



INSIDE

Howard College walloped Trinidad State, 22-14, Wednesday. See 1B

14 reported dead in explosion at oil refinery

By PAM EASTON

Associated Press Writer

TEXAS CITY (AP) — All but one of the 1,800 or so oil refinery workers have been accounted for after overnight search efforts following the thunderous blast killed 14 and injured more than 100 others, officials said today.

"We think we found all the people," refinery manager Don Parus said.

The fiery blast Wednesday at

BP's 1,200-acre plant near Houston shot flames high into the sky, forced schoolchildren to cower under their desks and showered plant grounds with ash and chunks of charred metal. Windows rattled more than five miles away.

Parus confirmed the death toll at 14 today but said further details would come from the medical examiner's office.

Those who died were contractors for J.E. Merit Constructors Inc., a field services provider

and subsidiary of Jacobs Engineering Group Inc. in Pasadena, Calif., Parus said. Merit's Houston office referred calls to Jacobs, whose phone lines were busy or not answered early today.

BP refinery records indicate the one unaccounted-for worker checked out and left the refinery, but no one has heard from him, Parus said.

About 433,000 barrels of crude oil are processed a day at the plant, producing 3 percent of

the U.S. supply. Other than the unit affected by the blast, the rest of the refinery was running normally, said Hugh Depland, spokesman for BP, formerly British Petroleum.

Gasoline prices could rise slightly because the plant is such a large gas producer. Gasoline futures rose nearly 2 cents in late trading Wednesday on news of the explosion. In afternoon trading Thursday in Europe, the price of unleaded gasoline for April

delivery was up 2.8 cents.

The cause of the explosion was not immediately known. It happened in a part of the plant used to boost the octane level of gasoline. A thorough investigation is under way, BP America president Ross Pillari said Thursday.

"It's clear that we have a lot of work to do in the coming days to make sure we understand exactly what happened.

See **BLAST**, Page 3A

Driver convicted in deadly immigrant smuggling attempt

By JUAN A. LOZANO

Associated Press Writer

HOUSTON (AP) — The truck driver charged in the nation's deadliest smuggling attempt has avoided the death penalty — for now — but faces a possible life sentence for his role in the deaths of 19 people.

Jurors on Wednesday spared the life of Tyrone Williams, 34, because they could not agree on whether he bore direct responsibility for the deaths. Instead, he was convicted on 38 counts of transporting illegal immigrants.

"We don't give the death penalty in this country for an accident," defense attorney Craig Washington said Wednesday. "Tragedies happen every day. But every tragedy is not a crime."

U.S. District Judge



Associated Press
Tyrone Williams, back, was convicted on charges of transporting illegal immigrants.

Vanessa Gilmore declared a mistrial on 20 counts of conspiracy and harboring after the jury deadlocked on the charges during 2 1/2 days of deliberations.

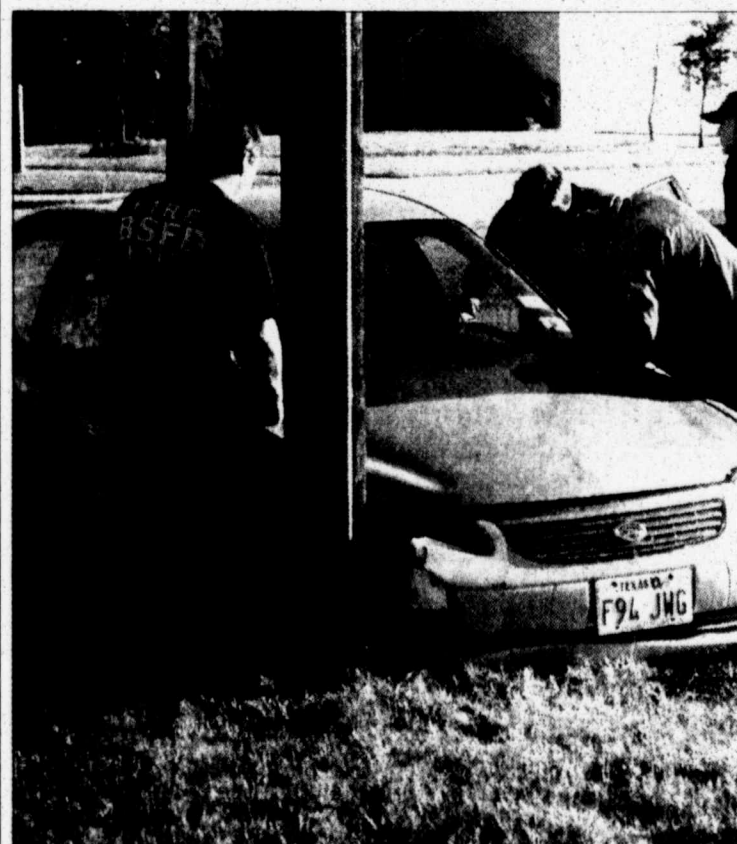
More than 70 illegal

See **GUILTY**, Page 3A



HERALD file photo
Emily Gaw enjoys picking up eggs during last year's Easter Egg Hunt on the grounds of the VA Medical Center. As usual, the veterans are going all out again this year. The Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez Texas State Veterans Home will have a hunt at 2 p.m. Friday while the VA Medical Center will stage one at 10 a.m. Saturday.

ACCIDENT SCENE



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan
Big Spring Police Department and Emergency Medical Service personnel investigate the site of a two-vehicle accident that occurred shortly before 8 a.m. today. No major injuries were reported after this car struck a minivan at the intersection of Goliad and Tent streets.

Eggstravaganza!

Veterans hopping into action for children's Easter egg hunts

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

The Easter Bunny ain't got nothing on local veterans as the West Texas VA Medical Center and the Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez Texas State Veterans Home get ready to share a ton of fun for the Big Spring area's youth.

The Veterans Home will host its second annual Community Easter Egg Hunt at 2 p.m. Friday while the VA Medical Center hunt set is set for 10 a.m. Saturday.

Ben Mazzara, administrator for

WHEN AND WHERE

Friday: 2 p.m. on the grounds of the Texas State Veterans Home.

Saturday: 10 a.m. on the VA Medical Center front lawn.

the Veterans Home, said that the event is a chance for the facility to give back to a community that continuously contributes to the home, and the patriots it serves.

"The community is a big part of what we do here," said Mazzara. "We have the honor of serving

these men and women who gave so much for their country, and this is just our way of giving something back to the community."

Tony Cruz, veterans home activities director, said last year's hunt was an amazing success, and this year egg hunters can expect to find more than just candy in the hollow, plastic eggs that will be hidden throughout the home's grounds.

"Local businesses are giving us discount coupons and we're

See **EGGS**, Page 3A

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TONIGHT 44°-46° TOMORROW 72°-74°

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Entities, schools to close for Good Friday

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

A time for beautifully dyed Easter eggs and straw baskets, Easter is also a time for rest and relaxation — at least for some area employees.

The city of Big Spring will close all offices, including the municipal landfill and compost facility, on Friday in observance of Good Friday. There will be no sanitation pick-up on Friday as well.

As many people prepare to

enjoy a day off for holiday weekend, area emergency personnel will be bracing themselves for the inevitable holiday onslaught.

Local agencies including the Big Spring Police Department, Fire Department, Emergency Medical Services and Howard County Sheriff's Office, all report the special day will be busier for them, as they pay special attention to motorists and travelers. The police department's

main office will be closed Friday, and will reopen at 8 a.m. Monday.

County employees will get time to spend with their friends and family as well, as the Howard County Courthouse and its corresponding departments prepare to close for the Easter weekend. The offices located at the courthouse are expected to closed all day Friday, reopening as normal on Monday.

Martin County offices are expected to follow the same agenda, with all offices closed Friday, set to reopen Monday morning at 8 a.m. The city of Stanton reports the same schedule, closing only on Friday.

Area school districts will be observing the holiday, with districts in Big Spring, Coahoma, Forsan, Stanton and Garden City set to close

See **HOLIDAY**, Page 3A

Obituaries

Dean C. Barriball Jr.

Dean C. Barriball Jr., 65, of Big Spring died Thursday, March 24, 2005, at his residence. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Take note

• **TEXAS MOTORCYCLE RIGHTS ASSOCIATION** has set a fund-raiser from noon until midnight April 30 to send members to the National Coalition Motorcyclist Convention in Nashville, Tenn. The event will take place at the Cossack's Motorcycle Club on Birdwell Lane. Food, music and entertainment will include an auction. The cover charge and all other proceeds will benefit the conference expenses. Call 268-6421 for more information.

• **A MEMORIAL FUND HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED FOR THE FAMILY OF TYBO JACOBS** at the First Bank of West Texas in Coahom and Big Spring to help with funeral costs. He died in an automobile accident March 10.

• **MEMBERS OF THE PUGA FAMILY** are searching 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.

• **HOWARD COUNTY A&M CLUB SCHOLARSHIP 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 SCHOLARSHIP** has been established at Howard College. Donations may be made to the Howard College Foundation in care of Jan Foresyth, 1001 Birdwell Lane. Designate the Derek Churchwell Scholarship Fund.

• **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.

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

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

• **FRIENDS OF THE MARTIN COUNTY LIBRARY** have scheduled a used book sale from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. every Thursday in the new building across from the White Ford Motor Company, near the post office. The sale benefits the restoration of a library building. For more information contact Bud Lindsey at 756-2306.

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

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

• **AN ACCOUNT HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED FOR THE FAMILY OF CHRIS RIVERA, 26, A FORMER COSDEN FEDERAL CREDIT UNION MEMBER,** who died Dec. 28, 2004. The fund is to assist his wife, Natasha Rivera and his four children, all younger than 6, with funeral expenses. The account no. is 760221. To donate contact the credit union at 264-2600.

• **CHRIST'S COMMUNITY CHURCH** is looking for infant cars seats to be given to needy families. Call Karen at 263-3517 or the church at 263-5683.

• **A BENEFIT FUND HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED** at Cosden Federal Credit Union for Jeremiah Best, to help with the cost of his cancer treatment. Contributions and prayers are appreciated.

• **AN ACCOUNT TO BENEFIT TRISTIN RANGEL,** son of Ione and Tim Rangel, has been set up at the Big Spring Government Employees Federal Credit Union, 2204 Gregg St., account No. 529903, to help with medical expenses. He has been diagnosed with acute lymphocytic leukemia and is in a Lubbock hospital.

• **THE FAMILY OF MICHAEL STEADHAM** is in need of help to pay for his funeral expenses. Friends of the family say he had no insurance and died suddenly. A fund has been established at the Cosden Federal Credit Union for those wishing to help the family. For more information, call 264-0838 or 264-2600.

Police blotter

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

- **JOHN MARK CHOATE**, 44, 2713 Cindy Lane, was arrested on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
- **DOROTHY SUBLET THOMAS**, 47, 915 Ohio St., was arrested on charges of driving while license invalid and failure to identify.
- **JESSICA CALLOWAY**, 35, 1615 Harding St., was arrested on a charge of driving while license invalid.
- **MARIA BUSTAMANTE GARCIA**, 57, 409 N. Scurry St., was arrested on a charge of theft.
- **MICHAEL THOMAS HALL**, 18, was arrested on local warrants.
- **AGGRAVATED ROBBERY** was reported on the 700 block of Lancaster Street.
- **BURGLARY OF A HABITATION** was reported on the 1500 block of Sycamore Street and the 1800 block of State Street.
- **BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE** was reported on the 500 block of Birdwell Lane.
- **DRIVING WHILE LICENSE SUSPENDED** was reported on the 1600 block of Airbase Road and the 1600 block of Gregg Street.
- **FAILURE TO IDENTIFY** was reported on the 1800 block of Gregg Street.
- **THEFT** was reported on the 900 block of Willia Street and the 700 block of Marcy Drive.

Sheriff's report

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

- **CHARLOTTE JAMES**, 42, was transferred from the Big Spring Police Department after her arrest on a charge of giving a false statement for property or credit.
- **MICHAEL ROY ROBERSON**, 21, was transferred from the BSPD after his arrest on a charge of violation of a protective order.
- **RICHARD RODRIGUEZ**, 37, was arrested on a charge of failure to identify.
- **ANTHONY TERRAZAS**, 27, was arrested on charges of contempt of court and disobedience of court order.
- **OSCAR SOLIS**, 43, was arrested on charges of contempt of court and disobedience of court order.
- **ROY DWIGHT BIDDLE III**, 44, was arrested on a charge of bondsman off bond for possession of a controlled substance.

Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department/Emergency Medical Service reported the following activity between 8 a.m. Wednesday and 8 a.m. Thursday:

- **TRAUMA** was reported on the 900 block of Willia Street. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **TRAUMA** was reported on the 2000 block of Virginia Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported on the 1200 block of Birdwell Lane. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported on the 1700 block of Nolan Street. One person was transported to the Big Spring VA Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL** was reported on the 1900 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported on the 5800 block of Interstate 20 South Service Road. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported on the 1600 block of Lancaster Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported on the 1600 block of Lancaster Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported on the 2500 block of Albrook Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **BEE PROBLEM** was reported on the 900 block of Aylesford Street.

Support groups

THURSDAY

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

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

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

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

FRIDAY

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

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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. Call 267-6479.
- Staked Plains Masonic Lodge 598 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 221 Main. Call 267-7608.

FRIDAY

- Good Friday holiday.
- Signal Mountain Quilting Guild will not meet.
- AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant.
- Greater Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room.
- Spring City Senior Citizen's Center country and western dance from 7:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. All area seniors are invited.

SATURDAY

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

SUNDAY

- Easter Sunrise Service at 6:30 a.m. in the Amphitheatre in Comanche Trail Park.

MONDAY

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

TUESDAY

- Intermediate Line dance classes begin at 9 a.m. in the Spring City Senior Citizen's Center. Call 267-1628.
- Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room.

Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wednesday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 2-24-27-33-36.
Number matching five of five: 0.
Next Cash 5 drawing: Thursday night.

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 8-16-18-21-25. Bonus Ball: 6.
Number matching five of five, plus Bonus Ball: 0.
Estimated jackpot for Saturday night drawing: \$29 million.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 2-5-8

Weather

Tonight - Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 40s. West winds 10 to 20 mph.
Friday - Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 70s. North winds around 10 mph shifting to the east in the afternoon.
Friday night - Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers. Lows in the Lower 40s. East winds 10 to 15 mph.
Saturday - Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Cooler. Highs around 60. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.
Saturday night - Mostly cloudy. Slight chance of showers and thunderstorms in the evening...then a slight chance of showers or snow showers after midnight. Lows in the mid 30s. The chance of precipitation is 20 percent.
Sunday - Decreasing clouds. Isolated showers or snow showers in the morning. Highs in the lower 60s.
Sunday night - Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 30s.
Monday - Partly cloudy. Warmer. Highs in the upper 70s.
Monday night - Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 40s.
Tuesday - Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 80s.
Tuesday night - Mostly clear. Lows in the upper 40s.
Wednesday - Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 70s.

BIG SPRING HERALD

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HOLIDAY

Continued fr Friday. A tricts wil Monday of Coahoma, y classes Mo as usual. If you're package you'll be gl Big Spring will be deli usual over



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Parents of brain-damaged woman ask high court to intervene in daughter's case

PINELLAS PARK, Fla. (AP) — Hoping to succeed where they failed before, Terri Schiavo's parents have asked the Supreme Court to order the reinsertion of their severely brain-damaged daughter's feeding tube. The appeal by Bob and Mary Schindler — their fifth to the high court — caps a rush of legal activity in the unprecedented right-to-die struggle.

Filed late Wednesday night by the Schindlers' attorneys, the request came only hours after a federal appeals court refused to order the tube reinserted and the Florida Legislature decided not to intervene. Gov. Jeb Bush continued his staunch support of the Schindlers, seeking court permission to take custody of Schiavo. A ruling on that request was expected by noon Thursday.

There was no immediate word when the justices might act on the new filing. But time was of the essence as Schiavo, 41, began her sixth day without a feeding tube today. Doctors have said she likely would die within a week or two at her hospice.

Supporters of Schiavo's parents grew increasingly dismayed Wednesday, and 13 protesters were arrested outside her hospice for trying to bring her water. About 10 or 15 protesters were gathered outside the hospice early Thursday, most of them sleeping.

Schiavo suffered brain damage in 1990 when her heart stopped briefly from a chemical imbalance believed to have been brought on by an eating disorder. Court-appointed doctors say she is in a persistent vegetative state with no hope of recovery.

A defiant Bobby Fischer freed from Japanese detention cell, heads for Iceland

NARITA, Japan (AP) — Sporting a long beard, chess legend Bobby Fischer walked free from a Japanese detention center today and immediately headed to the airport to fly to his new home — Iceland — following a nine-month standoff with Tokyo officials trying to deport him to the United States.

Before leaving, however, the eccentric genius offered a few parting shots to the leaders of Japan and the United States, whom he accused of "kidnapping."

"I won't be free until I get out of Japan," he told a crowd of reporters at the airport here before boarding his flight to Copenhagen en route to Reykjavik. "This was not an arrest. It was a kidnapping cooked up by Bush and Koizumi," he said, referring to President Bush and Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi.

"They are war criminals and should be hung," he said.

Fischer, with a long white beard and wearing jeans and a baseball cap, left the immigration detention center on Tokyo's outskirts early Thursday morning. Japanese officials released the eccentric chess icon after taking him into custody in July, when he tried to leave the country using an invalid U.S. passport.

Shareholders to get final say concerning Sears-Kmart merger

CHICAGO (AP) — Faded retail powers Sears, Roebuck and Co. and Kmart Holding Corp. hope their \$11 billion merger can create a profit powerhouse while helping to reverse years of lagging sales.

The pairing of longtime industry rivals was poised for final clearance Thursday, four months after the proposal engineered by Kmart Chairman Edward Lampert was unveiled.

Shareholders of Kmart and then Sears were expected to approve the merger at separate meetings at Sears' sprawling headquarters in suburban Hoffman Estates. Barring a last-minute hitch, the complex will house a new retail titan named Sears Holdings Corp. with \$55 billion in revenue, 3,800 stores and an uncertain future.

BLAST

Continued from Page 1A

and we're going to do that," Pillari said. "We are going to put all of our resources into it." Federal investigators also planned to review the accident.

Wenceslao de la Cerda, a 50-year-old retired firefighter, said the blast shook the ground, rattled

windows and knocked ceiling panels to the floor. "Basically, it was one big boom," he said. "It's a shame that people have to get killed and hurt trying to make a dollar in these plants, but that's part of reality."

Valerie Perez was among those standing vigil outside the refinery fence late Wednesday, concerned about the fate

of her 18-year-old husband, a BP worker. "I'm nervous," she said, holding back tears. The plant and town, population 40,000, have dealt with two other refinery accidents within the last year.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration fined the refinery nearly \$110,000 after two employees were

burned to death by superheated water in September.

Another explosion forced the evacuation of the plant for several hours last March. Afterward, OSHA fined the refinery \$63,000 for 14 safety violations, including problems with its emergency shutdown system and employee training.

GUILTY

Continued from Page 1A

immigrants were crammed into Williams' trailer at the Mexican border for a journey that was supposed to have taken them to Houston.

As the temperature inside the stifling, tomb-like truck soared to 173 degrees, they screamed and clawed at the walls until Williams abandoned them in Victoria, 100 miles southwest of their destination.

Seventeen people, including a 5-year-old boy, died inside the trailer of dehydration, overheating and suffocation. Authorities described seeing piles of half-naked bodies piled 4 feet high on the vomit-covered vehicle floor and bloody claw

marks on its doors. Two other immigrants died later.

For now, Williams faces up to life in prison on each of the 19 counts of transporting illegal immigrants in a manner that caused their deaths. He faces a maximum of 20 years for each of 19 other transporting counts. No sentencing date has been set.

Williams could face capital punishment again if prosecutors decide to retry him on a conspiracy count, one of the deadlocked counts that a death-penalty eligible. Prosecutors were expected to tell Gilmore at an April 11 hearing whether they plan to retry Williams on the 20 deadlocked counts.

Williams, a 34-year-old Jamaican citizen who lives in Schenectady,

N.Y., is the only one of 14 defendants in the case to face a possible death sentence. Federal law allows capital punishment in smuggling cases that result in death.

Defense attorneys argued that Williams, who does not speak Spanish, could not understand the immigrants' pleas. But when he found out what was happening, he bought 55 bottles of water for them at a truck stop and shoved them through the hole in the trailer.

In December, two other defendants in the case were convicted of various smuggling charges. They await sentencing, while a woman who was also on trial had charges against her dismissed.

Another woman's trial is on hold. Five others have pleaded guilty. One

man remains a fugitive. Prosecutors have not decided whether to seek the death penalty against three others who were recently returned to the country last month after fleeing to Mexico.

Williams' attorneys had argued he faced the death penalty because he is black. Prosecutors have said he deserved such punishment because he alone could have freed the immigrants.

Defense attorneys argued that while Williams was guilty of transporting the immigrants for a fee of \$7,500, the ring's other members were responsible for the deaths because they packed too many people into the trailer.

"I think the jury is now saying, 'Why him?'" Washington said after the verdict was announced.

EGGS

Continued from Page 1A

putting them in some of the eggs this year, too," said Cruz. "The veterans are helping us fill the eggs."

It's something the residents look forward to, he said.

"They enjoy doing it. They love children and they get a big kick out of all of this," Cruz said. "We all have a great time and the children do, too."

The hunts — one for children age 5 and under and another for children age 6 and above — will be held on the facility grounds beginning at 2 p.m. There is no pre-registration, though parents should bring their children a few minutes early.

"This goes pretty fast, as you can imagine," said Cruz. "It only took about 30 minutes last year and

we had 170 kids participating."

Ten golden eggs will contain special prizes, and some eggs will contain a toy. An inflatable bouncer, or "moonwalker," will be provided, along with live music by the Texas Outlaws. Odyssey Healthcare will be serving hot dogs and hamburgers on a first come, first served basis, and drinks will also be available.

All area children are invited and should be supervised by an adult. There is no charge.

Saturday's morning

hunt on the grounds of the VA Medical Center is for children through age 10.

"We usually have 75 to 100 kids, maybe more," said Iva Jo Hanslik, community relations coordinator. "We'll have lots of eggs, including some prize eggs. We'll also have the Easter Bunny there."

Children will be divided into three age categories and can be accompanied by a parent.

The Extended Care and Transition Unit are sponsoring the event, which will receive assistance from Goodfellow Air

Force Base.

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

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HOLIDAY

Continued from Page 1A

Friday. All school districts will also take Monday off, except for Coahoma, who will begin classes Monday morning as usual.

If you're expecting a package in the mail, you'll be glad to know the Big Spring Post Office will be delivering mail as usual over the weekend,

pausing only on Sunday to observe the holiday.

The Spring City Senior Citizens Center will be closed Friday in observance of the holiday, reopening Monday at 8 a.m.

The Heritage Museum will close its doors Friday and Saturday, set to reopen Tuesday morning at 9 a.m.

While Easter weekend will mean some much-needed rest for many area

employees, those working at the U.S. Social Security Office and U.S. Department of Agriculture Office won't have that luxury, as they report their schedules will be "business as usual."

The Herald office will not close for the holiday.

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

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EDITORIAL

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

—FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Susanne Reed
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Sunrise service promises to be a real blessing

One of the best things about people in the Crossroads area is our ability and willingness to pull together, enjoy activities together... care for each other. That's evident during events such as United Way, Relay for Life, the Muscular Dystrophy Telethon, Christmas parade, Community Prayer Service and so many, many other things.

We feel certain that will be the case this Sunday when the annual Community Sunrise Service is held at the Comanche Trail Amphitheater.

In case you are not aware of this event, we want to make sure you know that you and your family are invited.

The Community Sunrise Service is an interdenominational observance to celebrate the resurrection of Christ. Nine church leaders will speak while pianist Christi Alton of Cornerstone Church and soloist Shelly Choate of Hillcrest Baptist Church will provide music.

It won't be a lengthy service. It will begin at 6:45 a.m. and organizers expect it to last about an hour.

It promises to be a wonderful start to Easter, an opportunity for us to celebrate the rebirth of Jesus as well as a time when we witness a rebirth of the land — trees budding, flowers blooming, birds nesting. Certainly, we have been blessed with an very abundant spring. It is also, perhaps, a time for rebirth in our own lives — commitments to our Lord, to our family, to making a difference.

We hope you'll take part Sunday in the Community Sunrise Service. We feel it will be a blessing for all who do.

ADDRESSES

• GEORGE W. BUSH
President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

• JOHN CORNYN
U.S. Senator
Washington, DC 20510-4305
Phone: 202-224-2934

• RANDY NEUGEBAUER
U.S. Representative (19th Cong. District)
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Phone: (432) 264-0722

• RICK PERRY
Governor
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• KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON
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• PETE LANEY
State Representative
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• KEL SELIGER
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401 Austin, suite 101
Big Spring, 79720
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HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

OFFICE — 264-2200.

BEN LOCKHART, COUNTY JUDGE — Home: 263-4155; Office: 264-2202.

EMMA BROWN — Home: 267-2649.

JERRY KILGORE — 263-0724; Work (Jerry's Barbers): 267-5471.

BILL CROOKER — Home: 263-2566.

GARY SIMER — Home: 263-0269; Work (Ponderosa Nursery): 263-4441.

BIG SPRING CITY COUNCIL

RUSS McEWEN, MAYOR — Home: 263-0907; Work (Russ McEwen Insurance): 267-1413.

GREG BIDDISON — Home: 267-6009; Work (Greg's Grill): 267-7121.

W.A. "WOODY" JUMPER — Home: 263-0782; Work (BSSH): 267-8216.

STEPHANIE HORTON — Home: 264-0306; Work (VA Medical Center): 263-7361.

JOANN STAULCUP — Home: 263-4980.

GLORIA McDONALD — Home: 263-4835.

JOANN KNOX — Home: 816-9083; Work (BSISD): 264-3635.

What harm is there in keeping Schiavo alive?

Prospects for saving Terri Schiavo appear increasingly dim. Unless a federal appeals court acts immediately to instruct the district court to order a feeding tube re-inserted, she will die of dehydration and starvation in a matter of days. A surprising number of Americans believe this is a good thing, at least according to some polls taken over the last few weeks.

An ABC poll taken this week showed that 63 percent of Americans favored the removal of Schiavo's feeding tubes, while only 28 percent opposed the court-ordered action. But a closer look at the poll reveals stunning bias in the way the question was posed. The poll asserted that Schiavo "has been on life support for 13 years," and that "doctors say she has no consciousness and her condition is irreversible," before posing the question, "Do you support or oppose the decision to remove Schiavo's feeding tube?" But the premise itself was wrong.

Schiavo was not on "life support" as that term is commonly understood. She suffers no life-threatening disease or condition. She required no ventilator to assist her breathing, no dialysis machine for kidney function, nor any other medical "life support" systems. Like many severely disabled people, Schiavo does require assistance in obtaining nutrition. It's not even clear that she requires the permanent use of a feeding tube. Several physicians who have examined Schiavo acknowledge that she swallows her own saliva — an estimated two liters a day — and at least one board-certified neurologist who



LINDA CHAVEZ

examined her on three separate occasions has testified that she probably could be trained to swallow other liquids as well, given the proper therapy. If she can swallow on her own, it would require little more to keep Schiavo alive than it does all infants and many elderly and physically or mentally disabled people — a caring individual to feed and clothe her and attend to her personal hygiene.

So on what basis is withholding food and water justified? Many of those polled by ABC seemed to base their responses on how they would want to be treated in similar circumstances. "If you were in this condition, would you want to be kept alive, or not?" the pollsters asked. Some 78 percent of respondents said they would not want to be kept alive — an astonishingly high number. But, interestingly, only one week earlier another ABC poll found an even larger number — 87 percent — who said they would want to die in similar circumstances.

But who really knows how he or she would feel if faced with such a decision, and is it morally responsible to make such a decision far in advance? The news media have been obsessed with advising people to make out "advance medical directives" or "living wills" so that their families will not encounter the agonizing end-of-life debates that Terri Schiavo's family faced. But the ABC poll raises some interesting questions. Assuming the poll itself included a valid, representative sample, nearly 10 percent fewer people would choose death if asked the question at another time. Clearly many people change their minds — so is it really a good idea to base a decision as momentous as ending a life on what someone thinks they want years earlier?

Of course, we don't know what

Terri Schiavo would have wanted. Whether she is in a persistent vegetative state or not — and there is debate among those physicians who have actually examined her on this issue, notwithstanding the mainstream media's disingenuous attempts to suggest otherwise — we don't know what Schiavo wanted. We have only her husband's word (corroborated by Michael Schiavo's family, not Terri's) that she once said, after viewing a movie about a comatose patient, that she wouldn't want to live in such a condition.

Under the circumstances, what possible harm could come from keeping Schiavo alive? Her parents and several benefactors have offered to assume the financial burden of doing so. Yet, the courts have, so far, deferred to Michael Schiavo's wishes to withdraw food and water from Terri, despite the compromised nature of his relationship with his wife. Michael Schiavo has been in a decade-long common-law relationship with another woman by whom he's fathered two children, while still tenaciously asserting his spousal rights to determine Terri's fate, and he stands to inherit whatever is left of a million-dollar medical malpractice settlement awarded for Terri Schiavo's care.

If a court can order Terri Schiavo to be slowly starved to death on the wishes of an estranged husband, who will be next?

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

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YOUR VIEWS

TO THE EDITOR:

I want to thank the doctors, nurses, aides and medical staff for the care I received during my surgery a couple of weeks ago at Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

I don't think I could have received better care anywhere. Everyone I encountered was very professional and did everything they could to make my hospital stay as comfortable as possible.

I have a lot of confidence in Drs. Haddad, McFaul and Shroff, as well as the surgical team, the intensive care nurses, floor nurses and all the other caregivers in the hospital. They made me feel that I was important to them and they went the extra mile to help me begin the process of healing.

There were a lot of people praying for my healing, as well as the experience and skill of the doctors. My church family and the family of God in this community was praying that God would protect me and heal my body. I believe God answered their prayers.

I have been a pastor in the Big Spring community for more than 16 years and have visited our hospital on numerous occasions. I have always found the staff to be very friendly and professional. My family and friends also appreciated not having to drive a long distance to visit me in the hospital.

I would recommend Scenic Mountain Medical Center to anyone who has need of medical care. I know my experience was more pleasant because of the care given to me and I trust it will be the same for everyone in need of medical help in this community.

DARRELL HENDRICKSON
BIG SPRING.

TO THE EDITOR:

President Bush's plan for fixing Social Security is too risky. His proposal to create personal accounts where individuals could invest in stocks and bonds is a bad idea. These accounts would diminish the Social Security safety net if workers make poor investment decisions, retire during a down market or outlive their retirement.

Investing in equities, however, is a good idea. State and local government pension plans have invested their funds in equities for years with an enviable history of success. The National Conference on Public Employee Pension Systems, whose

members are the trustees and administrators of pension plans, has developed a five-point proposal for restoring Social Security's long-term financial problems. It includes an investment component, but one much safer than the president's.

NCPERS proposes selecting a new, independent investment board whose members would determine how to invest a portion of the Social Security fund. Following the public pension model, 15 percent of the trust fund would be invested in equity market index funds and 25 percent in state and local government bonds devoted exclusively to rebuild the infrastructure of cities, counties and states. Both offer low risk with good returns.

For more than a century public pension plans have been invested following a similar model that resulted in remarkable stability. Their success is due to the use of considerable research and the advice of investment professionals who understand securities and have achieved an average annual return of 8 percent.

Congress must reject the high-risk Bush proposal to create private accounts. I urge Congress to slow down and carefully consider alternatives like NCPERS that would offer solvency for the Social Security system and retain current benefits without increasing payroll taxes on middle and lower income workers or placing workers' benefits at risk.

PAUL R. BROWN
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

The Vietnam Memorial Committee of Big Spring would like to thank the Big Spring Herald and in particular Marsha Sturdivant for helping the committee acquire the scrapbooks, photos and other mementos of the Gold Star Mothers organization for the late 1950s to the late 1980s.

This will be a very special addition to our memorial and will help us honor all the Gold Star Mothers from this time period, earlier times, present time and for years to come. These mothers are very special to all the members of the committee.

We would also like to thank Ms. Sturdivant for the article about the donations. It was very well written. She did an outstanding job.

We would also like to thank Joe Smith, his sister and especially his mother for taking care of all this history over these many years. This is a very generous gift and will be treasured by our members.

GENE WILSON
PRESIDENT
VIETNAM MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

TO THE EDITOR:

We would like to say thank you to Daniel Riley for his quick response on March 2 when he euthanized an injured or rabid skunk here at the Big Spring State Park.

A park visitor had called 911 to report a skunk behaving erratically near the entrance to the park nature trail and Mr. Riley responded to the call to protect our visitors and the citizens of Howard County.

We appreciate the Big Spring Police Department's Animal Control and Mr. Riley for their efforts.

RON ALTON
MANAGER
BIG SPRING STATE PARK

TO THE EDITOR:

What a wonderful community! The recent barbecue cook-off and fund raiser that was organized for the Forsan Band was another excellent example of the supportive people in Big Spring and Howard County. The local media gave good coverage, several organizations bonded together to make it work and the people came out in large numbers to eat and donate to a worthy cause.

Thank you all for supporting the youth of our community.

As your readers all know, the Forsan Band has been honored with a special invitation to represent the state of Texas in the Fourth of July Independence Day Parade in Washington, D.C. We have been assured that we are the only high school band from Texas to receive this honor. The band is looking forward to making Texas and specifically Howard County proud.

Forsan ISD thanks all the supportive, encouraging folks that help us provide a quality education with special growth experiences like this opportunity.

RANDY JOHNSON
SUPERINTENDENT
FORSAN ISD

Brie

A&M Club scholarship applications

Howard County Club is accepting scholarship applications for Texas A&M April 15.

To be eligible, applicants must reside in Howard County and acceptance of Texas A&M and scholarships, community extracurricular sports participation need are all conditions when determining scholarship winners. All applicants must complete the required financial review the 2004-2005 school process.

Applications obtained at Composites from Jeanne Niklas, E. Highway 3, calling Howard A&M Club President Tom Dawson at ext. 216.

Donations for scholarship

The Freedom School which are administered by Learn America Corporation for and Community will provide at least one scholarship for each senior for the school in community.

The Corporation provides \$500 which matched with \$500 secured by school from the community.

If anyone would like to donate money for a scholarship, please contact an individual company, Shannon at Big Spring High School at ext. 166.

Council for the Deaf plans three-

The Highland Council for the Deaf, the South West Institute for the Deaf, Permian Interpreters for the Deaf and the United Arkansas at Big Spring are sponsoring an interpreter from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 2.

Titled "Deaf Notes," the workshop will be set in the SWCI on the SWCI 3200 Ave. C.

Books may be purchased on-line through the Hand And Mouth Council for the Deaf. Continuing education credits are available upon completion of the workshop.

Also, that from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. free social events are planned at the town. Board games are available and other events are planned.

Beans and will be served until 7 p.m. This will be a Town Hall from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. Comments are regarding deafness and hearing is community discussed.

For more contact the Council for the Deaf at 432-267-6779 or voice/tty or voice/tty.

Briefly

A&M Club scholarship applications accepted

Howard County A&M Club is accepting scholarship applications for Texas A&M through April 15.

To be eligible, a student must reside in Howard County and have an acceptance letter from Texas A&M. Academic and scholarly achievements, community-based extracurricular activities, sports participation and need are all considered when determining scholarship winners.

All applicants who completed the paperwork required received some financial reward during the 2004-2005 scholarship process.

Applications may be obtained at A&M Composites from Mike or Jeanne Niklasch at 1409 E. Highway 350 or by calling Howard County A&M Club President Dr. Tom Dawson at 267-7911, ext. 216.

Donations for BSBS scholarship sought

The Presidential Freedom Scholarships which are administered by Learn and Serve America at the Corporation for National and Community Service, will provide at \$1,000 college scholarship to high school juniors and seniors for their leadership in community service.

The Corporation provides \$500 which must be matched with at least \$500 secured by the high school from the community.

If anyone would like to donate money for this scholarship, whether it be an individual or a company, contact Shannon at Big Spring High School at 264-3641, ext. 166.

Council for the deaf plans three-event day

The Highland Council for the Deaf, along with the SouthWest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf, Permian Basin Interpreters for the Deaf and the University of Arkansas at Little Rock are sponsoring a free interpreter workshop from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. April 2.

Titled "Deaf History Notes," the workshop is set in the student center on the SWCID campus, 3200 Ave. C.

Books may be purchased on-line through Hand And Mind.org or through the Highland Council for the Deaf.

Continuing education credits are awarded for completion of the workshop.

Also, that same day from 5 p.m. until 9 p.m., a free social event is planned at the same location. Board and card games are available for those wishing to participate and other fellowship events are planned.

Beans and cornbread will be served from 5:30 p.m. until 7 p.m.

This will be followed by a Town Hall Meeting from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. Comments and concerns regarding deaf and hard of hearing issues in the community will be discussed.

For more information contact the Highland Council for the Deaf at 432-267-6779 voice/tty.

Also, for more information, contact 800-456-5094 voice/tty or 800-759-038 voice/tty.

Health Trends

Cut carbs in diet, not good nutrients

The good news for folks on a low-carb diet: Studies show you probably will lose weight. The bad news: You'll probably also lose important nutrients from your diet and not even know it.

In fact, according to a recent survey, more than one-third of Americans are unaware that cutting carbohydrates can affect their intake of certain nutrients that are essential for good health and that may reduce the risk of certain chronic diseases.

Fortunately, there is a solution. Registered dietitian Carolyn O'Neil, who co-wrote a new book on nutrition for women, "The Dish on Eating Healthy and Being Fabulous!" says "low carb diets limit the consumption of nutrient-fortified foods like breads, pasta and cereals. To help prevent gaps in nutrition, low carb dieters should take a complete multivitamin that is specially formulated to include nutrients they might be missing."

To help, there's a new multivitamin that includes high levels of select nutrients to help the body utilize carbs, fats and proteins, while providing vitamin and mineral support for those who have cut back on their carbohydrate intake.

The B vitamins play an indispensable role in the metabolic conversion of proteins, fats and carbohydrates to energy. In addition, reducing carbohydrates in the form of

Low-Carb Lifestyle Survey
 • Approximately one in five Americans are currently eating lower carbohydrates or following a low-carbohydrate lifestyle or diet, such as Atkins or South Beach.
 • Thirty-six percent of Americans believe limiting carbohydrates in their diet will not affect their intake of vitamins and minerals.
 • Seventy-five percent of Americans are unaware that carbohydrate rich foods such as grain products are significant sources of folic acid, a vitamin which is crucial to reducing the risk of birth defects and which may help promote heart health.
 • Less than a third of all Americans believe that carbohydrate-rich foods contain essential nutrients such as vitamins B6, B12, C, D, E and K, calcium, niacin, thiamin and magnesium.

dairy, fruits, vegetables and grains can lead to inadequate intake of vitamins C, D, E and B6, as well as calcium, iron, magnesium, manganese, potassium, thiamin, riboflavin, niacin and folic acid. Scientific studies suggest that optimal levels of certain vitamins and minerals may reduce the risk of such chronic diseases as osteoporosis, heart disease and certain types of cancer.

The new multivitamin, Centrum(r) Carb Assist(tm), is formulated with high levels of the B vitamins-niacin, thiamin, riboflavin, vitamins B6 and B12-as well as the antioxidants selenium, manganese and vitamins C and E. It also contains 100 percent of the RDI for such key nutrients as vitamin D, iron, zinc and copper, all of which may become difficult to get when reducing intake of certain food groups. Taken daily, it can help you be sure you're getting all the vitamins and minerals you need.

North American Precepts Inc.

Satellite broadband may improve productivity for small businesses.

There's a big myth that many small business owners come up against:

"If I can't get cable or DSL, I can't get high-speed Internet (also known as broadband)."

If that were true, it would mean that some businesses could not get the broadband Internet access they need to remain competitive in today's marketplace.

According to the Small Business Association, 73 percent of small businesses have some type of Internet access, with 58 percent of them subscribing to high-speed Internet.

However, many businesses assume they are left out because they are unable to get broadband access due to the lack of terrestrial service in their area.

For many small and medium size enterprises, this lack of high-speed Internet access places them at risk of becoming disenfranchised from their customers and the marketplace.

Small and medium businesses use high-speed Internet to improve customer communications, grow their sales revenue and improve overall productivity.

Businesses can receive and quickly respond to orders online, conduct research, purchase inventory, access electronic documents from suppliers, and receive large e-mail attachments.

As these applications become more prevalent and customers become

increasingly reliant on the Internet for purchasing and communications, experts say businesses without broadband access will struggle to compete.

"Fortunately, there are other affordable and reliable alternatives-such as satellite-to get business-quality broadband," says David Shiff, vice president of Hughes Network Systems, the provider of Direcway satellite high-speed Internet service.

The good news is that more and more businesses are discovering they can get the service they need via satellite.

"I was extremely frustrated because we didn't think high-speed Internet was available in our region. And almost all of my suppliers and manufacturers had gone to online Web ordering and reporting in the last few years," says David Geiger, who is a parts and service manager for a small business called CKS that installs laundry equipment in rural

Indiana.

"I discovered that satellite was available and quickly got on board with e-business — it's significantly improved our operations."

Geiger is not alone. Tens of thousands of small and medium enterprises have discovered that satellite is an affordable and effective high-speed Internet solution.

"Our business has seen strong growth over the last few years," explains Shiff. "Businesses need broadband, and satellite is making it easily available to businesses that didn't think they could have it."

"Satellite is distance insensitive, going where other technologies do not."

For more information about satellite high-speed Internet access, visit www.dwayforbiz.com.

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The LaCrosse: Beauty comes from within

By BARRY SPYKER

Knight Ridder Newspapers

Don't judge a book by its cover: The Buick LaCrosse, taking over this year for the Regal and Century, may be conservative in design, but it will impress once you step inside.

One of my favorite lines from the old Charlie Chan movies came when No. 1 son, during one of pop's classic police investigations, discovered an open door at the crime scene. "Hey, pop, this door is open," he said.

Responded Chan: "Congratulations, No. 1 son — on your amazing ability to perceive the obvious."

It came to mind the first time I read the reminders on the Buick LaCrosse information center. I inserted the key into the ignition. It said: "Key in ignition." I started the engine, at midnight. It said, "headlights suggested."

And later, when I opened the door to get out, its parting words: "driver door ajar."

Oh, but I kid, of course. Certainly it also suggests headlight use at dusk, when you might forget. And I really don't mean to poke fun at the interior of the all-new 2005 LaCrosse, for it is here that this car excels.

The LaCrosse, which replaces the Regal and Century sedans, has done very nice things with the interior. Soft, quality leather seats are standard in all but the base model. The center console, top section of the dash and armrests are accented with an attractive (but fake) wood grain.

The instrument panel has a classy look and features three gauges. Audio and climate controls are within easy reach and easy to operate, too. Knobs and switches are not flimsy and the top of the dash and door panels have a soft, rich feel.

Seats are comfortable and roomy in all directions, and that goes for the rear, too. Three adults traveling with me had no complaints back there. That's because of a 1.5-inch increase in wheelbase. Front and rear hip room also is more accommodating.

An unusual option in the front: the availability of a full seat. Buick moves the shifter to accommodate a third passenger in the middle, and puts in a foldable center console. You don't see much of those seats any more.

Buick engineers also made the LaCrosse interior quieter. They call it a QuietTuning package. The front windshield and side windows are laminated to reduce road and wind noise outside, and there are layers of insulation under the carpet, too. Even the carpet is thicker.

Also, Buick installed thicker than usual headliners and engine covers to help keep it quiet. The hood is fitted with insulation, and engine covers are designed to quiet all the racket from pistons and cylinders and other noise culprits under there.

The engine and transmission also have been mounted in a stiffer connection, engineers say, and a Helmholtz resonator in the tail pipe works at silencing the 3.6-liter, 240-hp V6 that powers the upgraded version of the LaCrosse.

This aluminum engine has variable valve timing and delivers its best torque where it's most useful, between 1500 and 6000 rpm. Also available is a 3.8-liter V6 that has the power of 40 fewer horses, but it does have electronic throttle control to improve response and fuel efficiency.

Mileage is EPA rated at 19 miles per gallon city and 28 highway for the 3.6 with VVT, and 20 city and 29 highway for the 3.8.

LaCrosse's ride is comfortable and surprising stable on corners. Handling components are 80 percent new, compared to the Regal, according to Buick. Cushioning is said to be four times better than last year due to rebound damper bumpers that are four times bigger.

Also bigger: LaCrosse's four-wheel disc brakes and wheels, which are 16s now — that's an inch better than the Regal and Century. The performance CXS model gets 17-inch wheels.

The ride is firmer than the old guys, too, thanks to firmer struts and



The 2005 Buick LaCrosse

springs. But make no mistake: This is a Buick and the ride is plenty soft for the ranks of Buick aficionados who wouldn't have it any other way. The LaCrosse also gets

GM's StabiliTrak stability system, which applies braking at any wheel to improve control of the car in an emergency. It is the first time they ever put it on a midsize Buick.

If there is one place Buick engineers may have been asleep at the wheel, it is in Buick's exterior design. One can only wonder why they didn't go for a little bolder

look. Buick calls the design sleek with a strong front-end that's "unmistakably Buick." Maybe that's the problem, I say, lighten up, guys. Have some fun.

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B.S. Girl's Softball Association signups in M

The Big Spring Softball Association will be holding its signups for the upcoming 2005 league for girls and ages four and up. Signups will be held throughout the month of March from 5 to 6 p.m. at Spring Mall. Signups will be accepted at All Sports, located at East 11th Place. There is a \$30 fee for the league which will begin play April 2 and 3. For more information, call Ron at 432-213-3747.

Howard rodeo sets crawfish

The Howard rodeo team is holding its annual boil April 16 at the H.C. Rodeo College's arena. The cost of the event is \$10. For more information, contact rodeo coach Kernick at 816-9748.

B.S. Little League Umpires sets final m

The Big Spring League Association announced its meeting before the season begins. The meeting will take place at the Courthouse at 10 a.m. For more information, call Do at 816-9748.

Big Spring three-person

The Country Club is holding a three-person tournament April 23. The entry fee is \$10 per player. The tournament will be held at 7 p.m. shot each day. It includes Saturday, a field will be first round. For more information, call the at 267-5354.

Howard Co 4-H tourna

The Howard County 4-H Club is holding a three-on-three ball tournament at Trinity Baptist Gymnasium. Teams can have four players each. The cost of each player is \$10 and must be 16 or older. The tournament will also award three-point T-Shirts. The tournament is March 31. For more information, call Brian or K at night at

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 every Saturday 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.

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 during Howard 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.

B.S. Little League Umpires Association sets final meetings

The Big Spring Little League Umpires Association has announced its final meeting before the new season begins.

The meeting will take place Saturday at the Courthouse, beginning at 10 a.m.

For more information, call Don Booth at 816-9748.

Big Spring C.C. sets three-person tourney

The Big Spring Country Club will host a three-person scramble April 2 and 3.

The entry fee is \$50 per player plus golf cart. There will be a 1 p.m. shotgun start each day. The entry fee includes barbecue Saturday, as well. The field will be flighted by first round score.

For more information, call the pro shop at 267-5354.

Howard County sets 4-H tournament

The Howard County 4-H Club has set up a three-on-three basketball tournament to benefit Relay For Life.

The tournament will take place April 1-2 starting at 7 p.m. at the Trinity Baptist Church Gymnasium.

Teams can have up to four players and the cost of each person is \$10 and participants must be 16 years of age or older.

The tournament is double elimination and it will also include a three-point contest.

T-Shirts will be awarded for first and second place teams.

The deadline to enter is March 30.

For more information, call Howard County 4-H during the day at 264-2236 or Brian or Karen Moore at night at 393-5571.

Forsan girls take third in host meet at Comanche

• Boy's team shoots 372, finishes sixth

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

BIG SPRING — Robert Lee dominated the Forsan golf tournament at Comanche Trail Golf Course Tuesday as both girl's teams took first and second, respectively, and the its top boy's team also finished first.

The Robert Lee girl's teams shot a 375 and 442, respectively, while Forsan came in third with a 467. Westbrook and Sterling City came in fourth and fifth, respectively.

Shiloh Sanders led the Lady Buffaloes with a 109, but was followed closely by Amber Nichols, who shot a 111.

Amber Humphrey finished third on the team with a 121, while Hayley



Lewis and Audrey Montgomery shot a 126 and 127, respectively.

Robert Lee's top three golfers grabbed medalist honors. Julie Riley won the meet with a 91, while

Kyla Millican and Lindsey Roe each shot a 94.

Forsan's top boy's team grabbed sixth overall after shooting a 372. Robert Lee Orange won the overall meet with a 327.

Sterling City and Borden County shot a 333 and 334, respectively.

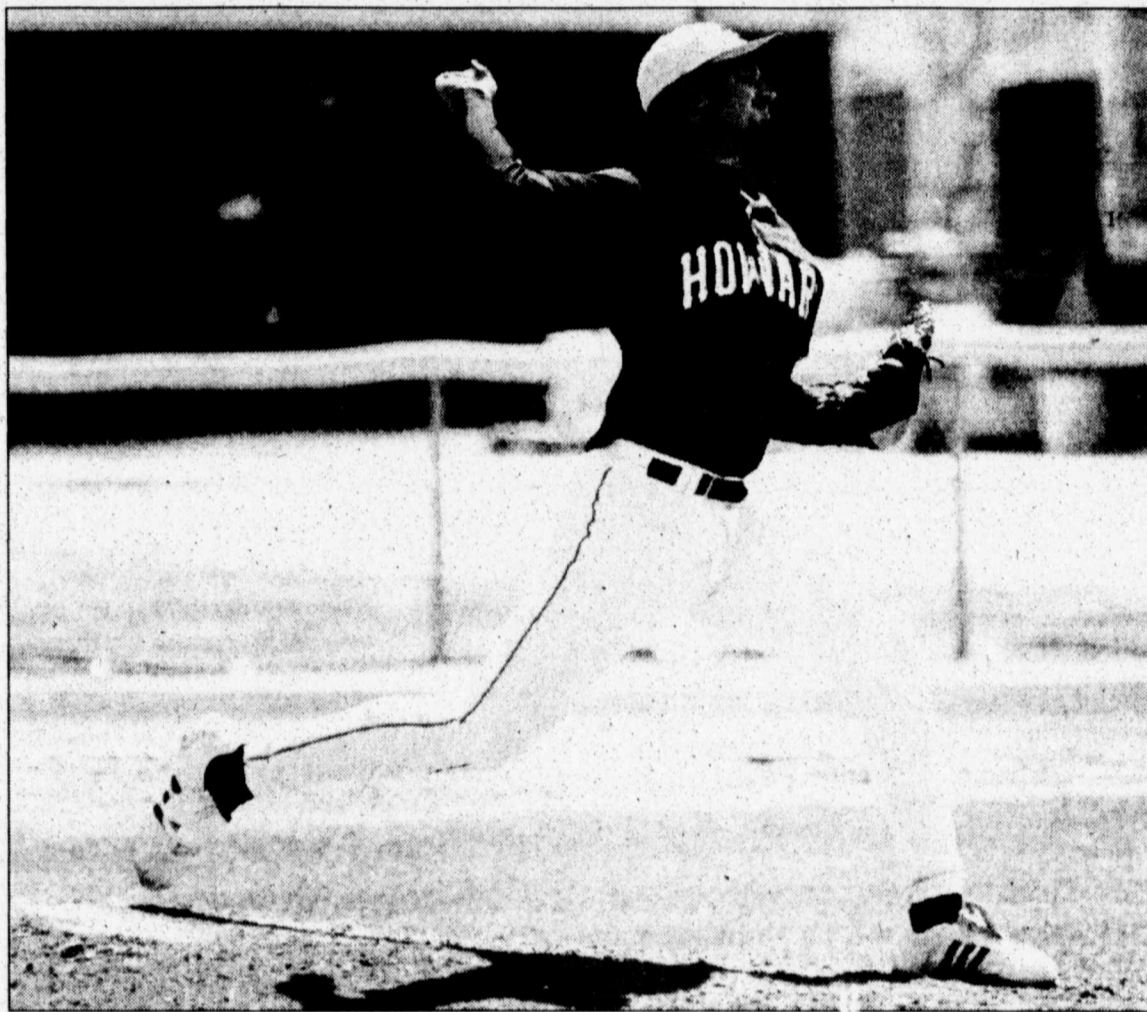
Forsan's 'B' team shot a 449, while Coahoma's JV team finished with a 485. Mark McKiski led the

Forsan 'A' team with an 88, while Jonathan Moore and Clint Stanley shot a 90 and 95, respectively. Tye Baker and Adam Johnson also participated, shooting 99 and 101, respectively.

Forsan's 'B' team was led by Rick Bailey's 104.

Garrett Walker led Coahoma's JV team as he finished with a 113.

Sterling City's Cole Hord won individual medalist honors with a 77.



Howard's Eric Ashbrook delivers a pitch to the plate Tuesday in game No. 1 of a double-header with LCU. Ashbrook earned the win in the opener and Howard won game No. 2, 4-0. The Hawks also defeated Trinidad State (Colo.) 22-14 Wednesday and improved to 18-5 on the year.

Howard men win another slugfest

• Hawks win with bats, struggle on mound in Abilene

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

ABILENE — The Howard baseball team has not suffered from lack of runs much this year. And Wednesday was no different as the Hawk bats came through for 22 runs and 19 hits on their way to a 22-14 win over Trinidad State (Colo.) at Hardin Simmons University's Hunter Field in Abilene.

The Hawks scored at least one run in each of the eight innings they sent batters to the plate. Howard led 4-0 after two innings but a rally by Trinidad State saw the Hawks trail 10-8 after four frames. Trinidad State's rally was led by a seven-run fourth inning.

However, Howard was far from done scoring. They grabbed the lead back in the fifth inning after sending four runners across homeplate. The runs made the score 12-11. Then Howard scored one run in the sixth and added seven in the seventh to put the game away.

Trinidad State scored its final three runs in the seventh and Howard added another two runs in the eighth.

Scottie Moore started the game for Howard but did not get the decision. He pitched into the fourth inning and gave up six earned runs on four hits and was plagued by six



walks.

Michael Robbins was the last of five pitchers to throw on the mound and was awarded the win. He pitched one and two-thirds innings and gave up no runs on two hits. Zach Sewell (three earned runs), Parker Sisk (two earned runs) and Matthew Shepherd (three earned runs) all saw action on the mound, as well.

Eight Howard hitters got multiple hits at the plate. The Hawks were led by Tanner Mattson and Will Basom, who each went three-for-three. Mattson scored three runs, had three RBIs and walked twice, while Basom scored four runs, had one RBI and walked three times.

Jason Anderson went two-for-four with a home run for Howard, while Jeff Storms also homered and had four RBIs.

Ryan Femath, Darby Brown, Ryan Burke and Albert Ruiz all had two hits, as well.

The win improved Howard's overall record to 18-5. The Hawks will next play Friday in New Mexico against Western Junior College Athletic Conference rival New Mexico Junior College at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Howard turns around and hosts New Mexico JC Saturday at Jack Barber Field at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

Coahoma, Stanton finish tied for sixth place at Hawley Invitational

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

HAWLEY — Both Coahoma and Stanton shot 384 at the Hawley Invitational Tuesday, but that was not good enough to defeat Clyde, who grabbed first place overall after shooting a 325. Baird took second with a 341, while host Hawley's 'A' team finished third with a 363.

Coahoma and Stanton's top boy's team tied for sixth place and Stanton's 'B' team shot a 426 and finished 10th.

Sini Laurikkala led the Coahoma girl's with an 86 and grabbed second medalist honors.

Stanton's top girl's team, which was led by Savannah Smith's 112, finished second with a 476. Stanton's 'B' team came in fourth with a 520.

Matthew Ruiz led Stanton with a 90 and Curt Lang led Coahoma with a 91. Stanton's Dex Shafer and Justin Hinojosa both shot under 100 with a 96 and 95, respectively.

Coahoma's Blaine Henderson and Terrell Bibb also bettered 100 strokes after shooting 92 and 99, respectively.

Stanton's boy's 'B' team was led by Chase Holt's 100, while Travis Jezek shot a 104.

Jay Calvo of Baird won the individual medalist honor with a 72, while Clyde's Eric Clanton and Blake Watts shot a 78 and 80, respectively and finished second and third.

Stanton's top girl's team was led by Smith, but Megan Cook was two strokes behind her with a 114.

Bonnie Kendall and Brittani Garza each shot a 125.

Mallory Cotton and Amy Jo Bryand led the Lady Buffaloes' 'B' team with a 125 and 126, respectively.

Jody Neal of Baird won the overall medalist honor after outshooting Laurikkala by three strokes. She finished with an 83. Misty McDowell of Baird was third with an 87.



RUIZ



BIBB

Testy Mavs end Warriors' run

By GREG BEACHAM

AP Sports Writer

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — When Baron Davis shoved, Dirk Nowitzki shoved back. But when Nowitzki hit outside shots, Davis and the Golden State Warriors couldn't answer.

Nowitzki had 29 points and 10 rebounds, and Keith Van Horn scored 24 points in the Dallas Mavericks' fourth straight victory, 109-97 over the Warriors on Wednesday night.

When Nowitzki wasn't overwhelming Golden State with his nearly indefensible talents, the 7-footer also traded shoves with Davis and Jason Richardson in a game featuring 12 technical fouls, Mike Dunleavy's jersey-

tossing ejection and plenty of trash talk.

Nowitzki's competitive fire has been stoked all season since Steve Nash's departure, and the German's new leadership role sometimes extends after the whistle as well. If Dallas permanently sheds its reputation as a finesse team under new coach Avery Johnson's commitment to defense, Nowitzki probably will lead the way.

"Whenever I get pushed, I feel like I have to push back," Nowitzki said. "I'm not going to let anybody bully me out there. ... That kind of stuff happens a thousand times out there, though."

"We have to toughen up. Teams still think we're soft in the paint. I

thought we played a really physical game."

After tempers finally cooled, Dallas remained unbeaten in three games under Johnson, a former Warriors guard — though the wins came against three teams that are a combined 99 games under .500.

Dallas has lost to Golden State just four times in the last seven years, and the Mavs repeatedly scored from outside while the Warriors missed open shots on the other end. Jason Terry had 23 points and eight assists while hitting all 13 of his free throws. Van Horn had his best game since joining the Mavs, going 8-for-11 and hitting two 3-pointers.

Houston's Clemens feels fine after first simulated game of spring training

KISSIMMEE, Fla. (AP) — Houston right-hander Roger Clemens' strained right hamstring felt fine after he threw 90 pitches in a simulated game Wednesday, Astros catcher Brad Ausmus said.

Clemens didn't speak to the media after the outing, which came before Houston's Grapefruit League game against Philadelphia. "I think he actually could have pitched (against Philadelphia) today," Ausmus said. "But I'm not on the medical staff. I think they decided to err on the side of caution and just have him throw the simulated game, but he's fine."

Clemens left Friday's game against Detroit with the hamstring injury. He gave up

seven earned runs.

Outfielder Lance Berkman, who is recovering from surgery to repair a torn anterior cruciate ligament in his right knee, faced Clemens during the simulated game.

"Even when I'm perfectly healthy, it's hard to get around him," said Berkman, who isn't scheduled to return until the end of April. "His stuff looks really good. I know he's still trying to work on some things, like his breaking pitches, but he looks like he's had no ill-effects."

Earlier in the week, Clemens said pitching from the mound didn't cause him any discomfort, but that making moves, such as fielding bunts and covering first base, did. He didn't do either of those Wednesday.

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Baylor, LSU lead women's voting

• LSU's Augustus unanimously picked to first team, TCU's Irvin also selected to women's top team

By **CHUCK SCHOFFNER**
AP Sports Writer

Seimone Augustus plays with dazzling skill, a crowd-pleasing flair and, according to her coach, plenty of smarts.

With that combination, it's no wonder the LSU star was a unanimous All-American.

Augustus led The Associated Press women's basketball All-America team, which was announced Wednesday. She was the only player picked for the first team by all 45 members of the national media panel that also votes in the weekly AP poll.

"People marvel at her mid-range jumper. I marvel at the fact she's always wide open when the opposition has practiced all week (to stop her)," LSU coach Pokey Chatman said. "That's because she's cerebral. She understands what cuts to make and when to pick up the basketball."

Augustus, a 6-foot-1 junior, received the maximum 225 points in the voting and was joined on the first team by Kansas State's Kendra Wecker (192), Duke's Monique Currie (180), Ohio State's Jessica Davenport (163) and TCU's Sandora Irvin (153).

Wecker received 36 first-team votes, Currie 29, Davenport 22 and Irvin 20.

Augustus and Wecker

were third-team selections each of the past two years and both were on the preseason All-America team.

"It means a lot to me to be picked and have everybody select me to be first team," Augustus said. "I am very appreciative of this honor."

Chatman and the rest of the Lady Tigers certainly appreciate having Augustus around.

A year ago, Augustus led LSU to its first Final Four. This season, the Lady Tigers were ranked No. 1 longer than anyone, won the Southeastern Conference regular-season championship and earned the top overall seed in the NCAA tournament. And it all started with Augustus.

She averaged 20.1 points and 4.5 rebounds while shooting 55.4 percent in the regular season, complementing that mid-range jumper with an ability to take the ball to the basket, post up and find an open teammate when double-teamed.

Augustus also is talking more, and Chatman likes that, too.

"She has become a more vocal leader. Not loud, but vocal," Chatman said. "I think I heard her whisper ... when they were having a team meeting. No one heard her, but the fact she's taking those steps is something she's worked on."

LSU and Baylor were the only schools with two players on the three All-America teams.

Temeka Johnson, LSU's feisty 5-3 point guard, was a second-team pick. Baylor had Sophia Young

on the second team and Steffanie Blackmon on the third.

Also on the second team were Minnesota's Janel McCarville, Stanford freshman Candice Wiggins and Mississippi State's Tan White. The other third-team selections were Notre Dame's Jacqueline Batteast, North Carolina's Ivory Latta, Texas' Tiffany Jackson, DePaul's Khara Smith and Penn State's Tanisha Wright, who tied Blackmon for the final spot.

Wecker has been such a key figure in the women's basketball resurgence at Kansas State that her jersey number already has been retired. The 5-11 senior, the Big 12's career scoring leader, averaged 20.6 points and 10.1 rebounds in the regular season.

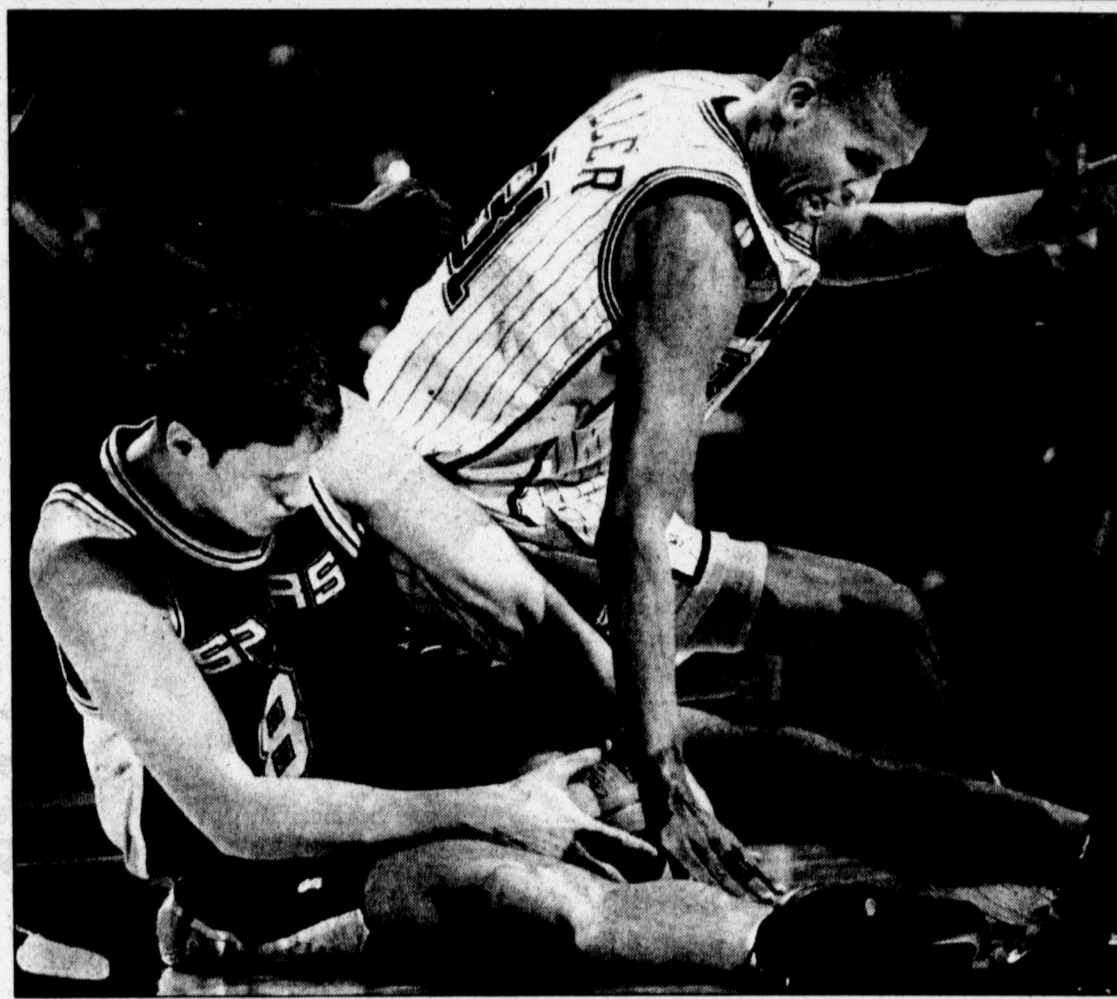
"It's exciting and a great honor," Wecker said. "It's definitely a tribute to my teammates and the success we've had as a team."

Strong around the basket, Wecker also could burn opponents on the perimeter.

She went 8-for-9 on 3-pointers while scoring a school-record 41 points against Illinois State this season.

Currie, a 6-foot junior, had to become the go-to player at Duke following the departure of three-time All-American Alana Beard and Iciss Tillis.

She responded to that calling by averaging 17.6 points, seven rebounds and 3.3 assists in leading the Blue Devils to a share of the ACC regular-season championship.



KRT photo/Sam Riche, Indianapolis Star
The Pacers' Reggie Miller, right, and the Spurs' Rasha Nesterovic battle for a loose ball during their game at Conseco Fieldhouse in Indianapolis, Ind., Wednesday. The Pacers won the game and Miller became the 13th player in NBA history to reach 25,000 points.

Clemens' brand new Hummer stolen

By **PAM EASTON**

Associated Press Writer
HOUSTON (AP) — It took All-Star pitcher Roger Clemens 20 years to rack up 300 wins — a feat for which his team rewarded him with a brand-new orange Hummer.

On Wednesday, police say, it took thieves just a few minutes to make off with the hulking vehicle after Clemens' son drove it to school and left it unlocked.

School district police issued a statewide all-points bulletin statewide

asking people to keep an eye out for the Hummer, which was stolen from Memorial High School at about 8:30 a.m.

"I talked with Roger about it a little," said Chuck Brawner, chief of the Spring Branch Independent School District police.

Brawner said Clemens, who was at spring training with the Houston Astros in Florida, is offering a \$10,000 reward for the vehicle's safe return and information about who took it. The Hummer contained all of Koby

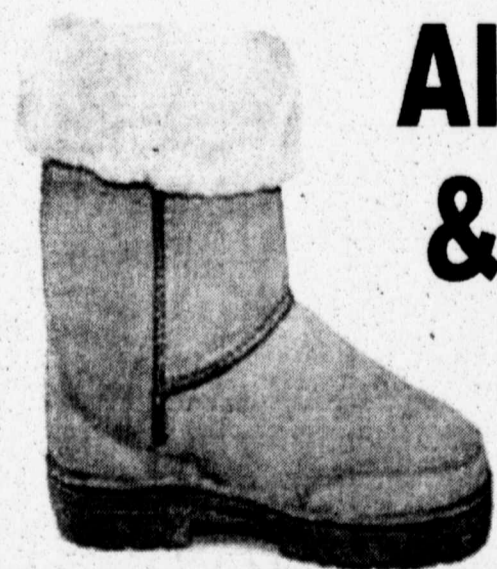
Clemens' baseball equipment for his high school team.

Roger Clemens couldn't immediately be reached for comment by The Associated Press Wednesday.

He began letting Koby Clemens drive the orange Hummer to school after he signed a letter of intent last November to play baseball for the University of Texas, whose colors are burnt orange and white.

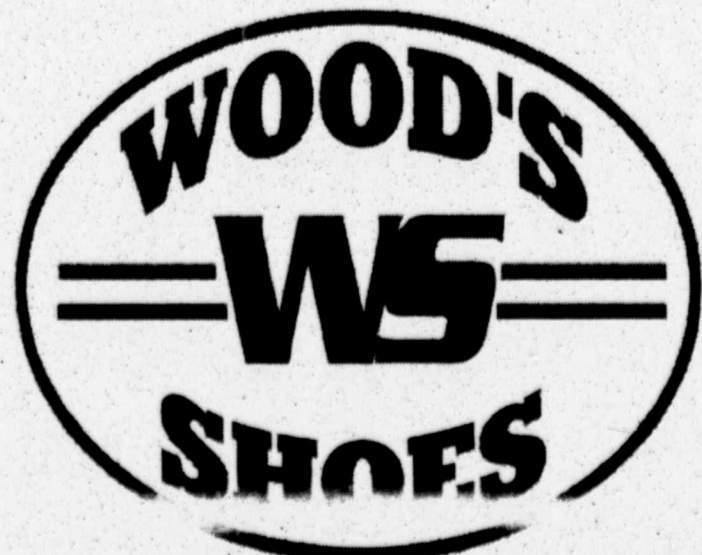
Before that, Koby drove a black Hummer to school.

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PART TIME help wanted for spraying lawns & cleaning pools. Must have a good driving record. Great for a college student. Apply in person at Ponderosa Nursery, 406 East 23rd. No phone calls.



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127 Keathley
Garden City, TX 79739
Reply to:
HR Dept., P.O. Box 5089
Abilene, TX 79608
Fax: (325)672-5034
Email: jobs@txbollweevil.org
Equal Opportunity Employer
Drug-Free Workplace
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407 & 407-1/2 East 8th - 1/1 bath. \$250. month, \$150. deposit
All have CH/A.
Call (432)267-2296.

2 BEDROOM, 1 Bath older home being renovated. Corner lot. \$350.00 Monthly. 432-264-1606.

2004 Johnson. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. \$199. month, \$100. deposit. **1104 Stanford.** 2 Bedroom, 1 bath, CH/A. \$335.00 month, \$150.00 deposit. (432)263-1792, 816-9984.

2008 SCURRY, 2 Bedroom. Refrigerated air, fenced backyard. Nice neighborhood. References. Perfect for single or couples. \$350/month, \$300/deposit. Call (432)267-5629.

702 WEST 18TH. 3 Bedroom 2 bath. CH/A with fenced yard. \$525. month, \$300. deposit. Call (432)267-7449.

BUILDING FOR LEASE on 1308 North HWY 350, \$200.00 month plus \$200.00 deposit. Call WESTEX Auto Parts at (432)263-5000.

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All bills paid
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THREE BEDROOM, three bath, three car garage on one acre. Forsan ISD. \$750. month, \$1,000. deposit. By appointment, call (432)264-9907.

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\$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 Investments Inc.

1211 EAST 18th. 3 Bedroom, 1 bath w/2 car detached garage. Tile, hardwood, carpet floors. Updated kitchen. Den w/fireplace, fenced yard w/storage shed. Nice quiet neighborhood. \$45,000.00. Call (432)264-0293.

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



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.

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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 only (432)267-1883.

FIRE DAMAGE on 4103 Dixon House. 2 Bedroom with 2 bath. Also have Fina's Cafe on 200 North Gregg. Call for more information (432)664-2814, (432)530-0203.

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.

I'M MAD... AT BANKS WHO DON'T GIVE HOUSE LOANS BECAUSE OF BAD CREDIT, PROBLEMS OR NEW EMPLOYMENT. I DO, CALL L.D. KIRK, HOMELAND MORTGAGES, (254)947-4475. www.homeland46.com

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.

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\$3000 OFF
MSRP
Bob Brock Ford
500 W. 10th 267-7121

03 MUSTANG Cobra SVT. Low mileage, after market wheels. A must see. \$30,000.. Call (432)264-0452.

Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

The effects of Venus in self-sufficient Aries take shape. Co-dependent love is "so yesterday." It just feels wrong to rely on another person to provide the things that one should be able to provide for oneself! Many folks draw boundaries, never to be crossed again. Finances get an honest look, too. Perhaps they shouldn't be quite so intertwined?



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Somewhere deep inside, you possess the very qualities you think you lack, like enduring patience and willpower. Try hard to do things slowly, thoroughly and expertly. Tonight, there's love away from the noise.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Success comes from refusing to buy into prejudice or make snap judgments. Projects take off with or without you, so hop on board if you want to be a part of the action. Team with someone who is undaunted by hard work.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You like to play where the rules are a little loose or, better yet, completely undefined. You've got enough imagination and moral structure to make up your own, right? Hopefully, the others in the game feel the same.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You're in an extravagant, impulsive and outspoken mood, which could inspire a temper tantrum before the night is through. You also make a good team leader and will be the one to take things forward.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). With the complainers and naysayers around you, it's challenging to focus on what you'll gain rather than what you'll lose. Keep reminding yourself that ultimately your life is a culmination of your choices.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The reactions you get from the peanut gallery are informational, if not a bit hard to deal with. Big

personalities and weird characters respond in colorful ways. Assume that everyone is trying to become a better person.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You're presented with an opportunity to shine. This could be disguised as a request from the boss, something a loved one needs from you or an invitation to "dance." You're truly gifted!

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You'll notice more about how a certain someone treats you and how you treat others. An emotional flare-up seems awfully extreme considering the supposed reason for the upset. Look deeper.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Talk about being spread thin! There are several people who request your time, projects that need your attention and fires that must be put out. It becomes a matter of priorities. How is your time best spent?

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're walking out on that tightrope again, but this time, you're pretty sure there's no net under you. Potential failure is part and parcel of passion. Are you willing to risk in order to achieve your goals?

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It's not what you do but how you do it. By taking better care of yourself, you attract so much more of the good life! Think about healthy eating, exercising and living as a way of life, not as a short-term means to an end.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You'll be restraining yourself — cutting back in some way. Of course, you deserve to have pleasure in your life! But you're now deriving pleasure from different sources than you were before.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I'm a Leo born Aug. 16, 1966. My partner is a Virgo born Sept. 11, 1972. We've been together for three years. I already know this relationship will have its challenges, and it has, but will it (she) ever settle down? Or should I move on?"

Neighbors on the zodiac, these signs can have a tightly knit relationship and are more alike than either care to recognize. There's something almost familial in their connection, though. One tends to treat the other as a parent would a child — and the roles flip-flop through the months, depending on how confident each person is feeling. Lately, you've been in the parental role, and she's been acting like a rebellious teen driven to constantly test the boundaries. You may think you're being cool by letting her do her thing, but don't overlook this important fact: She wants you to draw the line! She's looking for a reaction from you that says you care. That's why this is the perfect time to push the question that begs to be asked. Is she going to commit to you exclusively and become the guardian of your heart, or not? Boldly risk all by asking her this, and give her three weeks to respond before you, as you say, "move on."

CELEBRITY PROFILES: The lovely ingenue Keira Knightley has wanted to act for nearly her entire life — at age 3, she asked her parents to get her an agent. This headstrong Aries has the sun, moon, Mercury and Venus in the sign of the ram, and it just doesn't get more determined and aggressive than that!

Legals

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Howard County Auditor will accept sealed bids until 10:00 a.m. on APRIL 8, 2005 for the following:
ASPHALT used for paving and seal coating
AGGREGATE used for paving and seal coating
Specifications may be obtained in the Auditor's Office, 300 S. Main Street, No. 202, Big Spring, Tx or by calling 432-264-2210.
Bids will be presented to the Commissioner's Court at 10:00 a.m. on APRIL 11, 2005, for their consideration.
The Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids.
Jackie Olson, Howard County Auditor
#4487 March 24 & April 1, 2005.

**NO. P-13247
ESTATE OF**

**HENRY ALTON THAMES
DECEASED IN THE
COUNTY COURT OF
HOWARD COUNTY, TEXAS
NOTICE TO CREDITORS**
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of HENRY ALTON THAMES, were issued on the 3rd day of March, 2005, under Docket No. P-13247, pending in the County Court of Howard County, Texas, to: NELL THAMES.

The residence of the Executrix, NELL THAMES, is in Howard County, Texas, and the post office address is:

1208 Driver Road
Big Spring, Texas 79720
All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the Executrix, NELL THAMES, at the above address within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
DATED the 21st day of March, 2005.
G. BEN BANCROFT
A Professional Corporation
P.O. Box 1390
Big Spring, TX 79721-1390
Telephone No. (432)264-1800
By G. Ben Bancroft
State Bar No. 01668000
ATTORNEY FOR THE ESTATE
#4494 March 24, 2005.

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Bad Credit O.K.

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

Call Beverly 263-3461

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Big Spring, Texas

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PART ROOM ATTENDANT

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- Retirement Plan • Short-Term Disability
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- Strong computer skills
- 1 year data entry into AS400 and/or 7i or equivalent helpful, but not required
- Strong communication skills • Ability to multi-task

Pick up an application at:
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or fax to 432/263-8075 or call 432/263-8361

THURSDAY

MAR. 24

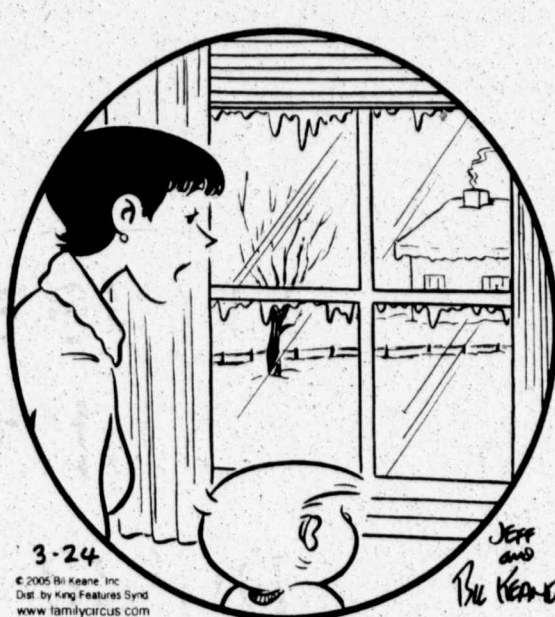
	WFAA (2) Dallas	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KOCV (13) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPiKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28)	ESPN (29) Sports	TMC (250)
6 PM	News (CC)	News Wheel-Fortune	La Mujer de Madera	Maibom-Mid Raymond	College Basketball	Movie: Mary Magdalene	News Sentfield (CC)	Raymond	Joe McGee John Hagee	News-Lehrer	American Chopper		CSI: Crime Scene Investgn (CC)	Law & Order (DVS)	Live BET Style	That's-Raven That's-Raven	Billiards PGA Golf	SportsCenter Poker: 2004	Lives (CC)
7 PM	Jake-Progress	Jake-Progress	Apuesta por un Amor	The O.C. (CC)	NCAA Tournament		Joey (CC) The Apprentice	Friends (CC) Friends (CC)	Update/Israel Biblical/Israel	West Tex Jmi TX Mnthly Talk	The Family Camval	Movie: Rocky III (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene Investgn	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	The Parkers Girlfriends	Movie: Smart House (CC)	Best of the Players	Poker: 2004	Movie: Dummy
8 PM	Extreme Makeover	Extreme Makeover	La Madrastra	Point Pleasant (CC)	Regional Semi-College	Movie: Joseph of Nazareth (CC)	The Office	Friends (CC) Friends (CC)	Light of the Southwest	Antiques Roadshow	Little People, Big Dreams		MXC MXC	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Rip the Runway	Phil of Future	Championship -- First Round	Poker: 2004	Better Luck Tomorrow
9 PM	PrimeTime Live	PrimeTime Live	Aqui y Ahora	Maibom-Mid 70s Show	Basketball: NCAA		ER (CC)	Movie: 40 Days and 40		Hidden India: The Kerala	Intervention House (CC)	Movie: Rocky IV	MXC MXC	Movie: As Good as It	Club Comic View	Sister, Sister Even Stevens	Figure Skating World	Poker: 2004	
10 PM	News (CC) Nightline	News Nightline	Primer Impacto Noticias Univ	70s Show Raymond	Tournament Regional Semi	Noticias Laura	News Tonight Show	Nights (CC)	The Hour of Healing	Charlie Rose (CC)	The Family Camval		MXC MXC	Gets	Nightly News BET Style	That's-Rave That's-Raven	Championships -- Exhibition	Timeless	15 Movie: Pulp Fiction (CC)
11 PM	Ent. Tonight Jimmy Kimmel	Extra (CC) Jimmy Kimmel	La Hora Derbez	Becker (CC) Becker (CC)	News Late Show	Al Rojo Vivo-Maria Celeste Programa	Late Night: Conan O'Brien Frasier (CC)	10 Movie: Little Nicky	Sam Peak Jesse Lee Pe	Sign Off	Little People, Big Dreams	Movie: Rocky V	Widest Police Videos		Midnight Love	Proud Family Kim Possible	Tilt (CC)	SportsCenter (CC)	
12 AM	Live (CC) News (CC)	Live (CC) Paid Program	Alma Febelde	Spin City Dharma-Greg	Letterman Late Late			Update/Israel Faye Hardin			Intervention House (CC)		Blind Date Shipmates	Movie: As Good as It	Club Comic View	Boy World Lizzie McGuire	Movie: A Season on the		

DENNIS THE MENACE



"If they're not at home, we could use some packages at our house."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Oh, dear. I was dreaming of a green Easter."

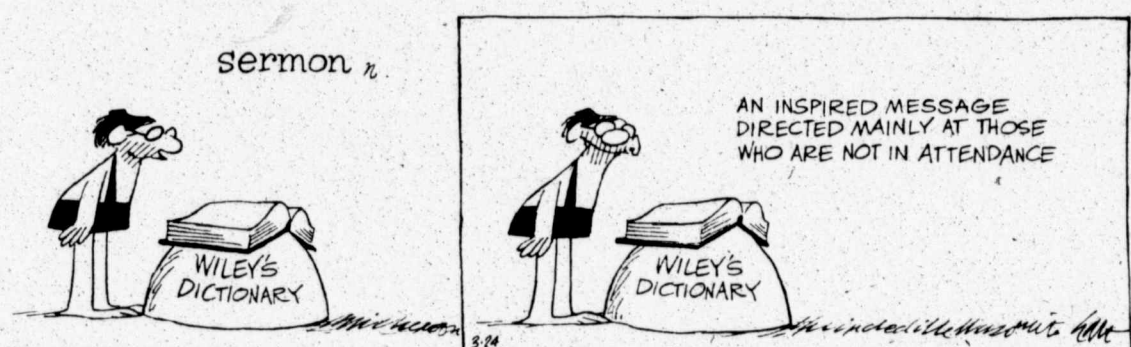
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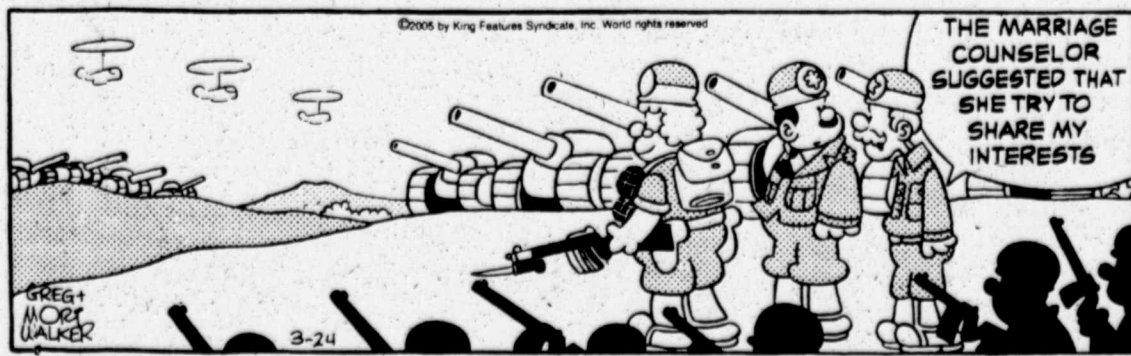
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

By the Associated Press

Today is Thursday, March 24, the 83rd day of 2005. There are 282 days left in the year. The Jewish holiday Purim begins at sunset.

Today's Highlight in History:
On March 24, 1765, Britain enacted the Quartering Act, requiring American colonists to provide temporary housing to British soldiers.
On this date:
In 1883, long-distance telephone service was inaugurated between Chicago and New York.
In 1905, 100 years ago, the author Jules Verne died in Amiens, France, at the age of 77.
In 1934, President Franklin Roosevelt signed a bill granting future independence to the

Philippines.
In 1944, in occupied Rome, the Nazis executed more than 300 civilians in reprisal for an attack by Italian partisans the day before that killed 32 German soldiers.
In 1955, the Tennessee Williams play "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" opened on Broadway with Barbara Bel Geddes as Maggie, Ben Gazzara as Brick and Burl Ives as Big Daddy.
In 1976, the president of Argentina, Isabel Peron, was deposed by her country's military.
In 1980, one of El Salvador's most respected Roman Catholic Church leaders, Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero, was shot to death by gunmen as he celebrated Mass in San Salvador.
In 1989, the nation's worst oil spill occurred as the Exxon Valdez ran aground on a reef in Alaska's Prince William Sound and began leaking 11 million gallons of crude.
In 1999, NATO launched airstrikes against

Yugoslavia, marking the first time in its 50-year existence that it had ever attacked a sovereign country.

Today's Birthdays:
Animator Joseph Barbera is 94. Fashion and costume designer Bob Mackie is 65. Actor R. Lee Ermye is 61. Movie director Curtis Hanson is 60. Rock musician Lee Oskar is 57. Rock musician Dougie Thomson (Supertramp) is 54. Comedian Louie Anderson is 52. Actress Donna Pescow is 51. Actor Robert Carradine is 51. Actress Kelly LeBrock is 45. R&B DJ Rodney "Koolhaire" Terry (Ghostown DJs) is 44.

Answer to previous puzzle

SUMP	SUGAR	HEAP
CHAR	AGORA	ELMO
OUT	FWHACK	NCAR
WHATIF	THEORIZE	
ONICE	SIDES	
STACKTHEDECK		
ERGO	OSAKA	HON
RIOLOBO	MERCURY	
FOG	LISPS	AGEE
ASTEROID	BELT	
SNIP	ANNUAL	
CABINBOY	CLERIC	
ROSA	OFFTHECUFF	
AMER	SMOKE	ALSO
PINY	HEROD	REOS

Newsday Crossword MONKEY IN THE MIDDLE by Fred Piscop Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS**
 1 On one's toes
 6 Con game
 10 Colombo portrayer
 14 Put a lid on
 15 Circle dance
 16 Mideast gulf
 17 Madonna role
 19 A handful of
 20 FDR's middle name
 21 Drs.' org.
 22 Veracious
 23 Analogy phrase
 25 Moose feature
 27 Grow tiresome
 30 Well-put
 32 Astronomical altar
 33 Berg, essentially
 34 Strait-laced
 36 Coastal recess
 40 Ty Cobb's nickname
 43 Man of morals
 44 All keyed up
 45 Broadway hit sign
 46 Struck, as a match
 48 Emeritus: Abbr.
 49 Pal
 50 Broadcast snafu
 54 Oscar _____
 56 Street liners
 57 Narc's org.
 59 Assess a second time
 63 Oodles
 64 Cause of a slip, perhaps
- DOWN**
 1 Got 100 on
 2 Zero, on a court
 3 Villain's work
 4 Sell in a store
 5 _____fatty acid
 6 That ship
 7 Mrs. Dithers
 8 Coffee allure
 9 Procrastinator's word
 10 Speeder's place
 11 Be gaga over
 12 Tree-dwelling primate
 13 What shorts show
 18 Rice alternative
 24 Eye-popping paintings
 26 Horsefeathers
 27 Gyro bread
 28 Feel sore
 29 Light-Horse Harry's family
 31 American Leaguer
 34 Photo tone
 35 Ate fancily
 37 Mascara target
 38 Hosiery hue
- 39 _____ McAn
 41 Good student's reward
 42 To the rear, at sea
 47 Gossip morsel
 49 Magic flier
 50 Does casino work
 51 Dallas matriarch
 52 Dean Martin song subject
 53 Get hold of
 55 Turns pages, with "through"
 58 "Diana" singer
 60 Starter for nautical
 61 Office fill-in
 62 Yalies
 65 Novelist Rand

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Petty Enterprises shop crew chief John Hayworth, center, talks with a vendor in the same shop that Richard Petty's championship teams used.

Home comfort Petty Enterprises values history over glitz of newer racing facilities

By David Newton
Knight Ridder Newspapers

The concrete floor in the reaper shed where Lee Petty first began building stock cars remains 6 inches off from one side of the room to the other just as it did the day Richard Petty and his brother, Maurice, poured it almost 50 years ago.

One wall is the brick outside of another building constructed adjacent to the shed. On the other side of a pair of sealed garage doors is another building.

The additions run on and on like a maze, covering about 20,000 square feet of property on the farm land next to the house where "The King" of stock car racing was born.

This is Petty Enterprises.

This slice of history off Branson Mill Road in Level Cross, N.C., looks more like a museum than a race shop compared to the spacious, state-of-the-art facilities used by most NASCAR Nextel Cup teams.

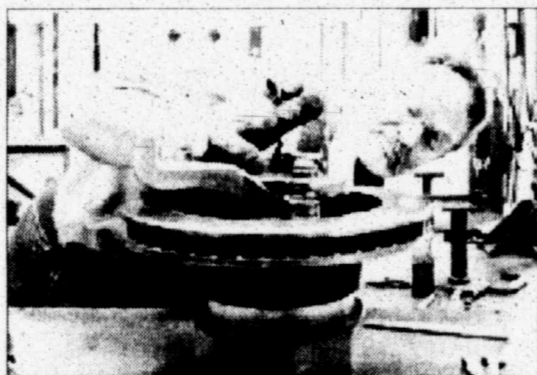
"I see all these big fancy shops in Charlotte (N.C.) and people ask us why we don't move, but this is our home," said Richard Petty, who won all seven of his Cup titles out of these buildings. "My daddy raced cars from here. I raced from here and we've always been here. It's who we are."

"You come up here and it's like walking into history."

Petty Enterprises is one of the last NASCAR teams to hang onto this kind of history.

But history doesn't win races. It's been six years since Petty Enterprises sent a car to Victory Lane. Richard's son, Kyle, hasn't won since he rejoined the family business in 1997.

"It's not the walls or the building," said Kyle, who runs the day-to-day operations at Petty Enterprises. "It's not the paint on the building. I could go build a brand-new shop and run it exact-



Master fabricator Richie Barsz has been with Petty Enterprises since 1970.

ly the way I'm running it today. That would just be money spent on the shop and not on the car.

"I would rather take that car in the position we're in and buy wind tunnel time, hire additional engineers, whatever it may be. That's the path we've chosen to take for the next five years."

John Hayworth pointed toward the ceiling at wires that once supported fenders and hoods in what was the Chrysler Barn during the days Petty Enterprises stored most of the Chrysler parts for NASCAR.

He then moved to the newest section of the facility where employees were busy working on Kyle's No. 45 Dodge Charger and the 43 car of Jeff Green.

"If we want glitz we can go to the new building and hang out if we feel like it," Hayworth said. "You've got a little bit of old buildings, a little bit of new, a little bit of old guys, a little bit of new guys."

"This is like a Lambeau Field to us. It's everything you'd ever need."

The new building would fit inside the paint room at Penske Racing South, which recently opened a 424,697-square-foot shop near Char-

lotte that has a 138-seat cafeteria, a 150-seat auditorium and nine conference rooms.

The closest thing Petty Enterprises has to an auditorium is a small table in the middle of the engineering department where videos are projected onto a white wall.

Other shops near Charlotte are just as fancy. Dale Earnhardt Inc.'s facility is so spectacular that it was dubbed the "Garage Mahal." Joe Gibbs Racing recently added a 105,000-square-foot addition to its state-of-the-art, 120,000-square-foot facility.

"When you come to Petty Enterprises and the buildings are 50 years old you look at it and say, 'This isn't the Garage Mahal. How do they compete with the same stuff?'" Kyle said.

"At the same time, when you look at the stuff we have and the tools we have, we have basically the same tools. Maybe not as much, but basically the same tools and same people and the same stuff."

Richie Barsz, 62, knows this as well. He has been with Petty Enterprises since 1970, longer than any full-time employee outside the Petty family.

"What isn't smoke and mirrors?" said Barsz, referring to the shops in Charlotte. "What isn't just to get the sponsor money higher? The world is telling me that technology is only as far away as that phone line. You can videoconference or whatever you want to do right here."

"You can't talk out of both sides of your mouth. Either technology is working for you or it isn't."

"It doesn't matter where you build race cars," Richard said. "These guys in Charlotte have really nice shops with all the glitz and glamour, but when you get to the track we all pull into a little concrete square-sized garage and go to work on them. We're all the same then."

"Level Cross is our home and we really haven't ever thought about moving away."

POLL POSITION

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

Which team has the best chance of recovering from early points woes and making it to the Chase for the Championship?

Cast your vote at:

www.thatstracin.com

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION

A lot of drivers have occupied the seat, but who was or is your favorite in the Budweiser-sponsored Cup car?

Number of votes: 10,233

Driver	No. of votes	Percent
Dale Earnhardt Jr.	4,421	43%
Bill Elliott	2,298	23%
Neil Bonnett	1,164	11%
Darrell Waltrip	1,146	11%
Ken Schrader	909	9%
Someone else	295	3%

STOP 'N' GO

Q & A WITH CARL EDWARDS

Before Edwards won his first Nextel Cup race Sunday at Atlanta, he earned his first Busch Series victory the day before. Although the Cup series is off this weekend, Edwards will continue his hunt for the Busch championship this weekend at Nashville Superspeedway.

Q: You rolled the dice with tire strategy and it worked.

Edwards: I was sweating it. I saw it towards the end and [crew chief] Brad Parrott said we were going to get a caution at 174 or something and it happened. Brad Parrott is an amazing crew chief. I can't say enough to the fans. That was so cool when we took the lead. I saw people cheering and that means a lot to me.

Q: You now lead the points.

Edwards: Championship or not, these races are fun, and we're here to win races and this was a good one.

Q: Talk about your hard racing with Jimmie Johnson and Tony Stewart during your race.

Edwards: If you just take all of the points and all of the money out of it, it's just a blast to race with those guys. Jimmie and Tony are just so good at what they do; it's really neat. There at the end, we just had better tires, and it really made our car look good and me look good. That's how we got by all of those guys.

— Jim Utter



Carl Edwards takes a celebratory flip off his car after winning the Golden Corral 500 Sunday at the Atlanta Motor Speedway.

BY THE NUMBERS

NEXTEL CUP POINTS LEADERS

The top-40 drivers as of March 20:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1 Jimmie Johnson	680	21 Jeremy Mayfield	410
2 Greg Biffle	598	22 Brian Vickers	389
3 Carl Edwards	593	23 Jeff Green	380
4 Kurt Busch	577	24 Kyle Petty	379
5 Mark Martin	539	25 Scott Wimmer	369
6 Ryan Newman	515	26 Dale Earnhardt Jr.	365
7 Tony Stewart	514	27 Michael Waltrip	352
8 Elliott Sadler	482	28 Kasey Kahne	349
9 Rusty Wallace	477	29 Joe Nemechek	349
10 Jamie McMurray	475	30 Bobby Hamilton Jr.	340
11 Kevin Harvick	469	31 Matt Kenseth	339
12 Jeff Gordon	464	32 Travis Kvapil	324
13 Mike Bliss	460	33 Ken Schrader	313
14 Dave Blaney	458	34 Jason Leffler	292
15 Dale Jarrett	456	35 Kevin Lepage	281
16 Sterling Marlin	438	36 Mike Wallace	267
17 Casey Mears	434	37 Bobby Labonte	250
18 Scott Riggs	432	38 John Andretti	225
19 Kyle Busch	420	39 Ricky Rudd	222
20 Jeff Burton	417	40 Robby Gordon	165

BUSCH SERIES POINTS LEADERS

The top-20 drivers as of March 19:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1 Carl Edwards	795	11 Randy LaJoie	503
2 Kevin Harvick	690	12 Shane Hmiel	482
3 Clint Bowyer	676	13 Justin Labonte	464
4 Reed Sorenson	670	14 Jon Wood	464
5 Martin Truex Jr.	668	15 David Green	462
6 Ashton Lewis	615	16 Tim Fedewa	458
7 David Stremme	576	17 Johnny Sauter	448
8 Kenny Wallace	539	18 Tony Stewart	446
9 Dennis Harlin	533	19 Jason Keller	440
10 Greg Biffle	505	20 Paul Menard	424

NEXT RACE: Saturday, Pepsi 300, Lebanon, Tenn.

TRUCK SERIES POINTS LEADERS

The top-10 drivers as of March 18:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1 Bobby Hamilton	525	6 Dennis Setzer	414
2 Ted Musgrave	460	7 Matt Crafton	401
3 Ricky Craven	439	8 Johnny Benson	401
4 Jimmy Spencer	438	9 David Starr	389
5 Ron Hornaday	422	10 Robert Huffman	378

NEXT RACE: April 9, Kroger 250, Martinsville, Va.

RANKINGS

THAT'S RACIN'S TOP PICKS

1. Jimmie Johnson (car No. 48): Even with Vegas penalty and narrow loss at Atlanta, this team is still the one to beat. Last week: 1.

2. Greg Biffle (car No. 16): Biffle was bumped by third place at Atlanta, but his team has been rock solid so far. Last week: 4.

3. Carl Edwards (car No. 99): What a breath of fresh air this guy's been. He's having tons of fun, and it's infectious. Last week: 10.

4. Mark Martin (car No. 6): Three top-10 finishes in four races this year. That's what he needs to make the Chase. Last week: 9.

5. Kurt Busch (car No. 97): Couldn't overcome all the hurdles Atlanta threw at him. Bristol's next, so watch out. Last week: 2.

6. Jeff Gordon (car No. 24): When you qualify better than 25th, you have a better shot of missing Lap 1 wrecks. Last week: 3.

7. Tony Stewart (car No. 20): We just keep waiting and waiting for this team to break out of its funk of mediocrity. Last week: 5.

8. Ryan Newman (car No. 12): Hey, here's an idea. How about trying NOT to win the pole every now and then. Last week: 6.

9. Elliott Sadler (car No. 38): Not doing anything dramatic, good or bad, so far in 2005. Will that be enough? Last week: 8.

10. Jamie McMurray (car No. 42): Another guy who has sort of hung around just outside of contention so far this year. Last week: 11.

For the rest of the top-40 rankings, go online and visit www.thatstracin.com.

Carl Edwards' double win at Atlanta is no upset

Carl Edwards might just be too good to actually be true. Forget for a second, the last time he's off to this year in both the NASCAR Nextel Cup and Busch Series.

His two victories this weekend at Atlanta Motor Speedway were a surprise since he's only started 24 races — total — in both series. But given how strong he'd looked before the sweep, it was more like a No. 9 seed beating a No. 8 than a No. 15 knocking off a No. 2.

It was rapidly becoming only a matter of time before Edwards won, especially in the Busch Series. The fact that he checked off his first wins in both series just advances him to the next level of challenges — contending for a Busch championship and a slot in the Chase for the Nextel Cup.

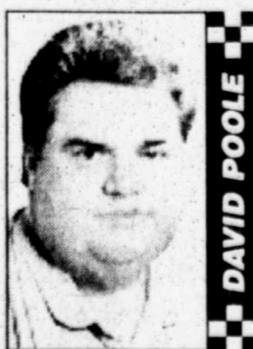
The best thing, though, is not what Edwards is doing. The real story is just how much fun this 25-year-old from

Missouri is having as he does it.

Sure, it's easy to have fun when things are going as well as they are for Edwards. But there have been plenty of young drivers who've stepped in at NASCAR's top levels and acted like they were absolutely miserable dealing with the responsibilities and demands that come along with the job.

Edwards, on the other hand, is just absolutely flipping out.

"Just look at what we're doing," Edwards said after Sunday's dramatic last-gasp pass of Jimmie Johnson for a victory in the Golden Corral 500. "It's the neatest thing in the world. ... We get to go out there and drive as hard as we can and think as hard as we can about how to make the cars faster."



DAVID POOLE

When Edwards started winning races in the NASCAR Truck Series in 2003, he began his celebratory ritual of cutting a back flip off of his vehicle. Until his win in Saturday's Aaron's 312, however, he hadn't tried it off the doorsill of the slightly shorter car, but he still pulled it off after both victories.

If Edwards weren't so genuine, such antics might appear forced or phony. But it's clear that he's jumping for joy.

The story of how Edwards got here is, again, almost too good to be true.

In 2002, he got a ride in the Truck Series with car owner Mike Mittler's team. He had only one top-10 finish in seven starts, but he did well enough with a team that was fighting uphill financially to get noticed by some of the folks at Roush Racing.

Team owner Jack Roush had plans

for Kyle Busch, intending to put Busch in the Truck Series once he turned 18 in 2003. But before the season, Busch jumped to Hendrick Motorsports and Roush tapped Edwards for a full schedule in that truck.

Edwards won three races, took rookie of the year honors and then was designated by Roush as the heir apparent for Mark Martin in Nextel Cup. Then, as Edwards was winning three more Truck races in 2004, Jeff Burton left the No. 99 team to jump to Richard Childress Racing. Roush put Edwards into that car and spent this off-season cobbling together sponsorship deals to keep the team running for Edwards.

When Edwards got to Victory Lane, you could see the wheels spinning as he tried to make sure to thank all of the sponsors and all of the people who'd helped make that moment possible. He'll get better at that, but it'll never sound more genuine and heartfelt as it did Sunday.