.

In 1949, Arthur Miller's play "Death of a Salesman" opened at Broadway's Morosco Theater.

In 1962, the Soviet Union captured American U-2 pilot Francis Gary Powers for Rudolph Ivanovich Abel, a Soviet spy held by the United States.

In 1968, Peggy Fleming of the United States won the gold medal in ladies' figure skating at the Winter Olympic Games in Grenoble, France.

In 1981, eight people were killed, 198 injured, when fire broke out at the Las Vegas Hilton hotel-casino.

In 1989, Ron Brown was elected chairman of the

National Committee, becoming the first black to head a major U.S. political party.

Today's Birthdays: Opera singer Leontyne Price is 78. Actor Robert Wagner is 75. Singer Roberta Flack is 66. Singer Jimmy Merchant (Frankie Lyman and the Teenagers) is 65. Olympic gold-medal swimmer Mark Spitz is 55. Country singer Lionel Cartwright is 45. Movie director Alexander Payne ("Sideways") is 44. ABC's "This Week" host George Stephanopoulos is 44. Actress Laura Dern is 38. Country singer Dude Mowrey is 33.

Answer to previous puzzle: SLAM, SPIN, SCRAP, COLA, POGO, TIARA, AGER, ANON, EDGER, ROCKANDROLL, AAA, ELI, SALEM, NASTIEST, PADUAN, ODE, ALERTS, IFSO, REAMS, ROO, LEFTS, ALBA, TATTOO, TIRE, HAIRDO, SOPRANOS, SCIENT, ENT, OFF, FIRECRACKER, ROUTE, ELLA, ONTO, ONION, ABIT, SEND, METED, TAPE, TEAS

Newsday Crossword

CATTLE CALL by Doug Peterson  
Edited by Stanley Newman  
www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS
1 Quick tug
5 Transcript stats.
9 Japanese noodles
14 K2's continent
15 Pennsylvania port
16 WWII sub
17 Drake or gander
18 Group standard
19 Mythical maiden
20 Informal discussions
23 Raw rock
24 Bowling-alley buttons
28 Katmandu resident
32 Dutch South African
34 Break bread
35 Figure skater's leap
36 Achilles tendon neighbor
39 Inside the Third Reich author
41 Crash sound
42 "Balderdash!"
43 Locomotive attachment
46 Painter Magritte
47 Enzyme ending
48 H. Perot
49 Jeopardy! clue
51 Land, as a fish
53 Washington's bill
54 Shy away from
61 Island near Maui
64 Earth goddess
65 Apt rhyme for toil
66 Social Register people
67 Small fly
68 Propel a gondola
69 Milk holder
70 Trig ratio
71 Charon's river
DOWN
1 Doorway side
2 Biblical twin
3 Small brook
4 Film critic
5 Not brand-name
6 Everyday language
7 Snootiness
8 Big rig
9 Silver-medal recipient
10 Immeasurable depth
11 Popular tattoo
12 "The Gold Bug" monogram
13 Utmost degree
21 Our sun
22 Utah city
25 Avoid
26 New Orleans university
27 Vesuvius, at times
28 Auto racers' org.
29 Bring to light
30 Reese of baseball
31 Billy Baldwin's brother
32 Oldtrums
33 "All \_\_\_" (Sinatra tune)
37 Basic lessons
38 Bygone political divs.
40 Some collectibles
44 Vocal quality
45 Missed the bus, perhaps
50 Society page word
52 Exams for future D.A.'s
53 Indian, for one
55 Quiche ingredients
56 Punjabi princess
57 Concert tour's load
58 Plant anchor
59 Overly suave
60 Bodybuilder's move
61 Turkey helping
62 Totally
63 Vardalos or Peeples

13x13 crossword grid with starting numbers 1 through 71.

FEB 10 2005

# That's Racin'

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

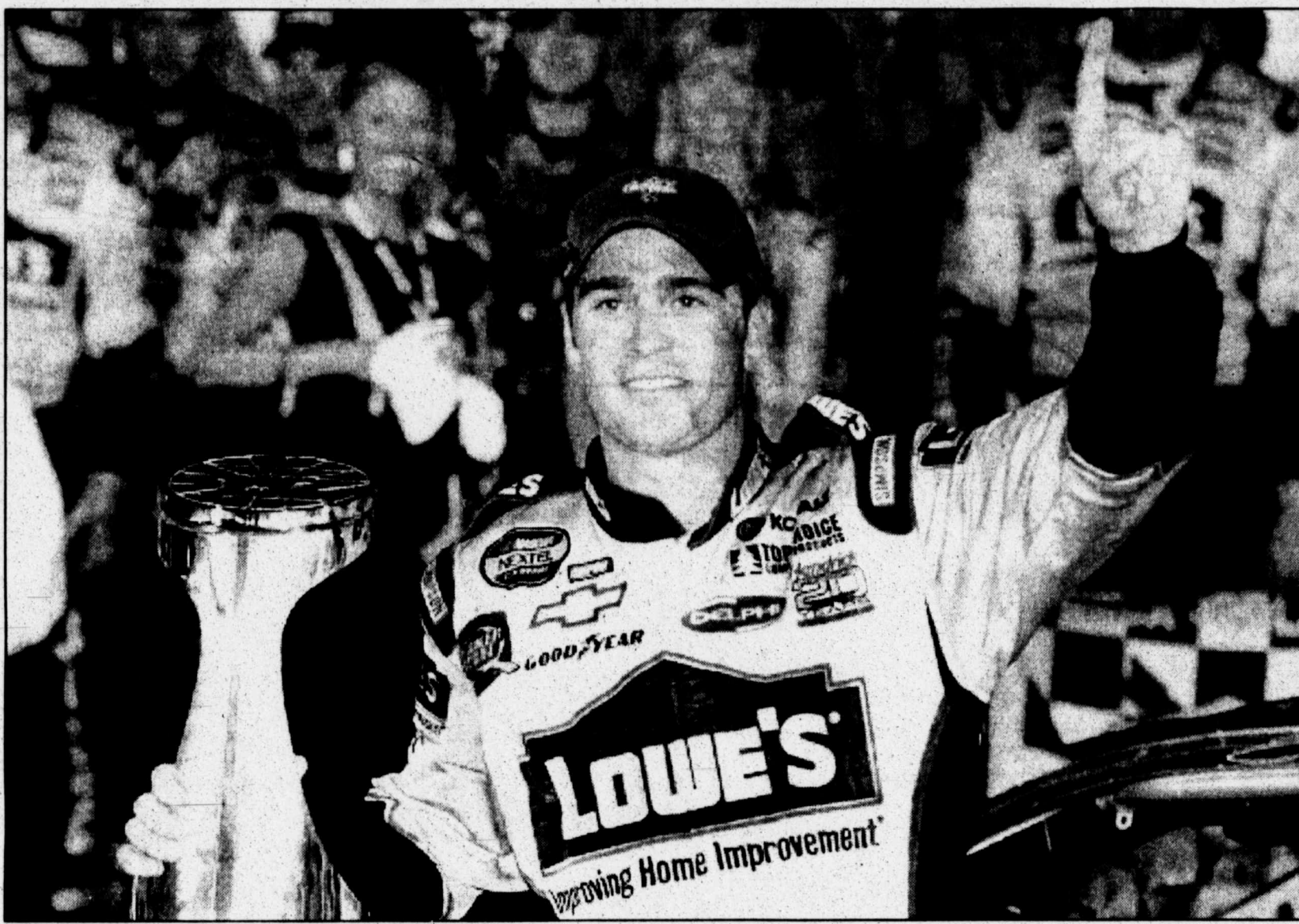
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DAVID HINSHAW/KRT

After finishing second in the points standings two years in a row, Jimmie Johnson (No. 1 in the rankings) could win the Nextel Cup title in 2005.

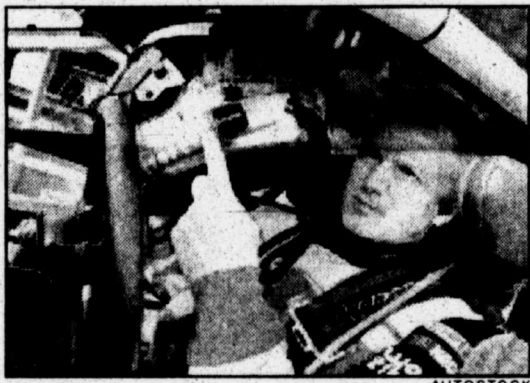
## Season forecast

Ranking the potential of Nextel Cup's top race teams

By DAVID POOLE  
Knight Ridder Newspapers

**T**hat's Racin's David Poole ranks the top 25 teams going into the 2005 NASCAR Nextel Cup season. Rankings are based on the entire team's potential for success in the upcoming season, not merely on the driver.

- 1 **Jimmie Johnson (car No. 48):** No disrespect intended to the defending champion, but this team appears ready to kick down the door it has been knocking on for the past two years. Last year's final ranking: 2.
- 2 **Kurt Busch (car No. 97):** Frankly, it's doubtful that this team will finish the season this high. But you have to give these guys at least this much respect for what they accomplished in 2004. Last year's final ranking: 1.
- 3 **Jeff Gordon (car No. 24):** Some believe the Chase format cost Gordon a fifth title in 2004. It's not that simple, and in the long run the new system will give him more shots at adding more titles. Last year's final ranking: 3.
- 4 **Tony Stewart (car No. 20):** Good enough to make the Chase again, but without improvement this team won't win the title. Last year's final ranking: 7.
- 5 **Ryan Newman (car No. 12):** Last year's pre-season favorites didn't quite put it together in '04. They'll come closer this time. Last year's final ranking: 8.
- 6 **Matt Kenseth (car No. 17):** It's hard to imagine this team getting far enough off kilter to miss making the Chase. Last year's final ranking: 9.
- 7 **Dale Earnhardt Jr. (car No. 8):** Offseason changes make this team the most difficult one to forecast of the elite group. Last year's final ranking: 4.



Ricky Rudd (No. 22 in the rankings) and his one-car Wood Bros. team face stiff competition.

- 8 **Kasey Kahne (car No. 9):** There is major upside potential for this second-year driver and his expertly led team. Last year's final ranking: 11.
- 9 **Jamie McMurray (car No. 42):** Chip Ganassi Racing needs this car to lead it back toward running with the big boys. Last year's final ranking: 6.
- 10 **Mark Martin (car No. 6):** We could have put a lot of guys in the final Chase spot, but we went for the sentimental pick. Last year's final ranking: 5.
- 11 **Elliott Sadler (car No. 38):** Last year's breakout team has a better chance of returning to the Chase than some think. Last year's final ranking: 10.
- 12 **Greg Biffle (car No. 16):** Only team to win more than one race and not make the Chase in '04. Consistency's the issue. Last year's final ranking: 12.
- 13 **Jeremy Mayfield (car No. 19):** Could join Kahne in Chase if the changes at Everham Motorsports take root effectively. Last year's final ranking: 14.
- 14 **Bobby Labonte (car No. 18):** It's hard to believe the malaise that hit Joe Gibbs Racing in '04 will hang on for another year. Last year's final ranking: 15.

- 15 **Dale Jarrett (car No. 88):** He and teammate Sadler could push each other higher up on this list by season's end. Last year's final ranking: 19.
- 16 **Michael Waltrip (car No. 15):** Waltrip better make this prediction look too low or it seems certain he'll be off DEI's roster in 2006. Last year's final ranking: 23.
- 17 **Rusty Wallace (car No. 2):** Perhaps it will be his turn to have a big "last hurrah" as he celebrates his "Last Call." Last year's final ranking: 16.
- 18 **Kevin Harvick (car No. 29):** Richard Childress Racing needs to prove that this is far too low for its top team to be. Last year's final ranking: 17.
- 19 **Joe Nemechek (car No. 01):** If you're still looking for a dark horse team this far down, maybe you just found it. Last year's final ranking: 13.
- 20 **Carl Edwards (car No. 99):** It's pretty sure that if we're wrong on this one it'll be that we've got him too low. Last year's final ranking: 18.
- 21 **Jeff Burton (car No. 31):** He could be the year's big surprise. If we ranked him higher, it wouldn't be a surprise. Last year's final ranking: 20.
- 22 **Ricky Rudd (car No. 21):** Nobody will work harder, but battling the mega-teams is tough. Last year's final ranking: 22.
- 23 **Casey Mears (car No. 41):** Mears needs to shed the "potential" label and convert it into some solid on-track results. Last year's final ranking: 21.
- 24 **Sterling Marlin (car No. 40):** As with other veterans, the Wallace-Martin-Terry Labonte exit strategies put this driver on the clock. Last year's final ranking: 25.
- 25 **Brian Vickers (car No. 05):** Lessons learned in a trying rookie season will begin to pay off for Vickers in 2005. Last year's final ranking: 27.

### THIS WEEK'S RACE

#### BUDWEISER SHOOTOUT

**Where:** Daytona International Speedway, a 2.5-mile paved highly-banked tri-oval located in Daytona Beach, Fla.  
**When:** Saturday at 8 p.m. (ET).  
**TV:** Fox.  
**Radio:** Motor Racing Network.  
**Purse:** TBA. (In 2004, it was \$213,000 to winner.)  
**Last year's winner:** Dale Jarrett.  
**Also this week:** The Automobile Racing Club of America series opens its 2005 season with its annual stop at Daytona, preceding the Budweiser Shootout. Frank Kimmel won the series championship last season, his sixth title and fifth consecutive.  
Nextel Cup qualifying for the starting row of the 2005 Daytona 500 is Sunday.



Jarrett

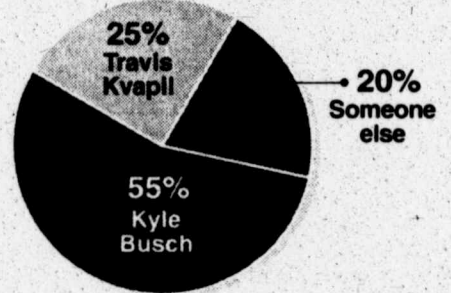
### POLL POSITION

#### THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

Who will win the 2005 Budweiser Shootout?  
Cast your vote at:  
[www.thatstracin.com](http://www.thatstracin.com)

#### LAST WEEK'S QUESTION

Who'll be the 2005 Nextel Cup rookie of the year?  
Number of votes: 4,709



### BY THE NUMBERS

#### 2005 NEXTEL CUP SCHEDULE

The dates and tracks for the coming season:

Date	Race
Feb. 12	Daytona International Speedway*
Feb. 17	Daytona International Speedway**
Feb. 20	Daytona International Speedway
Feb. 27	California Speedway
March 13	Las Vegas Motor Speedway
March 20	Atlanta Motor Speedway
April 3	Bristol Motor Speedway
April 10	Martinsville Speedway
April 17	Texas Motor Speedway
April 23	Phoenix International Raceway
May 1	Talladega Superspeedway
May 7	Darlington Raceway
May 14	Richmond International Raceway
May 21	Lowe's Motor Speedway*
May 29	Lowe's Motor Speedway
June 5	Dover International Speedway
June 12	Pocono Raceway
June 19	Michigan International Speedway
June 26	Infinity Raceway
July 2	Daytona International Speedway
July 10	Chicagoland Speedway
July 17	New Hampshire Int'l Speedway
July 24	Pocono Raceway
Aug. 7	Indianapolis Motor Speedway
Aug. 14	Watkins Glen International
Aug. 21	Michigan International Speedway
Aug. 27	Bristol Motor Speedway
Sept. 4	California Speedway
Sept. 10	Richmond International Raceway
Sept. 18	New Hampshire Int'l Speedway
Sept. 25	Dover International Speedway
Oct. 2	Talladega Superspeedway
Oct. 9	Kansas Speedway
Oct. 15	Lowe's Motor Speedway
Oct. 23	Martinsville Speedway
Oct. 30	Atlanta Motor Speedway
Nov. 6	Texas Motor Speedway
Nov. 13	Phoenix International Raceway
Nov. 20	Homestead-Miami Speedway

\* Denotes a non-points event  
\*\* Denotes Daytona 500 qualifying event

## Forget IROC, the Rolex 24 at Daytona was a true all-star event

The International Race of Champions? Forget about it, they've already had it.

The four-race IROC series that will be held at various sites throughout the 2005 season has one of its most diverse fields in recent memory, but nothing close to the amalgamation of talent that graced Daytona International Speedway over the weekend for the Rolex 24 sports car race.

There are only 12 drivers in the IROC field. There were at least that many champions from other series who were dabbling in America's most prestigious road racing event last Saturday and Sunday at the same place where NASCAR's season ramps up this week.

It's probably a good thing for the Grand American Series, the group that

sanctions the Rolex 24, that a team of road racing regulars, Max Angelelli, Wayne Taylor and Emmanuel Collard, wound up as the overall winners.

NASCAR star Jimmie Johnson was part of the second-place team, along with the ageless Elliott Forbes-Robinson from Sherrill's Ford and Butch Leitzinger.

Tony Stewart, joined by Andy Wallace and Jan Lammers, had to settle for third overall after leading for much of the race. A gearbox problem in their car, which has a chassis from Denver, N.C.-based Max Crawford's

operation, doomed their shot at winning. Jamie McMurray was on the fourth-place team. Casey Mears, Bobby Labonte, Terry Labonte, Kurt Busch, Matt Kenseth and Greg Biffle also raced in the marathon, as did a constellation of stars from the Indy Racing League and

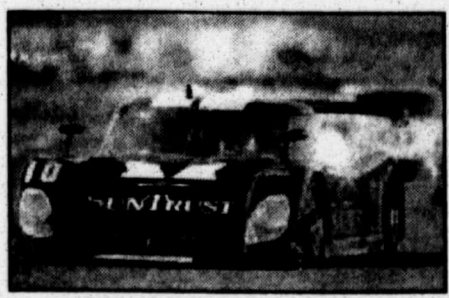
Champ Car series.

"I could feel the difference from last year to this year as far as intensity and pace," said Stewart, who was driving in the same car a year ago when a suspension failure less than 20 minutes from the checkered flag cost his team a victory. "Everybody seemed to be flat out and everybody was running a pretty strong pace all day. It made for a fun race. You didn't feel like you were out just riding around. You were giving it 98 or 99 percent the whole time."

Speed Channel provided 14 hours of remarkable live coverage of the event, and based on what you could tell from that, the NASCAR guys seemed to acquaint themselves quite nicely.

The Kenseth-Busch-Biffle group had three axle failures in their Ford effort, and the car finally gave up the ghost about a half-hour from the finish with Biffle at the helm.

"I learned a lot," Biffle said. "I learned what we need to do for next



The No. 10 Pontiac Riley team of Wayne Taylor, Emmanuel Collard and Max Angelelli won the 2005 Rolex 24.

year. It would be tough to keep me out of one of these cars. These guys are going to work on this car some and find out the problems with the axels and I think we're going to be in the hunt."

Scott Maxwell, the road-racing specialist who worked with the trio of Roush Racing drivers, had nothing but kind words for his teammates.

"The way we meshed has been a lot of fun, and a bit of a surprise because

these guys are superstars," Maxwell said. "With all due respect, I'm just a journeyman sports car driver who is just trying to plug out a career. These guys are huge, but they're so down to earth and levelheaded. I don't think I've ever laughed this much at a racetrack."

Rusty Wallace has already said he wants to drive in the Rolex 24 next year after he steps out of Nextel Cup competition, and the folks at Dale Earnhardt Inc. are already talking about putting together an effort featuring Dale Earnhardt Jr.

Two years ago, after the Grand American Series rewrote the rulebook for the Rolex 24, only six of the Daytona Prototypes that make up the top class in the event showed up. This year, there were 29 of them entered. Give the car and engine builders another season of development on the cars as the series runs the rest of its schedule and the 2006 event figures to be even more competitive and star-studded.