

THURSDAY

February 17, 2005

WEATHER

Tonight:



TONIGHT 37°-39° TOMORROW 52°-54°

BRIEFLY

County court jury call canceled

The Howard County Court under Judge Ben Lockhart has canceled the jury panel called for 9 a.m. Friday.

Symphony set to perform Feb. 26

The Big Spring Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Dr. Keith Graumann, presents, "An Encore Performance" at 8 p.m. Feb. 26 in the Municipal Auditorium. Cynthia Bauhof-Williams is the returned guest pianist. She performed with the orchestra in December 2002.

Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors and \$5 for students. Tickets may be purchased at the Big Spring Herald, Blum's Jewelers, the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, Faye's Flowers, First Bank of West Texas, Heritage Museum, the symphony office, 808 Scurry or at the door.

For more information, visit the Web site, www.bigspringsymphony.com or e-mail bssa@bigspringsymphony.com.

COMING THIS WEEKEND



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

FIRE IN THE SKY



The sun captures the beauty of the Big Spring skyline west of the city Tuesday evening as the day comes to a close.

HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins

Busted!

Two men jailed on felony drug charge

By BILL MCCLELLAN

News Editor

Two Big Spring men were arrested for felony possession of crack cocaine Wednesday in a joint investigation of the West Texas Narcotics Task Force and the Big Spring Police Department.

Thurman Bateman, 28, and Calvert Jamerson, 22, were taken into custody shortly after 6:30 a.m. when the team of investigators executed a search warrant at 633 Settles.

"A large quantity of crack cocaine, approximately 10 grams, was found," said task force investigator Scott Knight. "Right now, we've charged these individuals with possession of a controlled substance — crack cocaine. It's a felony charge because it is more than four ounces and less than 200 ounces. We'll get together with the district attorney at a later date."

See COCAINE, Page 3A

Conway: Concurrent lesson has merit

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer



Howard College's director of general studies defended the merit of a lesson plan that recently drew a letter of protest from Forsan school trustees.

Forsan's school board sent the letter after reviewing a short story used in a lesson plan in a concurrent class offered by Howard College to Forsan students.

Concurrent classes are college-

level courses taught by HC instructors. Forsan High School seniors can receive credit from both the college and the high school.

The point of contention between Forsan trustees and the college was the use of the short story, "Greasy Lake," by T. Coraghessan Boyle, in one of the concurrent English classes.

The story is an object lesson on the difference between perception and reality — three teens who envision themselves as "dangerous characters" meet up with some genuine bad actors one night at Greasy Lake, and

the experience convinces them to rethink their ways.

The story does feature several instances of the use of questionable language, and there also are scenes of drug and alcohol use and violence, including an attempted rape. That is what prompted the letter from the Forsan school board.

Linda Conway, executive director of general studies and an English professor at the college, has talked about the story with a concerned parent in Forsan, and admitted she is now more conscious of adult language in class lessons. That does not mean,

however, she advocates dropping the story as a course offering.

"I think this has heightened our awareness of the use of such language (in stories), but I believe it has merit," Conway said. "... The premise of the story is to be very careful about what you want, because you can get into some serious trouble."

Conway added that the overall worth of stories can sometimes trump the use of questionable language.

"A lot of times, I'll preface (a lesson) by saying that the story

See COURSE, Page 3A

Getting out in four years

Big Spring graduation rate below state average; area schools rank higher

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

All but one area high school placed above the state average in graduation rates, according to the most recent information released by the Texas Education Agency.

Big Spring High School was the only area campus that scored below the state graduation average of 81.9 percent for the 2002-03 school year. The TEA figures show the percentage of the Class of 2003 that graduated within four years.

BSHS graduated 78.1 percent of its Class of 2003 within four years, TEA figures show. More than 7 percent of the class



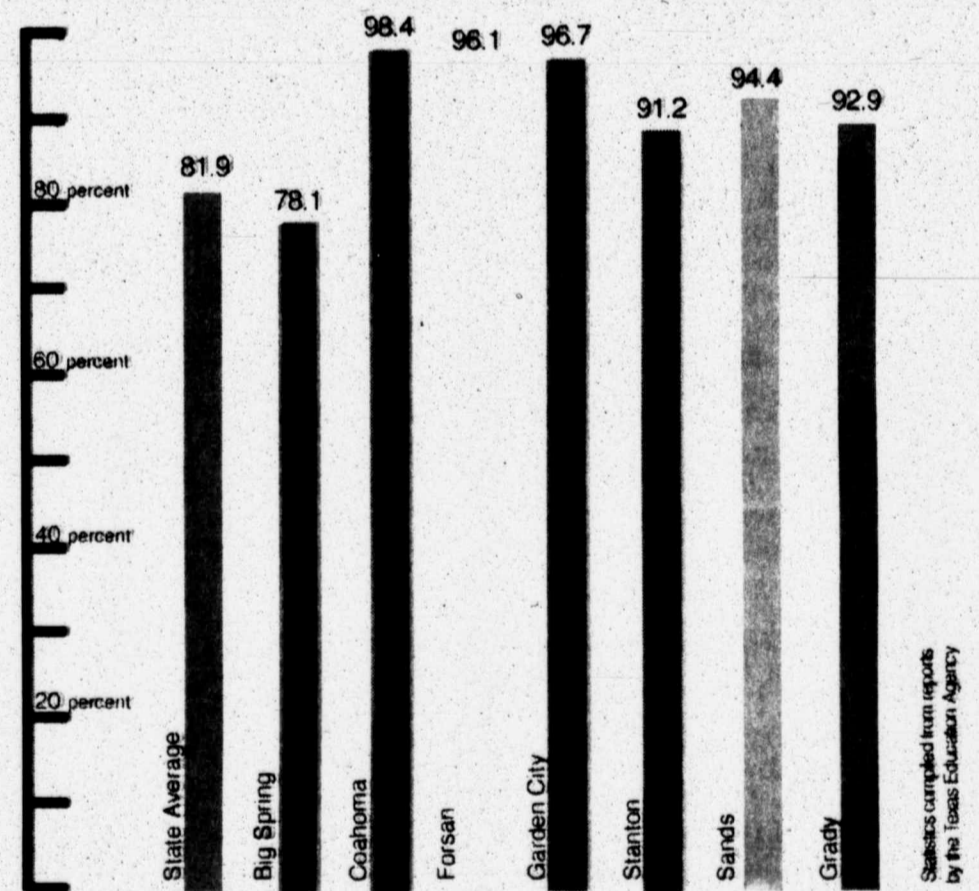
Downes

"It's a huge concern — not just here, but everywhere. Our goal is for every student to graduate from high school."

received General Equivalency Degrees, 8.7 continued in high school, and 5.8 percent dropped out of school entirely.

"It's a huge concern — not just here, but everywhere," Big Spring School Superintendent

Class of 2003 Four-Year Graduation Rate



Michael Downes said. "Our goal is for every student to graduate from high school."

To combat the problem, BSBS has instituted two programs within the last two years aimed at making sure students receive every opportunity to receive a diploma, regardless of how long it takes.

The Dropout Recovery Program

allows students who have fallen behind their classmates to basically proceed at their own speed, completing required courses one at a time, instead of at the usual seven-class block.

The school also has an advisory program set up in which professional staff are assigned a small

See RATES, Page 3A

Chamber preparing for annual Health Fair

Corporate sponsors still being sought for April 16 event at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

As the lights from the annual Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce Banquet begin to flicker, the Board of Directors is already looking toward April and the upcoming Health Fair.

Chamber Executive Director

Debbie ValVerde said her staff is currently working on getting corporate sponsors for the event, which will feature the theme "Prevention is the Key to Good Health."

"Right now we're working on getting our corporate sponsors for the health fair," said ValVerde. "We want to get 10 corporate sponsors, and we currently have four that have committed. Paradigm Physical



ValVerde

Therapy and Sports Medicine, Mountainview Lodge, ALON USA and the VA Medical Center have all signed up, and we're currently talking to six others at this time."

"We sent letters out at the end of January to remind the business owners. We hope to have that part of the health fair wrapped up in March."

ValVerde told board members there will be some changes made for the Health Fair, mainly to cover the rising costs of many of the screenings that have been

offered during the event.

"One of the new things we're going to be doing this year is bringing back the PSA (Prostate Specific Antigen, commonly used to detect prostate cancer) screenings," said ValVerde. "However, we're going to be charging for them. It's gotten to the point that we're going to have to start charging for some of the screenings because of the cost of the lab work to have them done."

"There will be a \$5 charge for

See CHAMBER, Page 3A

Obituaries

Verna Vickers



Verna Vickers, 80, of Coahoma died Wednesday, Feb. 16, 2005, in a Midland hospital. Funeral services will be held at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 19, 2005, at the First Baptist Church of Coahoma with the Rev. Elwin Collom, pastor, officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park in Big Spring.

The family will receive friends Friday at the funeral home from 7 p.m. until 8 p.m.

She was born April 16, 1924, in Alluwe, Okla., and married O.L. "Vic" Vickers Nov. 12, 1943, in Vancouver, Wash.

Mrs. Vickers had been in the community since 1965. Verna was a good seamstress and cook. She was a very hospitable person who loved her grandchildren and all her friend's children. She was a good wife, mother, sister — the best of everything.

She was a member of First Baptist Church of Coahoma and Senior Citizens of Coahoma.

Survivors include her husband, O.L. "Vic" Vickers of Coahoma; one daughter and son-in-law, Sue and Larry Sherrard of DeLeon; two sisters and one brother-in-law, Phyllis Peck of Coahoma and Letha Jo and Arnie Oldenettel of Haven, Kan.; one brother and sister-in-law, James Leroy and Alice McLaughlin of Ashland City, Tenn.; three grandchildren and their spouses, Bill and Gina Sherrard of Rhone, Brian and Teisha Sherrard of DeLeon, and Bobbette and Rich Walker of Fort Worth; three great-grandchildren, Samantha Sherrard of Natchitoches, La., and Jacob and Joshua Wadley both of Fort Worth; and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents and one sister.

The family suggest memorials be made to First Baptist Church of Coahoma Building Fund, P.O. Box 376, Coahoma 79511.

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

Paid obituary

Willie Mae Hayes

Willie Mae Hayes, 44, of Midland, formerly of Big Spring, died Wednesday, Feb. 16, 2005, at her home. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Take note

□ **FRATERNAL ORDER OF THE EAGLES AERIE No. 3188 STEW SUPPER AND DANCE** to benefit the Vietnam Memorial Committee is set for 4 p.m. until 7 p.m. Saturday at the lodge, 703 W. Third. Tickets are \$6 per plate for adults and \$3 for children under 12. The dance with a \$5 cover charge featuring the Nightwind Blues Band is 8:30 p.m. until 12:00 a.m.

□ **BIG SPRING WOMEN'S CLUB** will sponsor a free seminar for parents whose children will be participating in the TASK Abstinence program through the high schools in the area from 7 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. Monday in the Trinity Baptist Church annex building, 810 11th Place. Parents with students of any age will benefit from the information at the seminar. Students are welcome whether alone or with their parents.

□ **LUNCH AND LEARN PROGRAM AT HANGAR 25 AIR MUSEUM** featuring author Diane Thompson Dale, presenting her book, "Finding Billy, an Internet Odyssey." Lunch is from 11 a.m. until noon Feb. 24, and the presentation is from noon until 1 p.m. Dale will sign books from 2 p.m. until 3 p.m. For more information contact the museum at 264-1999.

□ **VFW POST No. 2013 ANNUAL CHILI SUPPER** is set for 4 p.m. until 7 p.m. Feb. 26 at the post, 500 Driver Road. Dinner, including chili, beans, cornbread and desert, is \$6 for adults and \$3 for children under 12. Open to the public. Call 393-5715 for more information.

□ **LOCAL CHEF CHARLIE SANDIFER IS TEACHING A SPECIAL EASTER BRUNCH COOKING CLASS** from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m. Feb. 26. The cost is \$24. Contact Howard College Continuing Education at 264-5131 to register.

□ **YOUNGLIFE ROUNDUP BANQUET** is set for Feb. 28 in the Dora Roberts Community Center. Round-Up provides community members an opportunity to enjoy a catered barbecue dinner while learning about the activities that take place during YoungLife club. For more information or to contribute to YoungLife, call leader Shelly Warren at 264-1234.

□ **THE BIG SPRING AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE COMMUNITY LUNCHEON** is set to begin at 11:45 a.m. March 1 in the East Room of the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. The luncheon will feature the State of the City Address by Mayor Russ McEwen. Catered by Great Western Dining, the tickets are \$10 if a ticket is purchased by Feb. 23 and \$15 until Feb. 25. No tickets or reservations will be accepted after Feb. 25. Purchase tickets at the chamber office, 215 W. Third or call 263-7641.

□ **HERITAGE MUSEUM** is also accepting donations of costumes to be used with the new theme party area opening in May. Call the museum at 267-8255.

Police blotter

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

- **THURMAN BATEMAN**, 29, of 808 Ohio, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.
- **CALVERT JAMESON**, 22, of Fort Worth, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.
- **SAUNDRA JO GARRARD**, 30, of 1107 Wood, was arrested Wednesday on charges of driving while license suspended, fictitious motor vehicle inspection and local warrants.
- **ASHLEY LYNN WARD**, 23, of 1202 E. Third Street, was arrested Wednesday and held for the HCSO.
- **APRIL MCGEE**, 23, of 2911 W. Highway 80, was arrested Thursday on a charge of disorderly conduct-language.
- **THEFT** in the 1100 block of Lamesa.
- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 100 block of 20th Street.
- **BURGLARY OF A HABITATION** was reported in the 600 block of Steakley.

Sheriff's report

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

- **JAIME LARA ARENIVAS**, 31, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a capias fine for speeding and charges of bondsman off of bond for theft by check and theft by check.
- **ASHLEY LYNN WARD**, 23, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for prostitution.
- **THOMAS WILLIAM SWIFT**, 46, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a judgment for driving while intoxicated - minor under 15.
- **MARKQUIN HARRIS**, 18, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of violation of parole from Texas Youth Commission.
- **WILLIAM FRANKS**, 28, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of aggravated sexual assault of a child.
- **BURGLARY OF A HABITATION** was reported in the 1100 block of Derrick Road.
- **DOG BITE** was reported in the area of Val Verde Road.

Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department reported the following activity:

- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 3200 block of Parkway at 11:08 a.m. Wednesday. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 100 block of Washington Drive at 1:49 p.m. Wednesday. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 800 block of 13th Street at 9:04 p.m. Wednesday. One person was transported to SMMC.

Support groups

THURSDAY

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

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

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

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

FRIDAY

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

SATURDAY

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

□ West Texas Gluten-Free Support Group (Celiacs Helping celiacs) meet from 3 p.m. until 5 p.m. Jan. 15 in the Odessa Regional Hospital. For more information, contact Barbara at 432-694-3614 days, or 432-520-2119 evenings.

SUNDAY

□ Alcoholics Anonymous meets from 11 a.m. to noon at 615 Settles. Open meeting 5 p.m. until 6 p.m.

Bulletin board

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

TODAY

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

FRIDAY

- Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until about 3 p.m. at 1019 Nolan St. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281 for more information.
- AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant.
- Greater Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- Spring City Senior Citizen's Center country and western dance from 7:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. All area seniors are invited.

SATURDAY

- American Legion Post No. 506 fish fry from noon until 3 p.m. Delivery available from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. \$7 per plate. Carry out available. 3203 W. Highway 80. Call 263-2084.
- Fraternal Order of the Eagles Aerie No. 3188 stew supper and dance to benefit the Vietnam Memorial Committee is set for 4 p.m. until 7 p.m. at the lodge, 703 W. Third. The dance is 8:30 p.m. until 12:30 a.m.
- Big Spring Shrine Club meets at 6:30 p.m. at Goliad and First streets for a meal with a meeting to follow.
- Eagles Lodge Dance at 8:30 p.m. at 703 W. Third.
- Big Spring Squares. Call 267-7043 or 263-6305 for more information.

Lottery

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 4-12-20-39-42. Bonus Ball: 40. Number matching five of five, plus Bonus Ball: 0. Estimated jackpot for Saturday night drawing: \$10 million.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 4-10-17-20-37. Number matching five of five: 1. Prize per winner: \$84,220. Winning tickets sold in: Houston. Next Cash 5 drawing: Thursday night.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 7-0-4

Weather

Tonight - Cloudy with a 50 percent chance of rain. Patchy fog. Lows in the upper 30s. East winds around 10 mph in the evening becoming light and variable.
Friday - Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of rain. Highs in the lower 50s. Light and variable winds becoming southeast around 10 mph in the afternoon.
Friday night - Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers. Lows in the lower 40s. South winds around 10 mph.
Saturday - Mostly cloudy with slight chance of showers or isolated thunderstorms. Warmer. Highs in the mid 60s. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph. The chance of rain is 20 percent.
Saturday night - Mostly cloudy with slight chance of showers and isolated thunderstorms. Lows in the mid 40s. The chance of rain is 20 percent.
Sunday - Mostly cloudy. Highs in the upper 60s.
Sunday night - Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers. Lows in the mid 40s.
Presidents Day - Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 60s.
Monday night - Partly cloudy. Colder. Lows in the mid 30s.
Tuesday - Mostly cloudy. Cooler. Highs in the upper 50s.
Tuesday night - Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers. Lows in the lower 30s.
Wednesday - Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers. Highs in the lower 50s.

BIG SPRING HERALD

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Reflecting A Proud Community

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Twenty-six place in top six Garden City students win at BPA meet

Herald Staff Report

GARDEN CITY — Garden City High School's Business Professionals of America traveled to San Angelo recently to participate in the regional contest, with 31 students competing in different events.

Twenty-six GCHS students placed in the top six of their respective disciplines, and of that number, 17 qualified for state BPA competition March 2-5 in Arlington.

Individual results at the San Angelo meet include:

Fundamental Accounting — Erin Hirt, fifth place; Presentation Management Team —

Cade Halfmann, third place; Advanced Accounting — Megan Niehues, first place; Evan Jansa and Timothy Schniers, second place; Computerized Accounting — Amanda Hirt, first place; Cory Multer, second place; Spreadsheet — Colton Schwartz, first place; Taylor Niehues, second place; Keyboarding — Mikela Barton, first place; Amy Multer, third place; Britteny Chudeu, fourth place; Fundamental Word — Julie Hirt, first place; Eric Hirt, third place; Advanced Word — Krystal Sullivan, fourth place; Brandi Halfmann, sixth place; Desktop Publishing — K'Lann

Niehues, second place; Basic Office Systems — Kayla Medrano, second place; Whitney Kellmer, fifth place; Michelle Gonzalez—sixth place; Advanced Office — Katie Gully, first place; Tyler Bednar, second place; Medical Office — Marissa Schwartz, third place; Database — Viviana Gamboa, second place; Administrative Support Team — Amanda Hirt, fourth place; PC Servicing and Troubleshooting—Trey Hillger, third place; and Colby Hirt, fifth place. The BPA team is coached by Jerry Cannon, Cory Richardson and Reta Bell.



Garden City High School students who qualified for the state Business Professionals of America contest on March 2-5 in Arlington are, front row, left to right: Amy Multer, Katie Gully, Trey Hillger, Kayla Medrano, Amanda Hirt, Megan Niehues, Viviana Gamboa, Julie Hirt and K'Lann Niehues; back row, left to right: Mikela Barton, Timothy Schniers, Colton Schwartz, Cory Mutler, Taylor Niehues, Tyler Bednar, Eric Hirt and Marissa Schwartz.

CHAMBER

Continued from Page 1A

the PSA screenings, and this year we're only going to have so many screenings available. We're also hoping to have cholesterol screenings available."

The Health Fair is slated for April 16 at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. For more information, contact the Chamber office at 263-7641 or visit 215 W. Third Street.

Also during Wednesday's meeting, the Chamber Board of Directors met the new assistant director for the organization, Nancy Newell.

Newell joined the Chamber staff on Feb. 1, replacing longtime assistant director Liz Adamson, who recently accepted a position with Howard College.

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

Tobacco tax back on state hit list

AUSTIN (AP) — Smokers beware: the Texas Legislature needs your money.

A \$1 per pack increase in the cigarette tax is once again on the table as part of a funding solution to help lawmakers address a plethora of budget demands. While some hope the tax could help replace lower property taxes, others are eyeing the potential cash cow for health care costs.

The proposed increase, which has been estimated to bring in as much as \$750 million a year, has interested groups lining up at the state Capitol. A hearing on the topic is scheduled for Thursday before the tax-writing Ways and Means Committee.

Advocates of the measure, such as the coalition Texans Investing in Healthy Families, say the tax would persuade smokers in Texas to quit and discourage teenagers from ever lighting up. The group is made up of the Texas PTA, the American Heart Association and the American Cancer Society, among others.

But opponents, such as tobacco giant R.J. Reynolds, have hired big name lobbyists to make their cases to lawmakers.

Man who killed four, including his mother, ready to die

LIVINGSTON (AP) — Convicted murderer Dennis Wayne Bagwell figures his prison record made him a convenient target when South Texas authorities were looking to find who killed his mother and three other relatives in a violent spree almost 10 years ago.

"When these hillbilly sheriff departments don't know what they're doing and ... they've got somebody in the family whose got a record or a TDC record, that's the easiest pursuit for them," Bagwell, 41, said Wednesday from the Texas Department of Criminal Justice Polunsky Unit, which houses death row.

"When they found out I had a TDC record for attempted murder, they started piling up the evidence to back up their claim."

Bagwell was on parole when he was arrested in San Antonio for the Sept. 20,

1995, slayings of his mother, Leona McBee, 47; her niece, Libby Best, 24; Best's daughter, Reba, 4; and Tassy Boone, 14, the granddaughter of McBee's common-law husband, Ron Boone.

Convicted and condemned, he was set to die Thursday evening in Huntsville for killings he insisted he did not do.

Search for couple continues after toddler found dead

HOUSTON (AP) — A toddler found dead in an apparently abandoned Houston apartment died from blunt trauma to the chest, police said.

The 2-year-old girl was found dead Tuesday afternoon on a bedroom floor by the apartment manager and a maintenance man who entered the home to change an air filter and repair a drain.

"You expect to find all kinds of stuff in an apartment," said the apartment manager, Rebecca Toledo. "You find messes, a dog. But not a dead baby."

Police want to question the girl's father, Roman Aguila, 27, and Marisel Perez Taxis, 23, who are from Mexico.

RATES

Continued from Page 1A

number of students throughout their stay in high school.

"We do that for every student," Downes said. "Because it's a small number of students (per teacher), the advisor is able to work with them on a more individual basis."

Those programs have Downes optimistic about an improvement in BSHS' graduation rates.

"I'm very interested in seeing how the Class of 2004 comes out," he said. "We're very hopeful that we'll see a marked

improvement."

TEA figures for the other area high schools' Class of 2003 include:

• Coahoma High School — 98.4 percent graduated within four years; 1.6 percent continued high school.

• Forsan High School — 96.1 graduated within four years; 2 percent received a GED; 2 percent dropped out.

• Stanton High School — 91.2 percent graduated within four years; 1.8 percent received a GED; 1.8 percent continued high school; 5.3 percent dropped out.

• Garden City High School — 96.7 percent

graduated within four years; 3.3 percent continued high school.

• Sands High School — 94.4 percent graduated within four years; 5.6 percent received a GED.

• Grady High School — 92.9 percent graduated within four years; 7.1 percent dropped out.

BSHS also ranked near the bottom in graduation rates among similarly sized schools in this area. TEA figures on schools in Big Spring's University Interscholastic League district reveal the following statistics:

• Andrews High School — 97.6 percent graduated within four years; 0.8 per-

cent received a GED; 1.2 percent continued high school; 0.4 percent dropped out.

• Frenship High School — 93.2 percent graduated within four years; 2.0 percent received a GED; 3.1 percent continued in high school; 1.7 percent dropped out.

• Lubbock Estacado High School — 86.1 percent graduated within four years; 2.6 percent received a GED; 5.3 percent continued in high school; 6 percent dropped out.

• San Angelo Lake View High School — 83.0 graduated within four years; 6.3 percent received a GED;

4.5 percent continued high school; 6.3 percent dropped out.

• Plainview High School — 77.9 percent graduated within four years; 2.1 percent received a GED; 8.8 percent continued high school; 11.2 percent dropped out.

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

reporter@bigspringherald.com

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL
24th & Johnson 267-8288
Willie Mae Hayes, 44, died Wednesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

COURSE

Continued from Page 1A

has language that I personally don't find appropriate," she said, "but you have to look past that and see what the story is say-

ing ... I'm a literature teacher, so I look at it differently. I have to look at the story as a whole, and what it has to offer."

Some Forsan trustees suggested using different lesson plans in the concurrent classes, but Conway fears that may

"water down" the courses.

"The way we look at it is that this is a college class," she said. "What I'm teaching to my college students on the Howard College campus is the same thing I'm teaching to my concurrent classes

... It is up to the individual faculty member as to what material they decide to use in class."

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

COCAINE

Continued from Page 1A

date and determine if any other charges will be filed."

Also confiscated were an undisclosed sum of currency, a Kel-Tec 9 mm handgun, a Highpoint 45-caliber handgun and a large amount of property, including computers, televisions, VCRs, DVD players and other electronics.

"Those items will be turned over to detectives with the Big Spring Police Department pending further investigation," said Will Miller, task force investigator. Scott said other individ-

uals are being sought, but did not release any names.

"There were some people who were supposed to

be at the residence but weren't and we will be looking for those people. So this investigation is not over yet," he said.

Let Freedom Ring on Presidents' Day
As we enjoy the extended Presidents' Day weekend, let's not forget the true meaning of the holiday. Take a moment to pay tribute to George Washington, Abraham Lincoln and the other great men who followed in their footsteps to lead our country where it is today.
The following financial institutions will observe the following:
Big Spring, Texas

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Albert O. Gonzales
I whisper your name in my heart.
Death takes most things but love remains.
Happy Birthday
Anita

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GREATER OPPORTUNITIES OF THE PERMIAN BASIN INC: Project Head Start has the following position available:
Teacher Aide: Must be 18 years of age and have a High School Diploma or GED. Must be able to attend training and participate in child development classes and occasionally attend out-of-town training.
All applicants must:
1. Have documented proof of High School Graduation or copy of GED
2. Pass a pre-employment drug screen.
3. Post-employment Criminal History check must be clear of felony convictions to continue employment with the agency.
Agency offers OJT, benefit package for all full and part-time employees. Applicants may apply at Lakeview Head Start 1107 NW 7th St. Big Spring, Tx.
Applications will be taken **Wed.-Thurs. 9am-4pm. Job closes Feb. 17th @ 4:00pm**
All interviews will be held at the Administration Office at 206 W. 5th in Odessa, Tx.

EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Susanne Reed
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Let's help Eagles in raising money for VMC's efforts

What are your plans for the weekend? Well, members of the Fraternal Order of the Eagles Aerie No. 3188 have something to consider for Saturday night.

The Eagles lodge will have a benefit stew supper and dance to raise funds for the Big Spring Vietnam Memorial Committee on Saturday, Feb. 19.

The Eagles will be serving stew, corn bread, tea or coffee and dessert. The meal, which will be served from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. will be \$6 per plate for adults and \$3 for children under the age of 12.

The dance, set for 8:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. will feature the Nightwind Blues band's performances of country, classic rock and blues. The dance will have a \$5 per person cover charge, but those wishing tickets for both the dinner and dance can save a dollar by purchasing a package deal for \$10.

The fundraiser is of paramount importance because the committee needs help in maintaining the memorial that draws visitors from all over our nation. Money is constantly needed for upkeep of the memorial. Many members put their own money into that effort, but there's no way they can shoulder all the burden.

It costs a minimum of \$3,000 per year just to pay utility bills for the memorial, and that doesn't include materials and equipment needed to keep the grounds and perform basic maintenance.

So, we encourage our readers to make plans to have supper at the Eagles Lodge Saturday and help support the Vietnam Memorial Committee.

And even if the supper and dance don't work into your plans that weekend, we here at the Herald encourage all those who can to make a tax-deductible contribution toward the memorial's upkeep simply by mailing a donation to: Vietnam Memorial Committee, P.O. Box 2854, Big Spring 79721.

We believe that in the long run, you'll be glad you did.

HOW TO CONTACT US

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

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

LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

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

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

We need Your love, Lord, to keep us strong when we are tempted to sin.

Amen

Casualties of the sexual revolution

If you watch a lot of cable television, you've probably seen the ads, especially late at night or early in the morning. The "Girls Gone Wild" videos promise to show you coeds behaving badly on the beach during Spring Break or getting down and dirty at Mardi Gras. The formula is simple: find a group of nubile young things drunk out of their heads and induce them to pull up their T-shirts or pull down their shorts and expose themselves to anyone willing to fork over \$19.95 for the privilege. The most recent incarnation features gangster rapper Snoop Dogg hawking fresh, young flesh.

Call me old-fashioned, but I just can't imagine what these girls were thinking when they agreed to "show off their assets," as one knock-off video boasts. These young women aren't pros — they are not part of the pornographic underworld — but ordinary teens and twenty-somethings who one day will be wives and mothers. One young girl, who was 17 at the time she allowed herself to be photographed topless, has already sued the producers of "The Guy Game," a video game featuring females in various stages of undress. Her suit claims she did not give a "valid or enforceable consent or release" for photos to be used by the video game makers. "Plaintiff is still a teenager and wishes to attend college, develop her career and be active in her community and church." Good luck.



LINDA CHAVEZ

What is most shocking about this phenomenon is that we're not all that shocked by it. Modesty used to be considered a natural female attribute. No more. Just take a look around next time you're at the mall. With warm weather on the way, belly buttons will be popping out everywhere, and thighs will be very much on display, even in church. Back in the day, a pair of tight jeans was enough to earn a girl a bad reputation. Now slutty has gone Main Street.

A recent report by the Independent Women's Forum (IWF) — "Sex (Ms.) Education: What Young Women Need to Know (But Won't Hear in Women's Studies) About Sex, Love, and Marriage" — suggests that feminism is at least partly to blame. Female sexual license has become a central tenet in modern feminism, as the IWF documents in its study of feminist academic literature. Popular feminist textbooks, notes the study's author Carrie Lukas, "celebrate feminism's role in changing social mores by increasing the recognition of women's sexuality, bolstering its acceptance, and encouraging greater access to birth control." Early feminists burned their bras as a symbol of their liberation. Could baring their breasts be the newest symbolic act of young feminists?

As Lukas demonstrates, however, libertine behavior exacts a heavier toll on females than males. Women are more susceptible to sexually transmitted diseases than men, for example. A woman is eight times more likely than a man to contract HIV from a single sexual encounter and four times more likely to get gonorrhea

when exposed. Women are also more likely to suffer serious damage, such as sterility or cervical cancer, from STDs. And the risks are not just physical.

Many studies show that promiscuous behavior entails greater psychological costs for even the most "liberated" women. One anthropologist cited by Lukas hypothesizes that the uncomfortable feelings many women experience after casual sexual encounters may be a warning system for women not to engage in behavior that would have been "maladaptive in earlier evolutionary eras. Casual sex with men unwilling to invest in them or their offspring is a prime instigator of such negative feelings."

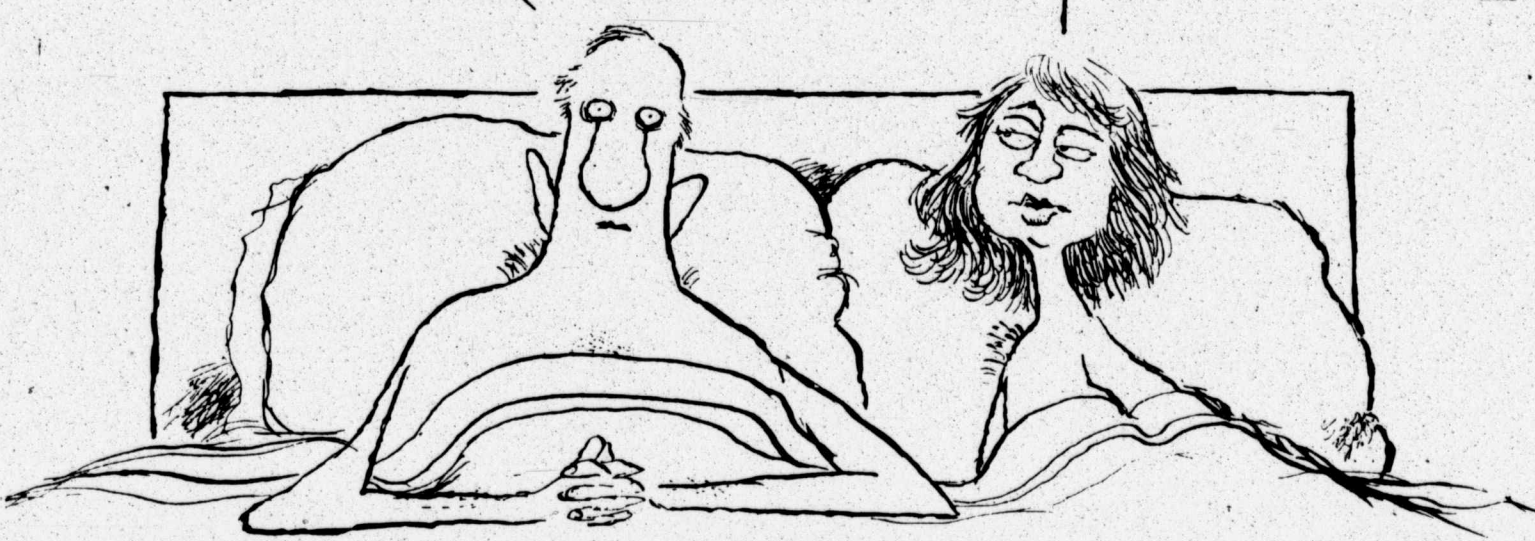
The girls baring all in these low-budget videos may think that guys like this kind of behavior. But as Steven E. Rhoads, author of "Taking Sex Differences Seriously" notes, "Men often prize promiscuous sex in the short term, but they want faithful wives. . . . If a man finds a woman hard to get, he will sense that she is more likely to be faithful after marriage." Plenty of men and boys will buy the "Girls Gone Wild" videos, but they're not likely to invite the amateur strippers home to meet Mom.

Linda Chavez is the author of the new book, "Betrayal: How Union Bosses Shake Down Their Members and Corrupt American Politics." To find out more about Linda Chavez and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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EVER SINCE MEDICARE STARTED SUPPLYING ME WITH VIAGRA YOU'VE BEEN SCREAMING ANOTHER MAN'S NAME. WHO IS HE?

UNCLE SAM.



YOUR VIEWS

TO THE EDITOR:

I started taking the Big Spring Herald about a month after I moved "home" so I would get the Molly Ivins' column. Please continue to print her column.

Third and fourth generation Texans are aware that the words conservative and Republican are not synergistic. Yes, this area is conservative. It does not necessarily follow that it is Republican.

Every day I find myself more pleased with this old hometown newspaper. Keep up the good work. You serve your community well.

ANITA MASON MORRIS
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

I want to thank you for the article you put in the paper about the "nurse capable of murder, daughter says."

I am the daughter of one of the victims that was murdered. My father's name is Boyd Bruce Burnett.

It was such a shock when I drove up to my bank today and they gave me a copy of your article. Of course they knew that I was one of the family victims.

We, my family, have been going through a lot of pain in the last few years waiting for this trial and now that it is here, it is very shocking. My mind is in a whirl and I do not know what to feel now that the trial is coming up.

I own my own business, which is Heavenly Scent at 2401 Scurry. I will be leaving for the trial as soon as the jury has been selected. Big

Spring has been so good to me since I moved here from Nocona and I just wanted to say thank you for adding this article to our newspaper.

CHRYSTA K. TIBBETS
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

Before our county commissioners spend millions of taxpayer dollars on a "modern jail facility," they should review the policies of Sheriff Joe Arpaio of Maricopa County (Phoenix), Ariz.

By the way, he keeps getting re-elected. The sheriff created the "tent city jail." He has cut the price of meals to 40 cents a serving and inmates pay. He stopped smoking and porn magazines in the jail and cut out all but "G" movies. He started chain gangs so prisoners could do free work on county and city projects — also for women to avoid discrimination lawsuits.

The only cable channels he allows are the Disney Channel and the Weather Channel — the weather channel so that prisoners would know how hot it will be (or cold) when working on his "chain gangs."

His reply to prisoner complaints is very basic: "This isn't the Ritz-Carlton. If you don't like it, don't come back."

"Our soldiers in Iraq are living in tents, too, and they have to wear full battle gear, but they didn't commit any crimes, so shut your mouths."

Perhaps if more jails/prisons were like his, there would be less crime and/or repeat offenders.

Criminals should be punished for their crimes, not live better in jail than they do on the "outside," so that when released, they commit another crime to go back.

DON BOLING
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

Please allow the entire staff of the West Texas VA Health Care System to share our appreciation and thanks to the community of Big Spring for offering great West Texas hospitality to VA Networks 18 and 19 participants in the Leadership Development Institute. During their 5 day stay in Big Spring, our 70 guests were welcomed with open arms as they shopped, dined and lodged in our friendly community.

We want to extend a special thanks to the following: The City of Big Spring for providing a CVB grant, Tom Koger, the Boy Scout Buffalo Trail Council for the utilization of the COPE Course and the businesses that worked in conjunction with out staff.

It is refreshing to be a part of a community that will rally around a common cause to promote its culture of friendliness and camaraderie. I am proud that, together, we can make such a dramatic impression on visitors to Big Spring. I applaud your efforts and thank you for your support of the West Texas VA Health Care System.

LOU ANN ATKINS
MEDICAL CENTER DIRECTOR

Fall forecast: looking toward a surreal season

By JACKIE WHITE

KRT
NEW YORK — Picture a sea of empire dresses.

Think Edwardian jackets, blousy baby doll silhouettes, velvet knickers, metallic puffed skirts and skirts shaped like pods.

Reflecting a new proportion and shape, the fall clothes on the runways during New York Fashion Week seemed at times a bit surreal.

But then Ralph Lauren had a turn.

On the last day of the eight-day marathon, his simple, long, lean lines and low-key American luxury was a relief from the gloss and flash that earlier dominated the week. It was as if too much rich food produced an appreciation for a lovely broth.

His press notes announced the collection was inspired by his extensive vintage car collection.

He opened with skinny gray cashmere dresses with brown leather elbow patches (a challenge for dry cleaners) and wide, brown belts. A long, gray, slim coat was anchored by a wide brown belt. He sent out trim glen plaid trouser suits and close-fitting pinstriped gray jackets paired with skirts that flared into pleats above the knees.

Red Baron skull caps reinforced the automotive theme. And gray strappy evening goddess gowns may have enticed actress

Emmy Rossum, who had an eye to the Oscars as she watched the show from the front row. "We've just begun to talk," she said of her Oscar gown quest.

The Fashion Week shows took place over eight days in midtown Manhattan and other venues scattered throughout the city. About 1,800 media people were registered to attend, along with major retailers and designers' friends.

The American outing kicked off the fall season. The pundits head to London, Milan and Paris next week.

The celebrity showing was strong enough to keep the paparazzi alert. Bette Midler, Claire Danes and Ashley Olsen came to watch Zac Posen. So did a contingent of Sean (Puff Daddy) Combs (who owns a chunk of the business), and his friends Jay-Z and Russell Simmons. Renee Zellweger caught the Carolina Herrera show early in the week.

Barbara Walters and opera's Renee Fleming watched the exquisite detailing at Chado Ralph Rucci. Earlier in the week, Paris Hilton slid into her front-row seats at several shows clutching Tinkerbell, her tiny dog.

The overriding message from the week was this:

You cannot look too rich. Fur was ubiquitous and displayed in everything from fox boas to chinchilla coats and dresses with sable insets.

Even Jennifer Lopez's show had no shortage of sable and other skins, including a big white fur garden hat for model Naomi Campbell.

They were shown with cropped pants, baby doll tops, hot pants and tiny ruffled miniskirts with

garters and high boots.

But the luxury message was also broadcast in velvets, metallics, lace and embroidered coats and gowns. Textures were lavishly mixed with other textures of knits, plaid wools and denim.

At Elie Tahari, which displayed the label's collection on mannequins in a new showroom, the philosophy that more is more was touted by layering diverse textures of velvets, suede leather, lace, tulle and even a denim jacket. The jackets were often finished off with narrow belts or lace sashes.

As for the overall season, the color scheme involved considerable black and white, a rich sapphire blue, mustard or gold and miles of brown. Black has made such a remarkable recovery it may be the new black. But brown is a close second.

In other shows, Zac Posen offered plenty for the young Hollywood clientele. Tight-fitting skirts had panels swinging from the side as the models walked, and metallic bubble blouses were featured.

Evening meant full sweeping skirts with trains. The designer has honed his talent for exploring new, interesting shapes.

In the strangest juxtaposition of the week, Rucci was followed by Jennifer Lopez, the hot ticket and most difficult show to get in to. Held in the large space in the Bryant Park tent, it drew more than 1,400, including performers Damon Dash, Ashanti, Li'l Kim, Ja Rule and Bernadette Peters.

The show was divided into three parts representing phases of Lopez's life, ending with a cartoon



KRT Photo/Nicolas Khayat
Models Joan Severance and Frederique Van Der Wahl with designer Nicole Miller during a fashion show in New York City Tuesday.



KRT Photo/Slaven Vlasic
A model walks the runway at Fall 2005 Donna Karan fashion show, as part of Olympus Fashion Week at Bryant Park in New York.

drawing of a limousine. When it was over she came out for a bow in cropped white pants and a short white middle-baring shirt.

The most controversial show was Marc Jacobs', whose round shapes, pod skirts and dark gray and black colors fueled a debate. It was compared with his influential grunge collection for Perry Ellis in 1993, which ultimately caused the company to close the line.

Runway Rundown

Jeffrey Chow

If black had not returned, brown could well be the new black. Jeffrey Chow's brown popcorn stitch cardigan was shown with everything from shiny metallics to pencil skirts.

Calvin Klein

Calvin Klein designer Francisco Costa combined Klein's traditional minimal lines with a new, more voluminous shape in both bright and muted colors.

Marc Jacobs

In one of the most controversial shows, Marc Jacobs explored a new direction in mostly muted colors. To be ahead of fall, start softening your

wardrobe with grays, black and brown.

Jennifer Lopez

Jennifer Lopez raised the bar on glitz and racy glamour. Model Naomi Campbell wore the fur-trimmed, fringed poncho with knickers.

Ralph Lauren

Ralph Lauren offered long and clean lines in his fall collection. Gray is making a comeback on runways. Combine it with brown as Lauren did in this cashmere dress with leather elbow patches.

What to do right now

The fashion shows were focused on fall, but you can start crafting your fashionable image right now for spring.

Here is what you can do: Head to the trimmings store. Buy lace strips to tie around your neck, as a sash at your waist or over your blouse or jacket cuffs.

Look for petticoats to puff out your circular skirts.

Pick up colored gems to sew on your jacket lapels or at the waist line.

Wear black with white.

Bring out all your narrow belts and fasten them high on your waist.

Pull your hair back into

a knot. In some shows, it looked as if one had just thrown it up to go to the beach.

Buy something brown. A cardigan sweater would be stunning over a cocktail dress.

Buy something gray.

Cut off your fuller cut trousers and sew them into knickers.



KRT Photo/Nicolas Khayat
Janice Dickinson models a creation by Nicole Miller, designed especially for JC Penney, during a fashion show in New York City Tuesday.

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| Yellowstone & Mount Rushmore July 14-25 | Colors of the Northeast Niagara Falls Foliage October 8-20 |
| Westward Ho! San Francisco, Yosemite & Lake Tahoe September 6-18 | Washington, DC Oct. 24-Nov. 3 |

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ATKINS RECTOR

Quattro

Redesigned Audi A6 has a much bolder presence

By STEVEN COLE SMITH
The Orlando Sentinel

Aside from that massive what-were-they-thinking grille, the Audi A6, redesigned for 2005, is an across-the-board improvement from the previous model, which was no slouch in its own right.

Audi stylists — for the side and rear, anyway — have given the moderately feminine A6 a much bolder presence for '05. Previously known mostly as the model between the smaller A4 and the flagship A8, the A6 gets its own personality at last.

As with many complex individuals, though, it takes a while to get an accurate reading on the A6's personality. The V-8 version, with 4.2 liters and 335 horsepower, is the brute, but the test model, with the 255-horsepower, 3.2-liter V-6, is more of an all-around athlete. Nimble and light on its feet, the Quattro 3.2 — Quattro signifies all-wheel drive — is equally adept in the city, on the highway, and on winding backroads.

It is not, however, a drag racer. The V-6 is

exceptionally smooth — arguably, Audi continues to build the smoothest engines of anyone — but weighing in at a deceptive 2 tons, there's quite a bit of A6 mass to move about. The six-speed automatic transmission helps, especially if you use the Tiptronic shift-for-yourself feature. Audi advertises 0 to 60 mph acceleration of 7.1 seconds, which is 1.1 seconds slower than the V-8 model.

The A6's throttle tip-in from a standing start is annoyingly abrupt, but once under way, the powertrain matches the rest of the car's substantial sophistication. Most notable inside the car is the Multi Media Interface. It's a joysticklike device in the center of the console that controls multiple functions. It looks a lot like BMW's iDrive, but unlike iDrive, the system can be operated without an engineering degree.

Typically Audi, the interior is pretty and functional. Two adults will be very comfortable in the rear seat, and three won't complain. The wheelbase of the 2005 A6 is 3.3 inch-



The 2005 Audi A6 Quattro

es longer than last year's model, and the trunk holds a roomy 15.9 cubic feet of luggage. It's almost at the point where the A8, with its starting price of about \$25,000 more, seems like overkill.

This is not to say the A6 is cheap. The test model starts at \$40,900, and with options that include that navigation system and several other premium features, the bottom line

was \$47,120. The V-8's starting price is about \$10,000 more, but some features that are optional on the V-6 are standard on the V-8, such as the neat adaptive, self-leveling Xenon headlights.

At the V-6's base price, though, the list of standard equipment is still a long one: It includes multiple side air bags, leather upholstery, a 10-speaker sound system with a six-

disc CD changer and rain-sensing wipers.

On paper and in practice, Audi has trumped comparable BMW and Mercedes-Benz models. But there's one obstacle to overcome: Audi's reputation for reliability still lags behind the other two Germans. It may not be a scientific assessment, but I hear more tales of Audi woe from readers than Mercedes and BMW com-

bined. Fix that, and Audi becomes the new European import standard.

...
Base price: \$40,900.
Price as tested: \$47,120.
EPA-rated fuel mileage:
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Details: Front-engine, all-wheel-drive sedan with a 3.2-liter, 255-horsepower V-6 and a 6-speed automatic transmission.

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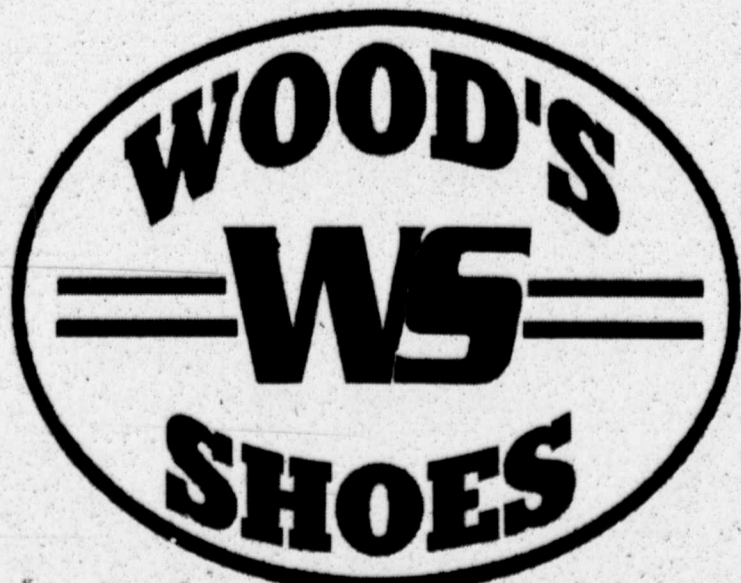
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Sports

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Page 1B
Thursday, February 17, 2005

IN BRIEF

2005 Little League to hold signups

Sign-ups for the 2005 Big Spring Little League baseball season will take place Feb. 19 through Feb. 26 at the Big Spring Mall.

Registration will take place from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Saturday.

The league is for anyone ages five through 16 that live within the Big Spring little league boundaries. Registration is required even if a player has played before, at least one parent or guardian must be present and an original or state-certified copy of child's birth certificate is required.

For more information, contact Chuck Rosenbaum at 263-1792.

Class of 2005 to host fund-raiser

The Big Spring class of 2005 will be holding a softball fund-raiser at Cotton Mize Field March 11 and 12.

The entry fee will be \$125 and prizes will be awarded to the first, second and third place teams. The final day to enter the tournament will be March 9.

For more information, contact J.R. Landin at 264-1736 or Able Rios at 213-2115.

Lady Steer Booster Club meeting set

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

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

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

Lady Steer Softball Booster meeting set

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

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

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

Softball umpires needed for season

Anyone interested in becoming an ASA certified umpire for the upcoming softball season can obtain information from Francisco Ramirez at 466-3670.

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

The Chicano Golf Association has set its first tournament of the year — the membership drive tourney — for Sunday at Comanche Trail Golf Course.

The tournament will begin with a shotgun start at 11:30 a.m. and all participants must be registered by 11 a.m.

This tournament was originally scheduled for Feb. 13, but the date has been moved up.

For more information, call Billy Pineda at 264-7116.

Howard rodeo team snags local athlete

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor

Howard College head rodeo coach Greg Kernick snagged a local athlete Wednesday as Forsan's Britt Clark signed a letter of intent to rodeo at Howard next season.

Clark will be a team roper as a member of the Hawks next year and he will fit right into the program, according to Kernick.

"He is a heeler and we need those because we have plenty of headers on our current team," said Kernick. "We always try to stay close to home when we can. Britt comes

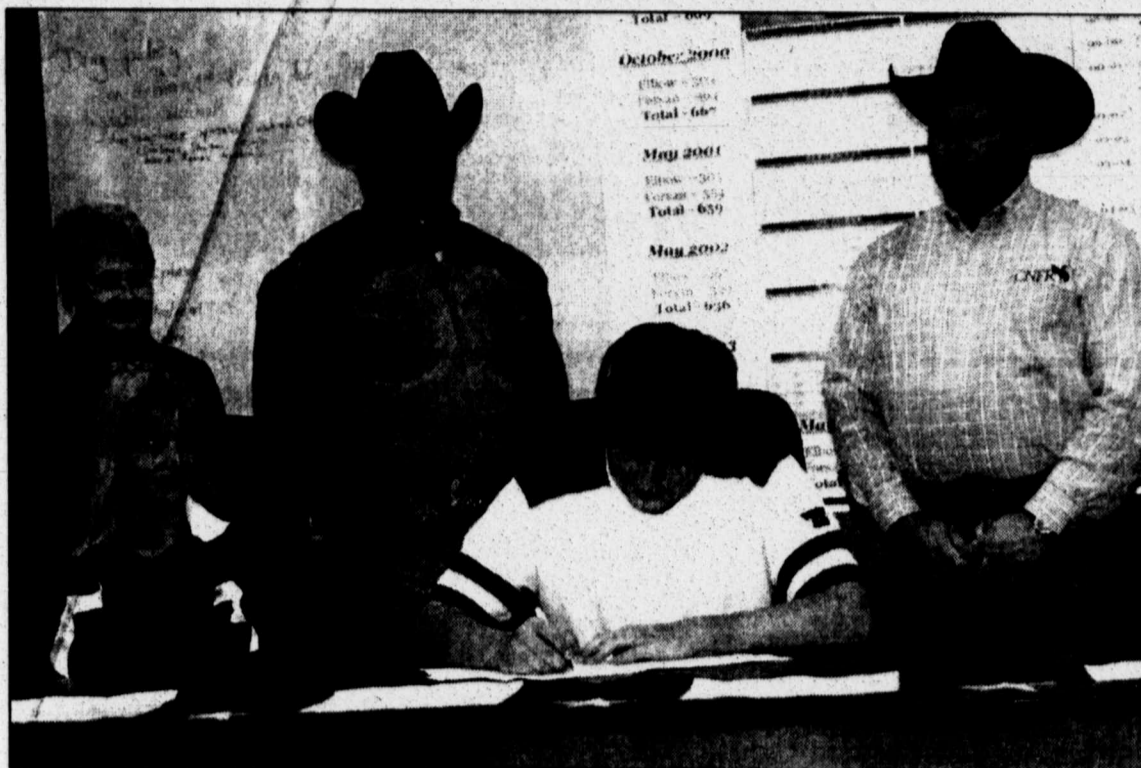
from a good family and he knows how to win."

Clark's career earnings during the last two years equals \$30,000. He has been involved with rodeo since he was 14 and involved with the high school national rodeo the past three years.

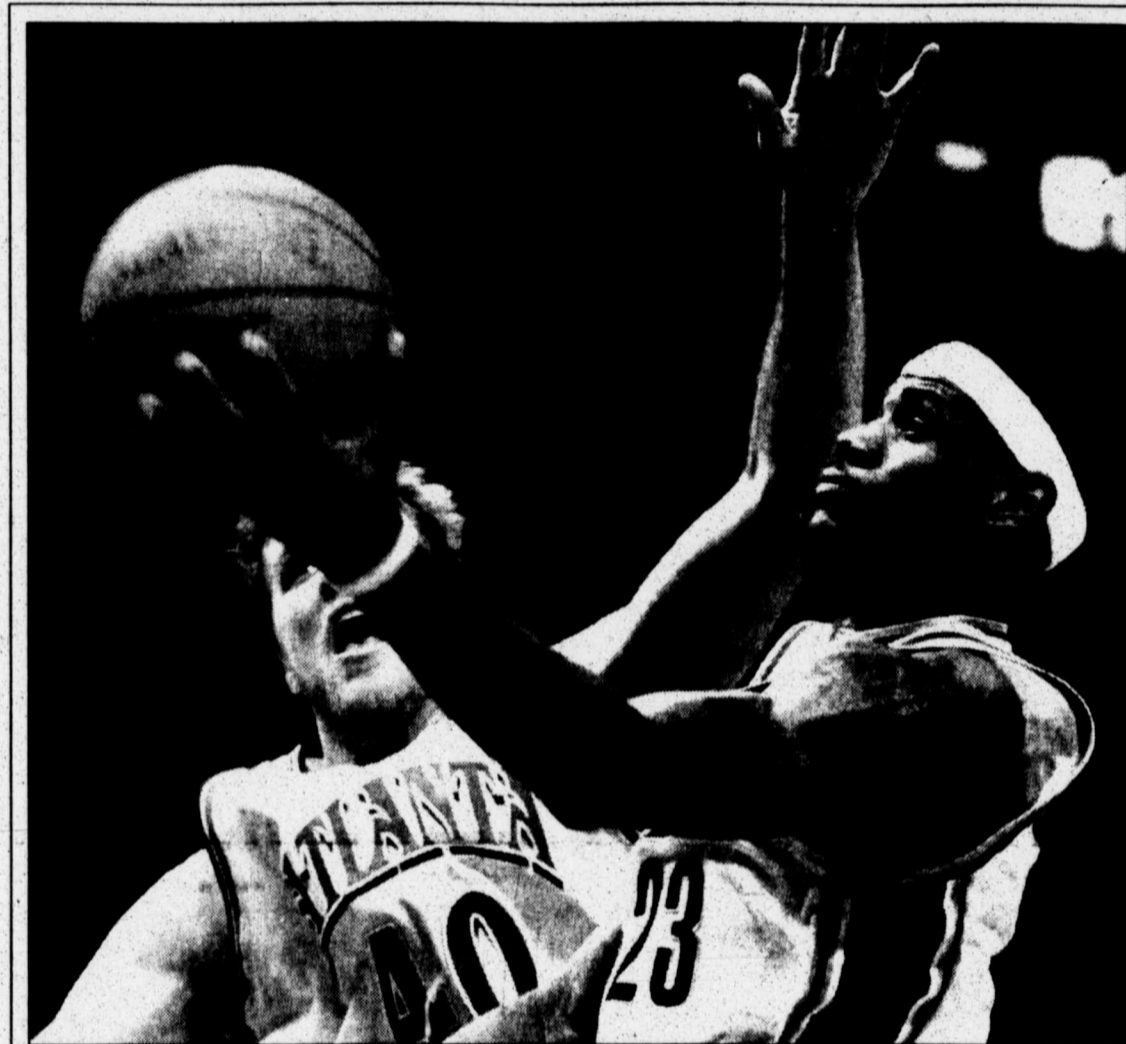
Clark ultimately chose Howard over Texas Tech. He is unsure of a major of study next year.

"I wanted to stay close to home and wanted to be near my parents," said Clark.

Clark comes from a rodeo background as his father Casey is a team roper in rodeo, as well.



From left: Grandmother Janelle, mother Fayelyn, and father Casey all watch their son and grandson Britt Clark of Forsan sign a letter of intent to rodeo at Howard College. Howard's head rodeo coach Greg Kernick, far right, was also present to witness the signing. Britt will be a team roper next season for the Hawks.



The Cavs' LeBron James scores a basket in front of the Hawks' Jason Collier during the first half of their game at Gund Arena in Cleveland, Ohio, Wednesday.

Stanton ends year with victory, comes up short of playoffs

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor

Stanton did what it had to Tuesday, but Colorado City didn't hold up its end of the deal as the Buffaloes boy's basketball team beat rival Hawley, but missed the postseason after the Wolves upset district-leading Anson.

Stanton used a 19-14 second quarter advantage to edge the Bearcats at home, 46-44. The Buffaloes and Hawley (9-20, 1-9) went even in the third quarter before the Bearcats outscored Stanton 13-11 in

the final frame.

Stanton needed a win and a Colorado City loss to force a tie for third place in District 4-2A.

Matthew Ruiz scored 18 points and hit four 3-pointers to lead Stanton (14-13, 5-5). Michael Washington added 10 points, while Jeremy Esparza and Garrett Fulton each scored nine.

Ruiz but missed the post season after the Wolves upset district-leading Anson.

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| District 4-2A Final Standings | | |
|----------------------------------|-----|-------|
| *Anson | 9-1 | 23-8 |
| *Coshoma | 7-3 | 20-10 |
| *C-Clay | 6-4 | 15-13 |
| Stanton | 5-5 | 15-14 |
| Stamford | 2-8 | 12-17 |
| Hawley | 1-9 | 9-22 |

*denotes playoff teams

NHL says 'game over'

By IRA PODELL
AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The NHL canceled its season exactly five months after the lockout started. Now there's no telling when there will be games again.

"We're planning to have hockey next season," NHL commissioner Gary Bettman said Wednesday.

That won't be easy. Last-gasp negotiations got the league and the players' association close to a settlement, but not close enough to prevent the cancellation of the season Wednesday.

The issue that kept the sides apart at the end is the same one that has divided them since this fight started long ago — the inability to resolve differences over a salary cap.

"The guys I've talked to in the last 24 hours were hoping it was canceled, not to see it canceled, but we've missed basically all of our paychecks anyway," Nashville forward Jim McKenzie said. "We've offered too much and gone too far to a group that really hasn't tried to move."

For the first time, a major pro sports league in North America has lost an entire season to a labor dispute. The resulting damage could be immeasurable to hockey, which already has limited appeal in the United States.

To begin with, all momentum gained in the final days of negotiations

has been lost — late offers that broke down barriers are now off the table.

"This is a sad, regrettable day that all of us wish could have been avoided," Bettman said.

"Every day that this thing continues, we don't think it's good for the game," NHLPA executive director Bob Goodenow said in Toronto.

No Stanley Cup champion will be crowned, the first time that's happened since 1919, when the 2-year-old league called off the finals because of a flu epidemic.

Without an agreement, there can be no June draft. The sport's heralded next big thing, Canadian phenom Sidney Crosby, won't pull on his first NHL sweater anytime soon.

Then there is the parade of aging stars — Mario Lemieux (39), Mark Messier (44), Steve Yzerman (39) Brett Hull (40), Ron Francis (41), Dave Andreychuk (41) and Chris Chelios (43) — whose playing days could be ending on someone else's terms.

"This is a tragedy for the players," Bettman said. "Their careers are short and this is money and opportunity they'll never get back," Bettman said.

Despite being the NHL's best-known star, there was never a chance that Pittsburgh's Lemieux, the first owner-player in modern American pro sports history, would side with the players.

Hockey was already a distant fourth on the popularity scale among the nation's major league sports.

The NHL lost the first season of its two-year broadcasting agreement with NBC that was supposed to begin this season, a revenue-sharing deal in which the network is not even paying rights fees.

Taking a year off, or more, will only push the league further off the radar screen.

Between shifts of a pickup game at the Denver rink where the Avalanche used to practice, fan Don Cameron called the cancellation "a shame."

"When they come back, it's not going to be as easy to pay for a \$90 season ticket," he said.

Not to mention how difficult it will be for all the ushers, trainers, officials, Zamboni drivers and businesses near arenas that will continue to be affected.

"If you want to know how I feel, I'll summarize it in one word — terrible," Bettman said.

But he added that the sides would keep working toward an agreement.

Goodenow stressed that the players had already given a lot of ground. "Every offer by the players moved in the owners' direction," he said.

"Keep one thing perfectly clear," Goodenow said. "The players never asked for more money — they just asked for a marketplace."



The Yankees' Randy Johnson tosses the baseball in the outfield during the second day of spring training in Tampa, Fla., Wednesday.

Upcoming Events

Friday, Feb. 18, 7 p.m. — New Mexico J.C. vs. Big Spring Little League
Saturday, Feb. 19, 9 p.m. — New Mexico J.C. vs. Big Spring Little League
Sunday, Feb. 20, 2 p.m. — Big Spring Little League vs. Big Spring Little League (two games)
Monday, Feb. 21, 7 p.m. — Big Spring Little League vs. Big Spring Little League
Tuesday, Feb. 22, 7 p.m. — Big Spring Little League vs. Big Spring Little League
Wednesday, Feb. 23, 7 p.m. — Big Spring Little League vs. Big Spring Little League
Thursday, Feb. 24, 7 p.m. — Big Spring Little League vs. Big Spring Little League
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263-7331

www.bigspringherald.com

Business Opportunity

FOR SALE: Well established Screen Printing / Embroidery business. Located in Big Spring. Serious inquiries only. For appointment call 432-213-0372 10:00-5:00pm.

The Big Spring Herald has routes open, beginning March 1st. In Coahoma and Sand Springs area.

BIG SPRING HERALD

Contact Angie or Ann

710 Scurry (432)263-7331

THIS IS HUGE!
New Electric Company
Unlimited Potential MLM
972-670-9242

BUY•SELL•TRADE
In the
Big Spring Herald
Classifieds
263-7331

Cemetery Lots

FOUR SPACES at Trinity Memorial Park. Choice lots, Garden of Olivett. Value \$1,380 each. Sell all for \$5,000. Call (325)653-5160 or 325-944-0813.

Garage Sales

Huge Moving Sale
Inside 1410 Scurry
Friday-Saturday,
8:00-2:00

Antiques, Collectibles,
Furniture, Stoves
Everything Must Go!!

INSIDE SALE: 804 Douglas, Fri. 8:00-4:00 & Sat 8:00-Noon. Kitchen items, furniture, exercise bike, treadmill, electric hospital bed, clothes, tools and more.

Help Wanted

FARM HAND Wanted. Experienced Only. Call (432)684-5418.

BEST HOME Care has position available for Certified Nurse Aide. Please apply at 111 E. 7th., Suite C. No phone calls please.

Help Wanted

CITY OF Big Spring is taking applications for Communications Officer. This position is responsible for receiving calls for assistance for the public and dispatching the appropriate public safety personnel. Apply at the Personnel Department, 310 Nolan, Big Spring, TX 79720 or call 432-264-2346. The City of Big Spring is EOE. Applications may also be obtained from website: www.ci.big-spring.tx.us.

Help Wanted

MOUNTAIN VIEW LODGE Now Hiring
Certified Medication Aides
• Very Competitive Starting Pay
• Excellent Benefits including Retirement Plan, and Vacation
• Friendly, Family-like environment
Please apply in person @ 2009 Virginia Ave.

CLERICAL POSITION available at Best Home Care. Computer experience required and must be very detail oriented. Please apply at 111 East 7th, Suite C.

Help Wanted

CITY OF Big Spring is taking applications for Animal Control Officer. Apply at the Personnel Department, 310 Nolan, Big Spring, Tx 79720 or call (432)264-2346. The City of Big Spring is EOE. Applications may also be obtained from website: www.ci.big-spring.tx.us

Help Wanted

CITY OF Big Spring is taking applications for Administrative Secretary. Apply at the Personnel Department, 310 Nolan, Big Spring, TX 79720 or call 432-264-2346. The City of Big Spring is EOE. Applications may also be obtained from website: www.ci.big-spring.tx.us.

On-Site Maintenance Tech
Prefer at least 1 year maintenance experience and must be able to take after hours and weekend calls; must have valid TX drivers license and liability insurance.
Health insurance, paid time off and 401K plan offered
Fill out application between 9 am-12 pm & 1:30 - 4:30 pm
1 Courtney Place
Big Spring, Texas
mcdougal.com




WE OFFER:
♦ Paid Training ♦ Benefits
♦ Career Advancement ♦ Friendly Work Environment

Apply in person - 501 Birdwell Lane Suite 30
Big Spring, Texas / (432-264-2700) phone
or email: jhurt@startek.com

(Grade 12 Diploma is mandatory, must be 18 yrs. of age)

Come join a winning team!!!
Bilingual*

BUSINESSES & SERVICES

\$1.89 Per Day; 6-Month Contract \$1.58 Per Day
Call 263-7331 to place your ad today!!

| | | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|--|---|
| <p>CARPET</p> <p>Bring Samples To Your Home NAME BRANDS Kenny Thompson 270-0548 263-4548</p> | <p>CONCRETE</p> <p>MARQUEZ FENCE CO. All types of fences & repairs. Concrete work, carports. All work guaranteed. Free Estimates Benny Marquez-Owner 267-5714</p> | <p>CONCRETE</p> <p>STUCCO DRIVEWAYS SIDEWALKS BLOCK FENCES Chico and Sons Concrete (432) 267-4044 (432) 268-6322 621 Sgt. Paredes Frank Rubio Big Spring, TX 79720</p> | <p>CONCRETE</p> <p>J. T. Builders Concrete Remodeling • Drywall Ceramic Tile • Electrical Plumbing • Roofing Brick & Concrete Work Driveways • Sidewalks Fireplaces • Stucco Second Generation Serving The Big Spring Area JOHNNY TALAMANTEZ (432) 213-0862 Cell (432) 263-2110 Res. 100 E. 11th PLACE BIG SPRING, TX. 79720</p> | <p>CONSTRUCTION</p> <p>C & J Construction • Residential & Commercial Repair • Remodeling • Custom Homes (432) 270-8252 (432) 213-3444 (432) 394-4805</p> | <p>DIRT WORK</p> <p>DECKER'S FARM SUPPLY & NURSERY We do Dirt Work, Brush Hog, Backhoe, Bulldozing, Small Grubbing Jobs and Will Clear Lots. 432-756-3444</p> |
| <p>FENCES</p> <p>FENCE CONSTRUCTION AUTOMATIC GATE OPENERS METAL BUILDINGS Agricultural • Residential Commercial SPRAYBERRY AQ. FABRICATION (432) 535-2396 Office (432) 556-5530 Mobile Specializing in custom built gates, fences, and buildings for all your needs.</p> | <p>FENCES</p> <p>CHAINLINK METAL • CEDAR DOG KENNELS ORNAMENTAL IRON B & M Fence Co. COMMERCIAL • RESIDENTIAL GET OUR PRICE & COMPARE •FREE ESTIMATES ROBERT MARQUEZ 263-1613 • 1-800-828-1389 1006 Lamon Hwy. • Big Spring</p> | <p>FENCE</p> <p>J.T. West Texas Fence & Welding Garden City, Texas Wood Fence Metal Fence Pipe Fence Pipe Corals Barbed Wire Fence Net Wire Fence Free Estimates Home (432) 354-2513 Mobile (432) 466-1715 Big Spring (432) 263-4858 Sterling City (325) 378-3077</p> | <p>FENCES</p> <p>Quality Fence Co. Jimmy Marquez-Owner Finest In Fencing Wood & Chainlink Free Estimates 432-267-3349</p> | <p>HOME IMPROVEMENT</p> <p>R S HOME REPAIR Custom Wood Decks, Remodel, Carpenter, Painting, Plumbing, Minor Electrical FREE ESTIMATES Garage door repair, Appliances installed 816-3030</p> | <p>GARAGE SALE</p> <p>HAVING A GARAGE SALE CALL 263-7331 Herald Classifieds BIG SPRING HERALD</p> |
| <p>YOUR AD</p> <p>PUT YOUR AD HERE CALL 263-7331 Herald Classifieds BIG SPRING HERALD</p> | <p>HOME IMPROVEMENT</p> <p>Gibbs Remodeling New home Construction • Room Additions Carports • Dry Wall Hanging & Finishing & Exterior Wallpaper Hanging • Ceramic Tile Installation & Repair All Remodel Needs Of Any Room In Your Home. Call 263-8285</p> | <p>HOME IMPROVEMENT</p> <p>AFFORDABLE HOME MAINTENANCE •Renovation •Repairs •Maintenance Quality Work You Can Trust Satisfaction Guaranteed NO JOB IS TOO SMALL! Russ/Craig (owner) 432-270-2585</p> | <p>HOME IMPROVEMENT</p> <p>DOORS/GARAGE DOORS/OPENERS Home Repair • Carpentry Sheet Work Repaired/Replaced Kitchen & Bath BOB'S CUSTOM WOODWORK 409 E. 3RD 267-5811</p> | <p>HOME IMPROVEMENT</p> <p>HANDY MAN Home Repair, Remodeling, Maintenance, Yardwork, Painting, Etc. Concrete Work, Driveway, Patios, Sidewalks, Etc. Evenings - 267-7659 Days - 263-5272</p> | |
| <p>LAWN SERVICE</p> <p>MOWING • WEDEATING TILLING • TRASH HAULING TREE TRIMMING CALL 432-267-5460 LEAVE MESSAGE 816-6150</p> | <p>RENTALS</p> <p>VENTURA COMPANY 432-267-2655 Houses • Duplexes 1, 2, 3 Bedrooms For rent/sale 709 E. 12TH 1204 BENTON 1102 E. 6TH 905 E. 15TH</p> | <p>ROOFING</p> <p>PALACIOS ROOFING & HOME IMPROVEMENT Roofs, Room Additions, Ceramic Tile, Fences, Painting Insured & Bonded Home Phone# 432-263-5430 Cell# 432-213-0363</p> | <p>ROOFING</p> <p>JOHNNY FLORES ROOFING Shingles, Hot Tar & Gravel. All type of repairs! Work Guaranteed. Specializing in Hot Tar Roofs and Doctor of Repairs! Free Estimates!! Big Spring & Surrounding Areas. 267-1110</p> | <p>TREE TRIMMING</p> <p>LUPE'S TREE TRIMMING More than 20 years of experience. Stump grinder available. For Tree Trimming and removal. Call Lupe 432-267-8317 432-268-6406</p> | <p>TAX SERVICES</p> <p>FAST CASH On Income Tax Refund Refund Loan Within 24 Hrs. TAX ASSOCIATES 406 Runnels (Across From Bargain Mart) CALL (432) 264-6134 "Se Habla Espanol" *With RAL Approval</p> |
| <p>TREE TRIMMING</p> <p>DURAN'S TREE SERVICE Tree Removal Specialist. Minor/Major trimming, stump removal, flower bed cleaned, hedges trimmed. Prices negotiable. (432) 570-8617 (432) 238-6770, cell.</p> | <p>PEST CONTROL</p> <p>SOUTHWESTERN A-1 PEST CONTROL Since 1954 432-263-6514 2008 Birdwell Lane Max F. Moore www.swalpc.com mm@swalpc.com</p> | <p>YOUR AD</p> <p>PUT YOUR AD HERE CALL 263-7331 Herald Classifieds BIG SPRING HERALD</p> | <p>WOOD</p> <p>Firewood Oak or Mesquite Pick-Up or Delivery Available at our local yard (979) 828-1500 - Main Office (432) 268-9227 - Local</p> | <p>WEB PRINTING</p> <p>For Information On Web Printing Call Tony Hernandez 263-7331 BIG SPRING HERALD</p> | <p>INTERNET ADS</p> <p>For Information On Internet Ads Call Retail Advertising 263-7331 BIG SPRING HERALD</p> |

Help Wanted

Frito-Lay is seeking a hard worker to fill a Route Sales Position. Must be willing to work 60+ hrs., weekends and holidays.
Please call
1-866-4-HIRING



CJ's Wireless Warehouse
New Hire

CJ's Wireless Warehouse is now hiring for Cellular Account Executives in the Big Spring area. CJ's is a Cellular One authorized dealer that is interested in individuals that are self-motivated, goal-oriented and willing to work hard for aggressive compensation. CJ's has become one of the markets top-producing dealers by being dedicatd to their employees training needs and striving to help their employees hit their daily goals. Sales experience is preferred but not a must. CJ's Wireless Warehouse is an aggressive, yet team-oriented company that provides a healthy and productive sales environment for its employees. For more information please contact CJ's Wireless Warehouse at (432)264-9774.



WELL SERVICE
Needing Pump Truck Driver, 1 to 2 years experience. Top pay and benefits. Contact Matt at (432)664-2321.

GET PAID
For evaluating customer service in Big Spring. Must have e-mail. Mystery shopping experience a plus. Visit second-to-none.com to register.

Help Wanted

Come join our team, beautiful 160 state-of-the-art facility providing Long Term Care.

Positions Available

LVN's
2:00 p.m. 10:00 p.m. shifts
Starting Salary \$16.00 an hour
Competitive Wages - Health Insurance & Benefits
Contact Robin Petty, RN-DON @ Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez Texas State Veterans Home 1809 N. Hwy 87 Big Spring, Texas 79720 (432)268-8387 (432)268-1987
Equal Opportunity Employer

BUFFALO COUNTRY FINA
taking applications for Sales Clerk. Experience preferred but will train. Apply at 4911 South Hwy 87. No Phone Calls.

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

DO you have at least 3 years Carpentry & Painting experience. Transportation to and from job sites. Willing to work. Call (432)267-2296.

DOMINOS PIZZA Drivers needed. Hourly + mileage + tips. Competition says better commission, but you can't make commission doing dishes for the sit down lobby. Go by 2111 S. Gregg or call (432)267-4111.

DRIVERS BE HOME DAILY. Coastal Transport is a leader in transport of LPG Asphalt & Petroleum Products. Coastal serves high profile accounts & needs dedicated professionals to join our growing team in Big Spring. Quality 25 with class A & One year driving experience. Call Jay at 888-527-7221.

SOLID COMPANY NEEDS DRIVERS. Competitive hourly pay, lots of overtime! Paid travel, per diem, and motel. Home one week every month! Oil field labor along with driving. Medical and life insurance! Requires 2 years Class A CDL experience and good driving record. Call 1-800-588-2669.

Did you miss your Herald?
Call 263-7335 & ask for Circulation.

Help Wanted

FIREFIGHTER/PARAMEDIC
The City of Big Spring is conducting a civil service entrance exam for the position of Firefighter/Paramedic on Saturday March 12, 2005. Qualified applicants must be at least 18 but under 36 years of age and must have a High School Diploma or Equivalent. To apply and obtain further information contact The Personnel Department at 310 Nolan St., Big Spring, Tx 79720 or call (432)264-2346. Applications will be accepted until 5:00 pm Wednesday March 9, 2005. Preference will be given to applicants certifiable in Fire/EMS. The City of Big Spring is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

JOHN WESLEY'S Pick Pocket Billiards looking for help. Apply in person at 102 E. 3rd Street. Must be 21 yrs. old. No Phone Calls.

LOOKING FOR Friendly Professional front desk sales agent also have openings for housekeeping positions. Apply in person @ 2900 E. I-20, Comfort Inn.

MOUNTAIN VIEW LODGE
Now Hiring
10p-6a Charge Nurse
* Excellent Starting Pay
* Great Benefits including retirement & health insurance
* Friendly Atmosphere
Please inquire at 2009 Virginia Ave.

NEED OIL Field Supply/Pump Hand. Experienced or entry level position available. Full benefits. Send resume to: PO Box 2234, Big Spring, TX 79721.

NEED SECRETARY for data processing, filing, inside sales, answering telephone, etc. Full benefits. Send resume to: PO Box 2234, Big Spring, TX 79721.

NEED: Carpenter, tile setter and painter - All in one experienced laborer needed. Must pass Drug Test. Call (432)231-4825 or 894-0333.

Truck Driver position available, apply at **Laredo Paving**, 2701 N. Hwy. 350, Big Spring. Must have current CDL, clear driving record & Medical Card. No phone calls. EOE.

Help Wanted

NEEDED LVN's/ RN's for Pediatric hourly case in Big Spring. Full time/ part time positions available. Benefits and competitive pay. Complete Home Health Care, (432)570-8899 or come by 2402 West Wall, Midland.

SHARP PERSON I am looking for an ambitious individual to learn my business. High earning potential. Call to hear recorded info 1-888-310-8114.

Travel Centers of America, Now Hiring for all positions. Apply in Person @ Hwy. 87 & I-20. No phone calls. Must pass drug screening.

WAREHOUSE/ DELIVERY person needed to move furniture. Must be motivated. Good driving record required. Must be 21. Paid vacation & holidays. Apply in person, Credit World, 1611 Gregg. No Phone Calls!

Items for Sale

SPARP 3200 Cash Register, like new. Call (432)816-6608.

TWO SEPARATE Whirlpool built-in ovens: 24 inch, self cleaning, fully automatic with coordinating ceramic cooktop. Excellent condition. \$1,000. Call (432)393-5309.

WESTINGHOUSE UPRIGHT Freezer and metal detector. Call (432)263-3195.

Herald Classified ads work. Call us to place your ad at 263-

Lost and Found

\$200.00 REWARD for information for recovery of Go-cart and 2 kids bikes taken from 101 East 20th. Call (432)264-7427, (432)213-3891 ask for Arnold or Elizabeth.

Miscellaneous

CAKES: Wedding, Anniversaries, Quinceanarios. 10% Discount on Arches, Candelabras, florals w/ cake order. Grishams (432)267-8191.

National Ads

FREE MONEY \$ for 2005! Private-Government Grants for Personal bills, School, Business, etc. Never Repay. Live Operators. Approx. \$49 billion dollars unclaimed 2004. 1-800-410-2613 ext. 31

GOVERNMENT JOBS! WILD-LIFE / POSTAL \$16.51 to \$58.00 per hour. Full Benefits. Paid Training. Call for Application and Exam Information. No Experience Necessary. Toll Free 1-888-260-6090 ext. 100.

On the Farm

WANT to buy or rent farm land in Martin county. 30+ years experience. Jerry Holloway, (432)459-2499 or (432)559-3664.

Real Estate for Rent

LOVELY NEIGHBORHOOD COMPLEX
Swimming Pool
Carports,
Most Utilities Paid,
Senior Citizen Discounts,
1 & 2 Bedrooms & 1 or 2 Baths
Unfurnished
KENTWOOD APARTMENTS
1904 East 25th Street
267-5444
263-5000

104 WEST 13TH. Between Main & Scurry. 1 Bedroom, 1 bath, carport. \$250. month, \$200. deposit. Call Pierce Group at (432)264-6611.

1303 Marijo. 2 Bedroom, 1 bath, CH/A. \$375. Month, \$150. deposit. 1212 East 19th. 2 Bedroom, 1 bath, CH/A. \$350. Month, \$150. deposit. (432)263-1792, 816-9984.

2502 Cheyenne. 3 Bedroom, 2 bath. \$500. month, \$300. deposit. Call (432)264-9907.

BARCELONA APARTMENTS

Choose Your Own Monthly Rent Options
Such As **ALL BILLS PAID**
\$299 MOVE IN SPECIAL + APPLICATION & SECURITY DEP.
538 Westover **OPEN SATURDAY** 263-1252
Housing Assistance Accepted


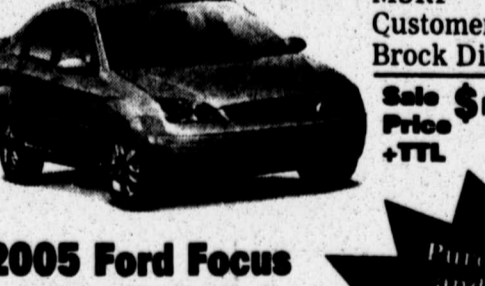

FOR SALE
No Down Payment
OWNER FINANCING
Bad Credit O.K.
2-3-4-5 & 6 Bedroom Brick Homes
Call Beverly 263-3461

INVENTORY REDUCTION SALE

Our Objectives Are High - So Our Prices Are LOW!

| | | |
|---|---|--|
|  <p>2005 Ford Ranger Regular Cab "Edge" (Several To Choose) Sale Price +TTL \$14,795</p> <p>TBD - \$19,600 Pkg. Discount - \$850 MSRP - \$18,750 Customer Cash - \$1,500 Ford Credit Rebate - \$1,000 Brock Discount - \$1,455</p> <p>\$4,805 Total Savings</p> |  <p>2004 Ford Escape XLT Pkg. (3 At This Price) Sale Price +TTL \$20,995</p> <p>MSRP - \$24,590 Customer Cash - \$2,000 Brock Discount - \$1,595</p> <p>Several At Similar Savings</p> |  <p>2005 F150 Supercabs STX Pkg. (Several At This Price) Sale Price +TTL \$20,695</p> <p>TBD - \$27,045 Pkg. Discount - \$550 MSRP - \$26,495 Customer Cash - \$2,000 Ford Credit Rebate - \$1,000 Brock Discount - \$2,800</p> <p>\$6,350 Total Savings</p> |
|---|---|--|

Just Announced: 0% FINANCING - Exhibitions - Excursions - F-Series Trucks

| | | |
|--|---|--|
|  <p>2004 Ford Crown Victoria 4DR LX (Only 2 Left) Sale Price +TTL \$22,795</p> <p>MSRP - \$30,155 Customer Cash - \$4,000 Ford Credit Rebate - \$1,000 Brock Discount - \$2,360</p> <p>\$7,360 Total Savings</p> |  <p>2005 Ford Focus ZX4 SE 4DR. (3 At This Price)</p> <p>MSRP - \$17,550 Customer Cash - \$2,000 Brock Discount - \$1,055 Sale Price +TTL \$14,495</p> <p>Save Thousands</p> <p>Purchase a Focus and receive Dell Dimensions 3000 Desktop PC Flat panel monitor and all in one printer at no extra charge.</p> |  <p>2004 Ford Mustang Convertible GT (1 Left) Sale Price +TTL \$20,995</p> <p>MSRP - \$27,100 Customer Cash - \$3,500 Brock Discount - \$2,605</p> <p>40th Anniversary Package</p> |
|--|---|--|

BOB BROCK
FORD LINCOLN MERCURY NISSAN
500 W. 4th 267-7424

Real Estate for Rent

1400 Sycamore- 3/1 bath.
\$475. month \$250. deposit
497 1/2 East 8th- 1/1 bath.
\$275. month \$150. deposit
Both have CH/A.
Call (432)267-2296.

1903 GREGG St. for rent.
Great office or retail space.
\$375/month plus deposit. Call
(432)213-2681.

2407 CARLETON, 3 bedroom,
2 bath, CH/A. \$550.00 month
plus deposit. Call
(432)263-6997.

3 BEDROOM brick, fenced, air,
view. \$325.00. Zero pets. Non
smoking. Nice home for less
rent. Good credit background
required. McDonald Realty,
(432)263-7615 or 263-4835.

COAHOMA AREA 2 bdrm, 1
bath, large carport, fenced
yard. 102 Weaver, \$300.00
month, \$150.00 deposit. Call
263-4528 or 432-296-0277 or
432-296-1523.

FOR RENT 2 bedroom 1-1/2
bath in County, water paid,
fenced yard, \$375. per month,
\$350. deposit. (432)213-2810
or 213-2809.

FOR RENT: 800 Nolan. 1 Bed-
room, 1 bath. Utilities included.
\$400.00 month, \$300.00 de-
posit. Call (432)264-9907.

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

HUD APPROVED. 3 Bedroom,
1 bath, \$360.00 month \$200.00
deposit. Call (432)213-0989.

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

NEWLY REMODELED 3 bed-
room, 1-1/2 bath, AC & CH,
nice quiet neighborhood. Water
& trash paid. \$275. month plus
deposit. Call (432)268-1684.

Nicest Apartments
in area

CORONADO HILLS
APARTMENTS
(432)267-6500
801 W. Marcy
Big Spring, Tx 79720
Month of February
Move in for
\$199.00 or \$299.00.

SUNSET RIDGE
APARTMENTS
2911 West Hwy 80
1 & 2 Bedrooms
Cable TV Service
Central Heat & A/C
Friendly Staff
On-site Maintenance
Laundry Facility
****Move in Special****
Call (432)263-2292

Real Estate for Sale

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

20 ACRES on Hwy 176. Set
up for Doublewide. 45K,
\$6,500.00 Down, assume
\$270.00 monthly @ 7.4% for
30 years. No Credit Check.
Call (817)312-6322.

804 DOUGLAS: 2 Bedroom,
one bath, dining room, closed
in porch and carport.
\$18,900.00. Call Don @
(325)378-2401.

FOR SALE, three bedroom,
one bath, one acre. Forsan
School District. Cash or Owner
Finance. 4818 Wasson Rd.
Call (830)569-5101, leave
message.

MUST SELL. Affordable coun-
try living close to town. 3-2-2
on 3+ acres. Barn, shop, pens,
new roof and CH/A. Call
(432)816-9441, (432)394-4183.

NO DOWN Payment on 2 thru
6 Bedroom Brick Homes.
Owner Financing. Bad Credit
OK. We can adjust your
monthly payments to fit your
Budget. Call Maria
(432)263-3461.

NORTH OF College 3/2/1 brick
home. \$625.00 Month, \$500.00
deposit. Credit check & refer-
ences required. New loan or
20% down. Call (432)268-8353
Cell (325)699-1042.



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

Vehicles

1975 ONE Ton Cab & Chassis.
New 350 engine, \$1,800.00.
Call (432)213-0989.

Vehicles

'04 Freestar Vans
*6000 Available
Rebates
Bob Brock Ford
500 W. 11th 267-7121

2000 CHEVY pickup 3500,
454, 4 door, long bed, bucket
seats, leather, 83,000 miles,
extra clean. Call
(432)394-4240.

2003 FORD Ranger XLT. Fully
Loaded. 16,000 Miles.
\$15,500.00. Call
(432)466-0240.

FOR SALE 1991 Ford Taurus.
Good condition, loaded. Call
(432)263-7373.

Legals

PUBLIC NOTICE

On December 21, 2004 Drew Bal-
lard and David Pappajohn filed an
application with the Federal Com-
munications Commission request-
ing 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,
2005.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
The Big Spring Independent
School District shall receive sealed
bid proposals until 4:00 P.M., Feb-
ruary 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 pub-
licly open and read immediately fol-
lowing the deadline for receiving the
bids in the Business Office of the
Big Spring Independent School Dis-
trict. Bidders are invited to be
present at the bid opening. Bids re-
ceived after the opening date and
time will be returned unopened.
Bids will be presented for consid-
eration 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
all bids.
#4459 February 10 & 17, 2005.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original
Letters Testamentary for the Estate
of Beatrice McCray, deceased,
were issued on December 21,
2004, in Cause No. P-13,221 pend-
ing in the County Court of Howard
County, Texas to Maria Del Car-
men Jones, Independent Executrix.
The address to which claims
should be presented is as follows:
Maria Del Carmen Jones
9111 66th Avenue NW, Lot 102
Gig Harbor, Washington 98332
All persons having claims against
this Estate which is currently being
administered are required to pre-
sent them within the time and in the
manner prescribed by law, in care
of the representative at the address
above set out.
Dated this the 14th day of Febru-
ary, 2005

LAW OFFICE OF TIMOTHY D.
YEATS, P.C.
P.O. Box 2830
Big Spring, Texas 79721-2830
432/267-5211
432/267-1907
By: Timothy D. Yeats
Sate Bar No. 22151200
#4461 February 17, 2005.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original
Letters Testamentary for the Estate
of Donald Jean McCray, deceased,
were issued on December 21,
2004, in Cause No. P-13,222 pend-
ing in the County Court of Howard
County, Texas to Maria Del Car-
men Jones, Independent Executrix.
The address to which claims
should be presented is as follows:
Maria Del Carmen Jones
9111 66th Avenue NW, Lot 102
Gig Harbor, Washington 98332
All persons having claims against
this Estate which is currently being
administered are required to pre-
sent them within the time and in the
manner prescribed by law, in care
of the representative at the address
above set out.
Dated this the 14th day of Febru-
ary, 2005

LAW OFFICE OF TIMOTHY D.
YEATS, P.C.
P.O. Box 2830
Big Spring, Texas 79721-2830
432/267-5211
432/267-1907
By: Timothy D. Yeats
Sate Bar No. 22151200
#4462 February 17, 2005.

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS
Venus and Jupiter
affect us with a heavenly
flirtation.

What a
pleasant
waste of
time it is to
tease and
carry on
with some-
one charis-
matic -- or
perhaps it's
more pro-
ductive than
appearances
suggest. There's value in the
confidence boost that comes
with sophisticated social
contact. Playfulness really is
a fine art under the Gemini
moon.

ARIES (March 21-April
19). Personal ambitions
are highlighted; set at
least one goal that is
entirely to satisfy your-
self. Get the to-do list
over with -- you need a
block of unstructured
time to let your mind
surf the collective uncon-
scious.

TAURUS (April 20-May
20). There's a foggy qual-
ity to your experiences
now, which gives you a
detached, almost amused
air. A line of Edgar Allan
Poe comes to mind: "All
that we see or seem/Is
but a dream within a
dream."

GEMINI (May 21-June
21). You're moving in a
highly competitive envi-
ronment. When others
appear to be resting,
they're merely waiting to
pounce at the first oppor-
tunity they see. Be more
strategic than the next
guy.

CANCER (June 22-July
22). Answers are simple,
especially if the question

has to do with your
career. Does your work
encompass the things you
actually love doing? If
not, there's an opportu-
nity to remedy the situa-
tion.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).
You won't be the only one
to benefit from your own
success. Once you know
that others want you to
succeed, you have a
license to go for it with
all your passion. Use all
available channels to pro-
mote yourself.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept.
22). The pressure is off for
the time being. Take the
opportunity to enroll in a
spinning class, learn
Pilates or go for a run.
When you get out in a
healthy way, you meet
new, sexy and exciting
friends.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).
There's something com-
forting about a familiar
mess. But you have too
much to gain by clearing
the clutter. Make a list of
what to keep and what to
throw out -- you don't
have to do it for real just
yet if it's too hard.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov.
21). Idle notions are the
initial spark of luck.
Making your mark is a
matter of sheer concen-
tration. Start by designat-
ing more time for plan-
ning and promoting. An
artistic goal can be
accomplished if you keep
the faith.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-
Dec. 21). You'll have to
crack down on personal
discipline to win the
prize. Strengthen all
that's going well in your
world. Write things
down. Double-check. Plan
thoroughly, and most of
all, don't be quick to

blame!
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-
Jan. 19). You're on the go
as usual, and the less bag-
gage you have to carry,
the better. By working in
energetic spurts, you
accomplish much. Take
advantage of downtime in
between by resting up.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-
Feb. 18). Matters related
to home and family may
feel unsettled. It's best not
to think about what you
don't have and start using
what you do. A romantic
relationship is right
where it should be.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March
20). Before the weekend
starts, you'll have set love
on a better course. Be
sure to act on your
romantic ideas, or they
never become a part of
your life. Shared activi-
ties will be the source of
your greatest memories.

ASTROLOGICAL
QUESTIONS: "I have been
a single mom for close to
three years now. I have
battled with my weight
since I was a child and
am at an all-time high. I
have designed a program
to keep me on track with
my weight-loss program
for 2005. Do you see me
succeeding in this area? I
have also just been
accepted to the respira-
tory care program at my
local college. Do you see
me being successful in
this field? My date of
birth is March 20, 1973,
2:44 a.m., in Lemoore,
Calif."

Pisces (healing) in your
second house tells me
that respiratory care is
an area where you can
make a terrific living,
which will alleviate some
of the stresses that cause
you to overeat. (With

Jupiter in your first
house, it's not surprising
that you've struggled with
your weight your whole
life.) I see a spiritual
approach to weight loss
working better for you
than a clinical approach.
Instead of trying to limit
your food intake, it would
be helpful to develop
some other habits that
speak to the heart of the
problem. Meditations in
which you accept your-
self exactly as you are,
working extensively with
affirmations in the mir-
ror, psychotherapy and
prayer are all routes I feel
would bring you lasting
results.

CELEBRITY PRO-
FILES: The unlikely rise
of Paris Hilton as a
celebrity famous for
being a celebrity is a
uniquely Aquarian phe-
nomenon. Her sign has a
natural propensity for
social success, possessing
the grace, poise and gen-
uine love of the party life
necessary to be a con-
stant on the best guest
lists. Of course, the
Hilton name doesn't hurt.
Aquarius is also known
for philanthropy, and
Hilton makes a big dona-
tion this year.

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Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: In 1963, Dr.
Martin Luther King Jr.
stood in front of tens of
thousands of Americans
of all races and colors and
shared his dream. In
honor of Dr. King, a
group of dedicated
Americans is building the
Dr. Martin Luther King
Jr. National Memorial in
Washington, D.C. This
four-acre memorial will
be situated on the Mall
between our national
memorials for Presidents
Jefferson and Lincoln. It
will stand for Dr. King's
ideals -- peace, equality
and freedom.

The project has raised
over \$33 million, thanks
to organizations such as
General Motors, Tommy
Hilfiger, The Ford Fund,
Fannie Mae, Aflac, Bell
South, The Marriott
Foundation, AOL-Time
Warner, and individuals
such as hip-hop star
Nelly. We need to raise
another \$33 million to
break ground by the end
of this year.

Dr. King spoke of "the
fierce urgency of now."
Here at the foundation,
we feel that urgency as
well, and ask for your
help. Please ask your
readers to visit
www.buildthedream.org
and give whatever they
can. Every donation will
help us make this dream
a reality. -- Harry E.
Johnson Sr., Wash., D.C.
Dear Harry Johnson:
Thank you for giving us
the opportunity to men-



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

tion this project to our
readers. Those who are
interested should check
your Web site or write to
the Martin Luther King
Jr. National Memorial
Project Foundation Inc.,
Department 211,
Washington, D.C. 20055.

Dear Annie: My daugh-
ter is getting married
soon, and I've always
dreamed of walking my
little girl down the aisle.
However, my former wife
says she wants to walk
our daughter down the
aisle with me.

I do not want to appear
selfish, but is this a new
trend? My ex-wife left our
family to pursue another
guy when my daughter
was a teenager, and I am
not inclined to accommo-
date her. Is there a com-
promise? -- Heavyhearted
in Michigan

Dear Michigan: Perhaps
your ex-wife can walk her
halfway while you walk

her the rest of the way, or
your daughter may opt to
walk by herself, but this
really is not your deci-
sion. Ask your daughter
what SHE would like, and
then whatever she choos-
es, please acquiesce. This
day is not about your
dreams, it's about hers,
and one of them,
undoubtedly, is that her
parents get along at her
wedding.

Dear Annie: I read the
letter from "Frustrated in
Kentucky," about child-
ren who whine and act
up in stores. It reminded
me of what I did when
one of my children did
this, demanding I buy a
certain toy or piece of
candy.

I would buy the request-
ed item and pass it on to
some other child (if the
parent agreed) with a
compliment about how
well that child was
behaving. If there were
no other kids in the store,
we'd drive to the local
community drop-in cen-
ter where the item would
be passed on to someone
who could not normally
afford it.

The message was loud
and clear, "You will not
get rewarded for
tantrums." Each of my
children tried the
"gimme" routine only
once. They later used the
same technique on their
own children, and I'm
happy to report that we
have well-behaved,

thoughtful grandchildren
who are gladly received
everywhere.

Some parents don't re-
alize that giving in for the
sake of peace leads to
greater problems down
the road. Sooner or later,
those children will find
themselves unwelcome in
many places, and the sad
thing is they won't un-
derstand why their behavior
is unacceptable. -- Ex-
Schoolteacher Grandma
in British Columbia

Dear Ex-Schoolteacher:
Not many parents would
have the fortitude to buy
candy and give it to
another child, or the
patience to drive the
extra distance to drop it
off at a community cen-
ter. But your technique
sounds quite effective to
us, and it's a good strate-
gy for any parent who
wishes to give it a try.

Annie's Mailbox is writ-
ten by Kathy Mitchell
and Marcy Sugar, long-
time editors of the Ann
Landers column. Please e-
mail your questions to
[anniesmailbox@com-
cast.net](mailto:anniesmailbox@comcast.net), or write to:
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THURSDAY

FEB. 17

Table with 25 columns representing different TV channels and their programming for Thursday, Feb 17. Columns include WFAA, KMD, UNI, KPEJ, KOSA, KTLT, KWES, WTBS, KMLM, KOCV, DISC, AMC, SPIKE, TNT, BET, DISN, ESPN2, ESPN, and TMC.

DENNIS THE MENACE



"SORRY, BOYS. THIS BOOK IS TOO GROWN-UP FOR YOU. IT DOESN'T HAVE PICTURES."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Why do I have to get stitches? Grandma said, 'Time heals all wounds.'"

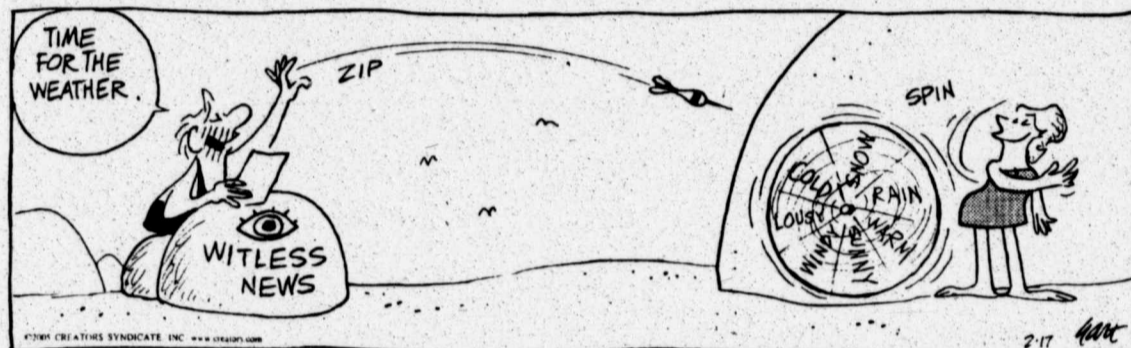
HAGAR



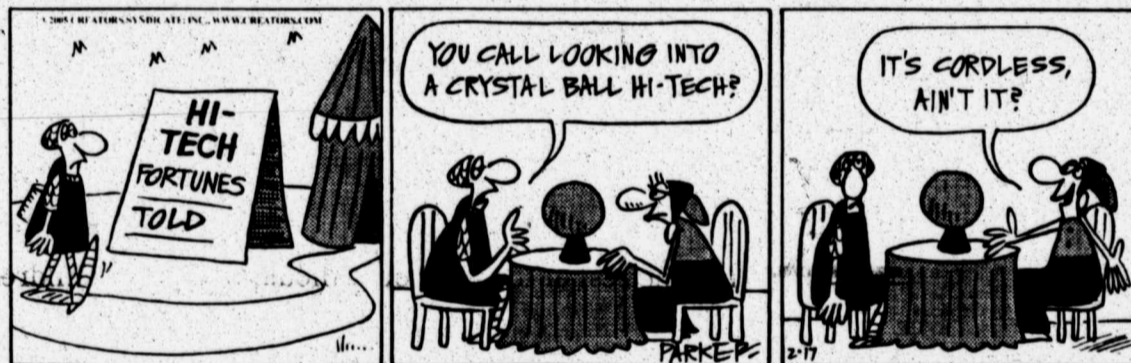
BLONDIE



BC



WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Feb. 17, the 48th day of 2005. There are 317 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On Feb. 17, 1801, the House of Representatives broke an electoral tie between Thomas Jefferson and Aaron Burr, electing Jefferson president; Burr became vice president. On this date: In 1817, a street in Baltimore became the first to be lighted with gas from America's first gas company. In 1865, Columbia, S.C., burned as the Confederates evacuated and Union forces moved in. In 1897, the forerunner of the National PTA, the National Congress of Mothers, was founded in

Washington. In 1904, Giacomo Puccini's opera "Madama Butterfly" was poorly received at its world premiere at La Scala in Milan, Italy. In 1933, Newsweek was first published. In 1947, the Voice of America began broadcasting to the Soviet Union. In 1964, the Supreme Court ruled that congressional districts within each state had to be roughly equal in population. In 1972, President Nixon departed on his historic trip to China. In 1985, Murray P. Haydon became the third person to receive a permanent artificial heart as doctors at Humana Hospital Audubon in Louisville, Ky., implanted the device. In 1992, serial killer Jeffrey Dahmer was sentenced in Milwaukee to life in prison (however, he was beaten to death in prison in November 1994). Today's Birthdays: Actor

Marc Lawrence is 95. Bandleader Orrin Tucker is 94. Author Margaret Truman Daniel is 81. Actor Hal Holbrook is 80. Singer Bobby Lewis is 72. Country singer-songwriter Johnny Bush is 70. Football Hall-of-Famer Jim Brown is 69. Actress Mary Ann Mobley is 66. Singer Gene Pitney is 64. Actress Brenda Fricker is 60. Actress Rene Russo is 51. Actor Richard Karn is 49. Actor Lou Diamond Phillips is 43. Basketball player Michael Jordan is 42. Actor-comedian Larry, the Cable Guy is 42. TV personality Rene Syler is 42. Movie director Michael Bay is 41.

Answer to previous puzzle: A grid of letters for a crossword puzzle.

Newsday Crossword PRONOUNCED DIFFERENCES by Fred Piscop Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS: 1 One of a 1492 trio, 6 Stud stake, 10 Normandy battle site, 14 Diarist Nin, 15 You Bet Your Life host, 16 Holier-than-, 17 Medicated spoonful, 19 WWW addresses, 20 Beef or pasta, 21 75 average, 22 Chucklehead, 23 Ratio words, 25 Grinch's creator, 27 Makes a choice, 30 Photo (campaign events), 32 Zingy taste, 33 Aussie bouncer, 34 Russia's Mountains category, 36 Catchall, 39 Old French coins, 41 Middle Ages invader, 43 Light-footed, 44 "Shucks!", 46 Georgetown athlete, 47 Suffix with glob, 48 Boaters and bowlers, 50 Writer Buntline, 51 Numbered rds., 52 Holy day, 55 Steam up, 57 River of Spain, 58 CompuServe owner, 60 African hot spot, 64 Active one, 65 Bakery machine, 67 Composer Carlo Menotti, 68 Distasteful, 69 Rodeo horse, 70 Sommer of film, 71 "Pardon...", 72 Mails out, 6 Writer Tan, 7 Buster with a badge, 8 Made straight, 9 Master hand, 10 Collegians, e.g., 11 Production over time, 12 Goofs off, 13 Removes from power, 18 Begin a journey, 24 First name in talk TV, 26 Paulo, Brazil, 27 Guesser's phrase, 28 Milne bear, 29 "Bummer, man!", 31 Squelched, 35 Plywood component, 37 Perry's creator, 38 Deli loaves, 40 Transported by ship, 42 Salad root, 45 LAX listing, 49 Ballparks, 51 Put back to work, 52 Marsh plant, 53 Bubbling over, 54 Moonshiner's wares, 56 Babes in the woods, 59 Skywalker of sci-fi, 61 Nerve-cell part, 62 Tear apart, 63 Circle portions, 66 Workout site

A crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1 through 72 indicating starting points for words.

That's Racin'

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NASCAR predictions

DAVID POOLE

David Poole covers NASCAR for The Charlotte (N.C.) Observer.

Nextel Cup champion: Jimmie Johnson. He and his team will kick down the door that they've been knocking on for the past few seasons.

Surprise entrant in Chase for the Cup: Joe Nemechek? Maybe not, but if anybody you could consider to be a complete dark horse makes the cut, it'll be Nemechek.

Track most likely to disappear: Darlington, sadly. NASCAR wants to build a hall of fame somewhere? There's already one at Darlington! What does that tell you?

Simmering story that will boil over: The No. 2 car. What happens when Rusty Wallace climbs out at season's end? The rumor mill will grind hard on this one.

Story we're already tired of writing about: A New York City track. Wake me when they get all the permits they need to build one. That ought to be about 2010.

JIM UTTER

Jim Utter covers NASCAR for www.thatsracin.com.

Nextel Cup champion: Jamie McMurray. Somebody better move over, there's a new champion in town and he has good hair.

Surprise entrant in Chase for the Cup: Joe Nemechek. He came on strong at the end of last season and shows no signs thus far of slowing down.

Surprise left out of Chase for the Cup: One of these three will not make the Chase: Dale Earnhardt Jr., Mark Martin or Tony Stewart.

Unexpected success: The resurgence of Richard Childress Racing, led by Kevin Harvick and Jeff Burton.

Issue we'll get tired of writing about: NASCAR's 75 million fans. When somebody finds them, please let me know.

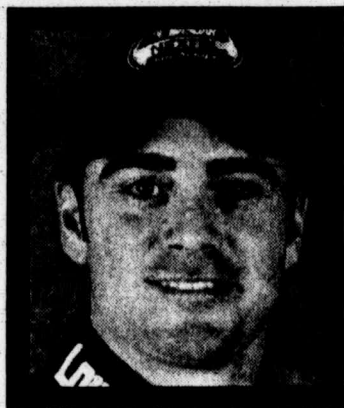
JOHN STURBIN

John Sturbin covers NASCAR for the Fort Worth (Texas) Star-Telegram.

Nextel Cup Champion: Jimmie Johnson. After consecutive back-to-back runner-up finishes, Johnson and crew chief Chad Knaus seal the deal.

Track most likely to disappear: Darlington Raceway. If the Saturday night

NASCAR writers have high hopes for Johnson and others in 2005



Jimmie Johnson

race before Mother's Day flops, ISC has another reason to close shop.

Top performance by a driver over 40: Mark Martin. Promises to be fierce in pursuit of his first Cup title in his last full season.

Unexpected success story: Kyle Petty. Judging by Speedweeks, Petty's Dodge engine program with Everham Motorsports looks like a nice plus.

Issue we'll get tired of writing about: Rumors about NASCAR chairman Brian France's partnership in an NFL expansion team in Los Angeles won't go away.

MIKE BRUDENELL

Mike Brudenell covers NASCAR for the Detroit Free Press.

2005 Nextel Cup champion: Ryan Newman. "Rocketman" has the car, team and speed to turn poles into a championship.

Rookie of the Year: Kyle Busch. May not beat big brother but can mix it up with the adults.

Surprise entrant in Chase for the Cup: Greg Biffle. Hard racer who will finally

emerge from the shadows at Roush and challenge for the title.

Simmering story that will boil over: The Rusty Wallace-Ryan Newman generation gap, which might just get wider in 2005.

Top performance by driver over 40: Dale Jarrett. He'll deliver the goods this year in his No. 88 UPS Ford.

BILL FLEISCHMAN

Bill Fleischman covers NASCAR for the Philadelphia Daily News.

Nextel Cup champion: Jimmie Johnson. Winning four of the last six Chase races in '04 primed him for his first title.

Simmering story that will boil over: The Rusty Wallace-Ryan Newman feud. We'd pay to be in Penske South team meetings with these guys.

Top performance by a driver over 40: Mark Martin. That he was in contention for the '04 title showed he is still at the top of his game.

Drivers on the Hot Seat: Michael Waltrip, Jeff Burton. Waltrip needs the crew swap at DEI to pay off. Burton, winless in 112 races, must show new boss Richard Childress he still has the winning touch.

Driver due for his first Cup win: Kasey Kahne. Five runner-up finishes as a rookie proved he is this close to winning.

CAMMY CLARK

Cammy Clark covers NASCAR for The Miami Herald.

Nextel Cup champion: Mark Martin. In the world of sports there always seems to be storybook endings, and Martin finally winning a title after so many near misses would be a dandy.

Surprise entrant in Chase for the Cup: Joe Nemechek. Front Row Joe will do more than just qualify well this season.

First rookie or second-year driver to find Victory Lane: Carl Edwards. Sorry Kasey Kahne, but Edwards has the guts and the team to get the checkered flag first among the youngest guns.

Story to watch: Cousins Tony Eury Jr. and Dale Earnhardt Jr. realize blood is thicker than words, and they reunite mid-season on the No. 8 Bud Chevy and barely make the Chase.

THIS WEEK'S RACE

DAYTONA 500

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

When: Sunday at 2 p.m. (ET).

TV: Fox.

Radio: Motor Racing Network.

Purse: \$17,623,980.

Last year's winner: Dale Earnhardt Jr.

Also this week: The International Race of Champions series opener is Friday at Daytona, and Bobby Hamilton will begin his quest for a second consecutive NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series championship in Friday's season opener. Martin Truex Jr. begins his hunt for his second consecutive Busch Series title on Saturday.



Dale Earnhardt Jr. exits his No. 8 Chevrolet as winner of the 2004 Daytona 500.

POLL POSITION

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

Who will win the 2005 Nextel Cup championship?

Cast your vote at:

www.thatsracin.com

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION

Who will win the 2005 Budweiser Shootout?

Number of votes: 10,160

| Driver | No. of votes | Percent |
|--------------------|--------------|---------|
| Dale Earnhardt Jr. | 3,488 | 34% |
| Jeff Gordon | 2,125 | 21% |
| Tony Stewart | 708 | 7% |
| Jimmie Johnson | 689 | 7% |
| Dale Jarrett | 624 | 6% |
| Mark Martin | 578 | 6% |
| Ryan Newman | 403 | 4% |
| Greg Biffle | 222 | 2% |
| Kurt Busch | 162 | 2% |
| Someone else | 1,161 | 11% |

STOP 'N' GO

RANDOM THOUGHTS

WHO'S HOT

■ Dale Jarrett won his third Daytona 500 pole and is looking for his fourth Daytona 500 victory. He started last season with a win in the Budweiser Shootout. Can he do one more this season?

■ Kevin Harvick took a lot of criticism from race fans and some media for skipping the pre-season test at Daytona. After skipping one of two practice sessions last week, he qualified fourth fastest in time trials. What if he won the race?

■ Hendrick Motorsports drivers appear to be ready for a strong season, but they're not the only people who stand to benefit from Hendrick's success. The three teams at MB2/MBV/MB Sutton use Hendrick power and have been as fast — or faster — than their Hendrick counterparts.

WHO'S NOT

■ Dale Earnhardt Jr. has insisted since he arrived at Daytona that he would not be good in qualifying at Daytona and he wasn't. But he also was sub-par in the Budweiser Shootout.

■ Robby Gordon came rolling into Daytona hoping for a smooth start in his second attempt to field his own Nextel Cup Series team. First day in, several parts — including his engine's intake manifold — were confiscated and sitting on the NASCAR hauler.

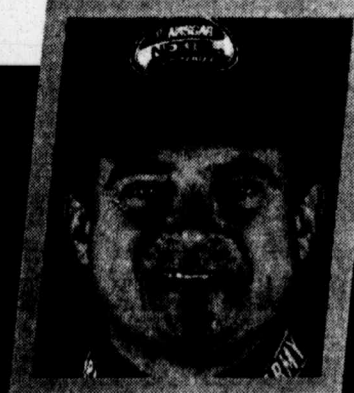


Dale Jarrett

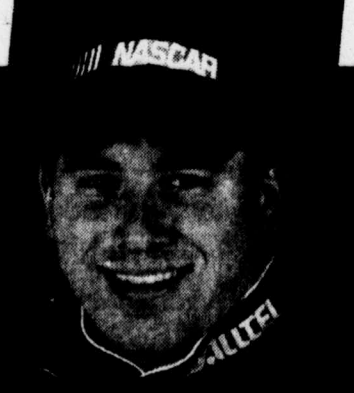
— Jim Utter



Mark Martin
Wallace



Joe Nemechek



Ryan Newman



Rusty

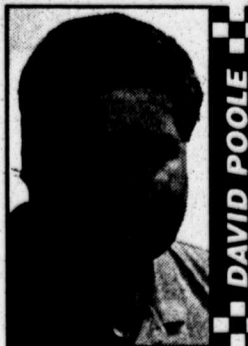
Daytona 500 is right where it belongs on the schedule

Thank goodness cars are finally on the track at Daytona International Speedway. We all need something new to ask the drivers about.

You could tell we ran out of decent questions because drivers were being asked whether the Daytona 500 should move to the end of the season. That dead horse hasn't just been beaten. It has been embalmed, interred, exhumed and sent to the taxidermist.

Just about everybody who's covered NASCAR for the past 10 years, myself included, has written about stock-car racing having its "Super Bowl" at the start of the season instead of the end.

It's not going to happen.



DAVID POOLE

The Daytona 500 hasn't always been the first race of the season, but it has been long enough for it to be cemented there.

It's true that an even more long-standing tradition meant nothing when the Southern 500 was jerked off Labor Day weekend at Darlington Raceway. But the Daytona 500 is a home game for NASCAR and International Speedway Corp., both of which are based in Daytona.

That helps protect the practice of assembling everyone there for a big kickoff to a new season.

And it works, now more than ever.

"People keep asking about

why our sport isn't like other sports," said Darrell Waltrip, the three-time Cup champion who's now a Fox Sports analyst. "I wish people would leave our sport alone. Don't bother the Daytona 500. We've already screwed up one tradition, the Southern 500. Let's don't mess with another one."

"There's a darn good reason why we start with our biggest race. In football, do you want your quarterback or your best receiver hurt for the biggest game? You want the team worn out and ready to get the season over with? Here we have an exciting atmosphere. It's the first race and it's the best car you've had and you've got a new, clean uniform and the excitement is so much greater when you start the year like we do than end it like the other sports do."

Before last year you actually

could make a better argument for saving the biggest race for the end of the year. Even with the championship determined, a Daytona 500 could have provided a climax that otherwise might have been missing.

The Chase for the Nextel Cup, the 10-race championship "play-off" that began in 2004, changed that. Now, the season is assured of having meaningful races well into autumn, even in years when

the Chase doesn't go down to the last weekend as it did the first time around.

Over time, the Chase will make the season's final race at Homestead-Miami Speedway a big-time event. Nobody has said it officially, but you can take it to the bank that the 2005 Chase will end under lights — and in TV's prime time — that will be up at the South Florida track in time for this year's finale.



Cale Yarborough leads the pack at the 1966 Daytona 500.

NASCAR dreams of a day when the Homestead weekend has a Super Bowl or NCAA Final Four feel, and that day may come.

A year ago, I wrote that the Daytona 500 could no longer be bigger than the 11th most important race given that the champion would now be determined over the final 10.

I was wrong. As a group, those final 10 races are immensely important, but no single event among them can match the excitement and energy that will be generated here between pole qualifying and the Daytona 500 on Sunday.

Now more than ever, the Daytona 500 is the sport's pre-eminent single event.

And, at the start of the season, it's exactly where it ought to be.