Staulcup in

District 3

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E. V. Spence

So

THURSDAY

February 10, 2005

WEATHER

Tonight:



TONIGHT TOMORROW 34°-36° 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. Cashand-carry items are already available at Howard College, First **Bank of West Texas** and Citizens Federal Credit Union. Prices range from \$10 to \$35.

For more information, call (432) 268-7536 or 268-7533.

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. Not only does he still live in Chelsea, Mich., but he also has a theater group there to help support other actors.

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Vol. 101, No. 63

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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 reelection - Stephanie Horton in



Staulcup

Horton lengers have filed, city officials

The same is true at Big Spring Independent School District, incumbents Irene

District 1 Partee (District 3) are the only and Joanne people to announce their candidacies.

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

candida-Three spots on the Coahoma no city council are open this year, chal. 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 Bustamante (District 1) and Alan Metcalf also are up for election See FILING, Page 5A

CRMWD Continuous Water Monitoring System

Sonde data via modem

Pump control

Colorado Riv

Pump station

and tribut

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

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

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

CRMWD General Manager installed new, continuous water John Grant said the partnership monitoring systems at two between the district and the state

of Texas is beneficial for everyone involved.

Low water dam

"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.

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

"We were at a point when we See WATER, Page 5A



KRT photo/Red Huber, Orlando Sentino

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

Deputy killed, 2 wounded in Florida; suspect captured

(KRT) - A man who police say ambushed three Lake County sheriff's deputies, killing one, was captured at dusk Wednesday in the Ocala

LAKE KATHRYN, Fla. daylong manhunt involving more than 500 offi-

Jason Lee Wheeler, 29, of Lake Kathryn, was apprehended after a gunbattle in a wooded area National Forest after a about six miles from his See DEPUTY, Page 5A

Wheeler was wounded and his injuries appeared to be worse than initially thought, sheriff's Capt. Nick Pallitto said.

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. ..."

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 lowkey 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, onstage experience to boost their self-esteem, have fun and help in community-wide event. Parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles get to show off their pre-

cious 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; secondplace 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.

Entry deadline: 5 p.m. Friday.

To enter: Contact Linda

Billington or Jacque Moore at 267-8216. Entry fee is \$10.

Obituaries

Cordie Oaks

Cordie Oaks, 97, of Ackerly died Wednesday, Feb. 9, 2005, in a local hospital. Graveside funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, Feb. 11, 2005, at the Peace Chapel at Trinity Memorial Park with Billy Garrett Reed officiating.

She was born Nov. 30, 1907, in Whitt and married Edd Oaks Dec. 25, 1928, in Ackerly. He preceded her in

death Aug. 17, 1971.

Mrs. Oaks moved to Ackerly in December 1923 with her family. She and her late husband had farmed in the Ackerly area for many years. She loved to spend time searching for arrowheads and reading. She was a Methodist and sang in the church choir.

Survivors include her daughter and son-in-law, Gracie and Bill Brown of Ackerly; one sister, Inez Bearden of Big Spring; one grandson, Terry Brown of Ackerly; two great-grandchildren, Billy Bob Brown and D'Nae Acevedo, both of Lubbock; three great-greatgrandchildren, Colten Acevedo, Ashlyn Acevedo and Lauren Grace Reyna, all of Lubbock.

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

Paid obituary

Floyd Hale

Floyd Hale, 80, of Westbrook died Wednesday, Feb. 9, 2005, in a Lubbock hospital. Services are 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 12, 2005, in the Kiker-Seale Chapel with Clark Johnson and Archie Scarborough officiating. Burial will follow in the Westbrook Cemetery.

He was born Aug. 22, 1924, in Hamilton County to James W. and Euphie Merchant Hale, had been a resident of Westbrook since 1977 and was a veteran of the U.S. Army during World War II. He married LaVada Moore Sept. 1, 1946 in Roscoe. He was a member of the Plainview Church of Christ.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a son, Wendell Hale, a sister, Ruby Miles, two brothers, R.J. Hale and Bob Hale, and a great-grandson, Jason Ginkinger.

He is survived by his wife, LaVada Hale of Westbrook; three daughters, Donna Ginkinger, Diane Petty and Pansy Fernandez, all of Westbrook; three sons, Donnie Hale, Eddie Hale and Ray Hale, all of Westbrook; two sisters, Pearl Claxton of Sweetwater and Dean Wemkin of Hermleigh; 15 grandchildren; and 16 great-grandchildren.

The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. today at the funeral home.

Arrangements are under the direction of Kiker-Seale

Funeral Home.

William Ervin Smith

William Ervin Smith, 49, of Jasper, Ga., died Monday, Feb. 7, 2005. Funeral services are 2 p.m. Firday, Feb. 11, 2005, in the chapel of Roper Funeral Home. Internment will follow in Lake Forest Memorial Park in Georgia.

He is survived by his wife, Betty Anderson Smith of Jasper, Ga.; daughters and sons-in-law, Brandy and Jason Wolfe of USAF, England and Wendy Smith of Marble Hill, Ga.; stepson and daughter-in-law, Chris and Michelle Henry of Bowling Green, Ky.; stepdaughters and sons-in-law, Lorie and Joey Fleming of Jasper, Ga., and Lisa Parker and Jim Fields of Jasper, Ga.; mother and stepfather, Grace and Don Karns of Big Spring; father and stepmother, Tom and Mildred Smith of Jasper, Ga.; brothers, Keith and Debi Smith of Big Spring and Phillip and Becky Smith of Big Spring, Kim Karns of Annaston, Ala., Cary Karns of Big Spring, Rocky Karns of Willington, Ala. and Dale Karns of Jacksonville, Ala.; sister, Sharon and Chris Rose of Lubbock; an aunt and uncle; and five grandchildren.

Arrangements are under the direction of Roper

Funeral Home in Jasper, Ga.

Louise M. Clark

Louise M. Clark 84, of San Angelo, formerly of Big Spring, died Wednesday Feb. 9, 2005, in a local hospi-

She was born July 25, 1920, in Calhoun, Ga.

Survivors include two sons, David Clark of San Angelo and Robert Clark of Abilene; three grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and a sister, Mary Brown of Summerville, Ga.

□ ADOPTION AND FOSTER FAMILY CARE 216. Application deadline is April 15. INFORMATION MEETING is 7 p.m. Tuesday in the Texas Department of Family and Regulatory Services, 2525 N. Grandview in Odessa. Call Iris Hall-Sanders, foster home developer, at 432-686-2273.

□ BALLOON-A-GRAMS FOR SALE BY THE YOUTH OF COLLEGE PARK CHURCH OF GOD from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. Saturday and from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. Monday for \$5 with free delivery. Order at the church's west entrance, 603 Tulane. Proceeds benefit Youth World Evangelism Action Project Ireland Ministry. Call 267-8593.

□ EAGLES LODGE AUXILIARY ITALIAN FOOD SUPPER begins at 7 p.m. Friday and continues until all the food is gone. Cost is \$5 per plate. The lodge is located at 703 W. Third. Call 263-6862.

□ PROM MEETING FOR ALL PARENTS OF JUNIOR CLASS STUDENTS is 7 p.m. today in the Big Spring High School library. Call Cindy New at 264-4144 ot 267-6237 with any questions.

D HOWARD COUNTY A&M CLUB SCHOLAR-SHIP APPLICATIONS FOR 2005-2006 are being accepted. Applications may be obtained from Mike or Jeane Niklasch at 1409 E. Highway 350 or by calling the club president, Dr. Tom Dawson at 267-7911, ext.

Letha McGrath

Letha McGrath, 85, of Big Spring died Wednesday, Feb. 9, 2005, in a local nursing home. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Lynda Davis

Lynda Davis, 53, of Big Spring died Wednesday, Feb. 9, 2005, in a Midland hospital. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Police blotter

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

• DELMA ZAMORA, 34, 2501 Gunter Cir., was arrested on a charge of driving while license suspend-

 ISHELL WARD, 36, 1501 Lincoln St., was placed on hold for the Howard County Sheriff's Office.

JESSE ROY PEREZ, 37, 407 Sunset, was arrested on local warrants and Howard County warrants. ASSAULT/FAMILY VIOLENCE was reported on

the 900 block of E. Interstate 20. CRIMINAL TRESPASS was reported on the 1500 block of Stadium Street.

•DRIVING WHILE LICENSE SUSPENDED/INVALID was reported on the 2400 block of Gregg Street.

 FRAUDULENT USE/POSSESSION OF IDENTI-FYING INFORMATION was reported on the 300 block of N.W. Ninth Street.

Sheriff's report

The Howard County Sheriff's Office reported the following activity between 8 a.m. Wednesday and 8 a.m.

 DORIS VALENTINE, 44, was transferred from the Big Spring Police Department after being arrested on a Taylor County warrant.

· DELMA ZAMORA, 24, was transferred from the BSPD after being arrested on a charge of driving while license suspended.

 ISHELL LOVETTE-WARD, 36, was arrested on a charge of bondsman off bond for failure to stop and render aid.

JACKIE DOYLE RICHEY, 42, was arrested on charges of unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon and assault/family violence.

 DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE was reported on the 200 block of E. Fourth St.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 3-16-27-30-34. Number matching five of five: 1. Prize per winner: \$38,007. Winning tickets sold in: Gonzales. Next Cash 5 drawing: Thursday night.

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 6-16-23-35-36. Bonus Ball:

Estimated jackpot for Saturday night drawing: \$8 million.

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

Weather

Tonight...Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of rain. Patchy Fog. Lows in the mid 30s. South winds around 10 mph.

Friday...Cloudy with a 50 percent chance of rain. Highs around 50. South winds 10 to 15 mph. Friday night...Cloudy with a 50 percent chance of rain. Patchy Fog. Lows around 40. Southeast winds around 10 mph.

Saturday...Cloudy with a 50 percent chance of rain. Highs in the Upper 50s. South winds 10 to 20 mph.

Take note

ODYSSEY HEALTHCARE BAKE SALE set to begin at 11 a.m. Friday in the lobby of Scenic Mountain Medical. Proceeds to benefit the Tsunami relief efforts, Habitat For Humanity International and Feed the Children. Odyssey Healthcare will match all donations. For more information, call Maira Garvin with Odyssey Healthcare at 213-0431.

□ DEREK CHURCHWELL MEMORIAL SCHOL-ARSHIP has been established at Howard College. Donations may be made to the Howard College Foundation in care of Jan Foresyth, 1001 Birdwell Lane. Designate the Derek Churchwell Scholarship Fund.



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-

· Friends of the Library meets at noon in the Howard County Library, 500 S. Main.

· Big Spring Main Street meets at noon in the Railroad Museum located at Second and Main

· League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) Chapter 4791 regular meeting at 6 p.m. in the Big Spring YMCA meeting room. Anyone interested in becoming a member is welcome to come. For more information, contact Isabel Calderon at 466-

· American Legion Auxiliary meets at 6 p.m. at 3203 W. Highway 80.

• The Prospector's Club meets at 7:30 p.m. at 606 E. Third St. The public is invited to these meetings. For more information contact Lola Lamb at 263-3340 or Doyle and Virginia McClain at 263-8407.

 Masonic Lodge 598 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 2101 Lancaster.

· Masonic Lodge 1340 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 219 Main St.

· Neighbors and Newcomers Club meets. New members are welcome. Call 263-2005 for more information.

 Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at 1019 Nolan St. Call 267-1037 or 267-

 AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant. Greater Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell

· Spring City Senior Citizen's Center country and western dance from 7:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. All area senior citizens are invited.

SATURDAY

 Howard County Scottish Rite Club meets at 7:30 a.m. at the Masonic Lodge located at 21st and Lancaster streets. Breakfast is served.

• Free eye glasses are available from 9 a.m. until 11:45 a.m. in the Event Center, 1607 E. Third.

• Eagles Lodge Dance at 8:30 p.m. at 703 W. Third.

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

 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

• Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5 p.m. in the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, 306 W. Third, for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 1-800-392-8677 or 263-0391 or 263-1758.

• Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. TX 1756 meets at 5:30 p.m. Monday in the 11th and Birdwell Lane Church of Christ. A different program is offered every week, and anyone 7 years old or older is welcome to attend. Please enter through the northwest door. Call 263-2786 for more information.

· Evening Lions Club meets at 6:30 p.m. in the La Posada Restaurant.

 DAV and Auxiliary Chapter 47 meets at 6:30 p.m. at 610 Abrams St.

· Christian Singles Fellowship meets from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church Youth Hall. All singles in the community are invited for an evening of fellowship, food and table games.

 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, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

· 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. · Big Spring Band Boosters meets at 5:30 p.m. in the

high school band hall. All band parents are invited to attend.

· Big Spring Shrine Club meets at 6:30 p.m. for dinner with a meeting to follow at 1st and Goliad streets. All Masons are welcome to attend.

BIG 7 SPRING TIL www.bigspringherald.com

Reflecting A Proud Community 432-263-7331

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The Forsan High ! **University Intersch**

Forsan

Herald Staff Rep

The Forsan H Interscholastic I ing at the Abilen end came home v trophy. Member medals and poin

 Levi Johnson culator, third p and a third in he Audrey Mo

place in number

By JESSE J. HOL

Associated Pres WASHINGTO The Senate app nearing a final bill that wo **President Bush** top second-term by shifting ma action lawsuits

to federal courts By successfull off Democrati ments Wednes **GOP-controlled** has so far pre agreement w Republican-c House to move t

If senators (the carefully mised measure without allow change, the Ho to pass it next quickly get it t his signature.

tion through ur

Bush is urgin to pass the mea out changing t he is ready to s

Robbery s **EULESS (AP**

bery suspect v after leaving hi the store coun then going to station to pick Joseph Fahn of Arlington, r the Euless Ci



Coahoma E Coal



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 unsul-

lied defense witness.

Police say the investigation into what really happened in Sperlik's classrooms over a six-year period ending in 2003 is ber 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 alleged abuse the 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 behav-

"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." continuing and the num. 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 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, 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.

amend the bill," Bush that it represents the best contend federal judges If this legislation passes, said Wednesday of the that can be done to solve routinely dismiss class those case will have Democratic efforts. what is a real problem in action suits that deal with nowhere to be heard, 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 multistate 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 lawvers sometimes threaten companies with class action suits just to get quick financial settle-

"This bill, like most, is restrictions.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif.

Opponents of the bill say it is aimed at helping businesses escape multimillion-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.

from the legislation's

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

"That's code word for our legal system," said multistate law, saying since state courts will be that applying more than banned from hearing one state's law to a case them, they said.

"They're trying to not perfect. But I believe The bill's opponents makes it too unwieldily.



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Robbery suspect caught after leaving his wallet in store

bery suspect was caught after leaving his wallet on the store counter — and then going to the police station to pick it up.

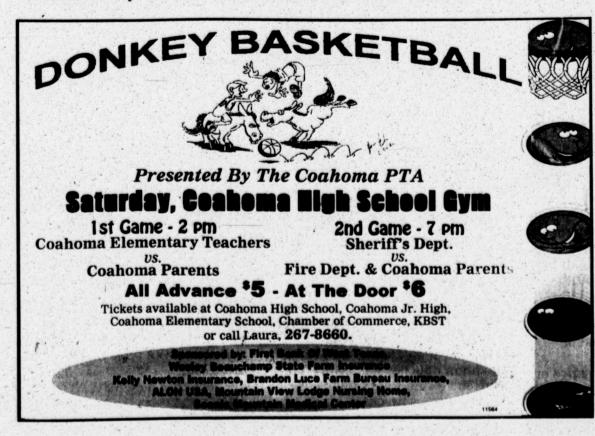
Joseph Fahnbulleh, 22, of Arlington, remained in the Euless City Jail on him someone had found

EULESS (AP) — A rob- Thursday night with bail it. set at § 0,000. 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

"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



ROBERT

NOVAK

"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.

Managing Editor

Bill McClellan News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Public must educate itself on Bush plan

he 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 accountholders 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

ep. 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 deduc-

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

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.

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HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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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 loaf and none, the

choice between half a 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 sun-

less 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 twothirds 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 bud-

"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.

The club's Keating is a Reaganite, too. "If there's anything that Republicans agree on, if there's a common thread, it's Reaganite economic policies, progrowth policies and fiscal responsibility," Keating continued. "If a Republican doesn't vote that way, I don't see anything wrong" with backing another Republican in a primary.

I know what's wrong with it. The club posts members of the House and Senate whom it deems to be RINOs (Republicans in Name Only) because they voted against the club on a particular bill.

By the club's own definition, Ronald Reagan could be a RINO. As governor, Reagan raised taxes. And you know what: When he did, he was a better lawmaker than the California GOP purists who kept their no tax-hike pledge but without cutting spending. They were pure as they borrowed the state into oblivion.

I've known David Keating for years. I respect him tremendously, and I agree with him on private savings accounts. But what the club is doing with this latest campaign shows what is wrong with politics these days. This campaign may not use critical language, but its underlying message is that lawmakers shouldn't sweat the details, shouldn't deal with the other side and don't even have to think.

To be a good Republican in the eyes of the Club for Growth is to take a stand and cleave to it, even if it means borrowing instead of cutting or even if it means, as far as we know, supporting bad Social Security reform.

E-mail Debra J. Saunders at dsaunders@sfchronicle.com. To find out more about Debra J. Saunders, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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GAMBLE

Continued from Page

BIG SPRING HE

Thursday, Feb

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DEPUTY

Continued from Page

Police tracked bloodhounds that scent. Wheeler h but authorities sa immediately know had been hit dur ing shootout or l captured.

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

Continued from Pag

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FILING Continued from Page

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board seat curre

by Marty Whets

up for election the

RAZZ

Continued from Pa

with ice crear from the Dairy North Lamesa H Entry fee is child. VHS tap pageant will be for \$7. Spectato \$2 per person. younger than 6 are admitted charge. Picture be available.

All proceeds t American Cance "The most v







GAMBLE

Continued from Page 1A

islation 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

"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 of the battle have con-(video slot machines) in verged on the Capitol,

this state," Turner said hoping to sway lawmak-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

ers 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.

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

Other proponents of the 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

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 shot-

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

"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 longgirlfriend, 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, schooldistrict 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 in crease 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,

this year. Three-year

seats currently held by

helping further efforts both locally 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 ald.com

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@bigspringher-

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 reelection 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

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

three seats up for election

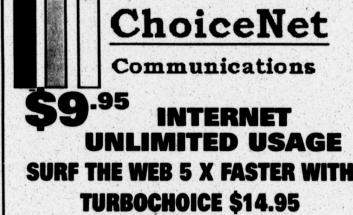
for election this year. At-large positions cur-

Sands CISD will have

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, Wayne Superintendent 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



1.800.757.2727 or 1.512.458.2727

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

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

"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 Billington at (432) 267-

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□ Reason For Nomination

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 GM's at Detroit/Hamtramck assembly plant. The constyled servatively 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 4.6liter, 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 roofcurtain airbags are standard equipment. Other features include an adaptive electronically controlled suspension, stability control, remote start, DVD navigation, heated and cooled front seats and 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 remainfront-wheel-drive model look more at home alongside sporty and sophisticated new models like the CTS, STS and

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 play-

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 autotransmission. matic Lower models will use a 160-horsepower, 2.3-liter four-cylinder engine mated to either a fivespeed manual or automatic transmission. Ford plans to add an all-wheeldrive 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-

Benny Boyd

Chevy · Chrysler · Dodge · Jeep GMC · Pontiac · Buick · Cadillac

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minum finished waterfall grille, soft paint tones, two-tone leather upholinterior trim.

this fall. the

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 4.6liter V8 engine's output

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increases 22 percent to 292 horsepower thanks to a new three-valve cylinstery and a choice of faux der head. The 2006 model wood or satin-aluminum also gets a six-speed automatic transmission and a The Milan is set for sale revised suspension for better ride and handling. Mercury also showed The 2006 Mountaineer is face-lifted 2006 to go on sale this fall.

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

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

SCENIC MOUNTAIN MEDICAL CENTER Our Community. Our Hospital. 1601 W. 11th Pl. Big Spring, TX in 2006, but Ford pulled the fuel-efficient SUV forward due to strong The demand. 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 345horsepower, 5.7-liter Hemi gasoline V8 or a 5.9liter, 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.







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Coahoma

annual Alu softball game p.m. at th softball field The game this year's team agai Coahoma sof

announced

For more tion, contact at the Coaho 394-4536.

Coahoma to donkey bas The Coah will be brin key basketb Saturday games sch begin at 2 p. The first feature stude faculty from

while the which will p.m., will fe bers from th department, department Big Spring. Advance 1 be \$5, but can purchas the door for may be pur School, Junior High Elementary, of commerce ing lunch). calling Lau

Martin at 466-1950. Lady Steer Club meetir The Lad **Booster Club**

Monday, Feb ATC at 6 p.n All parent involved in basketball, ing, track a are encou attend. For mor tion, Abner at Kerry Rodri

Lady Steer Booster m The Lac Softball Boo will meet Mo 21, in the p.m.

6100.

All paren involved wit ball progr encouraged For more tion, Abner at 2 Kerry Rodrig

Softball um needed for ified u Ramirez.

Coahoma's softbal 'Alumni Day' set

Coahoma head soft-ball coach Robby announced that the annual Alumni Day softball game will take place Saturday at 1 p.m. at the Coshoma softball field.

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 399-

more informa tion, 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-

Lady Steer Softball Booster meeting set

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

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

For more informa-tion, contact Janet Abner at 264-0023 or Kerry Rodriguez at 263-

Softball umpires needed for season

Anyone interested in necoming softball ser mation from Francisco

C.G.A. sets first

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 /See COAHOMA, Page 2B

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 77 p.m.

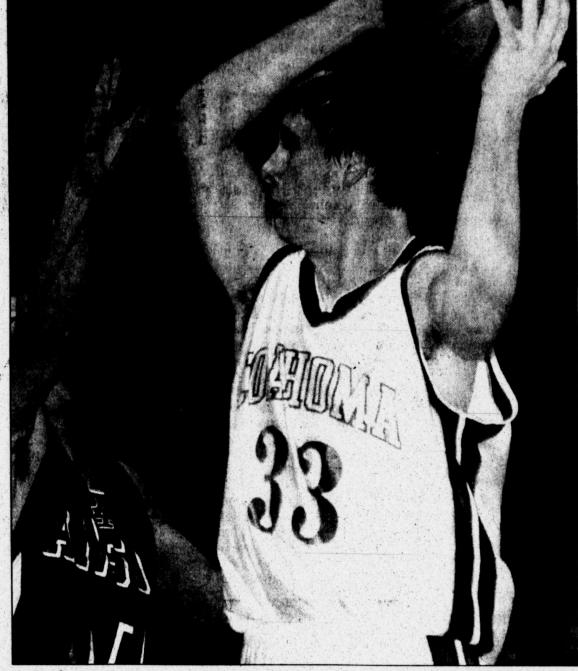
Senior Mendy Morgan led Coahoma against Colorado City as she finished with 15 points and 11 rebounds. Junior Sterling Gee added a team-high 16 points, five rebounds, two steals and two assists.

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.

Bulldogettes The 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.



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

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 teamhigh 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 record.

Buffaloes will take on McCame hursday at 6:30 p.m. at Midland Christian. The winner will then challenge raan at Midland Christian at 8 nm Friday with a playoff berth on the line.

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

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, in the second half.

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

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

Coahoma led Forsan 11-6 after one quarter, but Forsan responded in the son with a 10-4 record.

who finished with 13 second frame with a 15-6 points. Forsan jumped advantage. Coahoma took out to a 14-5 halftime lead the lead back in the third before closing out Stanton quarter, but Forsan's 11-0 advantage in the fourth quarter was enough to

The Forsan seventhgrade team is made up of Longorio, Forsan with 13 points, Macy Briggs, Kelsey Jones, Shelby Jones, Brittney Roemer, Laura Spence and Wallace.

They finished the sea-

Cameron crazies help No. 8 Duke continue dominance over Carolina

HERALD photo/Troy Hyde

Garden City senior Krystal Sullivan consoles David

Welshuhn 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

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.

back of each member's shoes.

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 at the end."

(19-3, 8-2 Atlantic Coast Conference) in an arena 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

The botched possession capped a night in which where they have won just. 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 surehanded Felton — that led

See RIVALRY, Page 2B



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.

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N BRIEF

Dalias' 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

The league's 30 coach es 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 out the rounded Conference Western selections. The East's other reserves are cen-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-

MAGGETTE lined \$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 Crennel is the 11th fulltime 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

NNBA awards nev anchise to Ci CHICAGO (A nd will begin

RIVALRY

Continued from Page 18

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 3pointers, 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

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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 3pointer 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 Crazies into an earsplitting celebra-

"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

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, Smyer vs. Hamlin, 8 p.m.

*more games will be announced when schools

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

"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 and Adrian Abrego scored nine and seven points, respective-

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



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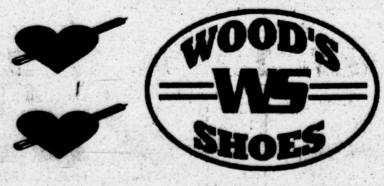
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CHARMING COUNTRY Home Large 2 bedroom, 2 bath house. Country living within city limits, pool, basement and large yard. \$800. rent and deposit. Lease, work & rental references required. Serious inquiries only (340) 713-0529 or TJMrotz@aol.com.

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FOR RENT one bedroom house, Full time rent & exchange for part time baby-sitting for 3 year old. Seeking a Christian elderly person or couple. Call (432)267-1689 or leave message.

FOR RENT: 800 Nolan. 1 Bedroom, 1 bath. Utilities included. \$400.00 month, \$300.00 deposit. Call (432)264-9907.

FOR SALE or LEASE: Large Rock House, double car garage on corner lot. 4 bd/2bth, kitchen, dining and livingroom. \$550. monthly and deposit. (281) 350-2980.

HEIGHTS APARTMENTS, 403 E. 8th Street. Spacious 1 Bedroom's. Furnished & Unfurnished. All bills paid. \$400.00 month, \$200.00 deposit. Call (432)267-2771.

Midway Area - Small 3 Bdrm mobile homes. Stove & refrigerator, washer & dryer. CH/A. \$350.00 month \$150.00 deposit: HUD approved. Call 432-393-5585 or 270-3928.

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home. 2150 sq. ft. 3 bedroom, 2 baths, office, 2 living areas, ash cabinets, fireplace. Gazebo, 2 storage bldgs., 3/4 acre, secluded. Lovely yard. \$105,000, Call (432)263-4080.

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1984 CADILLAC Fleetwood Brougham, 34090 actual miles. Color Wonderland Haze, brown leather interior, one owner, runs good, excellent condition. Call 432-393-5866 after 7:00 pm.

1995 Ford Van. 2 choose from! Power windows, power doors, locks, tilt, cruise, AM/FM cassette. In house financing available. WAC

2000 Ford Mustang, V-6 automatic, red, power windows, power doors, locks, tilt, cruise, AM/FM CD. \$7,950.

2001 Daewoo Leganze SE, 4 cyclinder, power doors, locks, power windows, tilt, cruise, low miles 43,000. Financing available. WAC

> **Jimmy Hopper** 1607 E. FM 700 Big Spring, TX. 79720 (432)267-5588

1998 Chevy regular cab, short-bed, 2 choose from V-6. automatic, AM/FM cassette. tint glass. \$7,950.

1998 Chevy Silverado extended cab, 3-door Z71, pewter, power windows, power doors, locks, tilt, cruise, AM/FM cassette. \$10,900.

1999 Chevy Silverado regular cab, short bed, V-6, automatic, 92,000 miles. \$8,950.

Jimmy Hopper 1607 E. FM 700 Big Spring, TX. 79720 (432)267-5588

1999 Chrysler LHS, V-6, maroon leather seats, power seat, power windows, doors, locks, tilt, cruise, miles 64,000.

2000 Ford Mustang, V-6, green convertible, automatic, fully loaded, dual pipe, after market tail light. One owner. 40,000 miles. Very nice ride!

2001 Chrysler PT Cruiser Limited. Silver, fully loaded with power sunroof. 64,900 miles. \$10,900.

Jimmy Hopper 1607 E. FM 700 Big Spring, TX. 79720 (432)267-5588

2002 Dodge Neon SE, power windows, power doors, locks, AM/FM CD. Still under factory warranty. \$6,900.

2001 Nissan Frontier SC crew cab supercharge V-6, blue, automatic leather seats, sunroof, power windows, power doors, locks, tilt, cruise, aluminum wheels, CD. \$14,900.

2001 Ford F-150 supercrew XLT, red, tilt cruise, power windows, power doors, locks. Very nice! \$14,900.

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS The Pisces moon is a balm on the forehead of this fast-paced week. So much new energy has

come into the mix that we need time to assimilate. Pisces lunar energy is introspective and wise reminding us that we needn't get snagged in the minutiae

HOLIDAY MATHIS or seduced the = details. All we are learning will fall into its prop-

er place. ARIES (March 21-April 19). Communication and community are key. Why not plan a party for the folks on your block? Get to know the people you casually wave hello to on the street. Use this opportunity to bury the hatchet with a neighbor.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). If you've lately found yourself being stonewalled when it comes to signing a document of paramount importance to your career, the situation should lighten up considerably. Power players are in a more agreeable mood.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Watch for an invitation to travel with friends. This offer could come through your schoolmates or a social group - even your church! It's an excellent opportunity for spiritual growth. Expand your world and your mind. CANCER (June 22-July

22). A corporate entity with money to burn is eager to finance your latest project! Watch for subtle opportunities. Be sure to buy a lottery ticket. Call your business partners, and stir the pot a bit. See what bubbles up.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Reconnect with friends if you've been lying low recently due to your incredibly hectic and exciting life. Invitations

Vehicles

VERY NICE 1984 Pontiac Fiero, 49,000 original miles, new paint, interior like new, CD player, AC, all components work including head lights. negotiable. \$2,500.00 (432)263-4645.

Legals

PUBLIC NOTICE On December 21, 2004 Drew Ballard and David Pappajohn filed an application with the Federal Communications Commission requesting authority to assign the license and assets of standard broadcast station KBYG, Big Spring, Texas, from Mr. Ballard to Mr. Pappajohn. Both the assignor and assignee in this application are individuals. A copy of the application filed with

the FCC is now in KBYG's public file and available for review at the station's main studio, 2801 Wasson Drive, Big Spring, Texas, during regular business hours. #4454 February 8, 10, 15, 17,

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS The Big Spring Independent School District shall receive sealed bid proposals until 4:00 P.M., February 24, 2005, on the following: **Cross Country Track Supplies**

Football Supplies Tennis Supplies Volleyball Supplies
Specifications and bid documents may be secured from the school

district's Business Office located, at 708 East 11th Place, Big Spring, Texas 79720-4648, phone number (432) 264-3620. Bids will be publicly open and read immediately following the deadline for receiving the bids in the Business Office of the Big Spring Independent School District. Bidders are invited to be present at the bid opening. Bids received after the opening date and time will be returned unopened. Bids will be presented for consideration to the Board of Trustees on March 17, 2005, at 5:15 P.M. at their regularly scheduled board meeting. The Big Spring Inde-pendent School District reserves the right to accept or reject any or #4459 February 10 & 17, 2005.

and announcements are met with joy all around. Don't be surprised if

you're flooded with visitors bearing gifts of love! VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Presentations and meetings of all sorts go smoothly. You come out looking knowledgeable and approachable, picking up new clients or even a date! Regarding

your mail: Toss it, file it,

or deal with it, but don't

let it pile up. LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Lucky you! Many opportunities for fun and love present themselves. Say yes to any sort of group outing, and you're sure to have a creatively inspiring and enlightening time. What better way to beat the winter dol-

drums? SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Now that the holidays are behind you, family tensions dissipate. Yes, you may actually find yourself once again liking those crazy people to whom you're related. Make time for lazing around the house togeth-

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Is there a concert, movie or museum exhibit you've been dying to see? Unchain yourself from your desk for a day! Get out there into the thick of things, and commune with your fellow humans. Work can wait; life can't.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). An unexpected phone call could bring outstanding financial news! Knowing how hard you drive yourself, this is most likely work-related, though it could also be through an investment or a friend. Take a bow.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Everything just seems a little bit easier. People are more accessible. The wheels of innovation and productivity spin a little faster. People just seem to get you. You're in the zone. Enjoy this time with someone special.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You're in the midst of a huge spiritual growth spurt, becoming the person you've always wanted to be. Your values are changing, and so is your social Acquaintances come and go; true friends are forev-

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I'm a Leo born Aug. 6, 1986, and it seems like every time I really, really like people Ican't get enough of them until they're mine, and then, when they are, I get bored and don't like them anymore. When am I going to find someone I am truly in love with?"

The cycle you describe isn't as negative as you're making it out to be. It's a natural growth process and could be your habit clear through your late 20s. Your Mars in Capricorn and Venus in Virgo give you a practical edge in matters of romance that happens to be masked to the outside world, and often even to you, by your passionate Leo sun and moon. You feel and behave as though you are overwhelmingly infatuated or "in love" with a person, heart, soul and body, when at the root of this is actually a much more psychological attraction. You don't want the person; you want to know what he or she knows or have the status, talent or success he or she has. Once you catch up or learn all that person has to teach you, the infatuation quickly deflates. When you get a handle on your own talents and roles in life, you'll love in a healthier, more lasting way.

e 2005 CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.

12 :AM Live (CC) News (CC) DENNIS T

BIG SPRING HER

Thursday, Febru

THURSD

OKAY, THIS TIN BC

MY AUNT WAS

WIZARD HAROLD, WHI









BEETLE



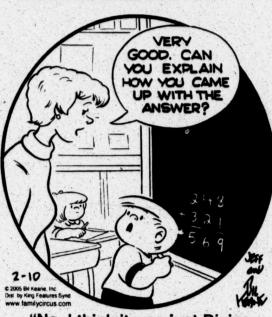
THURSDAY FEB. 10 WFAA (2) KMID (3) UNI (4) KPEJ (5) KOSA (7) KTLE (8) KWES (9) WTBS (11) KMLM (12) KOCV (13) DISC (20) AMC (21) SPIKE (22) TNT (23) BET (26) DISN (27) ESPN2 (28) ESPN (29) TMC (250) Disney Odessa Discovery Classics Spike TV Atlanta Black Ent. Telemund Odessa Odesse Sports Odessa CSI: Crime Law & Order Scene Invstgtn. (CC) (DVS) Ent. Tonight John Hage Grammy Nom. That's-Raver Choppe CSI: Crime N.C. St. at The O.C. CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn. Basketb Scene Invstgtn. Espejo Will & Grace Biblical Israel TX Mnthly Tall Bound: The LSU (CC) Wake Forest Foreign Affai Friends (CC) CSI: Crime he Hope Tit (CC) Light of the Los Angel Incredible icene Invstgtr Boys (CC) Tit (CC) Te Voy a En-ER (CC) Egypt's Gold Club Comic race (CC) The Life and That's-Rave Movie: Spun (CC) Late Show Tonight Show **Bad Boys** Times of Judge MXC That's-Raver The Hope Wildest Police Kings at Seattle Sonics **Proud Family** Tit (CC) xtra (CC) Kim Possible 45 Movie: Al Rojo Vivo-Late Night-Late Late Jimmy Kimme Jesse Lee Pe. 12:15 Movie: nside the NBA Club Comic ate Late **Blind Date** Boy World The House of Caso Cerrado Frasier (CC) Fletch (CC) the Spirits

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."

HAGAR

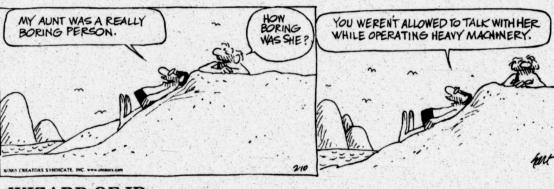


BLONDIE



AND SHE'S GOT A LOT OF NERVE MONOPOLIZING OUR BRIDGE CLUB CONVERSATION!

BC



HIS PORTFOUO

WIZARD OF ID



AGNES

I WANT TO BE MORE

USUAL



PEOPLE THINK I'M UNUSUAL ... THEY SHUN ME. I LIKE IT THAT YOU'RE UNUSUAL.

HEY! SO DO I! .. AND WE HAVE IMPECCABLE TASTE! ... MAYBE I SHOULD BE EVEN YOU USUALLY ARE. MORE UNUSUAL!

HI AND LOIS



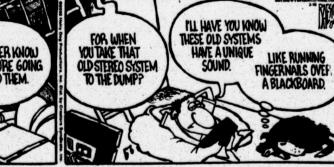
HUH?





THE OTHER COAST



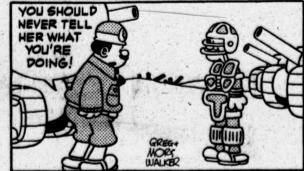


SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE 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 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

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 "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 exchanged 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 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 Democratic 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 Lymon 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

Newsday Crossword

67 Small fly

68 Propel a

70 Trig ratio

gondola 69 Milk holder

DOWN

71 Charon's river

1 Doorway side

2 Biblical twin

3 Small brook

brand-name

4 Film critic

Pauline

6 Everyday

8 Big rig

language

7 Snootiness

recipient

11 Popular tattoo

depth

5 Not

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
- 54 Shy away from 61 Island near
- Maui 64 Earth goddess
- 65 Apt rhyme for toil
- 66 Social Register people

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

- monogram
- 13 Utmost
- degree
- 21 Our sun 22 Utah city
- 25 Avoid
- 26 New Orleans university
- 27 Vesuvius,
- at times 28 Auto racers'
- 29 Bring to light 30 Reese of
- baseball
- 31 Billy Baldwin's
- brother 32 Doldrums
- 33 "All "
- 9 Silver-medal (Sinatra tune) 10 Immeasurable
 - 37 Basic lessons
 - 38 Bygone
 - political divs.

- 12 "The Gold Bug" 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**

11 12 13 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 61 62 63 CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2005 STANLEY NEWMAN WWW.STANXWORDS.COM

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waving Home Improvement

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

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Ryan Newman (car No 12): Last year's preseason favorites didn't quite put it together in '04. They'll come closer this time. Last year's final ranking: 8.

Matt Kenseth (car No. 17): It's hard to 6 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 fi-



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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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 Evernham Motorsports take root effectively. Last year's final ranking: 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.

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 fi-

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.

Kevin Harvick (car No. 29): Richard 18 Kevin Harvick (cal 110. 20).
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

20 Carl Edwards (car No. 35). It is pressy Carl Edwards (car No. 99): It's pretty be that we've got him too low. Last year's final

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 mage too. work harder, but battling the mega-teams is tough. Last year's final ranking: 22.

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.

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.

Brian Vickers (car No. 05): Lessons 25 Brian vickers (car 140. 65). 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

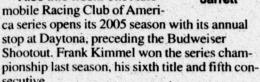
Where: Daytona International Speedway, a 2.5-mile paved highly-banked tri-oval located in Daytona Beach, Fla.

When: Saturday at 8 p.m.

Radio: Motor Racing Net-Purse: TBA. (In 2004, it

was \$213,000 to winner.) Last year's winner: Dale Jarrett.

Also this week: The Auto-



Nextel Cup qualifying for the starting row of the 2005 Daytona 500 is Sunday.

POLL POSITION

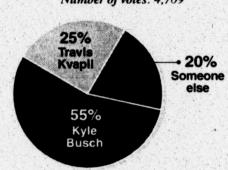
THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

Who will win the 2005 **Budweiser Shootout?**

Cast your vote at: www.thatsracin.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:

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

Denotes a non-points event

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

ons? Forget about it, they've already had it. The four-race IROC series that will

he International Race of Champi-

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 Interna-

sports car race. There are only 12 drivers in the IROC field. There were at least that

tional Speedway over the

weekend for the Rolex 24

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 fourthplace 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 acquit themselves quite nicely.

The Kenseth-Busch-Biffle group had three axel 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



RICHARD PRINCE/WIECK PHOTO SERVICES 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

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.