Page 1B

VOLUME 101, NUMBER 107

THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 2005

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 WEEKEND

Health Fair to focus on public safety as well

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

While the focus of Saturday's Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce Health Fair is encompassed in the theme "Prevention is the Key to Good Health," demonstrations and classes will go well beyond just normal health issues.

"Big Spring Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association will be focusing on child safe-

ty," said Debbye ValVerde. executive director of the chamber. "They will be conducting interactive safety skits with children — teaching them about the 10 rules of stranger safety. There will be an educational video and RSVP has provided handouts titled "Billy's Safe Adventure: Stranger Safety." They will also have coloring books about bicycle safe-

ValVerde said the Big Spring

on hand to help educate fairgoers on protecting themselves. both in everyday life and in cyberspace.

"The police department will have an officer present to demonstrate Internet safety," said ValVerde. "He will demonstrate how easy it can be for a predator to obtain private information in a chat room situation. BSPD Cpl. Gilbert Barraza

Police Department will also be techniques for situations where personal safety might be an issue. These techniques are easy to use after some specialized training and require no equipment.

"The Big Spring Fire Department will be on hand with safety material and firsthand instruction on 'Stop-Dropand Roll' safety for children and adults, as well. These instructions will stress personwill demonstrate self-defense al safety if a fire should occur See HEALTH, Page 3A

What: Health Fair 2005. Where: Dorothy Garrett

Coliseum.

When: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday.

in your home."

ValVerde said this year's

Bee careful, fire marshal warns

Numerous reports of swarms reported

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

It's time to talk about the birds and the bees and forget about the birds.

Warmer weather is bringing a familiar, and sometimes frightful sight to the Crossroads area, as swarms of bees begin to form and travel in search of new homes.

Carl Condray, fire marshal for the city of Big Spring, said his office is already receiving reports of swarms of bees in the area, and while the presence of the infamous "Africanized bees" is a reason for caution, a few simple rules can keep people safe.

"During this swarming time we receive numerous calls from panicked Africanized variety or individuals fearing a bee attack," said Condray.

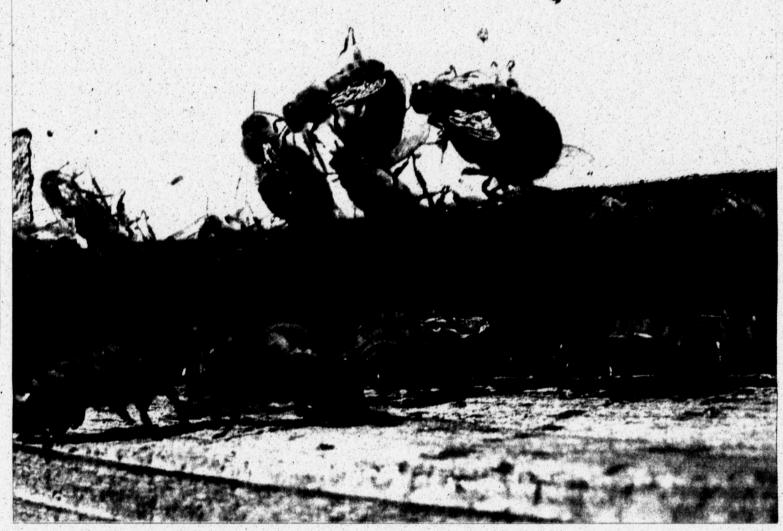
"...it is always the best course of practice to simply

leave them alone. Usually, the swarm will move on in just a few days."

unless the hive is threatened. Therefore it is always the best course of. practice to simply leave them alone. Usually, the swarm will move on in just a few days."

Condray said prevention is the key to safety when bees, whether they are of the more territorial everyday honey bees, are

"Most bees will not attack See BEES, Page 3A



These honeybees hurry about their day-to-day business in a controlled hive. Local agriculture officials speculate more than 90 percent of the bees in Howard County have been exposed to the genes of the Africanized bees, sometimes referred to as "killer bees."

Most hives in county exposed to African gene, agent says

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

Africanized honey bees, also known as "Africanized bees" or "killer bees," are descendants of southern African bees imported to South America in

Brazilian scientists were attempting to breed a honey bee better adapted to the tropics. Unfortunately, some of the

began breeding with local Brazilian honey bees. Since 1957, pure African bees and their hybrid offspring, the Africanized honey bee, have vigorously multiplied and extended their range throughout South, Central, and North America at rates frequently exceeding 200 miles per year.

Because they are highly defensive and will attack perthan the common European honey bee, they are also known by the popular name "killer bees.'

Howard County Extension Agent Tommy Yeater said the spread of Africanized bees in West Texas has been tremen-

the bee hives in Howard

bees escaped quarantine and ceived intruders more readily Africanized bees," said Yeater. bees have had little or no effect "They're not necessarily the on honey production. The same bees that have been migrating, but they have been exposed to the African gene."

"killer bees" on honey production in the county have been minimal.

"We have a few people in the "I'd say about 99 percent of county that produce honey," said Yeater. "My understand-County are made up of ing of it is these Africanized See GENE, Page 3A

African bees produce honey just like the European bees."

The first land-migrating Yeater said the impact of the swarm of Africanized bees was detected in the United States on October 15, 1990. These bees were captured in a baited trap in Hidalgo. More Africanized Bees were quickly located in

Coahoma residents briefed on benefits of rural initiative

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

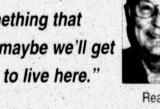
COAHOMA — Coahoma residents interested in starting their own Rural Community College Initiative effort got a better idea about what they may be getting into seeks to bring rural com-Tuesday night.

About 15 residents met with members of Big cise effort toward improv- area. Locally, that, effort Spring's RCCI program at ing the economic and is

the Coahoma Community Center Tuesday night. Above all, they learned that turning a community's fortunes around is going to take a lot of effort over several years.

RCCI is a program that munity leaders together in order to develop a con-social conditions in that Howard College.

"I think this will be good for us, too. If (Big Spring) lands something that brings 100 families in, maybe we'll get some of those families to live here."



Jan Foresyth, team leader of the Big Spring

of her cohorts briefed Coahoma residents on their efforts.

"We tell everyone that Howard College wants to help make rural communities a better place to live, and that is what this is all about," Foresyth said. "We feel like we've made some headway There's a lot of work still See RCCI, Page 3A

RCCI project, and several to do, but we're making progress ... Howard College is here to help you make your community a better place to live."

Foresyth and other Big Spring RCCI program members told their Coahoma counterparts that improving life in a community would take a

NDEX

Classified 3-5B **Features** 6-7A

Obituaries Opinion

Find us online at: **Sports** www.bigspringherald.com

To reach us:

Please call 263-7331. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you miss your paper, please call (432) 263-7335 before 7 p.m. weekdays and noon Sunday.

FUN WALK & RUN



The Master the Mountain Fun Walk & Fun Run is scheduled Saturday at Big Spring State Park. Late registration will be accepted at 8

spearheaded

a.m. on the day of the races, which begin at 9 a.m. Registration is \$10 and includes a T-shirt.

Medals will be awarded for first, second and third male and female finishers in each category.

TAX DEADLINE NEARS

Post office won't have late hours

The clock is ticking and Uncle Sam is keeping time as the annual tax deadline approaches. Area taxpayers that have not yet filed their federal income tax returns will have until 5 p.m. Friday to have their documents stamped with the all-important April 15 post mark. The Big Spring Post Office will close its windows at 5 p.m. Friday and all mail will be collected from the drop boxes, located behind the facility and in its lobby, at 5:30 p.m.

AMERICAN PROFILE



Eileen Collins, who was raised in Elmira, N.Y. (pop. 30,940), is the nation's first and only female commander of the Space

Shuttle. She will be guiding the shuttle as it makes it next voyage into space in May.

Obituaries

Tomilee Ford



Tomilee Ford, 80, of Coahoma died at 10 p.m. Tuesday, April 12, 2005, at Hospice House in Odessa. Funeral services will be at 4 p.m. Friday, April 15, 2005, at Myers & Smith Chapel with Russell Mullins, minister of the Coahoma Church of Christ and Ralph Anderson, minister of the Birdwell Lane Church of Christ, officiating. Burial will be in Trinity Memorial

The family will receive friends from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. today at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

She was born Oct. 21, 1924, in Nolan County to Thomas Jefferson Lynn and McKinley Yardley Lynn. She had been a resident of Howard County since 1941. She was a retired licensed vocational nurse, having worked 16 years at the Big Spring State Hospital. She was a member of the Coahoma Church of Christ.

She is survived by her husband, Carl Ford of Coahoma; one son, Mickey Don Coates and his wife, Donna of Burleson; one daughter, Pamela Joann Martin and her husband, Dave of Port Aransas; two brothers, Thomas Lynn of Euless and Wayne Lynn of Fort Worth; two stepdaughters, Paula Henry and her husband, Neal, and Lana Henderson and her husband, Eddie, all of Big Spring; 11 grandchildren; several great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents she was preceded in death by one son, Carroll Coates Jr., and one sister, Lois

Pallbearers will be Jack Buchanan, James Fryar, Randall Reid, Carl Dale Reid, Larry Pherigo and Ovis

The family suggests memorials to the Medina Children's Home, 21300 State Highway 16 North, Medina 78055.

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

Burnis Lee Mason



Burnis Lee Mason of Sand Springs, 82, passed away Tuesday, April 12, 2005, at his residence in Kemah, where he and Mrs. Mason had just recently relocated to be near their son, daughter-in-law and grandson.

Services for Mr. Mason will be at 2 p.m., Friday, April 15, 2005, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with Billy Bates, officiating and the Rev. Donita Lee assisting. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 7

p.m. today at the funeral home. He was born Nov. 19, 1922, in Cleburne and married

Lida Frances Johnson, April 4, 1946, in Big Spring. Mr. Mason retired from Alon Refinery, previously known as Fina Oil and Chemical and before that as Cosden Refinery, as a lab operator in 1982, after 41

years of service. Burnis was a member of the First United Methodist Church of Coahoma and served as a board member. He was also a member of the Operating Engineers Local 826, Sand Springs Lions Club and the Big Spring Senior Citizens. Mr. Mason proudly served in the United States Navy for 3 1/2 years before he was medically discharged.

Survivors include his wife of the home, Lida Frances Mason; one son and daughter-in-law, Melvin and Debbie Mason of League City; one grandson, Jeff Mason of League City; one granddog, Martin Mason, who Burnis dearly loved; two sisters, Lyn Nell Ray of Big Spring and Lee Ida Rainey of Austin; and several nephews and nieces.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Albert and Goldie Mason and one brother, Burton Mason.

Burnis was an avid fisherman. He was a loving husband and father, liked and loved by many and will be greatly missed.

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

Paid obituary

Gary Wiggins
Gary Wiggins, 61, of Big Spring died at 1 p.m. Wednesday, April 13, 2005, at Midland Memorial Hospital. Services are 2 p.m. Saturday, April 16, 2005, at Myers & Smith Chapel. The family will receive friends from 7 p.m. until 8 p.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Grover H. Wayland

Grover H. Wayland, 89, of Big Spring died Wednesday, April 13, 2005, at his residence. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Support groups

- · 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.

Police blotter

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

- IRMA CANO DAWSON, 43, of 2004 Johnson, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of criminal trespass. JAMEY SCOTT JOHNSON, 42, of 2004 Johnson,
- was arrested Wednesday on a charge of criminal tres-
- · LISA ANN TURNER, 42, of 426 Westover Road, was arrested Thursday on a charge of public intoxica-
- ROY DALE HUTCHESON, 21, of 505 Goliad, was arrested Thursday on local traffic warrants. UNAUTHORIZED USE OF A MOTOR VEHICLE
- was reported in the 400 block of Fourth Street. • THEFT was reported in the 400 block of Birdwell
- CRIMINAL TRESPASS was reported in the 200
- block of FM 700. CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 3200
- block of Avenue C.

Sheriff's report

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

- · JOHNNY AGUILAR MARTINEZ, 34, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for possession of a controlled substance.
- · ALLISON REDDING, 33, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for theft
- · EDWARD DEAN ATKINSON, 38, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on charges of operating an unregistered vehicle and no liability insurance.
- ERNEST GUERRA, 57, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department reported the follow

- MEDICAL was reported in the 700 block of W. I-20 at 8:05 a.m. Wednesday. One person was transported to
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1000 block of N. Owens at 1:34 p.m. Wednesday. Service was refused.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 700 block of Lancaster at 1:36 p.m. Wednesday. One person was transported to the VAMC.
- · MEDICAL was reported in the 1700 block of Lancaster at 7:08 p.m. Wednesday. One person was transported to SMMC.
- · MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87 at 5:42 a.m. Wednesday. One person was transported to the VAMC.

Take note

- PROM MEETING FOR PARENTS OF BIG SPRING HIGH SCHOOL JUNIOR CLASS students at 7 p.m. today in the high school library. Call Cindy New at 2676237 for more information.
- ROUGHRIDERS RELAY FOR LIFE TEAM GARAGE SALE 8 a.m. until 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday in the Big Spring Mall to benefit the American Cancer Society.
- AMERICAN LEGION POST 506 FISH FRY from noon until 3 p.m. Saturday. \$7 per plate, carry out available. 3203 W. Highway 80. Call 263-2084 for more information.
- · ANNUAL HEALTH FAIR, "Prevention is the Key to Good Health," sponsored by the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce is set for 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. Saturday in Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.
- A RABIES CLINIC OF VACCINATIONS FOR DOGS AND CATS IS SCHEDULED AT THE FOR-SAN FIRE STATION from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. Sunday. Call Western Hills Animal Clinic at 267-5721 or JEAN-NIE Pitts at 263-3236 for more information.
- HERITAGE MUSEUM ANNUAL CHUCK WAGON PARTY from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m., April 21 at Kokopelli's, 4007 Chaparral Road. \$15 per person. Call the museum at 267-8255.
- OPEN HOUSE FOR NEW HOPE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL is set for 6:30 p.m. until 8 p.m April 21. The school is located at 118 Cedar Road. Cal 263-0203 for more information.
- COMMUNITY-WIDE FLEA MARKET SPON-SORED BY KEEP BIG SPRING BEAUTIFUL is set for 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. April 23 in the Big Spring Mall parking lot. Booth applications may be obtained at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, 215 W. Third
- · BIG SPRING POW-WOW in the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum April 23-24. Contact Janice Bishop, 264-0060, ext. 501 or Robert Downing at 263-3255 for more information.
- ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN BRING AND BUY SALE IS SET FOR 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. April 23. The church is located at 1001 Goliad.
- · BIG SPRING DAY IN AUSTIN is set for April 27. Contact the chamber of commerce at 263-7641.
- RSVP ANNUAL VOLUNTEER BANQUET April. 28. Contact Nancy Jones at 264-2397.
- MOSS ELEMENTARY PTA SPRING CARNIVAL is set for 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. April 29. The concession stand will open at 5:30 p.m. and remain open until 7:15 p.m. A silent auction and door prizes will also begin at 5:30 p.m. Booths are open from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. There are about 18 booths.

Bulletin board

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

TODAY

- · Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane. Call 267-
- · Friends of the Library meets at noon in the Howard County Library, 500 S. Main.
- · Big Spring Main Street meets at noon in the Railroad Museum located at Second and Main
 - · American Legion Auxiliary meets at 6 p.m. at 3203 W. Highway 80.
- · Prom meeting for parents of Big Spring High School junior class students at 7 p.m. in the high school library. Call Cindy New at 2676237 for more information.
- The Prospector's Club meets at 7:30 p.m. at 606 E. Third St. The public is invited to these meetings. For more information contact Lola Lamb at 263-3340 or Doyle and Virginia McClain at 263-8407.
- Masonic Lodge 598 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 2101
- Lancaster. · Masonic Lodge 1340 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 219 Main
- . Neighbors and Newcomers Club meets. New members are welcome. Call 263-2005 for more infor-

FRIDAY

- Roughriders Relay for Life team garage sale 8 a.m. until 8 p.m. in the Big Spring Mall to benefit the American Cancer Society
- · Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 10th and Goliad. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281.
- AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant. Greater Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell
- Spring City Senior Citizen's Center country and western dance from 7:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. featuring Monroe Casey and the Prowlers. All area senior citizens are invited.

SATURDAY

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

Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 5-16-23-30-31. Number matching five of five: 2. Prize per winner: \$17,489. Winning tickets sold in: Del Rio and Bellmead. Next Cash 5 drawing: Thursday night.

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 2-14-21-22-36. Bonus Ball:

Estimated jackpot for Saturday night drawing: \$41

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 6-3-7

Weather

Tonight - Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 50s. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.

Friday - Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the mid 70s. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph. Friday night - Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent

chance of thunderstorms. Lows in the lower 50s. South winds 10 to 15 mph. Saturday - Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 70s.

Light and variable winds becoming southeast 10 to 15 mph in the afternoon. Saturday night - Mostly cloudy. Lows around 50.

Sunday - Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Highs in the mid 70s. Sunday night - Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent

chance of thunderstorms. Lows in the lower 50s. Monday - Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Highs around 80. Monday night - Partly cloudy with isolated thunder-

storms. Lows in the lower 50s. The chance of rain is 20 percent. Tuesday - Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 80s.

storms. Lows in the mid 50s. The chance of rain is 20 percent. Wednesday - Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance

Tuesday night - Partly cloudy with isolated thunder-

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of thunderstorms. Highs around 80.

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Castroville fa ex-boyfriend

CASTROVIL ex-girlfriend, other family n

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The man us killing his 22-y old mother an 13-year-old sis said. The woman'

and her sister gunshot woun for the Medina No identifica Police receiv

alerting them **Texas Range** cies were coll Thursday, Mc Castroville is

Texas officia in death of M (AP) - Invest

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Severance's de The Maine n Base in Abilen Pathologists Examiner's C Severance's ca

investigator. "We're waiting the final defin said Lt. Curt spokesman.

Severance's

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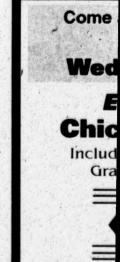
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concerted effor variety of front In Big Spr effort has cor itself in fou Community in nomic develop cational access

county partner Attracting ne is a goal for all community, b steps toward tion necessar improving the ty's image, ma school studen the necessary and education ing officials w er to achieve t Foresyth said.

"Community to precede development, "If businesses and don't like see, we're not them." Throughout

evening, Big S officials outlin the goals and they have e and encourage residents to w similar goals. Howard



Castroville family shot by woman's ex-boyfriend, police say

CASTROVILLE (AP) - A man shot and killed his ex-girlfriend, her mother and brother, wounded two other family members and then committed suicide, authorities said.

Investigators think the 27-year-old man was disgruntled over a break up when he broke into the family's home late Wednesday, possibly through a window in the kitchen, said Castroville Police Chief R.L. McVay.

The man used a shotgun to fire at the family. killing his 22-year-old former girlfriend, her 44-yearold mother and younger brother and wounding her 13-year-old sister and 41-year-old stepfather, McVay said.

The woman's stepfather was in critical condition and her sister in stable condition after sustaining gunshot wounds, said Missy Findling, a dispatcher for the Medina County Sheriff's Office.

No identifications were immediately available. Police received a call around 11:30 p.m. Wednesday alerting them to the shooting.

Texas Rangers and investigators from other agencies were collecting evidence from the scene early Thursday, McVay said.

Castroville is about 15 miles west of San Antonio.

Texas officials await findings in death of Maine-born airman

(AP) - Investigators are awaiting medical findings that could tell them what caused the death of a 24year-old Air Force staff sergeant whose body was found tied to cinder blocks at the bottom of a west Texas pond.

Texas authorities have termed Michael Leslie Severance's death a homicide.

The Maine native was stationed at Dyess Air Force Base in Abilene and served in Iraq and Afghanistan. Pathologists from the Lubbock County Medical Examiner's Office have been conferring about Severance's case, said Robert Byers, the office's chief investigator.

"We're waiting for the results from the autopsy for the final definition of what Mr. Severance died of," said Lt. Curtis Milbourn, a San Angelo police spokesman.

Severance's wife, Wendi Davidson, reported him missing on Jan. 16. His body was found in a stock tank near San Angelo on March 6.

Davidson filed for divorce the day after she reported Severance missing. The couple married on Sept.

Authorities say Davidson told her brother she found her husband dead in bed on Jan. 15 and hid his body, fearing that someone in her family had killed

Davidson, 26, of San Angelo, was charged March 5 with tampering with evidence.

Davidson was originally held on \$500,000. She was released on bail Friday after a judge reduced the amount to \$50,000, Tom Green County Jail officials

A veterinarian, Davidson has resumed working at her San Angelo practice, which closed after her

RCCI

Continued from Page 1A

concerted effort along a variety of fronts.

In Big Spring, that effort has concentrated itself in four areas: Community image, economic development, educational access, and citycounty partnership.

Attracting new business is a goal for almost every community, but the first steps toward that direction necessarily mean improving the community's image, making sure school students receive the necessary training and education, and having officials work together to achieve those goals, Foresyth said.

"Community image has to precede economic development," she said. "If businesses come here, and don't like what they see, we're not going to get them."

Throughout evening, Big Spring RCCI officials outlined some of the goals and progress they have established, similar goals.

Howard

Bill Commissioner Crooker complimented those in attendance for getting the process start-

"I compliment you people on being here," Crooker said. "This is the first step — and it's a big

Crooker said there was no reason that smaller communities such as couldn't Coahoma progress economically.

"We just don't know what our assets are," Crooker said. "We have between 8,000 and 10,000 cars pass through here on (Interstate 20) every day. If we could just get 1 percent or 2 percent of them to stop for awhile, what could happen?"

Coahoma residents will start taking control of their own effort when they next meet on May 3. Mayor Bill Read was one who was optimistic that a partnership with Big Spring's RCCI effort would be beneficial for all concerned.

"I think this will be good for us, too," Read said. "If (Big Spring) lands something that and encouraged Coahoma brings 100 families in, residents to work toward maybe we'll get some of those families to live County here."

> Come and Dine from 5 pm - 10 pm for \$3.99! **Wednesday and Friday**

Evening Specials Chicken Strip Basket

Includes French Fries, Texas Toast, Gravy & Drink of your choice.



267-4000

HEALTH

Continued from Page 1A

health fair will focus a great deal on screenings and other preventive tests. to help keep people healthy, now and in the future.

"It's so important that people know what's happening with their bodies," said ValVerde. "These tests and screenings can be very important in catching problems early, before they become major problems or even life threatening.'

However, ValVerde said it's hard for coordinators

Continued from Page 1A

"If they are resting in

your yard, try to remove

your pets and keep chil-

dren out of the area until

Condray. "Use caution

when entering sheds or

outbuildings where bees

might be nesting. The

same precautions hold

true for wasp nests.

Examine your yard and

work areas before using

lawn mowers and other

to bee safety," he added.

"Start by educating your-

self and your children

about how bees behave.

Remove possible nesting

sites from your property.

Seal all openings that are

an inch or larger in walls.

chimneys and vents. Fine

"Prevention is the key

said

they move,"

BEES

tests and screenings will be available during the fair, which is slated for 9. a.m. until 2 p.m. Saturday at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

let us know what they plan to offer," said ValVerde. "I do know we'll have some of the same tests we've offered in the past — tests for tests. We're also going to bring back the PSA Specific (Prostate to detect prostate cancer)

inch and smaller will pre- swelling and discomfort.

an area. Condray said the best rule to follow if a swarm is encountered is also the simplest - stay away.

"As a general rule stay. away from all honeybee swarms and colonies," said Condray. "If encountered, get away quickly and try to protect your face and eyes as much as possible. Take shelter in a car or building. Most importantly, don't stand and swat at the bees, as the rapid motions will cause them to sting.

"If stung, go to a safe area. Scrape the stinger out with your fingernail or something like a credit card or knife - don't squeeze it with tweezers, as this will release more venom. Wash the site with soap and water then

enough funding for 50 PSA tests, but we'd like to have at least 100." ValVerde said the corporate sponsors for the

"A lot of entities don't event have been gathered over the past several months.

ValVerde said sponsors include ALON USA. Adult Protective Services, glaucoma, blood pressure Therapy, Caring Heats for screenings, and that's a checks and blood sugar Home Health, Express tradition we would like to Medical Supply, H-E-B, KBST, KBYG, Mountain View Lodge, Paradigm funding.' Antigen, commonly used Physical Therapy and Sports Science Center, tests, but we're not sure Scenic Mountain Medical office at 263-7641.

screening material 1/8 apply ice to reduce the heat and elements. vent bees from entering Seek medical treatment if you begin to experience difficulty breathing or have known allergies to

> insect stings.' Condray said the swarms, sometimes appearing as a large "ball" of bees, is a natural reaction by the bees to find a new home. And while the appearance of these swarms may seem intimidating, chances are the insects will simply move on in a few days.

"Swarming is a natural occurrence and simply means that a hive has become too big for its housing and split up to seek new shelter," said Condray. "You may see them gathering in vacant lots and buildings. They are generally looking for some type of cover to provide them protection from

to know exactly what at this point just how Center, the VA Medical Center and Warren many we'll have. We have Chiropractic.

There is no admission fee for the fair, but ValVerde did say some of the tests and screenings may require a small fee.

"We're doing our best to find sponsors for the PSA screenings so we won't have to charge for them.' she said. "We've never Big Spring Physical had to charge for the tests continue, but it's going to be dependent on sponsor

> For more information. contact the chamber

"They can form their own shelter by clustering up in a big ball with the queen in the middle. This is how they are often found when resting in trees and bushes. Most of the time they will stop for a few days of rest then move on to find proper quarters."

While "live and let live" is the best policy according to Condray, he said it's not always possible.

"If you feel that a hive must be eradicated contact a licensed exterminator for assistance," said Condray: "Call 911 if you witness an attack or experience multiple stings.

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

GENE

power tools.

Continued from Page 1A

Brownsville as well. Africanized honey bee colonies were first reported in Arizona and New Mexico in 1993 and Nevada in 1998.

The first California discovery was in October of 1994; one year later more than 8,000 square miles of Imperial, Riverside and northeastern San Diego counties were declared officially colonized.

To date, some 152 counties in Texas, 10 counties in New Mexico, all 15 counties in Arizona, three counties in Nevada, and 12 counties in California have reported Africanized honey bee finds.

The bees reached an apparent climactic limit to their southern range in and their range is expected to be similarly limited to the southern and coastal states in the United States.

some extent with resident urban habitats. Examples wild and hive populations include cavities in hollow of European honey bees, trees and rock walls,

also called native honey bees. However, many of the basic African honey bee traits remain, including rapid population growth, frequent swarming, minimal hoarding of honey, the ability to survive on sparse supplies of pollen and nectar, and a highly defensive nature.

Africanized honey bees are more difficult to manage than European honey bees and produce less. honey. The businesses of many beekeepers in Latin American countries have failed as a result of Africanization of the native hives.

Africanized honey bees are not expected to have the same impact in the United States because of advanced beekeeping technology and climactic limitations on the spread of the species.

Africanized bees are the middle of Argentina, less selective than our native bees when choosing nesting sites. Many natural and man-made objects have been colonized by Africanized They have hybridized to swarms in both rural and

sheds, porches, crawl spaces; attics and utility meter boxes. Even trash cans, discarded automobile tires and abandoned cars have been selected by swarming bees as a suitable nest.

Because most of the bee hives in Howard County have been exposed to the Africanized bee genes, Yeater said local residents shouldn't take any chances when it comes to moving or exterminating a hive.

"This isn't something people should try to do themselves," said Yeater. They need to call an experienced beekeeper or an exterminator. Don't take any chances."

For a normal, healthy person who is not systematically allergic to receive a deadly dose of bee venom, it would take about 10 stings for each pound of body weight, or 1,500 stings at once for a 150-pound person.

Note: This story was prepared using information Encarta. Encyclopedias, Smithsonian Institute Encyclopedia and Sting

Shield Insect Veil.

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

MYERS & SMITH **FUNERAL HOME** & CHAPEL

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Gladys Clinton, 75. died Tuesday morning Funeral Services were at 2:00 PM Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park Tomilee Ford, 80, died

Tuesday. Funeral Services will be at 4:00 PM Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Trinity Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 5:00 until 7:00 PM Thursday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Gary Wiggins, 61, died

Wednesday. Services will be at 2:00 PM Saturday at Myers & Smith Chapel. The family will receive friends from 7:00 until 8:00 PM Friday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Amy E. Reese D.D.S., P.C. 432-267-4102

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The public is cordially invited to attend

TRUDY

RUBIN

"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.

John A. Moseley Managing Editor Bill McClellan News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Prevention focus for health fair set for this weekend

utting the focus on your health ... particularly the fact that prevention is the key to good health ... is why the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce is holding it's annual Health Fair on Saturday at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

While an errant editorial appeared in the Herald earlier this week, it's important that we make sure area residents realize what will be taking place during the Health Fair and why it is important to attend...

All sorts of screenings and preventative tests will be offered during the fair — all of them aimed at helping keep people health - tests for glaucoma, blood pressure, blood sugar, prostate cancer, etc.

In addition the Big Spring Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association will be focusing on child safety, conducting interactive safety skits with children — teaching them about the 10 rules of stranger safety. In addition, the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) has provided handouts titled Billy's Safe Adventure: Stranger Safety. What's more, coloring books about bicycle safety will also be available.

Big Spring police officers will be on hand to provide Internet safety demonstrations, as well as offer self-defense technique demonstrations. Big Spring firefighters will also be on hand with safety materials and provide instruction in the "Stop-Drop-and Roll" technique for children and

And that's just a sampling of what's going to be offered at the fair, which is slated for 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the coliseum.

For more information about the health fair, contact the chamber office at 263-7641.

Furthermore, don't forget that in conjunction with the Health Fair, the public is invited to participate in the annual Master the Mountain 5kilometer walk and 5- and 10-kilometer runs.

Held at Big Spring State Park atop Scenic Mountain, the friendly event offers beautiful, scenic views. The cost is \$10 per person. The entry fee includes a special T-shirt and there are prizes for winners. Pre-registration is at 8 a.m. at the park, with races to begin at 9 a.m.

So come on out Saturday and join in the festivities. We can all afford to pay a little more attention to healthy living.

As we noted earlier, it just might be the best and most important fun you've ever had.

How To Contact Us

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

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

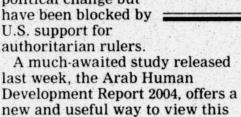
LETTER POLICIES

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

Arab report promotes indigenous democracy

ne of the most hotly debated questions in the Arab world - and in the United States - is whether the Bush administration has sparked a democratic tsunami in the Middle East.

U.S. officials argue that Iraqi elections along with presidential rhetoric on Arab democracy, have inspired reformers throughout the region. Many Arab intellectuals retort that they have been struggling for years to effect social and political change but have been blocked by U.S. support for authoritarian rulers



key debate. Written by 39 Arab intellectuals and sponsored by the U.N. Development Program, the report is the third in an annual series that has laid bare the Arab world's glaring "deficits" in productivity, creativity, women's rights and political institutions. This volume spells out in detail the deficits in Arab freedoms and good governance (see http://hdr.undp.org/).

The report blasts Arab governments' restrictions on civil society and press freedoms, and violations of minority rights — citing the suffering in Darfur. It decries the lack of freedom of opinion and expression, and the right to associate, in Arab states. And it points out most Arab presidential elections are cosmetic.

Most important, the authors stress the desire of Arabs for freedom, whether or not they envision Western-style democracy: "There is a rational and understandable thirst among Arabs to be rid of despots and to enjoy democratic

The good news is these reports are written by Arabs and for

governance."

Arabs. And they break a taboo in a region where the media have long been prone to blame Western plots for the problems at home.

The authors faced the charge that they were providing the United States with a pretext to meddle in Arab affairs, especially since U.S. officials have often cited the earlier reports. Their reply, in the preface to the new volume: "The only way for Arabs to deal with the ambitions of others 1/8meaning U.S. ambitions in the region3/8 is to recognize and overcome their own weaknesses." In other words, in the post-9/11 world, Arabs must reform from within if they want to prevent outsiders from intervening in their affairs.

But the volume makes clear that the authors, too, are suspicious about President Bush's promotion of Arab democracy. They state that the U.S. occupation of Iraq and Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories are key impediments to Arab freedoms. (The report went to press before the Iraqi and Palestinian elections.)

The White House was so annoyed that it reportedly tried to block the report's publication. In the end, few changes were made.

"When it comes to outside intervention from the United States, people question the motives," says Rima Khalaf Hunaidi, the development program's regional director for Arab states, who oversaw the report. "The (European Union) and Bush started to pursue (Arab democratic) reform on account of terrorism. Arabs seek it because they have been deprived of dignified life in the past."

Mistrust of U.S. intentions is especially strong among Sunni Arabs living in countries still under authoritarian rule. They look at the events in Iraq, or Lebanon, as special cases. That makes it much harder for Arab reformers to take advantage of U.S. pressures for change. They fear that any association with Western democracy efforts is a political kiss of death.

What's most extraordinary about the new U.N. report is that its authors have taken a more pragmatic approach toward what they call "reform initiatives from outside." They recognize Arabreformers can't do the job themselves, and say they must figure out how to make use of external pressure "and maximize its contribution."

I asked Khalaf how U.S. officials could help Arab reformers, not undercut them. Her reply:

First, for outside cooperation to be fruitful, it must press for more political rights for Arabs of all political outlooks — even Islamists as long as they accept nonviolence and democratic rules. "If you marginalize the political opposition, if you don't allow Islamic parties access to power, some of them will go underground and become violent."

This is quite risky. But if Islamist parties in Iraq and Lebanon show they will abide by democratic precepts, the time may soon arrive to let such parties operate elsewhere. This seems to be the new thinking of the Bush

Khalaf's second point: To "get the confidence of Arabs," the United States must continue to tackle the Palestinian issue.

What the Human Development Report suggests is that U.S. efforts to promote Arab democracy could help Sunni Arab reformers — if U.S. officials listen to what the Arabs are saying. And read the

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the Philadelphia Inquirer. Readers may write to her at: Philadelphia Inquirer, P.O. Box 8263, Philadelphia, Pa. 19101, or by email at trubin@phillynews.com.



More secrecy means less security

eware all you parents, firefighters, scientists, librarians and others who care about public health, safety and information: Last year the federal government classified information as secret more times than ever before.

In 2004, Washington bureaucrats kept secrets a record 15.6 million times, 10 percent more times than in 2003, and nearly twice as many as'in 2001, according to National Archives data released April 5.

Imagine you're a citizen activist or a firefighter concerned about the threat to your community from toxic pollutants or explosives from a nearby chemical plant. Imagine the government denies you the data to verify the nature and extent of the danger. How can you push local officials to fix the problems so your children can be safe at school and home?

Suppose you're an FBI translator who was fired because you blew the whistle on agency incompetence in not acting on evidence that may have prevented the 9/11 attack - and the Justice Department's own inspector general backed up your claims. How can you get the documents you need to get your job back when your entire case has been declared

Such cases make up the thousands of such denials every year. And ironically, while government

made its own record. To gather data from government, the public is using the Freedom of Information Act more today than at any point since its passage: Last year the public filed a record 3 million requests. Perhaps there's a connection. Denied more data from government, the public is forced to resort to using this cumbersome law to get information agencies routinely deny us.

Of course in wartime a few more secrets would be expected, but officials and institutions are too quick to classify information without fully considering the public's need to know it. Often secrecy is used as a smokescreen to prevent embarrassment or hide wrongdoing, as in the Abu Ghraib prisoner abuse scandal. A few more numbers: The new

data show that government has also been releasing fewer old secrets. Declassification has dropped 70 percent from 100 million pages in 2000 to 28 million in 2004, the lowest point in nearly a decade.

And secrecy is very costly to taxpayers. In 2003, the executive branch spent \$120 to make and keep documents secret for every \$1 spent to declassify others. The overall federal budget crunch will make it all worse unless new controls and resources are put in place. (Openness, by contrast, can save money: Whistleblowers

hit a record for secrecy, the public helped recoup \$1.5 billion in tax

money in 2003.)

On top of all this, federal bureaucrats have for years been keeping some unclassified information from the public by merely labeling it "sensitive." However, if revealing such information could harm national security, it should be classified - and if not, it must be made public. Too often "that's sensitive" or "that's a secret" really means "I have something to hide."

So how do we fix this? Congress and the executive branch must overhaul the way the government keeps secrets. The safety and security of our democracy - from threats to national security and public health — depend on the government's keeping secret only what is necessary and ensuring the public has access to all the rest. Americans deserve a system that holds government employees accountable for decisions to keep secrets, eliminates abuse of secrecy by calling information "sensitive," and reduces overall secrecy.

It is past time Congress and the executive branch put adequate checks and balances on secrecy.

Rick Blum is director of OpenTheGovernment.org, a coalition of public interest groups committed to making the federal government more open. Readers may write to him at: OMB Watch, 1742 Connecticut Avenue NW. Washington, D.C. 20009.

Tech sav

BIG SPRING H Thursday, Ap

By JIM MATEJA

Chicago Tribune If you still gram a VCR, be distance from

GS. If you've move the VCR to ma however, you'll enjoy all the gadgetry in the undergone a r 2006 and is in s

now. Just be pre reach into pock — often and dee

Lexus obvio TiVo aficionad number VCR s on its ambiti expectations fo 35,000 annually tad more, qui from 8,200 last

For those wl mastered the the percentage a whopping ... Great expecta

sidering a GS3 about \$42,000, about \$52,000. We tested the with its new

that develops power and de foot-pounds of teamed with automatic. The V-6 repl liter, inline 6

previous mode 220 h.p. and pounds of torq speed automat The GS430

by a 4.3-liter \ 300 h.p. and pounds of torq The V-6 won' head back, but spirit and is a than the in replaces.

It also deli than-respectal economy at 21 and 27 m.p.g. l GS boasts a

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each. A little b stance, little

snugness. What really from its though, is tha first Lexus ca wheel-drive security on roads and me ed performa

ones. And it won AWD Lexus the New Yor March 24 Le the next-ge coming out IS250 versio AWD and a matic.

AWD also uated through lineup, Lexu Bill Ussery For now, o offers AWD.

\$1,950. Usser

will watch A in the high-v percent of before decid to the GS430 Lexus est AWD will a third of a nationwide,

percent in and Northea While then light coati when tested hugged the security bla not only to to the stan

control syste If you tak make a late tle too fast,



Tech savviness is all that's not an option on GS

By JIM MATEJA

Chicago Tribune

If you still can't program a VCR, better keep a distance from the Lexus

If you've moved on from the VCR to master TiVo, however, you'll probably enjoy all the high-tech gadgetry in the GS that's undergone a remake for 2006 and is in showrooms now.

Just be prepared to reach into pocket or purse

— often and deeply. Lexus obviously feels TiVo aficionados far outnumber VCR slugs based. on its ambitious sales expectations for the GS — 35,000 annually, if not a tad more, quite a jump

from 8,200 last year. For those who haven't mastered the calculator, the percentage increase is a whopping ... well, it's a

Great expectations considering a GS300 starts at about \$42,000, a GS430 at about \$52,000.

We tested the '06 GS300 with its new 3-liter V-6 that develops 245 horsepower and delivers 230 foot-pounds of torque. It's teamed with a 6-speed

automatic. The V-6 replaces the 3liter, inline 6 from the previous model rated at 220 h.p. and 220 footpounds of torque with a 5-

speed automatic. The GS430 is powered by a 4.3-liter V-8 rated at 300 h.p. and 325 foot-

pounds of torque. The V-6 won't snap your head back, but it has good spirit and is more lively than the inline 6 it

replaces. It also delivers morethan-respectable fuel economy at 21 m.p.g. city

and 27 m.p.g. highway. GS boasts a new design with more sculpted sheet metal and jewel-like headlamps so it looks far less

Though a sedan, it has the long-hood, short-deck, rounded-roof coupe look.

It also sports new dimensions, with wheelbase stretched 2 inches, length and width 1 inch each.

A little better road stance, little less cabin snugness.

What really sets it apart from its predecessor, though, is that this is the first Lexus car to offer allwheel-drive for added security on snow-filled roads and more sure-footed performance on dry

ones. And it won't be the only AWD Lexus for long. At the New York Auto Show March 24 Lexus unveiled the next-generation IS coming out this fall. The IS250 version will offer AWD and a 6-speed automatic.

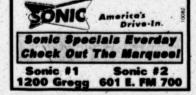
AWD also is being evaluated throughout the car lineup, Lexus spokesman Bill Ussery said.

For now, only the GS300 offers AWD, which adds \$1,950. Ussery said Lexus will watch AWD demand in the high-volume 300 (75 percent of GS sales) before deciding to add it to the GS430.

Lexus estimates that AWD will account for a third of all GS sales nationwide, but up to 50 percent in the Midwest and Northeast.

While there was only a light coating of snow when tested, the sedan hugged the road like a security blanket, thanks not only to AWD, but also to the standard stability control system.

If you take a corner or make a lateral move a little too fast, stability con-



automatically reduces throttle and applies anti-lock braking to any slipping wheel to keep the vehicle under control.

The GS430, meanwhile, with Vehicle comes Integrated Dynamic Management, or VDIM, which "takes stability control to the next level,"

Ussery said. VDIM anticipates a slip or slide and makes corrections by reducing the throttle and/or applying the ABS and adjusting steering angle and thus prevents the slip or slide.

"Stability control is reactive, VDIM is proactive, there's no 'oops, I'm losing traction.' VDIM won't let that happen,"

Ussery said. The Lexus RX400h gas/electric sport-utility

vehicle has VDIM as well. VDIM is offered in only the V-8 GS430 with its higher horsepower and torque creating the likelihood drivers will be more

aggressive than in a V-6. Spirited performance, smooth ride, agile, yet

controlled, handling. And then there are those high-tech goodies. One is Smart Access

keyless entry. The doors unlock when you approach with the fob in pocket or purse. Then slip in, press the "start" button and the engine

fires. No key needed. Another nice touch are ventilated seats with embedded fans to cool you

But while heated seats are standard, ventilated

seats are a \$200 option. And there's rain-sensing wipers, headlamp cleaners and adaptive headlamps that move in the direction of a turn, though, once again, an option at \$525 (standard on the 430).

And don't forget the power-operated, rear-window sunshade — a \$210 option.

Park Assist, or sonar clearance, beeps when seldom-used approaching too close to, from cluttering the dash. the vehicle ahead or behind when parking to no extra charge for the save you on the body repair bills — a \$500 option.

Another nice touch is equipment

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shift lever into reverse. the camera turns on and the navigation screen in the dash gives you a fairly wide angle look at what's behind to avoid running into objects or people.

Couple gripes, however. Yup, the camera's an option, part of the \$4,030 Mark Levinson audio/navigation system:

Another gripe, the picture in the navi screen is fascinating to watch, so much so that you tend to look at what's behind and lose track of what's approaching from the sides when leaving the driveway. Careful.

There's also a precollision system, which uses radar to detect obstacles in front of the car while you're driving. Based on vehicle speed, it determines whether a collision is imminent.

If so, safety belts are automatically tightened and the brakes are applied if you haven't done so or applied at greater force to lessen the

impact. But it's a \$2,850 option

on either the 300 or 430. You also can play audio discs or CDs or watch DVD videos on the navi screen, but the system works only when parked. Federal law prohibits the watching of TV or movies in the front seat while motoring.

And it's part of the \$4,030 Mark Levinson audio/navi package.

Adaptive suspension is another neat option that automatically adjusts the suspension based on road conditions and vehicle speed. It's standard on the 430, not available on the

Controls for such features as the rear window sunshade, headlamp washers, foldaway mirrors, fuel-filler door and deck-lid openers are behind a drop-down panel to the left of the steering wheel to keep a host of controls The window sticker listed control panel.

The AWD GS300 starts Standard at \$44,850. includes the camera mounted in power and heated mirback. When you slip the rors; power locks and

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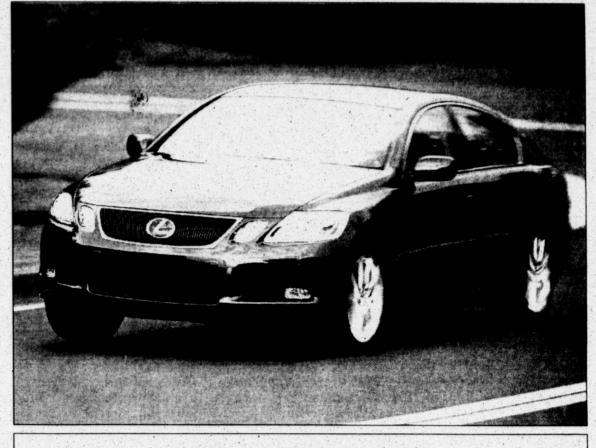
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2006 Lexus GS300 AWD

Wheelbase: 112.2 inches

Length: 190 inches Engine: 3-liter, 245-h.p., 24-valve V-6.

Transmission: 6-speed automatic Fuel economy: 21 m.p.g. city/27 m.p.g. highway

Base price: \$44,850

Price as tested: \$51,509. Includes \$525 for rain-sensing wipers, with adaptive front lighting and headlamp cleaner; \$210 for rear sunshade; \$4,030 for Mark Levinson Audio/navigation system with compass and rear camera; \$500 for sonar clearance; \$1,000 for power moonroof; \$200 for ventilated seats; and \$194 for accessory package with trunk mat, cargo net and wheel locks. Add \$650 for freight.

Pluses: Third generation with new styling and larger dimensions. First, but not last, AWD Lexus car for all-season motoring. It offers a peppy yet fuel-efficient V-6 with new 6-speed automatic. Side-curtain air bags front and rear now standard. Optional rear camera is nicer than constant beeps to warn of objects behind. Precollision system available as an option.

Minuses: Hefty price. And still so many options.

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How to Win:

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•It will be hidden somewhere in Big Spring, on public property.

•Bring it to the Big Spring Herald for qualification by the judges. Winner will receive two \$100 and one \$50 H.E.B. gift cards.

• For clues to the location of the "bag of groceries," go to the sponsors advertising on this page and ask for a clue sheet. No phone calls to sponsors. You must have at least one clue sheet to win. .

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Clues will be available each weekday at each sponsoring business named above and new clues will be at one business each day. Each business has different clues.

RULES and REGULATIONS:

1. No trespassing on private property, violation of traffic or other laws are allowed. Anyone in violation of state, county or city laws while hunting for the "sack of groceries" will be disqualified. 2. Contest begins Saturday, April 9.

3. Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult to hunt and win. You must be at least 16 to ask for a clue. You must ask for a clue in person. No phone calls to sponors allowed.

4. The "bag of groceries" will be hidden on public property. It is not necessary to dig or move anything to find it. The Big Spring Herald and sponsors cannot be responsible for acts of God (wind, rain, animals, etc.), but will monitor the hiding place.

5. To be declared the winner of the shopping spree, any finder of the "bag of groceries" must present it to the Big Spring Herald, 710 Scurry, Big Spring. You, must have at least one clue from one of the sponsors, and must not have been disqualified by the judges.

diately upon publication in the Big Spring Herald. 7. By presentation of the "bag of groceries" you agree to allow the use of your name and photo-

6. The Big Spring Herald reserves the right to stop the contest or change contest rules effective imme-

graph by the Big Spring Herald in a future promotions. 8. Employees, carriers and their families of the Big Spring Herald are not eligible.

9. In cases of dispute, the decision of the judges is final.

12824



Reunions

BSHS Class of 1965 seeks classmates

Big Spring High School Class of 1965 is seeking classmates to contact for an upcoming reunion.

If you have information on these people call Nancy Thomas Allan at 432-714-4390 or Ann Howard Duncan at 432 263-4887 or email them at nancy@teach.edb.utexas. edu.

Max Anderson, Joe Arriola, Judy Atkison. Baker, Kathy Robert Baulch, Carrie Blount, Edward Bright, David Brown, Dixie Brown, Duane Brown, Patsy Bryson, Tommy Buford, June Burr, Barbara Marshall Cabiness. Cockrall, Lorreen Daniels Noreen , Cole, Humberto Cruz, Tommy Cunningham and Glynna Witt Cuthbertson.

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Peeler Kinard, Cecilia King and Kenneth Koon. Also Darrel Lane, Bobby Lavender, Darlene Mitchell Leifeste, Paula Duncan Leonard, Henry Lopez, Robert Lopez, Linda Love, Nancy Wilson Lynch, Dan Maberry, Susan Magee, Alan McClinton, Judy

Little McCrary, Patricia McDade; Charlene McDonald, Mary Kay McNallen, Jill McNery, Horace McPherson, La Nell Meredith, Sharon Metcalf, Shirley Munden and Greg Olson. And Stanley Owens.

Linda Parker, Helen Patterson, David Perron, Dennis Pollack, Hank Pope, Mike Pope, Susan Powell, Ricky Ream, Rita Fraser Richardson, Ben Roberts, Wayne Root, Gary Smith, Kinda Smith, Vicki Smith, Yvonne Smith, Reena Sneed, Stacy, Alan Donna Stanfield, Janice Roberts Stevenson, Danny Stroup, Shirley Taylor, Elaine Wagner Thomas, Laura Thomas and Alicia Torres.

BSHS Class of 1985 seeking classmates

If you know the whereabouts of any of the following people who graduated from Big Spring High School in 1985, con-Dana (Kohl) Rodriguez, e-mail drodriguez@wfisd.net or call 940-691-9851 or Sheila (Kuykendall) Shanks, email sshanks@brinc.com.

Adrianne Allen, Lucy Jerry Alvarado, Anderson, Martin Anguiano, Allen (Dean) Avant, Eddie Baeza, Sherry Bailey, Jamie Bartley, Charles Boland, Clint Bollier, Tommy

Bradberry, Gloria Bustamante, Joey Carlisle, James Carrillo, Iris Cervantes, Bruno Chavarria, Tris Clemons, Fred Cole, Delia Correa, Rhonda Davila, Ursula Toby Drew, Dupre, Sherry English, Emily Espinoza, **Thomas** Fauver, Martha Flores, Tony Fuentes, Irene Garcia, Margie Garcia, Maria Rosie Garcia, Rita Gillis, Pam Grant, Robyn Groves, Jamie Hernandez, Nancy Hernandez, Kenneth Hewett, Arthur Hilario, Mike Howie, Marianne Jorgensen, Mathews, Curtis McCain, McCalister, Melissa Verna McVea, Rose Meier, Robert Mendoza, Manuela Montez, Joe Morelion, Greg Nelson,

Humberto Olivas, Anita Osburne, Teri Pace, Steve Phillips, Cynthia Porras, Cynthia Puente, Martin

Gloria Olivas,

Ramirez, Juan Rodriguez, Isidro Rodriguez, Rebecca Ross, Teresa Schmidt, Veronica Smith, Yvette Smith, Yvonne Smith, Teresa Smith, Margaret Vanderbilt, Mike Wilson, John Woodall and Terri Yanez.

Webb Air Force Base Reunion

Keep Webb Alive in 2005 is the theme for the Webb Air Force Base Reunion, set for October at the Hangar 25 Air Museum.

Contact Hangar 25 at 264-1999 for more information or mail to P.O. Box 2925, Big Spring, for more information.

Also, updates and schedules will be posted on the Web www.hangar25airmuseum.com.

Or e-mail hangar25 @crcom.net and write reunion in the subject



Lamesa Community Players performing

Community Players next production will be 'Saving Grace," a comedy written by Jack Sharkey. The directors are Bob Smith and Bob Force. Productions are schedules for April 28-30 and May 5-7, all at 8 p.m. at Lamesa Community Playhouse, 214 N. Austin in Lamesa. Tickets are \$7. Reservations can be made by calling 806-872-2705 from 2-6 p.m. starting April 25.

American Legion 19th District convention set

The two-day Spring Convention for American Legion 19th District is set for Saturday and Sunday at Post 575, 6628 W. 66th St. in Lubbock. The guest speaker is Ed Simpson of Waco, who will present a' program on veterans benefits. All members of the American legion are invited to attend.

April 16 the convention begins at noon. April 17, the times are set for 9:30 a.m. until noon. There will be a dinner and a dance with a live band the night of April 16.

The American Legion is made up of veterans who continue their service to America by serving their communities. For more information, call Eldon L. Erickson at 806-761-4465.

School materials available for viewing

Video and audio-visual materials available to

may be requested for preview by parents and other interested adults during a one-day review session set for April 28. The session is scheduled from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. at the center, which is located at 2811 LaForce Blvd. Midland -International

Parears and other citizens - microsted in requesting preview of particular films from the collection maintained at the service center should notify the center at least five days in advance so the staff will have time to check on the availability of the films and set up preview rooms.

In the event a film is not ivailable on the date requested the person making the request will be given a date on which it may be seen.

Persons wishing to request preview of the films may wall Pam Winn, media supervisor of the education service center, at 432-567-3260. The name of the films desired and the approximate time the person will arrive at the Center should be provided.

USS Long Beach **CGN-9** Association Inc. reunion

The USS Long Beach CGN-9 Association Inc. 2005 reunion is in San Francisco. Calif., September 11-19 at the Sheraton Gateway Hotel at the San Francisco Airport, 600 Airport Boulevard, Burlingame, Calif., 94010-1978.

To make reservations, schools through Region 18 phone 650-340-8500. Make Education Service Center, sure you ask for the USS

CGN-9 Long Beach Association Inc. The rate is \$75 plus 10 percent tax, plus \$3 a

night tourism assessment. For information, con-

tact Don Shade, 299 Kiantone Road. Jamestown, N.Y. 14701-9370 or phone 1-866-352-2469 or e-mail LBCGN9@ aol.com visit www.usslongbeachassoc.org.

A&M Club accepting scholarship requests

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

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, extracirricular activities, sports participation and need are all considered when determining schol-

arship winners. 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.

Art workshop scheduled

A workshop featuring water soluble pencils and crayons, known as "Caran d'ache" presented by Warren Taylor is set for 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. April 29 at the Palette Club in Midland, 907 W. Wadley. For more information, call 432-685-4651.



NOTICE OF PROPOSED INCREASE IN **ENVIRONS GAS RATES**

On February 25, 2005, Atmos Energy Corporation ("Atmos" or the "Company") filed a Statement of Intent with the Railroad Commission of Texas (the "Commission") to increase its gas rates in the unincorporated area ("Environs") surrounding the Cities of West Texas Service Area (the "Cities"). This proposed increase in gas rates willing to apply to customers residing inside the city limits of the West Texas

In its filing, the Company proposes to change its Environs base rates and service charge tariffs to the same level as those current rates previously approved by the Cities for customers inside the city limits. The service charge rates have been in effect inside the city limits since April 10, 2003 and the base rates have been in effect inside the city limits since May 1, 2004. The Company proposes to change the Environs rates effective April 1, 2005. The Commission may suspend the proposed effective date for up to 150 days.

The proposed changes will affect all classes of Environs tariff customers, including Residential, Commercial, Industrial, State Institution, and Public Authority customers. The Company's Air Conditioning Customers, who currently take service under a separate tariff, will instead be served under the Residential tariff. There are approximately 17,306 Atmos Environs tariff customers (15,071 Residential, 1,916 Commercial, 182 Small Industrial, 16 State Institution, and 121 Public Authority). The proposed changes in Environs base rates are expected to increase the Company's annual revenues by approximately \$440,274. The Company also proposes to implement and apply a new Weather Normalization Adjustment clause to the ntial, Commercial, State Institution, and Publi Authority).

The typical monthly residential customer bill (assuming consumption of 6 Mcf) and the typical monthly commercial customer bill (assuming consumption of 30 Mcf) will be affected as follows by these changes:

	Current	Proposed '	
	Bill (1)	Bill (1)	Difference
Residential Customer using 6 Mcf:	\$13.99	\$15.12	\$1.13
Commercial Customer using 30 Mcf:	\$43.05	\$43.10	\$0.05

(1) (a) Includes average PGA of \$4.96 per Mcf as of December 31, 2003.

Atmos estimates that the proposed changes to its nonrecurring charges will increase it s Other Revenues in the Environs by approximately \$30,377 annually. The proposed changes are as follows:

Current Charge

Proposed Charge

Increase

Description	Current Charge	Troposcu Charge	mercase
DURING BUSINESS HOURS:			
Turn on new service (with meter set)	\$23.50	\$32.00	\$8.50
Turn on service	\$19.00	\$23.50	\$4.50
(shut-in test required)	1	.'	
Description	Current Charge	Proposed Charge	Increase
DURING BUSINESS HOURS (cont'd):			
Turn on service	\$10.50	\$15.00	\$4.50
(meter read only required)			
Miscellaneous service calls .	\$10.50	\$11.25	\$0.75
Reconnect delinquent service or	\$29.50	\$37.50	\$8.00
Service temporarily off at customer's reques	t		
Dishonored Check Charge	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$0.00
AFTER BUSINESS HOURS:			
Turn on new service	\$35.25	\$48.00	\$12.75
(with meter set)			
Turn on service	\$28.50	\$35.25	\$6.75
(shut-in test required)			
Turn on service	\$15.75	\$22.50	\$6.75
(meter read only required)			
Miscellaneous service calls	\$15.75	\$16.88	\$1.13
Reconnect delinquent service or	\$39.00	\$56.25	\$17.25
Service temporarily off at customer's reques	t		

The various changes in base rates and nonrecurring charges proposed by Atmos would increase the Company's total revenues in the Environs by approximately \$470,651 on an annual basis, or 9.7%. The proposed change in revenues is a "major change" under state law. The new Environs rates will not exceed 115% of the average of all rates for similar services in all municipalities served by Atmos Energy within the

Affected individuals may review a copy of the proposed filing during normal business hours (9 am until 5 pm, Monday through Friday, excluding holidays) at 1) the local offices of Atmos in its West Texas Division; 2) Atmos' Lubbock office, located at 5110 80th Street; or 3) the Railroad Commission.

Customers affected by the proposed Environs rate changes may file written comments or protests with:

Docket Services Section Legal Division (Re: Docket No. 9573) Railroad Commission of Texas P.O. Box 12967 Austin, Texas 78711-2967

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HENRY BACKES

Cornell Co

announces tournamen Cornell (is sponsori softball t

benefiting Life. The tourn take place A 23 at Cotton inside Coma Park.

The cost player and line to r Friday, Apr For more tion, call 26 214 during t 267-2004 at n

Couples sc set up at C A summer

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Thursday t the summe sometime in For more con Russell at 39

Lady Steers Club sets n There will Steer Boos meeting in t 6 p.m. Thurs

21. All parent involved in basketball, cheerleading training ar aged to atten ents of incom man are enc attend, as we The Lad Sports Ban take place May 10, at 6

tion, conta Abner at 2 466-1711. Lady Steers **Booster Clu** monthly me

The Lad

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Softball Boo will meet at in the ATC April 21. All parent involved in t program ar aged to atten For more tion, conta

Big Spring Club sets s The Big

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466-1711.

Scramble go ment. The tourne place Satur 23, and Sun 24.

The proc benefit the Cancer So Relay For Li Teams wil up of four p the field wil ed by first ro The tourney

prizes for los and closest Prizes cates to the shop - will ed to the fir and third p

The entry per player cart fee (pr are welcome For more tion or to the country

in each fligh

IN BRIEF

Cornell Corrections announces softball tournament at Mize

Cornell Corrections is sponsoring a co-ed softball tournament benefiting Relay For

The tournament will take place April 22 and 23 at Cotton Mize Field inside Comanche Trail Park.

The cost is \$10 per player and the deadline to register is Friday, April 15.

For more information, call 267-1911 ext. 214 during the day and 267-2004 at night.

Couples scramble set up at Comanche

A summer long couples scramble tournament has been set at Comanche Trail Golf Course.

The tournament will take place every Thursday throughout the summer, ending sometime in October.

For more information, contact Sue Russell at 398-5452.

Lady Steers Booster Club sets meeting

There will be a Lady Steer Booster Club meeting in the ATC at 6 p.m. Thursday, April

All parents of girls involved in volleyball, basketball, track, cheerleading and/or training are encouraged to attend. All parents of incoming freshman are encouraged to attend, as well.

The Lady Steers Sports Banquet will take place Tuesday, May 10, at 6 p.m.

For more information, contact Janet Abner at 264-0023 or 466-1711.

Lady Steers Softball **Booster Club sets** monthly meeting

The Lady Steers Softball Booster Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the ATC Thursday. April 21.

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

For more information, contact Janet Abner at 264-0023 or 466-1711.

Big Spring Country Club sets scramble

The Big Spring Country Club has set up its 2005 Cancer Scramble golf tourna-

The tourney will take place Saturday, April 23, and Sunday, April

The proceeds will benefit the American Cancer Society and Relay For Life.

Teams will be made up of four players and the field will be flighted by first round score. The tourney will have prizes for longest drive and closest to the pin.

Prizes - gift certificates to the BSCC gift shop - will be awarded to the first, second and third place teams in each flight.

The entry fee is \$75 per player plus a \$20 cart fee (private carts are welcome).

For more information or to enter, call the country club at 267

Local schools send nine to regional tennis meet

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

GARDEN CITY - Five members from Grady and four from Garden City advanced to the regional tennis meet after successful runs at the District 10-A meet held in Garden Monday City Tuesday.

Garden City will send two boy's doubles teams to regionals after the teams grabbed first and

second, respectively. The as they finished third. Bearkats were also crowned district champions, while Westbrook finished second.

Sophomores Halfmann and Taylor Niehues finished first, while Evan Jansa and Nick Sanchez grabbed the

Grady's boy's doubles team of Lane Shand and Taylor Fields just missed qualifying for regionals

Trey Chavez

Westbrook won the individual boy's singles title, while teammate Tate Burleson finished third. Clint Chapman of Borden County grabbed the sil-

The five members of the Grady tennis team were all on the girl's team as the Lady Wildcats won the district title, while Garden City

for district runners-up.

The Lady Wildcats will send Amanda Cooper to regionals in girl's singles after she completed the district meet in second place behind Linsey Chavez of Westbrook. Garden City's Megan Niehues just missed regionals as she took third.

Grady will also send two girl's doubles teams to

Westbrook finished tied regionals. Anna Montoya and Nayeli Medina grabbed first place overall, while Brianna Pribyla and Ericka Medina finished second. Garden City's senior duo of Amanda Hirt and Brandi Halfmann took third.

The Region II tournament will take place in Abilene April 27-28. The top two finishers at the regional tournament advance to state in May.

Forsan golf teams fail to advance as **Baird wins** two at 10-A

 Lady Buffaloes grab tie for third, not good enough to move on

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

SAN ANGELO Neither the boy's nor girl's golf teams from Forsan were able to put together advancing scores Monday at the District 10-A golf tournament in San Angelo.

The Forsan girl's finished tied for third, while the boy's team grabbed fifth overall, but the top two teams in each division advance to region-

Both Baird golf teams won the overall team titles, while the Sterling City boy's and Albany girl's also advanced to regionals.

GIRLS

Baird ran away with the girl's crown, shooting a two-round total of 703 and defeating the next best team (Albany) by 197 strokes. Albany shot a 900, while Forsan, Eula and Sterling City all shota 718. However, Eula took third after winning a playoff.

Jodi Neal of Baird won the individual championship after firing a 154. Misty McDowell shot a 170 and the other three members of Baird's team all shot under 200.

Brook Blair of Menard was the only other girl to advance to regionals as she shot 191 and a second round 99.

Shiloh Sanders led Forsan with a 199, just missing the cut to regionals. Amber Humphrey shot a 220, while Hayley Lewis and Audrey Montgomery shot a 261 and 258, respectively.

BOYS

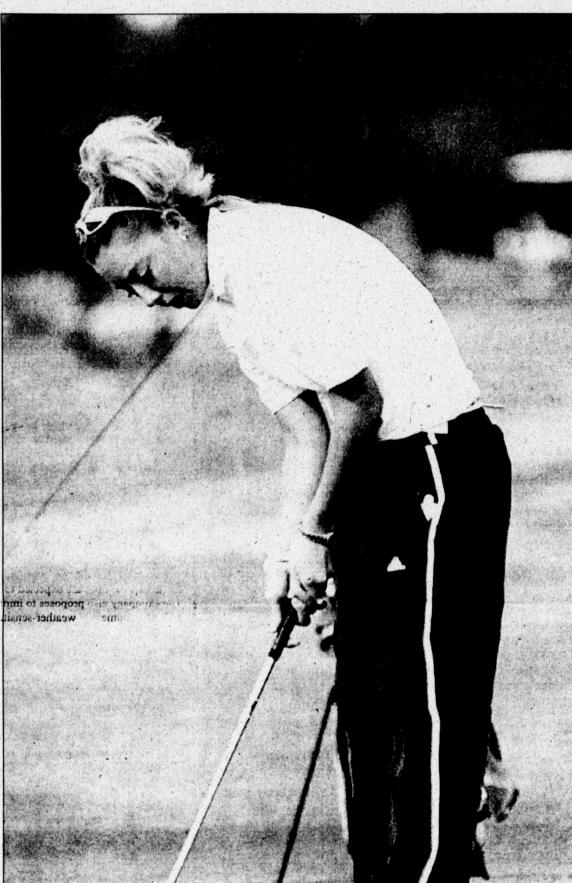
The Baird boys won the team title, but did not have as easy of a time as the girl's. Baird shot a 680 and defeated second place Sterling City by 18 strokes. Albany came in third place after the team fired a 753.

Forsan's top team put together a 781, while the Forsan 'B' team shot an

Jay Calvo of Baird won the individual title after shooting a 145, while Katlin Horwood of Sterling City shot a 162, just beating third place Blake Manning of Bair by one stroke. John Hunt of

See FORSAN, Page 2B





Big Spring senior Rachel Gee attempts a putt during second round action at the Big Spring Country Club last Friday during the District 4-4A golf tournament. The final round was played Tuesday in San Angelo. Gee shot a course-low 77 and wound up second overall. The top-six finish advances her to the regional tournament in San Angelo April 25-26.

HERALD photo/Troy Hyde

Andrews dominates at district golf, Gee advances

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

SAN ANGELO Andrews continued its dominance in girl's golf Tuesday at the final round of the District 4-4A tournament in San Angelo. The Lady Mustangs' two teams finished first and second, respectively, in the team standings to advance to the regional tournament, while Big Spring senior Rachel Gee shot another course-low and made up more ground to finish tied for second overall.

Gee's shot a final round 77 and tied Andrews' Kaylan Brownlee for individual district runnersup honors with a tournament total of 250, but was eventually awarded second after winning a playoff on the first hole. Brownlee shot a final round 79. Kelsie Gray of Andrews won the tournament with a 245 and shot a final round 81. Addison Long, Stephine Birdsall and Nikki Duke all of Andrews were the final three individual medalist winners.

The Andrews 'A' team won the tournament with an 1,014, while the 'B' team shot a 1,089. Plainview caught Big Spring in the final round and finished in third with a 1,132, two strokes ahead of the Lady Steers. Frenship was fifth and Lake View finished sixth.

Big Spring's Kim Paredez and Amber Miller each shot under 100 in the third round, while Cassie Guinn and Megan McCormick fired a 100 and 101, respective-

The Region I tournament will take place at San Angelo's Riverside golf course April 25 and

Big Spring netters begin district play today

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

Big Spring senior Veronica Villarreal will once again enter the District 4-

4A tennis tournament as the favorite as she was awarded the top seed in girl's sin-

VILLARREAL g l e s Tuesday. Villarreal has been Big Spring's No. 1 girl's singles player for the past four years and will enter the district tournament - which begins today in Plainview

as the defending cham-

pion. Her first match took

place at 11:30 a.m.

Also getting a top seed in girl's singles was senior Alex Gariepy. She will be seeded fourth. She also began play today at 11:30 a.m.

Two Big Spring boy's got good seeds in the singles competition. Big Spring's No. 1 sophomore Roshan Shroff enters the tournament as the district's No. 2 seed, while senior Nick Rivera, who madé an abrupt switch from doubles to singles last week, enters as the No. 3 seed. Both Shroff and Rivera started the tournament today at 11:30

The final seeded group for the Big Spring netters will be the junior tandem

Jamie Jordan. They began at 1 p.m. today as the tournament's No. 3 seed in girl's doubles. See NETTERS, Page 2B

of Natasha Neighbors and Sophomore Reinhilde Robinson and freshman Allison Ward also took

Upcoming Local Events

 Howard College host rodeo — @ Howard County Rodeo Bowl begins tonight at 5:30 p.m. (free admission) continues Friday morning with slack at 9 a.m. and then action starts at 7 p.m. There will be slack at 9 a.m. Saturday and the rodeo's final short round starts at 7 p.m. Saturday night. Big Spring district track meet @ San Angelo's Bobcat Stadium begins at 3 p.m. today and continues at 3 p.m. Friday. · Big Spring district tennis tournament @ Plainview starts today and continues through Friday

· Big Spring softball @ Lubbock Estacado - Friday, 4:30 p.m. · Big Spring baseball @ Lake View - Friday, 5 p.m. · Big Spring boy's golf final round of district @San Angelo - today

 Coahoma/Stanton district track meet @ Stanton - Friday, 10 a.m. · Coahoma baseball/softball vs. Colorado City - Saturday, 2 p.m. Howard College baseball vs. Western Texas College

Two games Friday in Big Spring at noon; Saturday in Snyder at noon - Howard College softball @ Midland College - There will be two games Friday starting at 4 p.m. and Saturday's two games start at 1 p.m.

NETTERS

Continued from Page 1B

the court today at 10:30 a.m. but the young girl's doubles team is not seed-

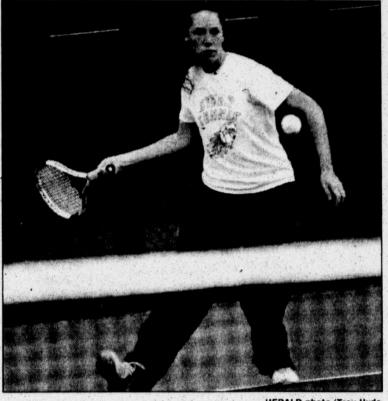
Big Spring sent two unseeded boy's doubles teams to the courts today, as well. Senior Jason Vela



and sophomore Bryan Juan began the tournament at 9 a.m. against a team from Lubbock Estacado, while freshmen unavailable at press time.

Ainhan Nghiem and Jeremy Landin challenged a team from

The tournament seed-



began district play today. The tourney continues Friday.

April 14 - 16

April 15 and 16 -9:00 a.m. slack

Thursday - Saturday

April 14 - 5:30 p.m. slack - Free Admission

Be There!

HERALD photo/Troy Hyde Big Spring senior Alex Gariepy sends a shot over the net in a previous tourney. Gariepy and the Big Spring tennis team

HOWARD COLLEGE

7:00 p.m. - \$5.00 per person

Continued from Page 1B

FORSAN

Eula and Roger Guerrero of Menard also advanced to the regional tournament. .

Forsan's best shooter in round two was Rick Bailey of the 'B' team. He shot an 89 and fin-

JOHNSON ished with a 187 total. Brandon

Morrow's 213 was second

on the 'B' team. Adam Johnson led the Forsan 'A' team with a second round 95 and overall 188. Mark McKiski and Tye Baker each shot a 197, while Clint Stanley

fired a 201.

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SPRING I

Andrews at 9 a.m.

ings are based on 12 teams in each division. The final match Thursday will start at 3:30 p.m., but results of first and second round matches were

Park pitches Rangers to win over rival Anaheim

ARLINGTON (AP) -Chan Ho Park is finally starting to pitch well for the Texas Rangers.

Park became the first Texas starter to win this season and Michael Young hit a tiebreaking three-run triple, leading the Rangers over the Los Angeles Angels 7-5 on Wednesday night.

"He's had two great starts so far, and we expect Chan Ho to continue that," Young said. "I think he's made some

quality adjustments." Park (1-0) gave up three runs and five hits in 62-3 innings, struck out six and walked one. He had been 3-6 with a 5.38 ERA in 14 starts against the Angels, including 0-4 with a 9.00 ERA last year.

Rangers manager Buck Showalter wanted to see a more aggressive style from Park, by throwing more strikes and getting ahead in the count.

Park used the fastball early in the count, then had the Angels off-stride with breaking pitches, striking out six in first three innings.

"I made a lot of good pitches," said Park after his first win against the with the Rangers. "I for a 5-1 lead. speeds. I was aggressive. I think early, we were a lit-

still got some power, fast- tle tight and I tried to do balls, but I understand ball-movement better, up.' going down, and mix the pitches better."

Park also was effective in his first start on April 8 at Seattle, allowing three runs and four hits over 5 2-3 innings.

"He pitched well his first time," Showalter said. "He should be 2-0. He kept the ball down. He had good tempo. He changed the speed on his breaking ball.'

Francisco Cordero got the last out for his third save in five chances, allowing a two-run, twoout single to Darin Erstad before retiring Juan Rivera on a forceout with a man on,

Alfonso Soriano went 3for-5 to help the Rangers to their first victory in three home games this season.

With the game tied at 1, the Rangers loaded the bases against Paul Byrd (0-2) with two outs in the fifth on singles by Kevin Mench and Soriano, and a walk to Hank Blalock. Young hit a liner over center fielder Steve Finley and off the wall, and Mark Teixeira fol-Angels in seven starts lowed with an RBI double

w off-speed curveballs "At that point, I figured and change-ups. The first we needed a big hit to try three innings, guys and get something struck out with off-rolling," Young said. "I

something to loosen us

Finley said he should have made the catch.

Adrian Gonzalez homered in the sixth to make it 6-1, but Bengie Molina had a two-run double in the seventh to bring the Angels within three.

Byrd gave up six runs and eight hits in six innings, and said his undoing was his inability to get a key out in the fifth.

"I couldn't make a pitch to get a strikeout or that last out in the fifth," Byrd said. "It's very frustrat-

Soriano's RBI single in the eighth extended the

Rangers' lead to 7-3. AL MVP Vladimir Guerrero, who bruised his right knee when he was hit by a throw while stealing third base Tuesday, went 1-for-4 as a designated hitter, extending his hitting streak against Texas to 24 games, the longest active streak in the majors against one team.

Park was sharp from the start, retiring his first eight batters before Chone Figgins' thirdinning homer.

The Rangers tied it in the third when David Dellucci walked, stole second and scored on Rod Barajas' single.

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Howard College Athletics Office and at the gate Contact: Coach Greg Kernick - 816-9477

Mavericks win fifth straight division may come Friday

By TIM BOOTH

Associated Press Writer SEATTLE (AP) — Dirk Nowitzki scored 31 points to lead the Dallas Mavericks to their fifth straight victory, 95-90 the Seattle over SuperSonics

Wednesday night. It was Seattle's sixth straight loss and kept the SuperSonics from clinching the Northwest Division title. Seattle needs one win or a loss by Denver for its first division title since 1998.

Seattle has not won since beating Portland on April 1.

Nowitzki made two free throws with 1:14 left to break an 87-87 tie. Ray Allen made one free throw for Seattle with 58 seconds left. Jason Terry followed with a baseline jumper to give the Mavericks a 91-88 lead.

Seattle's Antonio Daniels missed a jumper with 39 seconds left and Nowitzki hit a 16-footer from the baseline with 17 seconds remaining to put the game away. He added two free throws in the final seconds as Dallas improved to 20-2 when Nowitzki scores at least 30 points.

Allen had 19 points for

returned from an injury to add 17.

Terry scored 15 points for Dallas, while Jerry Stackhouse added 14 off the bench, Keith Van Horn scored 12 and Erick Dampier had 10.

Dallas improved to 12-2 since Avery Johnson took over as head coach for Don Nelson. Since Johnson took over the Mavericks have been holding teams to 91 points per game, and they frustrated Seattle into 40 pershooting cent Wednesday.

Dallas won despite going 17-of-29 from the free throw line and getting outrebounded 45-30.

banged SuperSonics welcomed back All-Star Rashard Lewis and key reserves Daniels and Danny Fortson from injuries, hoping to wrap up the division and perhaps give players an opportunity to rest heading into the play-

Lewis missed the last eight games with a deep bone bruise on his right foot. He showed early signs of rust, missing his first four shots, but finished with 12 points in 36 minutes. He had not played since March 27.

The SuperSonics' best Seattle, while Daniels chance at clinching the

night when they host New Orleans in their home finale. Seattle closes the season with road games at Minnesota, Dallas and Houston. Dallas led by as many as

11 points early in the second half, but Seattle rallied behind 10 third-quarter points from Jerome James. The SuperSonics took their first lead at 75-73 with 8:11 left on Lewis' layup. Behind Nowitzki, the Mavericks scored nine of the next 11 points to go ahead 82-77.



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Car Care Tips:

- · Give your car a thorough hand wash and wax, and touch up any paint chips or scratches.
- · Change engine oil and filter, and get a tune-up if needed.
- Inspect cooling system hoses for leaks and drive belts for cracks.
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FOR SALE: 1997 Jayco Fifth Wheel Travel Trailer, 29 ft with slide out. New tires, new slide out motor, excellent condition. Hitch included. Please call (432)268-3288.

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LOST: IN the vicinity of 14th & Lexington. Male Dachshund, by the name of "Buddy". Has tags. If you've found him, please call (432)268-1705.

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1405 SETTLES. Clean two bedroom, fenced yard. Stove & refrigerator furnished. \$300.00 month, \$150.00 deposit. Call (432)267-1543.

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Call (432)267-2296. 2100 MORRISON. Very Clean 3 bedroom, 2 bath. CH/A, fenced yard. Stove & refrigerator furnished. \$550.00 month, \$200.00 deposit.

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paint. AC/Heat, appliances. Can be furnished or not. Water & trash paid. Good location. \$250. month, \$100. deposit. Call (432)268-1684. PRICE REDUCED. 304 East

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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.

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(432)263-2801, 263-7653. 800 N. Tubb Rd. MFG Home. 3/2, total electric, CH/A, carport & shop. Coahoma District. Fenced 1 acre. \$55,000.00. Owner will consider financing 10% down.

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energy efficient 3 bedroom 2 1/2 bath on 1/2 acre with spectular view, in Coahoma school district. Shown by appointment only. Call (432)267-9616. KENTWOOD AREA brick 3

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ARIES (March 21-April 19). You improve the

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

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household furniture, clothes and other items of the following tenants now stored at AAA Mini Storage, 3301 E. FM 700, Big Spring, TX David Franks Marshall Bryant

Sale to satisfy landlord's lien of

Mark Angel Jose Saminego Sale to be held at 7:00 P.M. May

5, 2005, Spring City Auction, 2611 West Highway 80, Big Spring, TX. 79720, to the highest bidder. We reserve the right to accept or reject any bid. #4520 April 14 & May 1, 2005.

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when placing your ad. After your ad has been published the first day we suggest you check the ad for mistakes and if errors have been made we will gladly correct the ad and run it again for you at no additional charge. If your ad is inadvertently not printed advance payment will cheerfully be refund ed and the newspaper's liability will be for only the amount received for publication of the advertisement. We reserve the right to edit or reject any ad for publication that does not meet our standards of acceptance.

Tomorrow's Horoscope world by standing up for

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS The Cancer moon could

close the gap between mother and child. There's a need to

ic skills. GEMINI (May 21-June 21). In order to be certain that things go your way, you must be the one to organize and direct the action. What a lot of work. Perhaps it's best to be fine with whatever happens naturally.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Average people accomplish genius feats because they dare to want more. So just imagine what someone like you with superior skills and talents can do! Expand your idea about what you deserve.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Open the channels of communication even wider. Learn from the trials and errors of your peers. A mass e-mail serves as an "SOS" message in a bottle. The response surprises you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You are thinking ahead and because of this you can possibly prevent accidents or save a life. You know you are divinely protected, and therefore, it's easier for you to protect others.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You'll meet new people. It's helpful to remember that others are operating from an entirely different value system from yours. Search for common ground on which to build

strong relationships. SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You've outgrown a codependent relationship. Love means giving someone the freedom to err. You're now willing to live with love's consequences if that's what it takes to

build your core. SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Some days it's harder to believe in yourself - this is one of those days. Be with someone who will look you in the eye and tell you that you are valuable and worth

listening to.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your connection to the person you admire feels a little stiff, butdon't worry. Once you feel accepted in a relationship, you can move on to higher states of curiosity, wonder and spontaneous delight.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Like a television series that ends while still at the height of its popularity, you decide to bow gracefully out of a fabulous situation. You'll definitely leave 'em wanting more. PISCES (Feb. 19-March

20). A special relationship is developing into something as solid as the ages. When you're truly comfortable with someone, you don't have to do or say much. Under the silence is the voice of CELEBRITY

FILES: According to her chart, Sarah Michelle Gellar has latent musical talent, which I believe she will soon highlight publicly - perhaps not in a record deal kind of way, but nonetheless the world will know she's got rhythm. As a brave Aries she'll try anything once. Mercury (communication) in Taurus (which rules the throat) promises beautiful there's a singing voice in there waiting to come out!

If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to www.creators.com and click on "Write the Author" on the Holiday Mathis page.

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THURSDAY APR. 14 ESPN 29 TMC WFAA 2 KMID 3 UNI 4 KPEJ 5 KOSA 7 KTLE 8 KWES 9 WTBS 11 KMLM 12 KOCV 13 DISC 20 AMC 21 SPIKE 22 TNT 23 BET 26 DISN 27 ESPN2 Midland Atlanta Odessa Odessa Telemundo Midland Atlanta Odessa Odessa Discovery Classics Spike TV Black Ent. Sports News (CC) News Wheel-Fortune Wheel-Fortune nocente de Ti Malcolm-Mid. Joe McGee Stump-Schwab MLB Baseball Velocity (CC) Seinfeld (CC) Raymond 6 :30 Raymond Ent. Tonight John Hagee Chopper Scene Invstgtn. (CC) (DVS) Cousin Jeff That's-Raven Stump-Schwab Teams to Be 7 :PM Billy Graham (CC) Survivor: Palau La Mujer en el Joey (CC) Jake-Progress Apuesta por The O.C. Update/Israel CSI: Crime NRA The Parkers Movie: The Can't Blame Friends (CC) Jake-Progress un Amor (CC) Will & Grace Friends (CC) Biblical Israel TX Mnthly Talk Nuclea Scene Invstgtn. Basketball: Girlfriends Even Stevens | Teammates Tru Callino CSI: Crime Los Plateados The Apprentice Friends (CC) PM Extreme La Madrastra Light of the Miami Heat at College Hill ESPN's 8 :30 Makeover MXC Makeover Scene Invstgt Friends (CC) Southwest Roadshow Nuclear Philadelphia Access **Bowling Night** Malcolm-Mid Without a La Ley del ER (CC) The Meaning Nuclear Night-Club Comic Battle of the 9 :30 mare: N. Korea Movie: The '70s Show of Food MXC Even Stevens Gridiron Stars Tonight (CC) Trace (CC) Silencio Raymond View News (CC) Primer Impacto '70s Show Nightly News BET Style The Hour of Noticias Charlie Rose Stockpile MXC Basketball: That's-Raven Battle of the Nightline Noticiero Univ. Raymond Late Show Titulares y Mas Tonight Show Long Kiss (CC) That's-Raven Gridiron Stars Nuclear MXC Mavericks at Goodnight Trail Blazers Jimmy Kimmel La Hora Sam Peak Stockoile Wildest Police Midnight Love Proud Family Stump-Schwab Outside-Lines 11 :30 Jimmy Kimmel Live (CC) (CC) Becker (CC) Al Rojo Vivo-Late Night-Derbez Late Late Kim Possible | Stump-Schwab Baseball Jesse Lee Pe Nuclear Videos Inside the NBA Club Comic Extra (CC) Spin City Nuclear Night **Blind Date** Boy World Frasier (CC) Movie: Dead The Insider

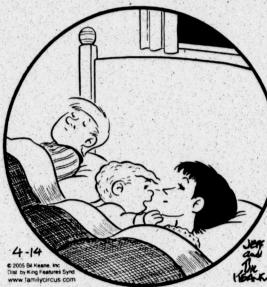
Fave Hardin

DENNIS THE MENACE



WAIT FOR ME, DAD. I WANNA GO PLAY IN THE SAND TRAPS, TOO.

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"I like listening to you breathe, Mommy, whenever Daddy stops snoring."



Shipmates



Lizzie McGuire BCA



mare: N. Korea Movie

HAGAR

CAN'T YOU PEOPLE



BC



WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



and when you need money to pass laws, your majesty, could you pleaseuse someone elses money, not mine? I like to Keep mine for gum. God bless you for your service to our country.

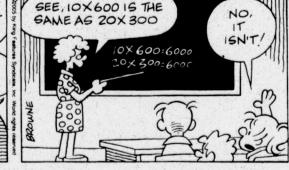
P.S. Pack YOUR bags, you WORTHIESS SON of Satan!

THE GIFT

SHOP





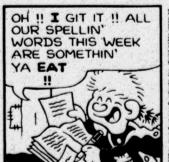


THE OTHER COAST





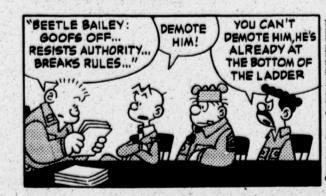






LISTEN.

BEETLE BAILEY





This Date In History

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, April 14, the 104th day of 2005. There are 261 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 14, 1865, President Lincoln was shot and mortally wounded by John Wilkes Booth while attending the comedy "Our American Cousin" at Ford's Theater in Washington. (Lincoln died the following morning.)

On this date:

In 1759, composer George Frideric Handel died in London.

In 1775, the first American society for the abolition of slavery was organized by Benjamin Franklin and Benjamin

In 1828, the first edition of Noah Webster's "American

Dictionary of the English Language" was published. In 1902, James Cash Penney opened his first store, called "The Golden

In 1912, the British liner Titanic collided with an iceberg in the North Atlantic. and began sinking.

Rule," in Kemmerer, Wyo.

In 1931, King Alfonso XIII of Spain went into exile, and the Spanish Republic was proclaimed.

In 1939, the Steinbeck novel "The Grapes of Wrath" was first published. In 1981, the first test flight

of America's first operational space shuttle, the Columbia, ended successfully with a landing at Edwards Air Force Base in California.

In 1986, Americans got first word of a.U.S. air raid on Libva (because of the time difference, it was the early morning of April 15 when the attack occurred.)

In 1994, two American F-15 warplanes inadvertently shot down two U.S. helicopters over northern Iraq. killing 26 people, including 15 Americans.

Today's Birthdays: Actor. Bradford Dillman is 75. Actor Jay Robinson is 75. Country singer Loretta Lynn is 70. Actress Julie Christie is 65. Former baseball player Pete Rose is 64. Rock musician Ritchie Blackmore is 60. Actor John Shea is 56. Actor Brad Garrett is 45. Actor Robert Carlyle is 44. Rock singermusician John Bell (Widespread Panic) is 43. Rock musician Barrett Martin is 38. Actor Anthony Michael Hall is 37. Actor Adrien Brody is 32. Rapper DaBrat is 31, Actress Sarah Michelle Gellar is 28.

Answer to previous puzzle DEPTHEBETASTOW

Edited by Stanley Newman

35 Maxwell

www.stanxwords.com

37 Ladies' wear

39 Preconceived

40 Wear and tear

employee

notion

activity

47 Prop (up)

49 Australian

51 Basie's

52 PC key

53 Discharge

55 Cassio's

minerals

50 Cosmopolitan

instrument

54 Gloom partner

42 Scribe's

45 Casino

Anderson play

Newsday Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Chewy candy 6 Evening in Roma
- **10** Zip
- 14 Hardy's nickname
- 15 Clicker's
- target 16 Borodin prince
- 17 Thunders
- 18 Promote
- aggressively 19 Beach
- scavenger
- 20 Aria from
- Porgy and
- Bess 22 Moon
- phenomenon
- 23 Black Sea
- port 24 Oven light
- 26 Strong-jawed tool
- 28 Glue on
- 32 Eye ridge out a living
- greeting 38 In sonic range
- 40 Tiny Tim's
- instrument 41 Crepe
- cousins 42 Omega
- preceder

37 Tel Aviv

- 43 Skinny
- 44 Snoopy sort
- 45 Caribou, e.g.
- 46 German industrial city
- 48 Store-bought hair
- 54 Designer label 57 Gymnastics

hangouts

feat 59 Squirrel

- SEASON TICKET by Daniel R. Stark
- 8 Dorm sharer 60 Mélange 9 Financial
- 61 Ease up **62** Tough boss 63 Tear apart
- 64 Country
- roads 65 Zoo barrier
- 66 Hence
- 67 Pony's comment

DOWN

- 1 Headless statue
- 2 Viva voce
- 3 Charcoal
- 4 Corporations
- 5 Thumbs-up
- votes
- direction

20

62

- 7 Ancient's omen
- 6 Cookbook
- starter
- 29 Go on the lam 30 Kansas city 31 Comic-book

- heroes 32 Term of endearment

backer,

vampires

11 Rain in Spain?

endearment

13 Woody's son

10 When

wake

12 Term of

21 Becomes

frayed

neighbor

27 Tina Turner ex

25 Molokai

- 33 Decide,
- as a jury
- 34 Valhalla host

- 56 Cajun
- vegetable
 - 58 Long-gone bird 10 11 12 13

nemesis

19 26 27 29 30 31 36 43

64

32 | 33 | 34 | 35 44 48 49 50 51 52 53 57 54 55 56

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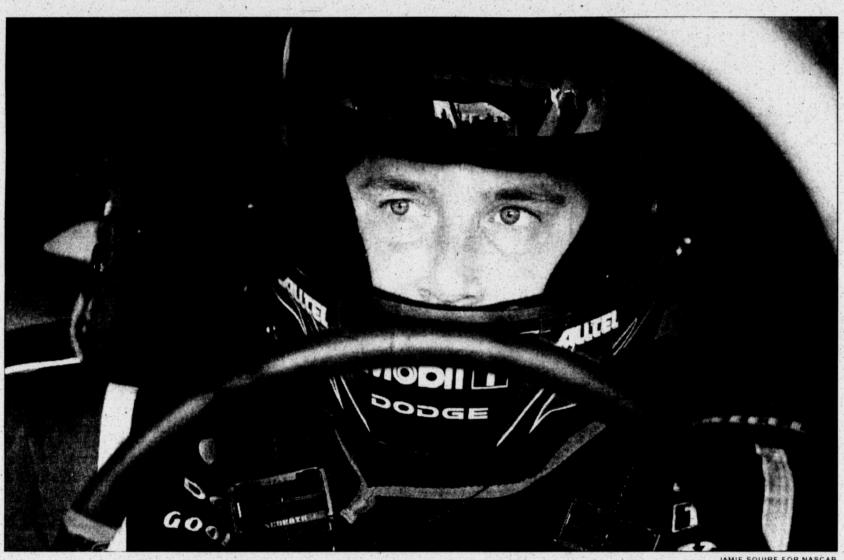
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Go online and check out www.thatsracin.com for the latest information and news on stock-car racing, updated daily.



Ryan Newman enters Sunday's Samsung/RadioShack 500 at Texas Motor Speedway in eighth place in the Nextel Cup points standings.

pril struggles

By Anthony Andro Knight Ridder Newspapers

the No. 12 Alltel Dodge.

s a good thing for Ryan Newman that April is one of the shortest months on the NASCAR Nextel Cup schedule. The month has been brutal to the driver of

Newman, who has finished in the top 10 in the point standings for the past three years, is hoping to put an end to his personal spring swoon Sunday at the Samsung/RadioShack 500 at Texas Motor Speedway.

He'll have to go against his history to do so. "April's always been a rough month." Newman said. "I'm not surprised by where we are. I'm not disappointed. We deserve to be where we're at."

Newman, an 11-time winner in Nextel Cup races, has made 11 previous April starts since his rookie year of 2002 and has never won. In most of those races, he hasn't even been close.

Newman has just two top-10 finishes in April. Both of those have come in Martinsville, Va., including a fourth-place showing in Sunday's Advance Auto Parts 500. In seven of the races, Newman has finishes of 38th or worse.

"We're trying to make it through April the best we can and go from there," crew chief Matt Borland said. "I can't put my finger on it why but in April we just struggle. We just want to make sure we can get as many points as we can."

Newman's team knows early-season woes now can have a lasting effect because of the Chase for the Championship, which puts a premium on points through the first 26 races.

Ryan Newman hopes to reverse his annual early spring swoon

NOT A VERY GOOD MONTH

Since entering NASCAR's top national racing circuit, Ryan Newman has seven finishes of 38th or worse and only two top 10s during the month of April:



1 7 7 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1		
Date	Race	Finish
4/08/02	Samsung/RadioShack 500	40
4/14/02	Virginia 500	41
4/21/02	Aaron's 499	43
4/28/02	NAPA Auto Parts 500	14
4/06/03	Aaron's 499	39
4/13/03	Virginia 500	38
4/27/03	Auto Club 500	42
4/04/04	Samsung/RadioShack 500	39
4/18/04	Advance Auto Parts 500	5
4/25/04	Aaron's 499	11'
4/10/05	Advance Auto Parts 500	4

Last year's slow start nearly cost Newman a shot at qualifying for a run at the title. He didn't earn a spot in the Chase until the Chevy Monte Carlo 400, which was the final non-Chase race.

"I'm not a big fan of the whole Chase deal but it's here to stay." Newman said. "There's a lot of things we like and don't like in everything. But last year we got ourselves in a position where we barely made it."

Newman has dealt with changes every year, but doesn't want to use them as excuses. In 2002, he was just a rookie. In 2003, his team switched from Ford to Dodge. This year the team is driving the new Dodge Charger. There are also rules changes to factor in.

The tracks have had little to do with the struggles. While Newman has 40th and 39th-place finishes in two April TMS starts, he won the 2003 race, which was in March.

Bad luck has also hurt Newman. Last year at TMS he cut a tire. Even when he does well, it's not without some adversity. In Sunday's race, Newman and Scott Riggs made contact on the first lap, cutting one of Newman's tires. He started second but was in last place two laps later before he charged back through the field.

It's results like Sunday that give Newman and his team hope. He's eighth in the points standings, and comes to Texas with three top-10 finishes in six races.

"I've seen signs that we're turning things around," Newman said. "From a consistency point, we're getting better. The championship isn't being determined right now."

For Newman, that's a good thing.

THIS WEEK'S RACE

SAMSUNG/RADIO SHACK 500

Where: Texas Motor Speedway, a 1.5-mile paved banked quad-oval located in Justin. Texas.

When: Sunday at 1:20 p.m. (all times ET). Qualifying is 4:10 p.m. Friday. TV: Fox.

Radio: Performance Racing Network. Purse: \$6,826,746.

Last year's winner: Elliott Sadler. Also this week: The second installment of the four-race International Race of Champions series is Friday night at Texas. Mark Martin won the season opener at Daytona and leads the points standings in the race for the \$1 million

Worth mentioning: Kurt Busch has three top-10 finishes in four races at Texas but has led only two laps.

POLL POSITION

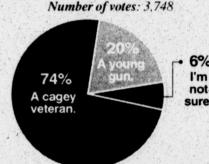
THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

Dodge has been shut out so far in the 2005 Nextel Cup season. Which team will deliver first, putting the manufacturer back in the win column?

Cast your vote at: www.thatsracin.com

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION

What type of driver will prevail at Martinsville?



STOP 'N' GO

WHO'S HOT

■ Jimmie Johnson continues his championship-like consistency, having won five races and earning 12 top-10 finishes in the 12 races since Charlotte last October. He is the only driver to finish in the top 10 in every race so far this season.

■ It appears Kasey Kahne is back on track. After a sluggish start, last season's rookie of the year has three consecutive finishes of 14th or better, including two top fives.

WHO'S NOT

■ Sooner or later Bobby Labonte's tough luck has to turn around, doesn't it? Engine problems relegated him to 33rd place last weekend and he is 37th in points.

■ Talk about a downward spiral. Since his runner-up finish at Las Vegas, Kyle Busch has finished 12th, 28th and 39th in his past three races. ■ Carl Edwards needs to regain some of the

magic of his surprise win at Atlanta. Since then he has finished 26th and 38th. The short tracks were not kind.

- Jim Utter

BY THE NUMBERS

NEXTEL CUP POINTS LEADERS

The top-40 drivers as of April 10:

The top	-40 arive	ers as of April 10.	Sent Service
Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. Jimmie Johnson	n977	21. Matt Kenseth	594
2. Greg Biffle	817	22. Jeff Burton	587
3. Elliott Sadler	795	23. Casey Mears	580
4. Mark Martin	779	24. Brian Vickers	
5. Tony Stewart.	774	25. Mike Bliss	567
6. Jeff Gordon	772	26: Jeff Green	553
7. Rusty Wallace	771	27. Travis Kvapil .	552
8. Ryan Newman	753	28. Joe Nemechel	k547
9. Kurt Busch	746	29. Kyle Busch	545
10. Dale Jarrett	732	30. Michael Waltri	536
11. Carl Edwards	727	31. Scott Wimmer.	521
12. Sterling Marlin	723	32. Ken Schrader	498
13. Kevin Harvick	721	33. Jason Leffler.	468
14. Scott Riggs	666	34. Ricky Rudd	456
15. Jamie McMurr	ay 654	35. Bobby Hamilto	n Jr. 429
16. Dale Earnhard	t Jr 649	36. Mike Wallace	422
17. Jeremy Mayfie	ld 645	37. Bobby Labonte	416
18. Kasey Kahne .	640	38. Kevin Lepage	360
19. Kyle Petty		39. Robby Gordon	273
20. Dave Blaney	622	40. John Andretti	225

RANKINGS

THAT'S RACIN'S TOP PICKS

1. Jimmie Johnson (car No. 48): Despite a rough time at Martinsville. this team still squeezed out a top 10. These guys are good. Last week: 1.

2. Jeff Gordon (car No. 24): With his Martinsville win, Gordon is now five wins short of Dale Earnhardt's reord career total. Last week: 5.

3. Greg Biffle (car No. 16): One Roush team has to be up here, and this one has a win and is still second in the points race. Last week: 2.

4. Mark Martin (car No. 6): Four top 10s and not very much luck in six races. Will the breaks even up at Texas? Last week: 9.

5. Tony Stewart (car No. 20): If his wheel didn't wobble off, Martinsville was about as over as a 5-0 soccer match. Last week: 3.

6. Elliott Sadler (car No. 38): Last year's Texas winner playing Martin's game - piling up top 10s with regularity. Last week: 8.

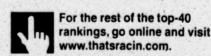
SOURCE NASCAR COM

7. Kurt Busch (car No. 97): Showed more signs of maturity in the way he handled the bump from Gordon at Martinsville. Last week: 6.

8. Kevin Harvick (car No. 29): Couldn't double up short-track victories. Can this team now master intermediate tracks? Last week: 7.

9. Carl Edwards (car No. 99): Think he's glad to be done with short tracks for a while? These past two weeks, were brutal. Last week: 4.

10. Ryan Newman (car No 12): Made the no-tire strategy work for a while late at Martinsville. This team needs a win. Last week: 11.



The best decisions don't always come from instinct

ast Sunday's Advance 500 at Martinsville Speedway provided at least two clear examples of just how far apart reflex can be from the best reaction.

Robbie Loomis and Tony Stewart each wound up doing precisely what needed to be done to help themselves and their teams at various points during and after the event. But in each case, their course of action was almost the exact opposite of what their first instinct told them to do.

Early on, Loomis had to fight his automatic urge to keep Jeff Gordon's No. 24 Chevrolet as close to the lead lap as possible. Gordon came to pit road on Lap 47 with a vibration that was so bad it left him no other option.

After making what immediate re-pairs were possible, Gordon was two

laps down but the situation was still grim.

Cory Quick, the front-tire changer, told crew chief Loomis that the studs

that held the right-front tire and wheel on the car were badly damaged when that wheel worked loose, causing the vibration.

"We knew we weren't going to make

it," Loomis said. When another caution came out soon after he'd reached that conclusion, Loomis decided to take a long view. Gor-

don came in and the team took out bolts that hold a "hat" that covers the wheel's hub. They then took quarterinch steel spacers off the assembly.

That allowed more threads on the studs to be exposed once the wheel was back on. For the rest of the day,

those newly exposed threads helped hold Gordon's tires tight. The tradeoff was that Gordon lost an additional lap while the spacers were removed, and needed an extra moment on each subsequent stop to make cer-

tain the lug nuts were tight. Because so much race was left, because Gordon had a strong car and because Loomis was right to have faith that Gordon could find the right mix of patience and doggedness to make up his deficit, resisting the reflex not to lose that third lap in order to

helped his team. make the right repairs worked out in the best way possible -Gordon's 71st career victory.

By controlling

his emotions,

Tony Stewart

For much of the day, it seemed that it'd be Stewart getting his 20th win instead. His No. 20 Chevrolet was flying — it led all but 26 laps between Lap 117 and Lap 389.

But on a pit stop under caution, Stewart's team had trouble with a lug nut on the right-front tire. He'd come in leading, and under the pressure of trying to keep him there that problem led to the wheel being loose

> when he went back out. By Lap 432, the wobble had done its damage and the wheel came off of his car.

> The disappointment was, no doubt, crushing. But Stewart, whose instinct no doubt was to rail against his misfortune, not only kept his emotions in check, he rallied his team around him

and around each other. "We are all frustrated and we are all mad, but that is because we are all competitive," he said. "We are strong, we are a team. We are leaving here with our heads held up high knowing we had the best car at Martinsville we've ever had."

BUSCH SERIES POINTS LEADERS

The to	p-20 driv	ers as of April 4:	
Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. Carl Edwards	1106	11. David Stremme	707
2. Reed Sorenso	n . 1025	12. David Green .	689
3. Clint Bowyer	955	13. Jason Keller	688
4. Kevin Harvick	875	14. Johnny Sauter	677
5. Martin Truex J	r 864	15. Randy LaJoie	664
6. Ashton Lewis	863	16. Greg Biffle	639
7. Kenny Wallace	835	17. Justin Labonte	631
8. Denny Hamlin		18. Tim Fedewa :.	631
9. Shane Hmiel .		19. Stacy Comptor	626
10. Jon Wood	726	20. Paul Menard .	576
The second secon	1900 - 100 C 100 20 M		

NEXT RACE: Saturday, O'Reilly 300, Justin, Texas

TRUCK SERIES POINTS LEADERS

	The top-10 drivers as of April 9:				
R	ank/Driver	Points	R	ank/Driver	Points
1.	Bobby Hamilto	n633	6.	Todd Bodine .	532
2.	Ricky Craven	614	7.	Matt Crafton .	519
3.	Ted Musgrave	: 606	8.	Johnny Benso	n 513
4.	Ron Hornaday	587	. 9.	Jack Sprague	503
5.	Jimmy Spence	r 580	10	Terry Cook	498

NEXT RACE: April 30, Dodge Ram Tough 200,