

SPRING HUMALI

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Big Sky — Big Heart — Big Spring

50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 WEEKEND

THURSDAY

March 10, 2005 WEATHER

Tonight:



TONIGHT TOMORROW 42°-44°

House OKs school finance overhaul

Rep. Laney says no to bill, which passes 76-71

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

Big Spring's state representative joined with his fellow Democrats and quite a few Republicans in opposing a sweeping plan to restructure education in Texas that won tentative approval in the Texas House on Wednesday.

Rep. Pete Laney, D-Hale Center, said the bill passed by the House, which calls for \$3

billion in new money for education, falls short of addressing problems faced by school districts in his area.

"It wasn't anything schools in my district were in support of," said Laney: "It doesn't help taxpayers all that much, and does nothing to enhance public education.

Laney joined other opponents who said the money won't keep up with inflation or cover new requirements schools would face under the plan.

"It doesn't help taxpayers all that much, and does nothing to enhance public education."

- State Rep. Pete Laney, D-Hale Center



During two day of debate on the measure the top priority of the current legislative session — the House leadership approved a

. See FINANCE, Page 3A

BRIEFLY Time draws close for benefit BBQ

A benefit barbecue cook-off for the Forsan band trip to Washington D.C. is set for Saturday at 703 W. Third. Categories are brisket, pork ribs, chicken halves, sausage and jackpot beans.

Cooking will begin early that morning and judging will be at 1 p.m. Dining begins at 1 p.m. also.

Registration is \$10 per category and plates are \$5 per person. Cooks may register now by calling 263-6862.

The event is sponsored by the Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie No. 3188, the American legion Post 506, the Permian Basin Chapter of the Cossoacks MC and the Big Spring Bass Club.

COMING THIS WEEKEND



Town Spotlight: For centuries, American Indians have mined Catlinite, a soft red stone, from quarries in Pipestone, Minn., (pop. 4,280) to make pipes for smoking tobacco during religious rituals and social ceremonies. The quarry and stone remain sacred for many native people.

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Sunday.

1 dead in I-20 rollover

3 others said to be in serious condition

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

COAHOMA — One person was killed and three others seriously injured as a result of a one-carrollover east of here Wednesday afternoon.

Alma Gamez Valdes, 30, of Houston, died as a result of injuries sustained in the accident, which occurred when a Chevrolet Tahoe that she and eight other family members were traveling in flipped several times about 1 1/2 miles east of Coahoma.

Emergency response units from the Big Spring Fire Department, Howard County Sheriff's Office and the Department of Public Safety converged on the scene within minutes of the first dispatch call at about 2:30 p.m.

When they arrived, they found a horrendous scene: Valdes and three others in the Tahoe had been ejected from the vehicle, which laid upright in a twisted mass of metal. Others seriously injured were Valdes' 5-year-old daughter and two sons, ages 9 and 13. The children's names have not been released as of

The girl, who received critical injuries, was airlifted to a Lubbock hospital. The 13-yearold boy was airlifted to San Angelo, while the others were transported via Big Spring Emergency Medical Service ambulance to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

Department of Public Safety Trooper Kneel Stallings said driver fatigue was the likely cause of the accident. The family had apparently departed Houston at about 4 a.m. Wednesday en route

See WRECK, Page 3A





and three were seriously injured Wednesday afternoon when the driver of this Chevrolet Tahoe, above, lost control of the vehicle at about 2:30 p.m. Tuesday east of Coahoma. Reports state the vehicle flipped numerous times before coming to rest on the north service road of the interstate. At left, emergency personnel load one of the victims of a one-car rollover into a Critical Air helicopter for transport to the hospi-

One person was killed

HERALD photos/Steve Reagan

'CBS Evening News' Dan Rather signs off

NEW YORK (AP) - Dan Rather echoed a word he once briefly used to sign off the "CBS Evening News" — courage — in anchoring the program for the final time after 24 years on Wednesday.

In a brief, statement at the end of the broadcast, Rather paid tribute to Sept. 11 terrorist victims, tsunami survivors, American military forces, the oppressed, those in failing health and fellow journalists in dangerous places.

"And, to each of you," he said. "Courage."

He seemed to savor each word of his signoff: "For the 'CBS Evening News,' Dan Rather reporting. Good night."

See RATHER, Page 3A



Dan Rather, 'CBS Evening News' anchor for 24 years, signed off for the final time Wednesday.

Big Spring State Hospital makes plans to celebrate National Social Worker Month

Special to the Herald

Big Spring State Hospital will celebrate National Social Worker Month with a March 23 workshop and the naming of the hospital's Social Worker of the Month

The theme of the month's celebration is "Social Workers Compassion in Action.'

The workshop will be held in the Allred building auditorium on the Big Spring State Hospital campus. For more information, call 267-8216.

About 600,000 social workers in the United States help people of all ages, religions and nationalities gain access to adequate

resources and services. Social workers can be found in hospitals, clinics, homes, and community action programs

March was officially designated National Social Work Month in 1984 by the White House. Each year. Big Spring State Hospital and the National Association of Social Workers recognize the dedicated efforts and work of America's professional social workers.

Big Spring State Hospital serves people with psychiatric illnesses in a 56-county area in West Texas and the Texas Panhandle.

More than 550 workers are employed at the hospital.

Barney Lee Nichols



Barney Lee Nichols, 90, of Knott died Wednesday, March 9, 2005, at a local nursing home. Graveside funeral services will be held, at 2 p.m. Friday, March 11, 2005, at Mount Olive Memorial Park in Big Spring with Larry Marshall, minister of Knott Church of Christ officiating. The family will recieve friends from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. today at the funeral home.

He was born May 5, 1914, in Knott and married Marie Price, Jan. 5, 1937, in Stanton.

Mr. Nichols was a lifetime resident of Knott. He was the son of John and Myrtie Nichols, a pioneer Howard County Family. Mr. Nichols grew up in Knott and attended school at Knott. He farmed all his life in the Knott Community.

. He was a member of Knott Church of Christ.

Survivors include his wife, Marie Nichols of Knott; one daughter and son-in-law, Jan and Kynn Maxwell of Knott; three sisters, Johnnie Ray of Big Spring, Kathryn Grantham of Knott and Inez Sample of Big Spring; two brothers, J.P. Nichols of Big Spring and Donald Nichols of Knott; one grandson, Cory Maxwellof Midland; one granddaughter, LeAnn Hopkins of Midland; three great-grandchildren, Taylor Hopkins of Midland and Kagen and Maden Maxwell of Big Spring.

He was preceded in death by his parents, John and Myrtie Nichols; one brother, Claude Nichols and one sister, Edith Condron.

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

Paid Obituary

Chester Ben Taylor

Chester Ben Taylor, 98, of Albuquerque, N.M., formerly of Lamesa, died Tuesday, March 8, 2005, in an Albuquerque nursing home. Graveside funeral services are 11 a.m. Saturday, March 12, 2005, at the Lamesa Memorial Park with Derrick Looney officiat-

He was born Sept. 22, 1906, in Salado. He came to West Texas in 1936 and farmed in Ackerly, Soash, Brown, Courtney, Tarzan and Lamesa. In 1956, he left the farm, moved to Lamesa and went to work for the city of Lamesa in the water department, retiring in 1972. He was a Baptist.

Survivors include two sons, Joe Taylor of Albuquerque, N.M., and Larry Taylor of Midland; seven grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, six brothers, three sisters and two granddaughters.

Arrangements under the direction of Gilbreath Funeral Home of Stanton. Online condolences can be made at www.npwelch.com.

Mary Ward



Mary Ward, 80, of Colorado City, formerly of Big Spring, died at 3:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 9, 2005, at Hendrick Medical Center in Abilene. Funeral services are 2 p.m. Saturday, March 12, 2005, at the College Park Church of God with burial at Trinity Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 6

p.m. until 8 p.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

She was born Aug. 12, 1924, at Tankersley and married James Berkley Ward, July 6, 1940, in Menard. They moved to Big Spring in 1967. Mr. Ward died July 30, 1993. She was a member of the College Park Church of God.

She is survived by three sons, Freddy Ward of Safford, Ariz., James Ward of Big Spring and Joe Ward of Colorado City: three daughters: Della Riffe of Andrews, Debbie Harbuck of Coahoma and Mary Havens of Colorado City; 39 grandchildren; 57 greatgrandchildren; three great-great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

The family suggests memorials to Hendrick Hospice Care, Box 1922, Abilene 79604-9938.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersandsmith.com.

Odie Sanchez

Odie Sanchez, 87, of Big Spring died Thursday, March 3, 2005, at Covenant Medical Center in Lubbock following a long illness. Funeral services are 11 a.m. Friday at Mount Bethel Baptist Church with the Rev. Michael Willard, pastor, officiating. Burial will be at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

She was born Jan. 27, 1918, in Calvert and came to Big Spring more than 60 years ago from Calvert. She was a domestic engineer, having worked for the Carson and Schwarzenbach families for more than 30 years. She was a member of the Mount Bethel Baptist Church.

She is survived by a number of nieces and nephews. Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersandsmith.com.

Virginia Sweeney

Virginia Sweeney, 93, of Big Spring died Wednesday, March 9, 2005, in a local nursing home. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Tonight - Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 40s. Northeast winds 15 to 25 mph with gusts to around 40 mph.

14 4 1 1 10 2

Friday - Mostly sunny. Cooler. Highs in the upper

60s. West winds 10 to 15 mph.

Saturday - Mostly sunny. Warmer. Highs in the upper 70s. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph.

Police blotter

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

· CLINTON AARON MUSE JR., 54, of 700 Ohio, was arrested Wednesday on charges of driving while license suspended, no insurance, running a stop sign and two local capias warrants.

• ANTHONY DAVID FENZEL, 21, of 906 Nolan, was arrested Wednesday on charges of evading arrest with a vehicle and driving while license suspended.

 JOHN TRACY LOYOLA III, 19, of 131 Jonesboro, was arrested Thursday on a Wichita County warrant and a charge of no insurance.

· MARCOS CHAVERA JR., 20, of 2911 W. Highway 80 Apt. 212, was arrested Thursday on a motion to revoke probation.

· THEFT was reported:

- in the 200 block of FM 700. In the 400 block of Birdwell Lane.

· CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported:

- in the 1400 block of Benton. - in the 4100 block of Bilger.

- in the 1400 block of Goliad

· ASSAULT/CLASS C was reported in the 1400 block of Benton.

ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE was

- in the 700 block of Washington.

- in the 1400 block of Goliad.

Sheriff's report

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

· WILLIAM BRYAN SLEDGE, 29, was arrested Wednesday by DPS on charges of driving while intoxicated and two counts of possession of a controlled substance.

· MICHAEL ANGEL SARMIENTO, 41, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of theft.

• BENIGNS DELAROSA JR., 34, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday on a charge of possession of marijuana · more than 50 pounds, less than 2,000 pounds.

· VERONICA GONZALES, 34, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday on a charge of possession of marijuana - more than 50 pounds, less than 2,000 pounds. · PATRICIA SUE HOWARD, 34, was arrested

Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of possession/transportation of chemicals with intent to manufacture a controlled substance.

· SONNY OLIVIO, 31, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday on a charge of criminal trespass.

 MICHAEL ROY ROBERSON, 21, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday on a charge of criminal • TONY YBARRA, 24, was transferred to the coun-

ty jail Wednesday on a charge of possession of mari juana - more than 50 pounds, less than 2,000 pounds. · SERGIO HERVEY DELAROSA, 22, was trans-

ferred to the county jail Wednesday on a charge of possession of marijuana - more than 50 pounds, less than 2,000 pounds. · SHOTS FIRED was reported in the 100 block of Val

Verde Road. VIOLATION OF A PROTECTIVE

ORDER/THEFT was reported in the 6300 block of the I-20 N. Service Road. · CLASS CASSAULT was reported in the 6300 block

of the I-20 N. Service Road.

Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department reported the follow-

 MEDICAL was reported in the 1900 block of N. Highway 87 at 7:32 a.m. Wednesday. One person was transported to SMMC.

 MEDICAL was reported in the 500 block of Sunset Blvd. at 9:42 a.m. Wednesday. One person was transported to SMMC.

· MEDICAL was reported in the 1700 block of Lancaster at 10:41 a.m. Wednesday. One person was transported to SMMC.

· MEDICAL was reported in the 100 block of Colorado Road at 2:15 p.m. Wednesday. One person was transported to SMMC.

 TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported near the 190 mile marker of Interstate Highway 20 at 2:49 p.m. Wednesday. Nine people were transported to SMMC.

· TRAUMA was reported in the 1500 block of Johnson at 8:29 a.m. Wednesday. One person was

• TRAUMA was reported in the 1700 block of Donley at 9:44 p.m. Wednesday. Service was refused.

transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 1000 block of E. 15th Street Wednesday. One person was transported to SMMC

 EXTRICATION FROM A VEHICLE was reported near the 190 mile marker of Interstate Highway 20 at 2:49 p.m. Wednesday.

 AUTOMOBILE FIRE was reported near the 194 mile marker of Interstate Highway 20 at 11:45 p.m. Wednesday.

Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 1-12-15-25-27. Next Cash 5 drawing: Thursday night.

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 7-24-27-28-29. Bonus Ball:

Estimated jackpot for Saturday night drawing: \$21

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 8-2-2

Bulletin board

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

TODAY

 Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane. Call 267-

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

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

· American Legion Auxiliary meets at 6 p.m. at 3203 W. Highway 80. • The Prospector's Club meets at 7:30 p.m. at 606 E.

Third St. The public is invited to these meetings. For more information contact Lola Lamb at 263-3340 or Doyle and Virginia McClain at 263-8407. · Masonic Lodge 598 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 2101

Lancaster.

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

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

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

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

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

SATURDAY

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

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

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

Take note

□ ALL STAR KIDS PAGEANT is set for Sunday afternoon at the Big Spring Mall. Children aged 0-47 months and 4-18 years may enter. Entry forms are available at the mall or call 866-319-7827.

□ BIG SPRING SYMPHONY ASSOCIATION monthly board of directors meeting is 5:30 p.m. Tuesday at 808 Scurry St. MEMBERS OF THE PUGA FAMILY are search

ing for family members to invite to a family reunion July 2 at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church. Contact Anna Gutierrez-Trevino at 466-1780. □ HERITAGE MUSEUM OPENS A NEW EXHIB-IT, LAW AND ORDER, MARCH 15, featuring mem-

oribilia from the Howard County Sheriff's Department, the Big Spring Police Department and local and past attorneys. Special items in the exhibit include the murder trial in Howard County and a 1902 shoot-out. Contact the museum for more information at 267-8255.

□ A BENEFIT BARBECUE COOK-OFF FOR THE FORSAN BAND WASHINGTON D.C. TRIP is set for Saturday at 703 W. Third. Categories are: brisket, pork ribs, chicken halves, sausage and jackpot beans. Cooks may register now by calling 263-6862.

□ HOWARD COUNTY A&M CLUB SCHOLAR-SHIP APPLICATIONS FOR 2005-2006 are being accepted. Applications may be obtained from Mike or Jeane Niklasch at 1409 E. Highway 350 or by calling the club president, Dr. Tom Dawson at 267-7911, ext. 216. Application deadline is April 15.

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

☐ HOWARD COUNTY CHILD WELFARE BOARD is seeking financial donations to provide support for children in Howard County who have been removed from their home due to abuse or neglect. Contact Patti Richard at 432-559-6953 or mail donations to HCCWB P.O. Box 3101 Big Spring, 79721.

SPRING HERA www.bigspringherald.com

Reflecting A Proud Community

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Business Office Manager

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MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$12.50 monthly Howard & Martin Counties. \$13:25 else

BIG SPRING

Thursday, M

By THOMAS JE

Staff Writer Two Stanton ed Saturday back-to-back re

Big Spring con Anthony High Andres Castil Stanton, Saturday after charged with aggravated rob ing customers

FINANCI

Continued from p

teacher salary and additiona for the mileag busing student

The chamber approved the b 71 vote, with bers abstair Democrats vot bill. The bill, wh

add about \$1.5 year to publ over the next has been op every major group in Texas Each of the

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the bill." Republican Grusendorf, authored the

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to Midland. Stallings said

RATHER

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Rather's career spar Kennedy assas this winter's and he's been face of CBS' news divis

on March 9, 1 His first included a English girls the hairstyle Charles'

replacing Wal

Diana. On the lead sto prices causing on Wall Street

Chris L

CHEYENNE LeDoux, a w back rider about cowbo rodeo circui country m Wednesday f liver cancer. LeDoux d

Casper, ac McDonough, Capitol Nash ing company He had che this week fo

from his cane ily and frien death. Among his

Free initial

Two Stanton men jailed for aggravated robbery

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

Two Stanton men were arrested Saturday afternoon after back-to-back robberies at two Big Spring convenience stores.

Anthony Hignojos Jr., 22, and Andres Castillo, 18, both of Stanton, were arrested Saturday afternoon and each charged with two counts of aggravated robbery after attacking customers at the Town &

and Interstate High 20 and the 7-Eleven at 902 Willia.

According to Sgt. Tony Everett, public information officer with the Big Spring Police Department, the men began their brief crime spree at the Town & Country when they attacked a customer who was pumping gas.

"They approached the victim and asked to borrow a car jack," said Everett. "The victim

Country located at Highway 87 gave them his car jack, at were inside the store and ran which time the suspects out to help him." attacked him with it. They took his money and fled the scene on

> Everett said the two men soon turned up at the 7-Eleven convenience store, attempting the same scam.

"They asked the customer at 7-Eleven if they could borrow a jack as well," said Everett. "After that, they attacked him. Some of the victim's friends

Everett said the jack wasn't used as a weapon in the second attack, which is still being treated as aggravated robbery because of the threat of a

"One of the suspects yelled to the other one and told him to get his gun," said Everett. "Even the threat of a weapon in this type of crime makes it an aggravated robbery.

"Because of the report of the first robbery, there were already police officers in the area searching for the suspects. so they were able to respond to the scene very quickly. Both suspects were arrested near the scene of the crime on Willia."

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by

Revising the state's sys-

tem for paying for public

schools has been a top pri-

ority for many lawmakers this session. Lawmakers

are under pressure after a

judge last year ruled

Texas' school finance sys-

calling the \$30 billion sys-

tem "financially ineffi-

cient, inadequate and

The state appealed the

ruling to the Texas

Supreme Court, but a

final decision is not

expected until after the

current legislative ses-

contributed to this report.

The Associated Press

Contact Staff Writer

Steve Reagan at 263-7331

ext. 234 or by e-mail at

reporter@bigspringher-

unsuitable."

sion.

ald.com

unconstitutional.

citydesk@bigspringherald.com

FINANCE

Continued from page 1A

teacher salary increase and additional funding for the mileage costs of busing students to school.

The chamber narrowly approved the bill by a 76-71 vote, with two members abstaining. No Democrats voted for the bill.

The bill, which would add about \$1.5 billion a year to public schools over the next two years, has been opposed by every major education group in Texas.

Each of the more than 1,030 school districts in Texas would get an average of a 5 percent increase in funds, under the proposal.

Although Laney conceded that some portions of the bill were acceptable, he could not support the plan as a whole.

"There's some good concepts in the bill, but you don't pass some segments of the bill, you have to pass all of it," he said. "I didn't have one school in my district that supported the bill."

Republican Rep. Kent Grusendorf, who authored the legislation,

most important vote of the legislative session."

He has hailed the bill as an opportunity to give parents and taxpayers transparency and school officials accountability in how billions of tax dollars are being spent on Texas' 4.3 million K-12 students.

Republicans swatted down dozens of amendments, including some that would increase funding for students at risk of dropping out, bilingual students and gifted and talented programs. One amendment, which would have studied the efficiency of consolidating small school districts, was approved but later withdrawn after rural legislators bristled.

Critics argued that a Republican-proposed teacher pay raise would be difficult for some schools in Texas to deliver and doesn't quite add up to the promised increase.

"There's no new money flowing into that pay raise," said Democratic Rep. Scott Hochberg of taken and the cap Houston, who worked on remained in place. The the committee that considered the legislation.

late Tuesday night, would be about a \$3,000 increase contentious aspects of the

three men who dominated

network news for more

than two decades to step

down in four months.

NBC's Tom Brokaw exit-

ed in November, leaving

ABC's Peter Jennings

remaining at "World

replacement starting

Thursday. CBS expects to

name a permanent anchor

Rather, 73, is returning

"60 Minutes"

to full-time reporting for

the coming months.

Schieffer

temporary

News Tonight."

Bob

CBS's

broadcasts.

Rather's

called the measure "the in the average teacher current system. salary in each district. But, a restored \$1,000 teacher health care stipend, which lawmakers cut in half last session, would be rolled into the salary increase, leaving teachers with about

\$2,000.

"There's significant problems with the pay raise, which is a sham," said Rob D'Amico, a spokesman for the Texas Federation of Teachers. "First of all, no one knows where the money is coming from. I don't think anyone on the House floor really understood where this money is coming from."

Another provision would put a 35 percent cap on the amount of money that could be taken from property wealthy districts to be redistributed to the rest of the state. The House narrowly approved an amendment to eliminate the cap from the bill, but after several moments of persuasion on the House floor, another vote was wealth-sharing measure has given the system its The proposal, adopted Robin Hood nickname and is among the most

viewers of the phrase

mocked by some for using

the word to end his

broadcasts for a week in

September 1986 before

For its first 20 minutes,

Rather's final broadcast

was all business. No one

Rather or correspon-

dents John Roberts and

acknowledged it was a

wore a dark blue pin-

striped suit and striped

red tie. His voice was

giving up on the idea.

He was

Mason -

Critics argue that allowing the "super-wealthy" school districts to retain most of their property tax revenue, the gap between the haves and the havenots is increased.

"I believe that it is fundamentally wrong. It is morally wrong to create two classes of Texas kids, and that's what (this bill) does," said Rep. Pete Gallego, D-Alpine.

A final vote will likely be taken Thursday. The measure still must be approved by the Senate, before members from both chambers join to work out the differences between the two versions of the bill.

Laney said he expects major changes to the bill before a final version is approved.

"From conversations I've had with several senators, their concept (of the bill) is very different from the House," he said. "When the Senate is through with it, I don't think it will even resemble what passed in the House last night."

The House will next take up a second part of the school finance package - a \$10 billion tax billslashed school property

taxes with an array of other taxes, such as a snack tax and an increased and expanded sales tax. Debate on that bill is set for Thursday morning.

Gov. Rick Perry has not endorsed any particular tax, but he said he was urging members to get it out of the House so it can be kept alive.

"I ask them to move the process forward. That's very important in this process," he said.

Tuesday, On the Legislative Budget Board released an analysis stating that only Texans making more than \$100,000 a year would receive a net tax cut under the tax bill. The board analysis stat-

ed that the poorest 1.7 million households those making less than \$23,000 a year — would see their tax burden increase more than 5 percent under the bill. Lawmakers are proposing adding a penny to the state sales tax rate and sharply boosting taxes on cigarettes and snacks.

The richest 840,000 households — those making more than \$140,000 a year — would see their taxes cut nearly 3 percent. intended to replace according to the legisla-

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

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL 24th & Johnson 267-8288

Ruby Greenhill, 83, died Friday. Funeral Services will be at 4:00 PM Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Burial will be at Trinity Memorial Park.

Rica Hilario, 80, died Friday. Funeral Mass will be at 12 Noon Thursday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Raymond Karnes, 82, died Monday. Graveside Services will be at 10:00 AM Thursday at Trinity Memorial Park.

Odie Sanchez, 87, died Thursday. Funeral Services will be at 11:00 AM Friday at Mt. Bethel Baptist Church with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Mary L. Ward, 80, died Funeral Wednesday. Services will be at 2:00 PM Saturday at the College Park Church of God with burial at Trinity Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 6:00 until 8:00 PM at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

WRECK

RATHER

Rather's

Continued from Page 1A

Continued from Page 1A

career spanned the

Kennedy assassination to

this winter's tsunami,

and he's been the public

face of CBS's legendary

news division since

replacing Walter Cronkite

His first newscast

included a story about

English girls imitating

the hairstyle of Prince

Diana. On Wednesday,

the lead story was oil

prices causing a bad day

on March 9, 1981.

Charles'

to Midland.

Stallings said the driver of the

reporting

bride-to-be,

vehicle, 25-year old Estaban into the service road median, wearing seatbelts at the time of entered the east-west divider. Florencio apparently over-corrected, sending the Tahoe back

He's the second of the defiance in reminding

"courage."

Anthony

hoarse.

Florencio, was traveling in the where it flipped after striking a left lane when the vehicle steep embankment, before coming to rest upright on the north service road.

across the westbound lane and ly, none of the passengers were ald.com

Stallings noted that, apparent- e-mail at reporter@bigspringher-

the accident.

blame for a discredited "60 Minutes" story last fall about President Bush's military service, and he's a distant third in the ratings behind NBC's Brian Williams and

Jennings. He has been a target for decades of conservatives who accuse the media of bias, since his coverage of the Nixon White House during the Watergate era, and many have exulted in his recent misfortunes.

But he had his supporters, too.

Marian MacNeil of His exit comes at a low Windsor, Calif., said she He flashed a steadfast ebb in his career. Rather watched Rather regularly

took much of the public and admired him. "I feel terrible the way he's being 'treated now,' MacNeil said. "I think they're smearing a good reputation and overshadowing his 50 years. I hope he's able to rise above this." Both Jennings and

Williams paid tribute to Rather at the end of their broadcasts. called him a "very tough competitor" and a friend of nearly 20 years.

on Wall Street. Chris LeDoux dies of complications from liver cancer

team to succeed Rather in special night. Rather

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP) — Chris were "Whatcha Gonna Do Withy a and rodeos. He had a loyal, if limit-LeDoux, a world champion bareback rider who parlayed songs about cowboys he knew on the rodeo circuit into a successful country music career, died Wednesday from complications of liver cancer. He was 56.

LeDoux died Wednesday in Casper, according to Judy McDonough, spokeswoman for Capitol Nashville, LeDoux's recording company.

He had checked into the hospital this week following complications from his cancer and was with family and friends at the time of his

Among his best known songs

Cowboy," with Garth Brooks, "Cadillac Ranch," "Hooked On An 8-Second Ride,"

"Copenhagen," "Under This Old Hat" and "Riding For a Fall." He had undergone a

liver transplant in 2000 after a lengthy illness. LeDoux, who was born in Mississippi and grew

up in Austin, described LeDoux his music as a combination of "Western soul, sagebrush blues, cowboy folk and rodeo rock 'n' roll."

By 1989, LeDoux had released 22 albums which he sold at concerts

ed, fan base. That changed that year when Garth Brooks had a hit with "Much Too Young (To Feel This Damn Old)," which included the line: "A worn-out tape of Chris LeDoux, lonely women and bad booze/seem to be the only friends I've left at all."

LeDoux soon became a country star and recorded songs about cowboys, the ups and downs of the rodeo circuit and his adopted home of Wyoming. In 2003, he released the album

"Horsepower" and celebrated career sales of more than 5 million albums.



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-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

John A. Moseley Managing Editor

Bill McClellan

OUR VIEWS

Cook-off offers good food for a great cause

hat are your plans for the weekend? Well, four local organizations — the Fraternal Order of the Eagles Aerie No. 3188, American Legion Post 506, the Permian Basin Chapter of the Cossacks Motorcycle Club and the Big Spring Bass Club have something to consider for Saturday.

They will be staging a benefit barbecue cook-off to raise funds for the Forsan High School Band's trip to Washington, D.C.

The cook-off will be staged at the Eagles Lodge, located at 703 W. Third St, and competition will be held in five categories — brisket, pork ribs, chicken halves, sausage and jackpot beans.

Cooking will begin early that morning and judging is set for 1 p.m.

And the best part for most of us also gets under way at 1 p.m. That's when, for \$5 per plate, we get to partake of the barbecue the cooks prepare.

If you happen to think you're one of the best barbecue cooks around, there's still time to register to compete. Registration is \$10 per category. Just call 263-6862 to get entered.

We encourage our readers to make plans to stop by the Eagles Lodge Saturday and help support the Forsan band.

You'll not only be helping a deserving group of Howard County youngsters take part in an experience they'll remember all their lives, but enjoy a fine barbecue meal in the process.

That's what we call a win, win situation.

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

Inside report: Social Security crossroads

en. Robert Bennett, the chief deputy majority whip and one of the wisest Republican heads in Washington, has quietly entered the Social Security maelstrom with a thoughtful compromise that puts his party at a

crossroads. The GOP faces this choice: pass a bill that is a pallid version of the original proposal, or concede defeat and fight out the battle in the 2006 campaign.

Bennett's plan would attack the unmistakable Social Security funding deficit by cutting benefits, graduated to hit

hardest in upper income brackets. There would be no tax increase. President Bush's proposed voluntary personal accounts as part of Social Security would be written into law but would not go into effect for five years, when George W. Bush would no longer be president. Hardly a month ago, it was

inconceivable that Bush would accept such a watered-down proposal. But now, it is probably the most that can be hoped for. Whether the Republicans declare victory, such a proposal will shape partisan politics into the future.

Bob Bennett is in his 13th year as a senator from Utah, and his experience on Capitol Hill as a staffer for his father, Sen. Wallace Bennett, goes back four decades. A successful independent businessman, Bennett has the rare ability to understand and articulate complicated issues. As chairman of the Joint Economic Committee

last year, he thoroughly studied the Social Security puzzle.

Typically, Bennett has been working behind the scenes to solve that puzzle and went public only when details began to leak out. He starts from the premise that Social Security will not be in trouble some time in the distant future but in 2008, when the first "baby boomers" retire and initiate a worsening strain on the system. Bennett's plan realizes two facts of life in dealing with this developing crisis.

First, the plan by Sen. Lindsey Graham, raising the present \$90,000 cap on annual income subject to the payroll tax financing Social Security, is a dead letter with conservatives. Some 30 congressmen who belong to the Republican Study Committee, invited to Dick Cheney's home last week, told the vice president they could not tolerate any tax increase.

Second, Democrats have definitively ruled out any form of personal accounts. Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid, by nature a dealmaker, is under intense pressure from his caucus not even to discuss the Bush proposal. With Sen. John Kerry accusing Reid of being too soft, the new leader rejected any negotiation.

Democrats, reeling from a succession of election defeats, want to humiliate Bush at the start of his second term. In the Senate, Paul Begala (my co-host on CNN's "Crossfire") is described as threatening a jihad against any Democrat who dares negotiate.

Bennett tackles the coming Social Security shortfall by making an overdue change — long advocated by the late Democratic Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan —

of pegging Social Security to prices instead of wages. That requires a cut in future benefits. But Bennett would "blend" that cut — deeper for the rich than the poor. This constitutes a non-partisan compromise. Significantly, Bennett does not raise taxes.

The Bennett plan tries to sidestep the furor over personal accounts by establishing an individual savings account outside of the Social Security system. Many Democrats are proposing similar plans, and nobody really thinks they would impel workers to save appreciably more than they do today. However, Bennett would write into law, effective five years from now, the option for wage earners to commit a portion of their payroll taxes to future accounts.

That probably will not assuage the wrath of Democrats who vow that any of their senators who support personal accounts, even Joe Lieberman, face primary election challenges. But it may be a reasonable enough alternative to chip away at a few brave Democrats.

Will the president buy it? The guess on Capitol Hill is that it will look better than nothing, in the eyes of the White House. But there is a temptation among many Republicans to match Democratic intransigence and go to the public in the mid-term election. The Republicans stand at the crossroads, about to make a decision that will affect much more than Social Security.

To find out more about Robert D. Novak and read his past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com.

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Bloggers' reaction to Byrd speech far off the mark

n the magical upside-down world of right-wing blogs, it is now an accepted article of faith that Sen. Robert Byrd compared George W. Bush to Hitler last week. Republicans are demanding an apology, many have taken to high dudgeon. and another pointless

flapette is on. Actually Byrd, a noted scholar of the Senate and its procedures, made an interesting speech opposing the "nuclear option" of cutting off Senate debate

on judicial nominees. "Rumor has it there is a plot afoot in the Senate to curtail the right of extend ed debate in this hallowed

chamber, not in accordance with its rules, mind you, but by fiat from the chair," said the elderly Byrd. He is also famed for his magniloquent speaking style, a splendid old fashioned oratory known to older Americans who had to study rhetoric. Byrd tangentially mentioned Hitler, quoting historian Alan Bullock to make

IVINS

the following point: "Hitler's originality lay in his realization that effective revolutions, in modern conditions; are carried out with, and not against, the power of the state: The correct order of events was first to secure access to that power and then begin his revolution. Hitler never abandoned the cloak of legality; he recognized the enormous psychological value of having the law on his side. Instead, he turned the law inside out and made illegality legal."

A point worth pausing over. Byrd went on to suggest the "nuclear option" ploy is similar in that it involves the same premise: If you can't win under the rules, you change the rules. Certainly a case of rhetorical overreach, but then, that is a hazard of public speaking.

The blogger Wonkette posted an amusing collection of Republican politicians comparing this, that and the other to Nazi Germany - a ruling on abortion, stem cell research, even the Kyoto protocol. In 2002, former Sen. Phil Gramm of Texas managed to find a tax bill like something "right out of Nazi Germany. I don't understand ... why all of a sudden we are passing laws that sound as if they are right out of Nazi Germany." Rhetorical overreach plagues many: George W. Bush once managed to invoke the tragic memory of 9-11 in aid of a capital gains

Byrd's really quite thoughtful speech should appeal to conservatives with its emphasis on historical precedent, con-*stitutional responsibilities, and the sys-

tem of checks and balances. Byrd also made a spirited attack on Franklin D. Roosevelt for his misbegotten plan to "pack" the Supreme Court.

All of this was about Bush's decision to renominate 20 of his choices for the federal bench who never got a vote in his first term because of threatened filibusters. For some reason, Republicans have chosen to treat these rebuffs as though they were World War III, accusing Democrats of the dread "obstructionism." Their own record during the Clinton years of knocking off dozens of President Clinton's judicial nominees gives not the slightest pause.

The 20 retreads include some real dogs. One of these prizes is William G. Myers III, nominated for a lifetime seat on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. His qualifications consist of having spent most of his adult life as a lobbyist for Western mining, timber and oil companies. Bush named him top lawyer in the Interior Department in 2001, apparently on the grounds that Myers once compared the federal government's management of federal lands to the tyranny of King George III.

Another gem is Janice Rogers Brown of California, nominated for the D.C. Court of Appeals, who described the New Deal as "the triumph of our socialist revolution" and praised an

infamous line of Supreme Court cases from 1905 to 1937 striking down worker health and safety laws as infringing on the rights of business. (Of course your employer has a right to kill you

what are you, out of the mainstream?) Still another prize in this package is Claude A. Allen, who believes abortion rights are causing genocide of black people. A supporter of abstinence education, Allen backed the administration's decision to remove information about condoms from the Web site of the Centers for Disease Control.

My personal fave is Priscilla Owen of the Texas Supreme Court, who is so far out that Alberto Gonzales once denounced one of her decisions as "an unconscionable act of judicial activism."

Then there's William Haynes, principal author and defender of the administration's dubious handling of several torture issues.

All in all, a lovely bunch of coconuts, with a collective record showing opposition to human rights, civil rights, abortion rights — pretty much everything but property rights.

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

www.creators.com

H₂ SU

in attı

By JIM MATEJA

Chicago Tribune Hummer ow unique breed some, scorned

People look for their wealt at them for co greater portion earth's petro plies than dee table.

Whether frie give Humme credit. They ca or out with noticed even if ed to in a vehi as it is tall, that at first gl closely resemb cature of a s vehicle.

And now the addition to the attract even m ers into the finds comfort i ing the bigge money can buy wheels - a H pickup truck. (H1 with a box no tailgate, so loaded from th

Yup, first the Hummer H1, should hav required to have as standard. 7 the Hummer I what smaller the H1 craft, version of the v ularized by th General Moto the H2 once it h the Hummer fa Now comes th

with a pickup than a sport hold. Maybe not

H2 SUT, basic

cute. Not a vehicle one, but ne

Hyundai Acce The H2 SUT who need to folks in the ca fer holding the five folks need cabin.

But, if you only two adult lumber, shru ladders or an that won't fi that's only 35 the H2 SUT w dle the challe

The bed wide, 35 inch 20 inches enough for lu bags or, if a athlete, gold rings and re bling.

Like the Avalanche p SUT come midgate, or arates the ca bed.

Flip and f



A cute Hummer

H2 SUT wraps utility in attractive package

By JIM MATEJA

Chicago Tribune

Hummer owners are a unique breed — envied by some, scorned by others.

People look up to them for their wealth or down at them for consuming a greater portion of the earth's petroleum supplies than deemed equitable.

Whether friend or foe, give Hummer owners credit. They can't slip in or out without being noticed even if they wanted to in a vehicle as wide as it is tall, a machine that at first glance more closely resembles a caricature of a sport-utility vehicle.

And now there's a new addition to the lineup to attract even more followers into the camp that finds comfort in purchasing the biggest vehicle money can buy without 18 wheels — a Hummer H2 pickup truck. (There is an H1 with a box in back but no tailgate, so it has to be loaded from the top.)

Yup, first there was the Hummer H1, so big it been should have required to have life rafts as standard. Then came the Hummer H2, a somewhat smaller version of the H1 craft, a civilian version of the vehicle popsularized by the military. General Motors created the H2 once it bought into the Hummer family.

Now comes the Hummer H2 SUT, basically an H2 with a pickup bed rather than a sport-ute cargo

Maybe not cuddly, but

Not a vehicle for everyone, but neither is a Hyundai Accent.

The H2 SUT is for those who need to hold five folks in the cabin and prefer holding the stuff those five folks need outside the

But, if you need to hold only two adults yet lots of lumber, shrubs, bricks, ladders or anything else that won't fit in a bed that's only 35 inches long, the H2 SUT will still handle the challenge.

The bed is 47 inches wide, 35 inches deep and 20 inches high, large enough for luggage, duffel bags or, if a professional athlete, gold chains, earrings and related blingbling.

Like the Chevrolet Avalanche pickup, the H2 SUT comes with a midgate, or wall that separates the cabin from the

Flip and fold the rear

seats forward, press a dash button to power the rear window into the midgate, press the buttons to lower the metal midgate and extend the bed 3 feet by borrowing from the passenger cabin. Lower the midgate and tailgate, and you can haul items 8 feet long.

You can leave the bed exposed; or opt for the \$950 locking tonneau cover that secures items inside. The cover is strong enough to support 250 pounds should you decide to stand on it or spread out a blanket on it to soak up some rays while adventuring into the great outdoors.

We tested the '05 H2 SUT but didn't stand on the cover because even with the tailgate down, you'd need a ladder to get onto the top.

What's surprising about the SUT is that it delivers such a smooth, pleasant, hassle-free ride. Road blemishes go virtually unnoticed. Can't say that about too many SUVs, much less too many pick-

Handling, well, handling is about what you'd expect in a vehicle that stands about 81 inches high and 81 inches wide. You sit high and see down the road without anything getting in your way. Thanks to the 81-inch width you sit in comfort with more than ample wiggle room.

Of course, when 81 inches high and 81 inches wide, there are a few nuisances you don't have to put up with in a roughly 55-inch-high and 75-inchwide family sedan.

Corners are best taken at reduced speed. Yes it's wide, but it's also more than a tad heavy and you always feel more in control in keeping the bulk moving forward rather than at any lateral angle.

Also, you feel like you've filled the lane on the road and don't dare wander an inch or two either way.

And when you pull into the mall lot, you park in the hinterland because you don't always fit easily between the other visitors.

Consumers complain about trying to see what's coming when backing out of the lot when nestled between two big SUVs.

Hummer owners have their gripes, too. While they easily can see what's coming, the problem is having to squeeze into or out of that spot when other vehicles are along-



The 2005 Hummer H2 SUT

side, and squeezing out of their Hummer when a vehicle is parked alongside — not to mention squeezing back in again.

Thankfully the test vehicle came with optional \$425 tubular side steps. Getting into or out of the SUT without them would have been a chore because it stands so high to allow for off-road clear-

The 6-liter, 325-horsepower V-8 does a more than admirable job in getting the size and weight in motion — and doing so

However, while tree' light package. huggers may detest you. filling-station owners roll out the red carpet. The tank holds 32 gallons of gas that gives you about 310 miles of driving range. The government doesn't require a vehicle with a gross vehicle weight rating of 8,500 pounds or more to list its city and highway mileage figures. But without doing the math, it's safe to say the SUT doesn't obtain 20 m.p.g.

If it's mileage you want in a Hummer, you'll have to wait for the H3 sportute that joins the lineup in the middle of next year. It will deliver roughly 14 to 16 m.p.g. city and 19 to 20 m.p.g. highway.

The H3, expected to start at about \$35,000, is derived from the midsize Chevy Colorado pickup platform and will be powered by the same 5-cylinder engine. Of note, the H3 was unveiled as a Hummer H3 SUT concept a year ago.

The Hummer H2 SUT starts at \$51,995, though it finishes a lot higher after the typical owner does a little personalizing.

Nice touches include push-button AWD with four-wheel-high and -low settings; five power plugs front and rear, or one more plug than cuphold-

er; a front-seat air bag on/off switch; heated rear seats; four-wheel anti-lock brakes with traction control; rear-seat audio controls with headsets; power sunroof; power heated/folding side mirrors; 17-inch, all-terrain radial tires; and power operated just about every-

thing. The test vehicle added \$2,780 for an adventure group with such features as air springs, brush guards, tubular taillamp protectors to prevent offroad damage, as well as a first-aid kit/tool kit/flash-

Allan's

The truck bed cover (\$950) and tubular assist steps (\$425) inflate the price even more, though the bed cover is nice to have and the steps are a must.

2005 Hummer H2 SUT Wheelbase: 122.8 inches Length: 203.5 inches

Engine: 6-liter, 325-h.p. V-8 Transmission: 4-speed auto-Fuel economy: 310-mile range

from 32-gallon tank Base price: \$51,995 Price as tested: \$56,600. Includes \$2,780 for Adventure group with air springs, air compressor, brush quard, rubber

floor mats, AM/FM six-disc indash CD changer, first-aid/tool kit/flashlight, tubular taillamp Sonic Specials Everday

rack; \$950 for locking tonneau truck-bed cover; \$450 for chrome package with chrome door handles and mirror caps; and \$425 for tubular assist steps. Add \$850 for freight. Pluses: A Hummer pickup truck

protectors and crossbar roof

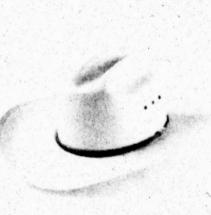
with the take-no-prisoners design. Smooth, quiet, comfortable ride for such a big vehicle. Sit high (81.2 inches tall) for great down-the-road visibility. Room for five adults in cabin. Truck bed for when you need to haul stuff and foldable midgate with power window to extend bed into cabin when you have to haul longer

Minuses: 310 miles of driving range from 32 gallons of gas. SUT is 8 inches wider (81.2 inches, as wide as it is tall) than a Buick LeSabre, a dimension that comes into play when you try slipping between the painted lines in the





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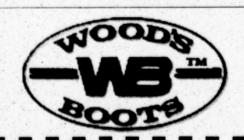


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Don't let age stop fashion fun

By Lisa Jones Townsel (KRT)

ST. LOUIS - Flowers bloomed, colors burst into brilliance and silhouettes hugged and flared on runways for spring.

You liked them, or at least a part of what you saw, but you aren't sure if your body can - or will cooperate.

It's a well-known fact that most of the poppy spring looks are geared toward the 30-and-under crowd. But that doesn't mean a mature woman has to wear dusters and tunics the rest of her life.

Relax. Be realistic, then pick and choose.

Carol Moellenhoff, a sales associate for Cache at West County Center in St. Louis, says she often hears reticent customers wondering if they should purchase certain pieces mostly due to their age.

"They'll say, 'I'm too old' and 'I don't want to look like I'm trying to dress like my daughter." Moellenhoff says.

But she works with be professional model. them and gingerly offers Today, she is the admissuggestions if something doesn't quite work.

Moellenhoff, who personifies cool at age 66, says shopping for clothing is all about one's sensibilities.

"If you're young at heart, you're going to shop here," she says, adding that quite a few of her clients are 60 and older.

But age isn't the only barrier that keeps many older women from plucking some stylish looks from the racks. Many stores carry only smaller sizes, which in some part, is the case for Cache.

"We stop at a size 12, Moellenhoff says.

So, the woman who does shop there, she says, wants to be trendy and colors." fashion-forward.

it, so you're going to want er looks into more wearto dress it nice," she rea-

Mary Beth Barutio, who , a skirted ensemble from

director for sions Modeling Barbizon Center in Clayton, Mo. But she doesn't mind rekindling the modeling flame to help women see how they can add a bit of realism to what they see on the runways.

She also has very strong opinions about her cloth-

"I don't like low-riders." says Barutio, who prefers to wear pants with a natural or high waist. She doesn't do sleeveless, either. "I refuse to wear that," she says emphatically. "You get all of this underarm jiggle.

And while she's not adverse to color, she prefers to wear black and "accessorize with bright

Barutio worked with us "You work hard to keep to translate three designable ensembles for the mature crowd. One outfit, is sixtysomething, used to the Luca Luca Spring 2005 collection, brought an immediate reaction.

> "I like the skirt, but I wouldn't wear the top," she says. "Maybe I'd wear a black tank top with the sweater, but I wouldn't wear strapless. I like things more covered."

Nikki Douglas, co-manager of the J.Jill store at West County Center, advises women like Barutio and others not to dismiss a style complete-

"Look at it and take pieces out of it that you like and adapt it for your own," she suggests.

This might mean pairing a trendy top with a bottom that is more modest but better suited for your body type, she says.

One of the store's pieces that has been particularly popular is a short, redand white tweed jacket with oversize buttons.

"I have gals in their 20s. 60s, 70s (wear it). It's one of those pieces you can wear with dress slacks or with jeans," she adds. There are always different ways to wear things."

Nancy Nix-Rice, personal fashion adviser for Lord & Taylor at West County Center, agrees. She says most people are hyper-critical-about themselves.

"They're camouflaging things they don't have she contends. Exposure of the upper arms has taken over from hips and thighs as the No. 1 thing that we hear complaining about their bodies.'

After considering one's own size and sensibilities. Nix-Rice says there are practical concerns for the mature woman to factor in when shopping.

"People's coloring softens with age," she says.

"Our eye color becomes less intense. Our skin becomes paler, and the overall brightness and contrast becomes more subdued." Thus, Nix-Rice says

some high-contrast color combinations can be "too overpowering" for the mature woman. "If colors get too bright

and strong, it's unflattering," she says, suggesting that instead of the brightest turquoise, older women might want to mix softer aquas and other muted colors into their wardrobes...

Body changes impact choices, too. As we age, Nix-Rice says, "our spine compacts, and it diminishes the distance between the waistline and the shoulder line. We become more short-waist-

This can be remedied a bit, she says, by paying closer attention to posture and selecting clothing that isn't too closely fitted.

A good bra, she says, is also critical.

"It's really important to keep the bustline higher. By doing this, you take pounds and years off," she says.

Nix-Rice, who owns her own image consulting business Impressions, is also a huge advocate of removable shoulder pads.

"As we mature, everything is being pulled downward," she says. But

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by adding small shoulder ties. pads, "It's immediately

Mary Beth Barutio sports a pink cardigan with snaps

(\$118), matching tank (\$68) and black-and-white floral

print pants (\$118), all from Cache.

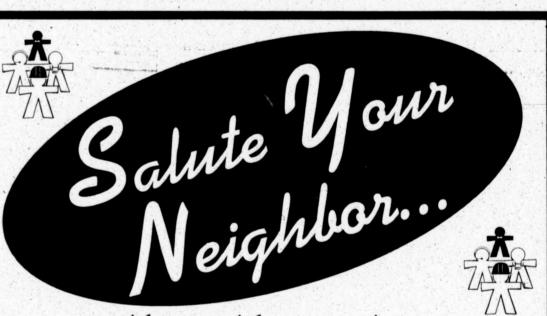
instead of hugging it."

"Try something you more youthful and lets a haven't before. It might sleeve fall over the arm be darling," she says. "Don't assume that you Whatever your style, can't because your birth Nix-Rice sings the same certificate says a particusong as the others: lar year."





Mary Beth Barutio rests easy in an all-in-one bra cami in rhubarb (\$24) and Go Lightly tweed jacket (\$148) paired with a long denim skirt (\$78) accented with a vintage lace scarf (\$48), all from J.Jill.



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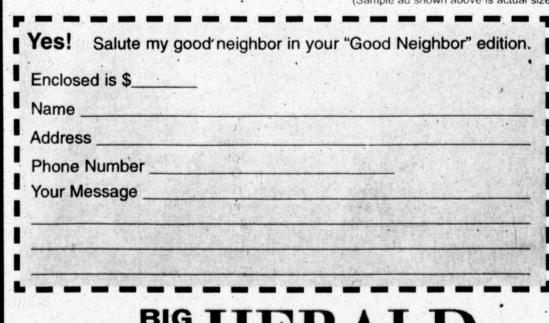
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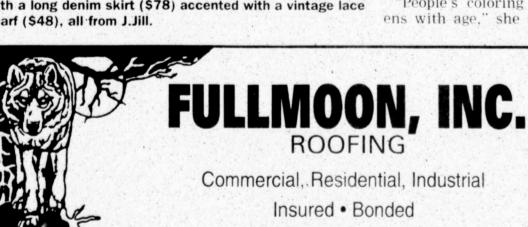
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HENRY BACKES

IN BRIEF

B.S. Girl's Softball Association holding signups in March

The Big Spring Girl's Softball Association will be holding signups to register for the upcoming 2005 season.

The league is open for girls and women ages four and above.

Signups will occur Saturday every throughout the month of March from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Big Spring Mall. However, signups will also be accepted at All District Sports, located at 1005 East 11th Place.

There is a registration fee of \$30, but a \$5 discount will be given to a second child.

Tryouts for the league will take place April 2 and the league begins play April 25.

For more information, call Ron Shafer at 432-213-3747.

Howard rodeo team sets crawfish boil

The Howard College rodeo team will hold its annual crawfish boil April 16 at 2 p.m. at the H.C. Rodeo Bowl Howard during College's annual rodeo.

The cost is \$15, which includes ticket into rodeo.

For more information, contact Howard rodeo coach Greg Kernick at 816-9477.

Baseball camp set for middle of March

The Mickey Owen Baseball School will take place Saturday. March 19, at the National League Little League Field on Driver Road off South Highway 87.

The camp is broken into two sessions as the first one takes place from 9:30 a.m. to noon and the second one goes from 12:45 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.

Each session is broken down into instruction, practice and play

One session costs \$40, but participants can get both camps for \$60. Participants can save \$10 if registered by March 10.

The first session will cover general instruction on hitting, fielding and throwing, while session two is position instruction involving catchers, pitchers, infielders and outfield-

The camp is for anyone ages six through

The camp advises athletes to bring their own glove, cap, baseball pants, baseball shoes and gym shoes.

For more informacontact the tion. Mickey Owen Baseball School at 1-800-999-8369.

Howard to play in Region V Tourney

The Howard College men's basketball team - after finishing second in the WJCAC Conference $-\mathbf{w}$ i 1 1 travel to Lubbock for Region Tournament this week-

Howard (25-5, 11-3) will play Friday at 12:30 p.m. against Gravson.

The tournament will take place at the Rip Griffin Center. The winner of regionals advances to nationals.

Howard meets 'identical twin' in Region V opener

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

Two similar squads will face off against each other in the first round of the Region V Tournament Friday as Howard battles Grayson at 12:30 p.m. at the Rip Griffin Center in Lubbock.

"We have a lot of similarities on both sides of the ball," said Howard many bad shots." coach Mark Adams.

Both teams have balanced offensive attacks, are well-coached and very

BSTA hires

tennis pro

to help Big

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

Spring team

The Big Spring Tennis

Association has officially

hired a tennis pro to assist with the program

at Big Spring high school.

hired Monday and will

now officially be in

charge of local tourna-

ments, camps and

leagues. He will also hold

private lessons to any one

person or group that

wants to better his or her

game on the tennis court. "I want to help improve

each player's game and

hopefully get a chance to

work with every player

in a one on one capacity,"

Big Spring head tennis

Sarah Corse said the

opportunity the players

will now have can do

nothing but help the

"It is going to help the

program a lot," said

Corse. "Now we have

someone else to help

expand the development

of these kids. We have

limitations as to what we

can do as coaches and he

will help out with that.

The opportunity for pri-

vate lessons is now more

convenient and I hope the

players take full advan-

tage of this. I know the

interest is there, though."

Olesen graduated from

West Texas A&M (WT)

last year with degrees in

Computer Information

Management. He played a

total of three and a half

years of tennis at the col-

legiate level, including

two and a half at WT. He

played the other year at

Community College in

Plano and was ranked

No. 11 nationally in dou-

He came to Texas by

way of California when

he was 15-years-old and

graduated from Tascosa

High School in Amarillo.

"I benefited from play-

ing on a good tennis team

with a good coach," said

Olesen. "We won the

state championship my

Olesen and his family

- which has five other

tennis professionals -

moved around a lot when

he was younger. Olesen's

father was in the Air

Force and was actually

stationed in Big Spring

Besides working as a

tennis pro in Big Spring,

Olesen is also working

towards a United States

Association Certificate

and a master's degree in

business administration.

He is currently taking

courses for the master's

degree online through

Tennis

before he was born.

Professional

junior year there."

and

County

Systems

Collin

bles that year.

said Olesen.

Steer program.

Ted Olesen, 25, was

structured.

'Grayson won't beat themselves on the offensive end of the floor," said Adams. "They all know their roles and don't take

sively by Chris Session and has better 3-point shooters' than Howard, See HOWARD, Page 2B

said Adams. They finished third this season in the Northern Junior College Athletic Conference, behind second place McLennan and undefeated and third-

ranked Temple.

The winner between the Hawks and Grayson will take on the winner between Temple and South Plains Saturday at Grayson is led offen- 12:30 p.m. McLennan will challenge Midland and

NJCAA Region V men's basketball tournament in Lubbock

Friday's quarterfinal games

Game One: Howard vs. Grayson, 12:30 p.m. Game Two: No. 3 Temple vs. South Plains, 2:30 p.m. Game Three: McLennan vs. Midand, 5 p.m. Game Four: Frank Phillips vs. Weatherford, 7 p.m.

Saturday's semi-final games

Sunday's championship game

Game Five: Howard or Grayson vs. No. 3 Temple or South Plains, 12:30 p.m. Game Six: McLennan or Midland vs. Frank Phillips or Weatherford, 2:30 p.m.

The Region V Tournament championship game will begin at 2 p.m.

*All games will be played at the Rip Griffin Center in Lubbock

Suns take out Spurs in battle of West elite

· Hardly playoff preview with Duncan, Ginobili out of lineup

By MEL REISNER

Spurs this season.

AP Sports Writer PHOENIX (AP) Stoudemire scored 44 points and the Phoenix Suns beat San Antonio 107-101 Wednesday night for their first win over the

The Spurs played without injured All-Stars Tim Duncan (ankle) and Manu Ginobili (groin), so it was no preview of a possible playoff meeting between teams battling for the NBA's best record.

But it was satisfying to the Suns, who snapped their longest current losing streak to one team.

The coveted victory wasn't locked up until Stoudemire dunked for a 105-98 lead with 1:19 to go on a play that began with Steve Nash missing a short jumper. Stoudemire had 13 points in the fourth quarter.

Shawn Marion deflected the ball to Joe Johnson, who shoveled it to Stoudemire underneath.

Marion had 18 points and 17 rebounds and Nash had 11 points and 15 assists. Leandro Barbosa scored 15 points off the bench and Johnson finished with 12.

The Suns earned their fourth straight win and snapped San Antonio's five-game winning streak, despite a seasonhigh 30 points from Tony Parker.

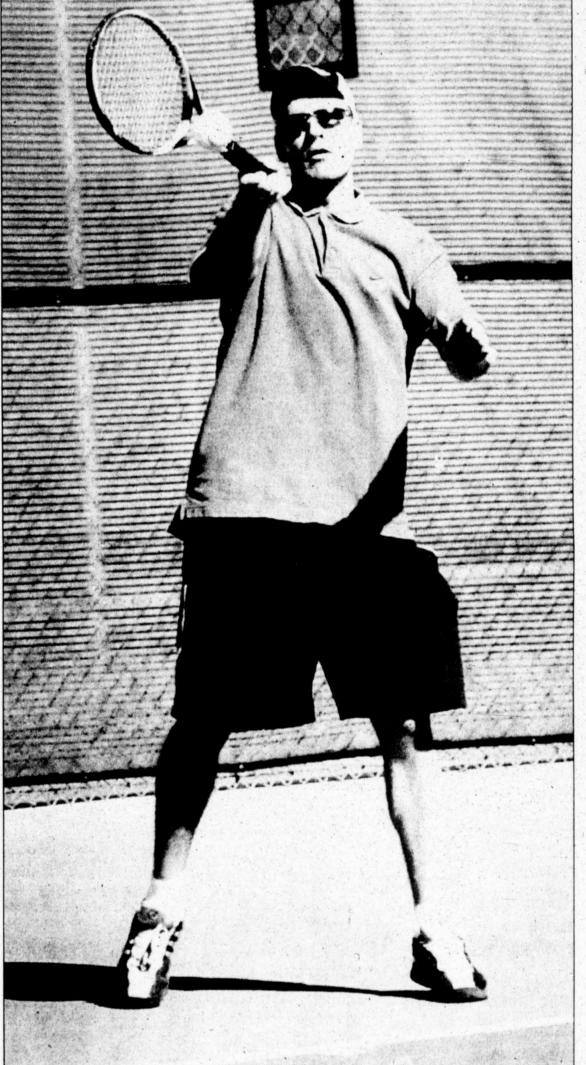
Duncan, who turned his right ankle Sunday, minutes played 30 Tuesday against New Jersey but decided to rest it on the second half of a back-to-back. Ginobili, who scored a career-high 48 points in San Antonio's come-frombehind 128-123 overtime win in Phoenix on Jan. 21, did not dress.

This time, Phoenix barely had a lead to protect after Parker's buzzerbeating jumper cut their lead to 83-80.

Barbosa made a 3-pointer and Stoudemire had a three-point play in the first minute of the fourth, but Stoudemire also picked up his fifth foul with 9:34 left and sat out more than 4 minutes.

The Spurs, down 54-44 at halftime, roared back behind Parker, who had points halfway through the third quarter. Bruce Bowen capped a 22-12 run with a free throw that tied it at 66.

Stoudemire thrived. without Duncan, scoring 11 of Phoenix's first 15 points



Ted Olesen practices with members of the Big Spring tennis team Wednesday afternoon at Comanche Trail Park. Olesen is a tennis professional hired by the Big Spring Tennis Association Monday. Olesen is required to work with local tennis players five hours per week and is also holding private lessons and will be running various camps and leagues in

Big Spring varsity track results Big Country Relays at ACU's Elmer Gray Stadium March 4

4x400 relay

Steers

800 meter run: Daniel Garza, second - 2:02 1,600 meter run: Michael Rodriguez, fifth - 4:50 Chris Salazar, sixth — 4:52 3,200 meter run: Rodriguez, second - 10:16 Saiazar, fourth - 10:33

Discus: 4x100 relay 4x200 relay

Angel Salazar, 10th - 104-08 Big Spring, 8th - :45.31 Big Spring, 8th - 1:34.17

Team Standings 1. North Crowley — 140

2. Copperas Cove - 137 3. Abilene Cooper — 75 4. Odessa High - 66 4. Abilene High - 66

6. San Angelo Central - 43 7. Odessa Permian - 30 8. Brownwood — 27

9. Big Spring — 23

10. Strawn — 8 11. San Angelo Lake View - 5

Lady Steers Carmen Lewis, 1st - :26.34

200 meter dash: 800 meter run: Esther Tobar, 2nd — 2:30.82 100 meter hurdles: Raegan Ritchey, 10th -: 17.80 300 meter hurdles: Elida Rodriguez, 6th - :51.34 Britni Rodriguez, 7th - 15-04.75 Long jump: Triple jump: Whitney Lewis, 10th - 31-05.50 Amisha Vanderbilt, 1st - 35-06.25 Shot put: Vanderbilt, 2nd - 119-02 Discus: 4x100 relay Big Spring, 9th — :52.82 Big Spring, 7th — 1:50.59 4x200 relay

Team Standings

Big Spring, 3rd - 4:14.41

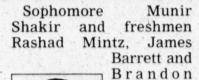
 North Crowley — 151 2. San Angelo Central - 100.33 3. Odessa High — 74 4. Odessa Permian - 65 5. Abilene Cooper - 51.67 6. Big Spring - 50 San Angelo Lake View — 47 8. Abilene High - 39 9. Brownwood — 24

10. Perryton - 18

See OLESEN, Page 2B

Frank Phillips will play Weatherford in the other two quarterfinal (first round) matches.

Howard (25-5, 11-3) is led by freshman guard Charles Burgess, who is coming off a strong effort in the regular season finale against rival Midland. He scored 21 points and grabbed 11 rebounds in leading the Hawks to a 14-point win at the Dorothy Garrett





Shokvohizadeh and center Dwayne Abraham will also see action off the bench.

I m a n

things we can do different

offensively at this point in the season," said Adams. "We have to just keep doing what we have been doing all year.

"The key in the game will be for us to be well informed of their offensive sets and try to read those sets."

The Hawks have won six straight games entering the Region V Tournament. The winner of the eight-team regional tournament will advance National the Tournament "There is not a lot of Hutchinson, Kan., later this month.

KRT photo/John Sleezer, Kansas City Star Royals' starting pitcher Jose Lima pumps his fist after completing three scoreless innings against the Mariners during their spring training game Wednesday at Surprise, Arizona.

To pitch or not to pitch, that is question for Texas veteran

Rangers cut pitcher Thompson, offer him coaching position

glad to hear the Texas 1999, against Anaheim. left-hander who won 18 Rangers would like him He was part of an eightto stay with the organiza- player trade later that been a difficult transition tion as a pitching instruc- year that sent two-time because I've always had tor, but he said American League MVP the injuries to deal with, Wednesday he's not quite Juan Gonzalez to the too. I have soreness every ready to give up on his Tigers. comeback.

"I was dumbfounded when they made the offer, his shoulder. He never that they think that highly of me, but I still think I can pitch," said "He wasn't going to Thompson, the 35-year-old make the club," manager left-hander who was the first cut from major league camp this spring. "I'm going to try it in the have him work with our minors and see how it young pitchers. It's his

"It's nice to know I have that opportunity, but I reputation as a power really want to be able to pitcher, but the injuries look in the mirror and tell have forced him to make myself I did everything I adjustments to his game.

SURPRISE, Ariz. (AP) major league game since 'Rogers," Thompson said, - Justin Thompson was being injured on Aug. 15, referring to the Rangers

> Thompson has since had four operations on pitched a major league game for the Rangers.

Buck Showalter said. "His velocity just wasn't there, but we'd love to decision to make.'

Thompson made his

"I'm trying to be more Thompson, an All-Star of a sinkerball pitcher, be in 1997 with the Detroit more crafty in placing my Tigers, hasn't pitched in a pitches like a Kenny games last season. "It's day, but I feel better this spring."

Thompson was 3-2 in 23 relief appearances with Double-A Frisco in 2004. He went 2-4 in 10 games in the Puerto Rican Winter League.

Cactus League **Spring Training Scores** from Wednesday

Kansas City 6, Seattle 0 Oakland 5, S.F. 1 Texas 6, Chicago Cubs 5 Colorado 6, Milwaukee 3 Chicago Sox 7, *S.D. 3 *L.A. Angels 2, *S.D. 1 *L.A. Angels 16, Arizona 2

* denotes team used split squads and each squad played one game.

Johnson to coach Dallas in three upcoming games

DALLAS (AP) -Dallas Mavericks coach Don Nelson is once again turning the team over to assistant coach Avery Johnson, this time to be with his wife while she recovers from surgery.

Joy Nelson's husband, the second-winningest coach in NBA history, will miss Thursday

night's game at home against the Los Angeles Lakers then a road trip to Milwaukee and

Minnesota. He's expect-

ed to return for Tuesday night's home game against Timberwolves.

Johnson is being groomed to become Nelson's successor. He's run most practices this season and has coached several games, sometimes with Nelson serving as an assistant. Johnson also had a 10game stint in charge while Nelson had shoulder surgery and the Mays went 7-3 in that span.

OLESEN

Continued from Page 1B

"The certification will help with running leagues here and it will teach me new drills and allow me to learn from the best," said Olesen.

While starting up leagues, running camps and holding some tournaments locally is important to Olesen, he says the biggest part of his job will come through the private lessons.

"I want to be able to help people out with their game and just be available for assistance," said

Olesen gives lessons for \$22/hour and the lessons can be for more than one person at a time, as well.

"I want to hold twin lessons, lessons with three or four or even six to eight people at a time,' said Olesen. "And obviously the more people you have in one lesson the cheaper it is per person."

Olesen's \$22/hour rate is significantly cheaper than other area tennis professionals.

"The average per hour around the area is \$35," said Corse.

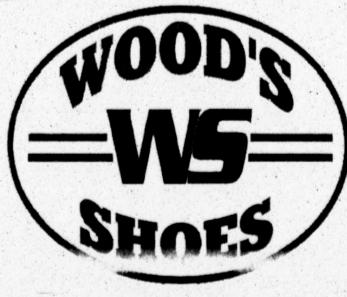
Olesen will spend most of his time at the junior high and high school courts and invites anyone who is interested in lessons to attend a practice and see first hand what he can offer.



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Park, Garden of Me

take \$1,900.00 for

2 FAMILY SALE:

8:00am, 2711 Rebe

rative items, beddir

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BACKYARD SA

Boykin Rd. 8:00-12

& Saturday. Campe

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BACKYARD SALE, 604 Boykin Rd. 8:00-12:00. Friday & Saturday. Camper shell, coffee & end tables, lamps, portable dishwasher, lots of clothes, PC monitors, printers and lots of miscellaneous.

ESTATE SALE, Friday & Saturday, 1310 Derrick Rd. Furniture, household items & vehicles.

NANA FAYE'S Thrift Shop is now open in a new location with more hours. Tues.-Thurs. 1:00-5:00. Friday & Saturday 10:00-5:00. 1903 Gregg Street. Parking in back of store.

MARSHALL Estate Auction. Saturday March 19th.. Complete list to follow. View at www.springcityauction.com

INSIDE SALE, 2509 Ann. Saturday only! 8:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m. Every room is full including the garage! Everything Must Go!

GIANT MOVING Backyard Sale: 2409 Cheyenne (Watson Addition), Saturday & Sunday 8:00-?, Monday 11:00-2:00 and 4:00-?. Desk, microwave and too much to list.

Garage Sales

ESTATE SALE: 2510 North Birdwell Lane, Sat. 9:00 till ?. Everything must go.

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(432) 570-9617 (432) 238-6770, cell.

816-6150

LUPE'S TREE

More than 20 years of experience. Stump grinder available. For Tree Trimming and removal.

> Call Lupe 432-267-8317 432-268-6406

TAX SERVICES

FAST CASH

On Income Tax Refund Refund Loan Within 24 Hrs. TAX ASSOCIATES 406 Runnels

CALL 'Se Habla Espanol'

(432) 264-6134

SOUTHWESTERN

www.swa1pc.com mm@swa1pc.com

ROOFING

ROOFING & HOME

432-263-5430

ROOFING

DURAN'S TREE SERVICE

trimmed. Prices nego-

TREE TRIMMING

TRIMMING

IMMEDIATE OPENING for experienced Ford Parts Counter Person. Inquire at Parts Department. Don Belew (432)267-7424.

JOB FOR Administrative Personnel understanding computer network systems, proficient in MS Office and word processing. Send resume to P.O. Box 550, Big Spring, Texas 79721

JOURNEYMAN ELECTRI-CIANS with experience in commercial/industrial needed for contract at Goodfellow AFB (San Angelo). Must have basic hand tools and transportation to/from jobsite. Contact Mike (512)563-1906 (cell) between 8:00-4:00, M-F, Equal Opportunity Employer.

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

NOW HIRING COMMERCIAL CONSTRUCTION JOB SUPERINTENDENT Must be professional and

experienced in all phases of construction. Drug test, pre-employment physical and travel required.

Mail resume to: GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT P.O. BOX 60708 Midland, TX 79711

R & R Cleaning are looking for hard working, honest, dependable people for cleaning work. Call (432)264-0024 leave message.

STORE MGR. Needed Burke's Outlet in Big Spring 1 yr Mgmt Exp. Required Great Benefits, EOE Call 800-683-8039 ext. 6027

WANTED SALES person for Major Equipment Dealer. Must have experience and knowledge in Construction and Paving Equipment. Send resume to: PO Box 13255 Odessa, TX 79768

1956 FORD Furgeson Tractor with blade- \$1500.00. Also have Kohlor Campbell Piano-\$200.00. Call (432)263-0631. FOR SALE, livingroom set,

bedroom set, dining set, refrigerator, gas stove, misc. couches & chairs & items. Several house for sale or rent. Owner finance, 309 Washing-

HUMMER H2. New Rimes. Still in box. \$250.00 OBO. Call (432)263-5723 after 3:00 pm.

Items for Sale

WESTINGHOUSE UPRIGHT freezer, portable sewing machine, treadmill. Reasonable. Call (432)263-3195.

Miscellaneous

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

National Ads

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 1-888-269-6090 ext. 100. poocococococococococococo

Pets

(1) MALE teacup Chihuahua puppy, also 2 tiny male Chihuahua puppies. CKC Registered. Call (432)263-1701, 268-5951

AKC MINI Dachshunds. Red Brindle, red piebald. Adorable and cute! For more information call (432)399-4538, 264-2990. FOR SALE: Border Collie/ Austalian puppies - \$100.00

each. Working Track parents. Call (432)353-4714. FREE TO good home! One year old white German Shepherd mixed. All shots & spayed. Great with kids. Call

Real Estate for Rent

(432) 264-7228.

Superbly private second story bedroom furnished apartment, \$395.00 includes utilities. Non smoking person. Excellent credit background required. Zero pets. Sunroom & balcony. McDonald Realty (432)263-7615.

THREE BEDROOM, two bath, stove & refrigerator, in Sandarea. Call springs (432)466-3171.

TWO MOBILE HOMES outside City- North 2 Bedroom, 1 bath = \$300. month, \$100. deposit. Also 2 Bedroom, 2 bath- \$350. month, \$100. deposit. Good well water and Dumpster furnished. Call (432)267-9018 9am-3pm, (432)399-4786 after

LOVELY **NEIGHBORHOOD** COMPLEX

Swimming Pool Carports, Most Utilities Paid, Senior Citizen Discounts, 1 & 2 Bedrooms & 1 or 2 Baths

KENTWOOD **APARTMENTS**

Unfurnished

1904 East 25th Street 267-5444 263-5000

1104 Stanford, 2 Bedroom, 1 CH/A. \$335. Month, \$150. deposit. 448 Armstrong. Bedroom, 1 bath, CH/A. \$385. Month, \$150. deposit. (432)263-1792, 816-9984.

1302 SYCAMORE, 2 Bedroom, 1 bath house. Large fenced yard. \$350.00 Month. \$200.00 deposit. (432)816-3157.

1308 BIRDWELL. 2 Bedroom, 1 bath, new carpet, garage, stove & refrigerator, fenced yard No Pets!!! \$325.00 month \$200.00 deposit. (432)263-7850 leave message.

> 1400 Sycamore- 3/1 bath. \$475. month \$250. deposit 407 1/2 East 8th- 1/1 bath. \$275. month \$150. deposit Both have CH/A.

Call (432)267-2296 1706 JOHNSON One bed-

room, one 137 \$2. mo \$100. **RELISPOSII.** (432)263-3375 or 816-6992. 2403 RUNNELS. 2 bedroom

house. \$300. monthly, \$100. deposit. No pets! 432-263-4717. 2517 LANGLEY. Four bed-

room, one bath. Stove & refrigerator, dishwasher, alarm sysprivacy fence. \$550. month, \$450. deposit. Call (432)268-3152 or 264-6595. 2704 LARRY. Newly remod-

eled 3 Bedroom, 1 1/2 bath. Garage, fenced \$625/month, \$295/deposit. Call (432)263-3689.

Benny Boyd GM/CDJ in Lamesa needs QUALIFIED AUTO

TECHNICIANS in all skill categories. Do you want to flag

40-60 hours per week? We have the work! We will pay up to

\$30.00 per flag hour for the right technicians with the

right training. We are the fastest growing new car

dealership in West Texas.

If you are looking for a place to call bome and a strong

aggressive company to work for, call us first! Call us NOW!

We have 4 openings available immediately.

We have a great benefit package, new facility coming up, family atmosphere, and a rapidly growing clientele that

needs to be serviced. If you are factory trained by either

Daimler Chrysler or General Motors and have ASE

certifications, WE WANT YOU! Apply in person at 1611

Lubbock Highway in Lamesa or call 866-BEN-BOYD to

arrange a confidential interview. Or you may e-mail your

resume to rhanzelka@ bennyboyd.com. We look forward

to bearing from you!

Real Estate for Rent

3705 CONNALLY. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. CH/A, garage, fenced yard, stove & refrigerator furnished. \$475.00 month, \$250.00 deposit. (432)267-1543.

BUILDING for **LEASE** on 1308 North HWY 350, \$200.00 month plus \$200.00 deposit. Call WESTEX Auto Parts at (432)263-5000. FOR RENT or Rent to Own.

Four bedroom, 2 bath, carport. 1509 Wood. \$1,500. down, \$289. month. 15 years. Call (432)264-6611. 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. NICE CLEAN open space, large 1 room apartment ideal for mature person. Stove and refrigerator furnished. \$250.00 month \$100.00 deposit. Call

(432)263-4528, (432)296-0277

or 296-1523.

Nicest Apartments in area 700 sq ft one bedroom \$150.00 move-in CORONADO HILLS APTS. (432)267-6500 801 W. Marcy Big Spring, Tx 79720

> 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 UNFURNISHED, 2 Bedroom, 1 bath mobile home in CISD. Stove, refrigerator, washer & dryer connections. Water furnished. \$300.00 Month plus deposit. (432)263-3996.

Real Estate for Sale \$1,000 TOTAL Move in Cost.

On 1306 Marijo. New 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 car garage home. Reasonably good credit required, lowered interest rates. to Qualified Buyer. Call now (432)520-9848 Cameo Invest-

FOR SALE by Owner: Owner financing provided. Low down payment, will work with income tax refund, low monthly, 3 bedroom, 1 bath, 1001 N. Gregg Call Kelly 432-425-9994.

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 (432)263-3461.

TOGETHER or SEPARATE: Knott Station, House, equipment, tanks and 'pumps. Make an offer. Call (432)353-4714.

\$800.00 DOWN Buys you this 4 bedroom, 2 bath home. Situated on 2 acres, located at 1010 North Moss Lake Road. Financing Available. Call Lupe at 1-800-766-1167.

1280 ACRES. Hunting ranch, Mitchell County. \$450.00 Per acre. Call (817)300-0345.

DON'T PASS This One Up. Priced to Sell! Newly remodeled 2/3 bedroom, 1 bath, beautiful fenced yards, large workshop, storage shed. By appointment (432)267-1883.

FOR SALE, 3 bedroom, 2 bath house' to be moved. Need repair. Luther \$5,000. Call (210)414-9858.

Real Estate for Sale



2 STORY House in great condition. 3 Bedroom, 2 bath, 2 living areas, office, fireplace. 2 large storage buildings, large gazebo, 2150 sq. ft., 3/4 acre. Beautiful yard. \$105,000. (432)263-4080.

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

4 BEDROOM, 3 bath house on 40 acres for Sale, w/barn and work shop, in Coahoma School District. \$224,000.00 For appointment call (432)263-0658 or 816-9565.

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

FOR SALE by owner. 605 McEwen. Two bedroom, one bath, two living areas, CH/A, fenced yard, storage building. \$1,500. down. (432)263-1792, 816-9984.

WILL PAY Cash for Houses up to \$25,000.00. Call Kelly (432)425-9994.

FOR SALE by Owner: Owner financing provided. Low down payment, will work with income tax refund, low monthly, 3 bedroom, 1 bath. 1500 Kentucky Way. Call Kelly 432-425-9994.

VERY NICE 3 Bedroom, 2 bath, Mobile home with fireplace and all appliances. Call (432)267-1521.

Vehicles

1980 CHEVY Silverado shortbed. 90,000 Original miles. Smoothed deep-dish chrome Cragers w/new tires, Edelbrock intake and carb. New exhaust system features Flow Tech Headers w/Flow Master catalytic and 4 inch tips, \$2,800.00 OBO. Call (432)267-6337 or 264-6383. . .

'04 Nissan Xterras \$3000 OFF **MSRP Bob Brock Ford**

500 W. 4th

Legals

No. 43546-CV IN THE INTEREST OF **CALLEIGH JEAN FARMER** A CHILD IN THE DISTRICT COURT 118TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT HOWARD COUNTY, TEXAS NOTICE BY PUBLICATION STATE OF TEXAS

To JOHN EDWIN FARMER, Re spondent:

You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday next following the expiration of twenty days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you. The petition of ADRIAN AY-ALA and STARLA AYALA, Petitioners, was filed in the 118th Judicial District Court of Howard County,

Texas, on February 22, 2005 against JOHN EDWIN FARMER, Respondent, number 43546-CV and entitled "In the Interest of CAL-LEIGH JEAN FARMER, a child. The suit requests the termination of the parent-child relationship. The date and place of birth of the child who is the subject of the suit: CALLEIGH JEAN FARMER

February 22, 2003

Big Spring, Texas The Court has authority in this suit to render an order in the child's interest that will be binding on you, including the termination of the parent-child relationship, the determination of paternity, and the appointment of a conservator with authority to consent to the child's adop-

#4473 February 24 & March 3, 10,

Legals

CITATION BY PUBLICATION IN THE NAME AND BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN AS FOLLOW:

TO: J.A. Hensley, Deceased if living, and if any or all of the above named Defendants be dead, the unknown heirs of the unknown heirs of said above named persons, and the unknown owner or owners of the hereinafter described land, and the executors, administrators, guardians, legal representatives, legatees and devisees of the above named persons, and any legal or equitable interest in or lien upon the land described in Plaintiffs' petition on file in this cause and any and all other unknown owners or persons, including adverse claimants, owing or having or claiming any legal or equitable interest in or lien upon the following described property delinquent to Plaintiffs herein, for taxes, to wit:

Lot Ten, Block Five, Settles Heights Addition, City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas. Which said property is delinquent

to Plaintiffs for taxes in the following amount: \$1,384.83, exclusive of interest, penalties, and costs, and there is included in this suit in addition to the taxes all said interest, penalties, and costs thereon, allowed by law up to and including the day of judgment herein. You are hereby notified that suit

has been brought by HOWARD COUNTY, ET AL as Plaintiffs, against Estate of J.A. Hensley, as Defendant(s), by petition filed on the 24th DAY OF JUNE, 2004, in a certain suit styled HOWARD COUNTY, ET AL VS. ESTATE OF J.A. HENSLEY, for collection of the taxes on said property and that said suit is now pending in the District Court of Howard County, Texas 118th Judicial District, and the file number of said suit is T-4709 that the names of all taxing units which assess and collect taxes on the property hereinabove described, not made parties to this suit are NONE Plaintiffs and all other taxing units

who may set up their tax claims herein seek recovery of delinquent ad valorem taxes on the property

hereinabove described, thereon up to and including the day of judgment herein, and the establishment and foreclosure of liens, if any, securing the payment of same, as

provided by law. All parties to this suit, including Plaintiffs, Defendants(s), and Intervenors, shall take notice that claims not only for any taxes which were delinquent on said property at the time this suit was filed but all taxes becoming delinquent thereon at any time thereafter up to the day of judgment, including all interest, penalties, and cost allowed by law thereon, may, upon request therefore, be covered herein without further citation or notice to any parties herein, and all said parties shall take notice of and plead and answer to all claims and pleadings now on file in said causes by all other parties herein, and all of those taxing units above named who may intervene herein and set up their respective tax claims against said property. You are hereby commanded to

appear and defend such suits at or before 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday after the expiration of forty-two (42) days from and after the date of issuance thereof, the same being the 4 day of April, 2005 before the Honorable District Court of Howard County, Texas, to be held at the courthouse thereof, then and there to show cause why judgment shall not be rendered for such taxes, penalties, interest, and costs, and condemning said property and ordering foreclosure of the constitutional and statutory tax liens thereon for taxes due the Plaintiffs and the taxing unit parties hereto, and those who may intervene herein, together with all interest, penalties, and costs allowed by law up to and including the day of judgment herein, and all costs of this suit. Issued and given under my hand

and seal of said court in the City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas, this 18 day of February, A.D. 2005. Priscilla Ginnetti

Clerk of the District Court Howard County, Texas, 118th Judicial District #4470 March 3 & 10, 2005.

Legals

CITATION BY PUBLICATION IN THE NAME AND BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN AS FOLLOWS: TO: Yolanda Trevino

living, and if any or all of the above named Defendants be dead, the unknown heirs of the unknown heirs of said above named persons, and the unknown owner or owners of the hereinafter described land, and the executors, administrators, guardians, legal represenlegatees and devisees of the above named persons, and any legal or equitable interest in or lien upon the land described in Plaintiffs' petition on file in this cause and any and all other unknown owners or persons, including adverse claimants, owing or having or claiming any legal or equitable interest in or lien upon the following described property delinquent to Plaintiffs herein, for taxes, to-wit:

Lot 11, Block 14, Original Town of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas: Delinquent \$45,511.56; Amount Owed

Value - \$33,396.00 Lot 12, Block 14, Original Town of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas: Delinquent \$30,344.79; Amount Owed

Value - \$26,202.00 Which said property is delinquent to Plaintiffs for taxes in the following amount: \$75,856.35, exclusive

of interest, penalties, and costs, and there is included in this suit in addition to the taxes all said interest, penalties, and costs thereon, allowed by law up to and including the day of judgment herein. You are hereby notified that suit

has been brought by HOWARD COUNTY, ET AL as Plaintiffs. against Yolanda Trevino, as Defendant(s), by petition filed on the 17 DAY OF FEB. 2005, in a certain suit styled HOWARD COUNTY, ET AL VS. YOLANDA TREVINO, for collection of the taxes on said property and that said suit is now pending in the District Court of Howard County, Texas 118th Judicial District, and the file number of said suit is 4584 that the names of all taxing units which assess and collect taxes on the property hereinabove described, not made parties to this suit, are NONE

Plaintiffs and all other taxing units who may set up their tax claims herein seek recovery of delinquent ad valorem taxes on the property hereinabove described, theron up to and including the day of judgment herein, and the establishment and foreclosure of liens, if any, securing the payment of same, as provided by law All parties to this suit, including

Plaintiffs, Defendant(s), and Intervenors, shall take notice that claims not only for any taxes which were delinquent on said property at

the time this suit was filed but all taxes becoming delinquent thereon at any time thereafter up to the day of judgment, including all interest, penalties, and cost allowed by law theron, may, upon request therefore, be recovered herein without further citation or notice to any parties herein, and all said parties shall take notice of and plead and answer to all claims and pleadings now on file in said causes by all other parties herein, and all of those taxing units above named who may intervene herein and set up their respective tax claims against said property. You are hereby commanded to

appear and defend such suit at or before 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday after the expiration of forty-two (42) days from and after the date of issuance hereof, the same being the 4 day of April, 2005 before the Honorable District Court of Howard County, Texas, to be held at the courthouse therof, then and there to show cause why judgment shall not be rendered for such taxes, penalties, interest and costs, and condemning said property and ordering foreclosure of the constitutional and statutory tax liens thereon for taxes due the Plaintiffs and taxing unit parties hereto, and those who may intervene herein, together with all interest, penalties, and costs allowed by law up to an including the day of judgment herein, and all costs of this suit. Issued and given under my hand

and seal of said court in the City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas, this 18 day of Feb., A.D. 2005 Priscilla Ginnetti

Clerk of the District Court Howard County, Texas, 118th Judicial District. #4471 March 3 & 10,2005

\$299 MOVE IN SPECIAL + APPLICATION & SECURITY DEP. Such As ALL BILLS PAID 538 Westover 263-1252 **Housing Assistance Accepted**

BARCELONA APARTMENTS

Choose Your Own Monthly Rent Options

No Down Payment

FOR SALE

OWNER FINANCING Bad Credit O.K.

2-3-4-5 & 6 Bedroom Brick Homes

Call Beverly 263-3461

WFAA 2 30 Makeover

BIG SPRING HER Thursday, Marc

TF'URSE

7 Extreme 8 :30 Makeover PrimeTime 9 :30 Live PM News (CC) 10 :30 Nightline

11 :PM Ent. Tonight Jimmy Kimn

12 :AM Live (CC) News (CC)

DENNIS T



I HAVE MY OWN F HAFTA SHARE C BC

> DO YOU HAVE, WAN OFFICE

WIZARD (

ARE YOU A CONSERVATIN OR A WACK LIBERAL?

AGNES



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I'LL BET THE

GENERAL WAS SURPRISED THAT WE WON THE WAR GAMES TODAY

MAR. 10 TFURSDAY WFAA 2 KMID 3 UNI 4 KPEJ 5 KOSA 7 KTLE 8 KWES 9 WTBS 11 KMLM 12 KOCV 13 DISC 20 AMC 21 SPIKE 22 TNT 23 BET 26 DISN 27 ESPN2 ESPN 29 TMC Disney Odessa Midland Odessa Odessa Discovery Classics Spike TV Atlanta Black Ent. /alcolm-Mid Joe McGee hat's-Raven a Mujer de American Raymond seinfeld (CC) Raymond Wheel-Fortune Madera Ent. Tonight John Hagee Scene Invstgtn Basketball Raymond Choppe Survivor: Palau La Mujer en Update/Israel Totally Out of CSI: Crime Minnesota Movie: The Big East Apuesta por Will & Grace Friends (CC) Movie: Fargo Scene Invstgtn. Timberwolves Friends (CC) Biblical Israel X Mnthly Talk Control Espejo The Apprentice What's the Movie (CC) Amor Real CSI: Crime Light of the ntiques College Extreme Worst That MXC PrimeTime PrimeTime Aqui y Ahora Malcolm-Mid. Without a Te Voy a En The Contender Could Tallgrass Pr American Basketba 70s Show senar a Querer (CC) Teams TBA 70s Show he Hour of Totally Out of MXC News (CC) Noticias Tonight Show | Worst That That's-Raven Late Show MXC Gamenight Extra (CC) Wildest Police nside the NBA Midnight Love La Hora Sam Pea Becker (CC) Late Late Al Rojo Vivo-Happen? Jesse Lee Pe Terror Videos (CC) Kim Possible 12:10 Movie: Alma Rebelde Maria Celeste Dharma-Greg The Insider Frasier (CC) House Arrest Lizzie McGuire | Quarterfinal

DENNIS THE MENACE



'I have my own room, but my mom an' Dad HAFTA SHARE ONE."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"The day I took Kittycat to school when she was a kitten. I had the most friends ever!"

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GOOD, I NEEDTO BORROW ONE, LONG ENOUGH TO BALANCE MY CHECKBOOK

WIZARD OF ID



I GUESS WE KNOW WHO IS PAYING FOR THIS POLL

AGNES







HI AND LOIS





THE OTHER COAST







SNUFFY SMITH





BEETLE BAILEY





HAGAR



BLONDIE







Chernenko, Soviet leader

for just 13 months, died at

Today's Birthdays: Talk

Bluegrass/country

show host Ralph Emery is

singer-musician Norman

This Date In History

By the Associated Press

Today is Thursday, March 10, the 69th day of 2005. There are 296 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in

History:

On March 10, 1876, the first successful voice transmission over Alexander Graham Bell's telephone took place in Boston as his assistant heard Bell say, "Mr. Watson, come here. I want you."

On this date

In 1629, England's King dissolved Charles Parliament; he did not call it back for 11 years.

In 1785, Thomas Jefferson was appointed minister to France. succeeding Benjamin Franklin.

In 1848, the Senate ratified the Treaty Guadalupe Hidalgo, ending the war with Mexico.

In 1864, Ulysses S. Grant became commander of the Union armies in the Civil War.

In 1880, the Salvation Army arrived in the United States from England.

In 1949, Nazi wartime broadcaster Mildred E. Gillars, also known as "Axis Sally," was convicted in Washington, D.C., of treason. (She served 12 years in prison.)

In 1965, Neil Simon's play "The Odd Couple," starring Walter Matthau and Art opened Carney, Broadway.

In 1969, James Earl Ray pleaded guilty in Memphis, Tenn., to the assassination of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. (Ray later repudiated that plea, maintaining his innocence until his death.)

In 1980, "Scarsdale Diet" Dr. author Herman Tarnower was shot to death in Purchase, N.Y. (Jean Harris, convicted of murder, served nearly 12 years in prison before being released in January 1993.) In 1985, Konstantin U.

Blake is 67. Actor Chuck Norris is 65. Playwright David Rabe is 65. Singer Dean Torrence (Jan and Dean) is 65. Actress Katharine Houghton is 60. Rock musician Tom Scholz (Boston) is 58. Actress Shannon Tweed is 48. Actress Sharon Stone is 47. Rock musician Gail Greenwood is 45. Rock musician Jeff Ament (Pearl Jam) is 42. Britain's Prince Edward is 41.

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Newsday Crossword

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- 5 Courteous address
- 9 PIN requesters
- 13 "Don't Walk" symbol
- 14 Up to the task 69 Scored
- 15 Teapot part
- 17 Carrot, for one 71 Leafy
- 18 Real-estate
- listing
- 19 Sweetheart
- 22 So-so grade 23 Old French
- coin
- ramparts . . ."
- 25 Paul Newman
- film 26 Bread spread
- 32 Olympics
- chant 33 Letter opener
- 34 Lena of
- Havana
- that sells ties
- contents
- 39 Apt. listing abbr.
- 42 Keep (watch)
- 45 Football gear
- 48 Gloppy stuff
- **52 WWW** address
- 53 Epoch
- 54 Shoe front
- item 62 Popeye's
- nemesis

- 65 High school
 - subj. 66 Grow to
 - maturity 67 Pre-Easter
 - period
 - 68 Model-train
 - track shape
- 100% on 16 James of jazz 70 Upper hand
 - vegetable

DOWN

- 1 Son of Noah 2 "Toodle-oo!"
- 3 Opposed to
- 4 Polish seaport
- Ben Adhem'
- 7 Soothing

- additive
- 5 Spot for a title

- 35 Department
- 37 Holster
- 49 Average Joe
- 55 Lea sound **56** Cutting-board

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- 9 Military
- address 10 Precarious
- 11 Cultural
- attraction 12 War horse
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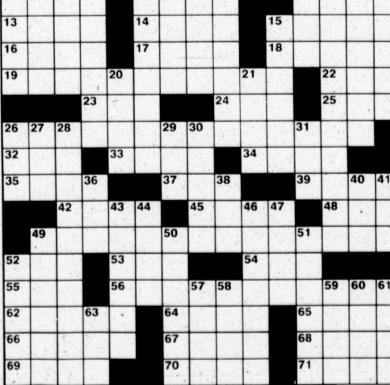
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 - 51 Nike rival
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 - 61 Fashion magazine



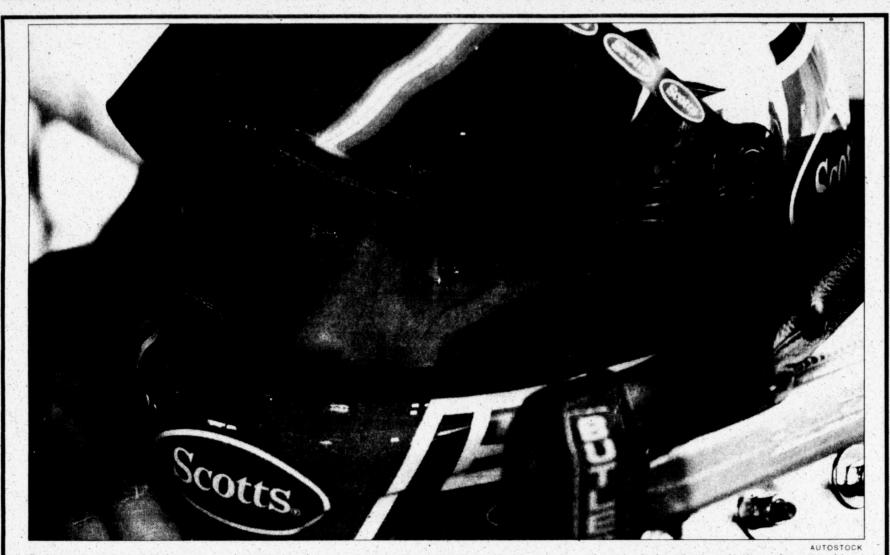
Edited by Stanley Newman

- www.stanxwords.com 41 Stylish,
- 47 Garbage
- 49 Have a ball
- component
- 52 Eclipse
- 60 Hamm score
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Carl Edwards has finished 12th and fifth in his first two races of the 2005 Nextel Cup season, putting him in fourth place in the points standings.

oilliment

For Carl Edwards, racing in the Nextel Cup is a dream come true

By DAVID POOLE Knight Ridder Newspapers

arl Edwards remembers watching a Busch Series race at Atlanta Motor Speedway.

"Scott Wimmer was running and he was leading the race," Edwards said. "The announcers were say ing, 'Who is this guy?' and 'Where did he come from?'

"I was watching it on TV, and I was thinking what a great opportunity he was getting to show the whole world he could drive a race car. I was thinking how great that was - and about how it would never happen to me. Edwards underestimated himself.

Last fall, at the same track where he saw Wimmer tasting success, Edwards led 15 laps in the Bass Pro Shops 500 and finished an eye-opening third.

Now, two races into the 2005 Nextel Cup season and coming off a fifth-place finish at California Speedway. Edwards finds himself fourth in the standings heading into.

this week's Chrysler 400 at Las Vegas Motor Speedway. "It felt kind of normal," Edwards said about his first tastes of success in the Cup series, "like it's what I was supposed to be doing. I just haven't gotten a perspective on it, I don't guess.

"I try not to think about it too hard. If it were as simple as one day you woke up and you were leading the race. you might look at it differently. But the reality is that it's a slow, steady progression when you've been there for all of the steps along the way and all of the work.

Edwards, 25, stepped in to drive the No. 99 Fords for Roush Racing last year and made 13 starts. He's back in that ride full-time for 2005, and the fact that he doesn't feel the least bit out of place is a product of the road he's taken to make it to the Cup series.

"From the first time I got to drive a race car, I thought, 'This is the coolest thing in the world," Edwards said. "It was never like the act of racing was work. I had as much fun racing at a local half-mile. When they dropped the flag on the Daytona 500, that

was the coolest thing in the world. It was awesome. But that's how I've felt every week about racing. The racing part has always been so neat.

Edwards' father owned a Volkswagen repair shop and drove. among other things,



Birthdate Aug. 15, 1979

Career highlights Won 18 mini-sprint series races on tracks around Missouri and Illinois from 1993 to 1996

Won rookie-of-theyear honors in the **IMCA** modified division in 1998

In 2003, won three races and had 15 top-10 finishes en route to winning NASCAR Trucks Series rookieof-the-year honors

four-cylinder air-cooled Volkswagens. Carl started racing at age 14 and ran short races on short tracks for several

Ken Schrader and Edwards' father are cousins, and when Carl was 17 he spent a summer working in Schrader's race shop.

"That kind of turned it into a reality," Edwards said. "I was mowing the grass at the shop, going to the races and helping out and I realized they were all just guys who go racing every week, just at a different level. I went home and decided it was time to get going, to learn how to

From that point on, Edwards got serious about racing. He moved up from dirt modifieds to the U.S. Auto Club Silver Crown Series and, eventually, in a Roush Racing entry in the NASCAR Truck Series.

"As soon as you figure out how to do something it's time to go on to something else, try something harder,' said Edwards, who finished third in last year's NASCAR Trucks Series standings. "I am nervous about moving to Cup, but that's what keeps me motivated. I like challenges.

As he was trying to get his racing career started in his hometown of Columbia, Mo., Edwards worked as a substitute school teacher and took classes at the University of Missouri. He's heavily into working out as well, much to

"I used to make fun of people who trained and all of that," he said. "Why would anyone go out and specifically exercise? I can't remember when I started, but I started to work out a little bit and now I am addicted to it. I work out every day and I don't feel right if I don't do it. So I've become the guy I used to make fun of

"I used to sit there in class and say that when I grew up. all I was going to do is party and go race cars. And I've become boring."

He's certainly staying busy. In addition to the full Cup schedule, Edwards is also driving a Roush-owned Ford in the Busch Series.

And loving every minute of it.

"I really love to drive race cars," Edwards said. "I go to sleep every night and think, 'Man, this is the greatest thing in the

Radio: Performance Racing Network.

When: Sunday at 3 p.m. (all times ET). Qualifying is 6:10 p.m. Friday. TV: Fox.

THIS WEEK'S RACE

UAW-DAIMLERCHRYSLER 400 Where: Las Vegas Motor Speedway, a 1.5mile mostly flat tri-oval located in Las Vegas.

Purse: \$6,131,958.

Last year's winner: Matt Kenseth. Also this week: Reigning NASCAR Busch Series champion Martin Truex Jr. earned his first win of the 2005 season last weekend in Mexico City and looks for two in a row in

Saturday's race at Las Vegas. Worth mentioning: Roush Racing has won five of the seven races at Las Vegas.

Ken Schrader is the only driver who has competed in all seven races at Las Vegas but, has never led there.

POLL POSITION

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

What is it going to take to win this week's Nextel Cup race at Las Vegas Motor Speedway?

> Cast your vote at: www.thatsracin.com

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION

NASCAR debuted in Mexico last weekend. Where else should it consider racing?

Number of votes: 4,690

Response	No. of votes	Percent
Keep it in the United States	3,415	72.8%
Canada	1,110	23.7%
Japan	87	1.9%
Europe	78	1.6%

STOP 'N' GO

WHO'S HOT

■ The guy most of the media loves to underestimate, Kurt Busch, heads into Las Vegas with the Nextel Cup points lead. Sure it doesn't mean much now, but how many people thought he would be in this position already?

■ Sure he puked a motor at California, but Jeff Gordon was running up front for the second consecutive race. Don't be surprised to see him there again this week.

■ Mark Martin already has two top-10 finishes in the first two races. Considering that one was a restrictor-plate race, that's a fabulous start to his final full season.

WHO'S NOT

Evernham Motorsports is waiting to get the monkey off its back this season. After two races, drivers Jeremy Mayfield and Kasey Kahne are 26th and 34th, respectively, in

■ Two recent Nextel Cup champions, Bobby Labonte and Matt Kenseth, find themselves 31st or lower in points after two races. Ouch. ■ Dale Earnhardt Jr. is returning to the track where he ran perhaps his worst race of 2004. He can't perform any worse than he did two weeks ago at California, right?

— Jim Utter

BY THE NUMBERS

NEXTEL CUP POINTS LEADERS

The top-40 drivers as of Feb. 27:

Points Rank/Driver 21. Jeff Green... 1. Kurt Busch 340 2. Jimmie Johnson...335 22. Travis Kvapil. 3. Mark Martin . 301 23. Jeff Burton Carl Edwards 287 24. Joe Nemechek. Greg Biffle. . 273 25. Scott Wimmer . . . 6. Elliott Sadler. 26. Jeremy Mayfield Tony Stewart . . 268 27. Dave Blaney... . 182 8. Rusty Wallace ... 28. Casev Mears . 268 . 182 9. Sterling Marlin ... 29. Ken Schrader . 260 167 10. Jeff Gordon. 258 30. Bobby Hamilton Jr. 161 31. Bobby Labonte.... 158 11. Dale Jarrett 12. Ryan Newman 246 32. Kyle Busch 148 13. Kevin Harvick 33. John Andretti . 239 34. Kasey Kahne 140 14. Dale Earnhardt Jr. . 237 15. Mike Bliss . 35. Mike Wallace 16. Kyle Petty 36. Matt Kenseth 17. Jamie McMurray . . 227 -37. Jason Leffler 107 18. Scott Riggs 38. Ricky Rudd 106 . 224 39. Michael Waltrip ... 106 19. Kevin Lepage . . . : 208 20. Brian Vickers 205 40. Boris Said 82

So who gained from the experiment in Mexico?

S o NASCAR has now successfully staged a Busch Series raced in Mexico City. Great.

But as I was watching the race Sunday — did that thing really just last one day? — I kept wondering about something.

What if NASCAR had collected all of the money it spent on setting up that race, on getting cars across the border and security escorts in and out, on everything involved with running a race in front of an announced crowd of about 95,000 about 25,000 fewer than will be at this Saturday's Busch race in Las Vegas, I might add.

And what if that money had been given to the competent, dedicated people who ran North Carolina Speedway in Rockingham, N.C., to use in promoting their races and improving their facilities? Would the track be a ghost town today.

You know I despise road courses in general and Watkins Glen in particular. But as bad as the Glen is, I wouldn't even trade

the Cup date there for one in Mexico City — or for

one in Montreal, either, for that matter Who got helped by Sunday's race?

Busch beer isn't sold in Mexico, so it wasn't the

title sponsor of the series. It seemed like more than half of the cars entered by NASCAR teams had

sponsors other than their normal primary sponsors on their ears for this race. How does that help the sponsors? The teams lost money,

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big time, in making the trip. Television? Nope, the broadcast lost track position in the overnight ratings to the Tiger Woods-Phil Mickelson final-round duel at Doral and the North Carolina-

Duke college basketball game. Who got helped?

NASCAR, of course.

And don't start with me about what's good for the whole sport being good for the people in it. That argument might work if NASCAR's entire business plan wasn't to hoard as many slices of the financial pie as possible without worrying about how big the pie is.



DONALD MIRALLE FOR NASCAR Only 95,000 people attended the Telcel-Motorola Mexico 200 in Mexico City, short of the expected. crowd of 150,000.

The racing Sunday was awful, but that's a given on road courses.

It's nice that everyone who went had a good time and that nobody got kidnapped or anything, but it's only when you answer "Who got helped?" that you really get down to understanding why the cars went to Mexico to start with.

And, probably, why they'll go again next year.

BUSCH SERIES POINTS LEADERS

The top-20 drivers as of March 6:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. Kevin Harvick	515	11. Denny Hamli	in 291
2. Carl Edwards	454	12. Tim Fedewa	291
3. Clint Bowyer	433	13. Stacy Compl	on 288
4. Martin Truex	Jr 423	14. David Stremi	me 282
5. Reed Sorense	on 414	15. Paul Menard	281
6. Ashton Lewis	397	16. Tony Stewar	t 271
7. Shane Hmiel	376	17. Johnny Saut	er 266
8. Kenny Wallac	æ318	18. David Green	264
9. Justin Labont	e303	19. Jon Wood	264
10. Jason Keller	294	20. Stanton Barr	ett251

NEXT RACE: Saturday, Sam's Town 300, Las

TRUCK SERIES POINTS LEADERS

The top-10 drivers as of Feb. 25:

Rank/Driver		Points	Rank/Driver	Points		
1.	Bobby Hamilton	355	6. Steve Park	279		
2.	Ricky Craven	330	7. Johnny Bense	on 271		
3.	Jimmy Spencer	321	8. David Reutim	ann 256		
4.	Ted Musgrave	310	9. Dennis Setze	r 254		
5.	Matt Crafton	280	10. Casey Atwoo	d 251		

NEXT RACE: Friday, March 18, World Financial Group 200, Hampton, Ga.