



## Coahoma ISD trustees to take next step in renovation plan

By STEVE REAGAN  
Staff Writer

Coahoma Independent School District trustees are expected to take the next step in a district-wide renovation plan when they hold their monthly meeting at 6:30 p.m. tonight in the administrative office board room.

The school board is expected to give the green light for the architectural consulting firm of Parkhill, Smith and Cooper to formulate a master plan for the district's physical plant, Interim Superintendent Wayne Mitchell said. Coahoma officials are looking closely

at renovation because of the age of several of the district's buildings. Also, heating and plumbing issues have become increasingly worrisome during the past few years, Mitchell said.

The purpose of the master plan will be to determine the district's infrastructure needs for the next 10 to 20 years. Preliminary estimates of the costs involved would be made available, allowing the board to decide how it wants to proceed, Mitchell said.

Devising a master plan for district facilities would be the second of four possible steps the district could take

toward authorizing a renovation project.

Earlier this year, PSC officials conducted a "preliminary facility condition assessment" — basically a general overview of what does or doesn't need fixing.

Also on tonight's agenda will be the matter of board reorganization, which became necessary with last month's resignation of board Secretary Larry Cordes.

The board is expected to at least name a new secretary, and may name an entire slate of officers for the coming school year.

Cordes, who had one year remaining on his term, cited travel restraints as the major reason for his resignation. A replacement hasn't been named.

The board is also expected to cancel the upcoming May 7 board election because the two candidates on the ballot — Dale Coates and Mike Blissard — are both unopposed.

They are expected to be seated as trustees in May.

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

## It's HIS OWN FAULT



Courtesy photo  
Elbow Elementary Principal Steve Osburn finds himself in a predicament of his own making at the school recently. Osburn told his students that if they met their classroom reading goals, they could tape him to a wall at the school. Aside from being the students' willing victim, Osburn also treated the students to a concert by musician Jody Nix.

## Scammers laying in wait everywhere

By THOMAS JENKINS  
Staff Writer

It begins like the answer to all your prayers.

"We are pleased to inform you that you are part of the winners at the recent Zarpworld Lottery International Promotion," reads one letter. "You have therefore been approved for a lump sum payment of \$750,000.00... This is from total prize money of \$50 million dispersed among the international winners in this category."

Too good to be true? According to Big Spring Police Sgt. Tony Everett, public information officers for the department, it is.

"If it seems too good to be true, then it probably is," said Everett, who

**"If it seems too good to be true, then it probably is. Common sense tells you if someone is trying to give you a large amount of money, something's wrong."**

Sgt. Tony Everett  
Big Spring Police Department

warns letters like these are being sent out all over the United States from foreign countries. "Common sense tells you if someone is trying to give you a large amount of money, something's wrong."

Everett said these scam letters regularly promise large cash rewards in return for what's deemed

"harmless" information — namely bank account numbers and personal information.

"Any time someone wants you to give them your bank account information, you should be wary," said Everett. "Even most reputable banks won't ask you for your bank account information over the phone or

through an e-mail. Once they get that information, they can pretty much empty your account.

"These scams are nothing new. They've been circulating through the mail and online for many years. Almost all of the originate from foreign countries, making it extremely difficult to track down or prosecute the scammers. We've seen them from Nigeria and a number of other countries."

Big Spring isn't the only area seeing an increase in mail from international scammers. Postal inspectors renewed warnings this week about Nigerian-originated mail money order scams.

According to U.S. postal reports, inspectors man-

See SCAMS, Page 3A

## Bee-ware!

**Authorities: Stay away, then seek help from an experienced beekeeper**

By THOMAS JENKINS  
Staff Writer

As the bee season gets into full swing, local emergency and law enforcement agencies say the number of calls concerning bee swarms has really "taken off."

Unfortunately, officials say there is little they can do about it.

"If someone calls us because there's a bee swarm on or near their property, all we can do is give them the name and number of a beekeeper," said Howard County Sheriff Dale Walker. "That's it."

Walker said he understands the danger the bees, which many believe to be the Africanized or "killer" variety, can represent. However, how he and his office can respond to these type of calls is clearly defined.

"Unless someone is being attacked, there's really nothing we can do about it except try to put them in touch with a beekeeper," said Walker. "We don't have the equipment or training to deal with a swarm of bees."

Walker said his office received a call from a county resident over the weekend concerning a swarm that had taken up temporary residence in a mail box.

"The caller demanded we come out and do something about the swarm," said Walker. "We explained what we could and couldn't do and gave him the name and phone number of a local beekeeper. Unfortunately, that simply wasn't good enough for this gentleman."

The HCSO isn't the only local agency receiving calls concerning bee swarms.

"Since the season began, we've had numerous calls concerning

swarms," said Carl Condray, Big Spring Fire Marshal. "All we can do is put them in touch with a beekeeper. It's the same if people call animal control or any other city agency."

"During this swarming time we receive numerous calls from panicked individuals fearing a bee attack. Most bees will not attack 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 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 apply ice to reduce swelling and discomfort. Seek medical treatment if you begin to experience difficulty breathing or have known allergies to insect stings."

While the "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 or beekeeper for assistance," said Condray.

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### SOMETHING NEW



able storage space beneath the pickup bed is a unique and useful feature that's sure to enchant the Ridgeline's owners.

The second thing to know about the Ridgeline is that it's big.

First things first: The 2006 Honda Ridgeline pickup's trunk rocks. The gaping lock-

able storage space beneath the pickup bed is a unique and useful feature that's sure to enchant the Ridgeline's owners.

The second thing to know about the Ridgeline is that it's big.

See Page 6A

### DEADLINE EXTENDED

The deadline for Donor Recognition in the Denim and Diamonds Gala Invitation has been extended until May 1. Responding by May 1 will ensure that Gala donors' names will appear in the Denim and Diamonds Invitation, which will be sent out closer to the June 3 party.

Gala announcements were mailed out last week to more than 800 people, including volunteers and those who have attended in the past. Anyone who did not receive a letter and would like to attend can contact the Big Spring State Hospital Community Relations office at 268-7535.

### FLEA MARKET

Keep Big Spring Beautiful will be holding a community-wide flea market Saturday. Area residents are encouraged to bring their gifts, crafts and recycled items to the Big Spring Mall parking lot from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Booth prices range from \$25 for a 10-foot by 10-foot space, \$45 for a 12-foot by 12-foot space and \$65 for a 24-foot by 12-foot space.

For an application, mail a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Keep Big Spring Beautiful, P.O. Box 1350, Big Spring 79721. Applications can also be picked up at the chamber office.



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By RAYMOND

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# Bolton an appalling choice for U.N.

Good news! If there is a distinct possibility a Bush nominee is a vile-tempered, lying, ineffective bully, the U.S. Senate is willing to hold off on the vote for two weeks.



MOLLY IVINS

John Bolton was an amazingly bad choice for ambassador to the United Nations from the beginning. He has a long record of expressing contempt for and distrust of the United Nations. You may or may not consider that a reasonable position, but it is highly inadvisable in a diplomat. In addition, he was a notable failure as under secretary of state for arms control and international security.

The problem of proliferation simply deteriorated under his guidance. Fewer weapons-grade nuclear materials were secured in the two years after 9-11 than in the two years before the attack. North Korea, which then had two nuclear weapons, now has as many as eight. After dealing with Bolton, the North Korean government called him "human scum" and "a bloodsucker," and declined to recognize him as an official of the United States. No one is claiming North Korea has a rational government, but any half-skilled diplomat could do better than that, and many have — including Bill Richardson.

Bolton also pushed to cut funding for the Nunn-Lugar program to halt the nuclear proliferation of materials and failed to conclude a Plutonium Disposition Agreement with Russia to eliminate 70 tons of weapons-grade plutonium. Russia has more dangerous unsecured nuclear material than any other country.

Many of Bolton's problems in the Senate hearings stemmed from his effort to drum up a "Cuba has biological weapons" scare. He tried to fire two intelligence officers who had the temerity to disagree with him. Under oath, he denied trying

to have the men fired, but seven intelligence officials contradicted him. In a typically intemperate statement, Bolton had dismissed the opinion of the chief bio-weapons analyst at State as that of "a mid-level munchkin."

Perhaps Bolton's most dangerous mischief was repeatedly withholding information from Secretary Colin Powell and at least once from Secretary Condoleezza Rice. The Washington Post broke that story, including Bolton's failure to advise Rice before her European trip on the unpopularity of Bolton's campaign to oust Mohammad El Baradei, the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency at the United Nations. El Baradei had the gall to be right about WMD in Iraq and is respected around the world.

Bolton is also the man who pushed to have the fake claim about Saddam's supposed Niger uranium put into the president's 2003 State of the Union Address. Truly, it is difficult to understand why the administration didn't nominate him for deputy assistant under secretary of the place where they stash embarrassing failures.

The official record is bad enough, but what emerged clearly at the hearings is that the man has a vicious temper. Former Assistant Secretary of State Carl Ford, a conservative Republican, said Bolton is a "kiss-up, kick-down sort of guy," who "abuses his authority with little people." He said Bolton is a "serial abuser."

Repeated testimony as to his nasty temper and unpleasant way of dealing with subordinates was heard, with more coming in all the time. Bolton, according to Washington Post journalist Richard Cohen, became furious and abusive when questioned by our Italian allies on why no WMD had been found in Iraq. Cohen said, "From what I saw, a bucket of cold water should always be kept at hand."

Perhaps the funniest comment on this controversy came from Danielle Pletka of the conservative

American Enterprise Institute. After the decision to postpone the vote, she said: "This is a disgrace, the idea that temperament is suddenly important. There are legions who have gone before John, as well as members of Congress, who have behaved appallingly." So true. In fact, that's what Bush ran on twice, calling it "character." Diplomacy, like judging, requires a certain temperament.

Neither Colin Powell nor his top deputy, Richard Armitage, have spoken publicly about Bolton, but Lawrence Wilkerson, who was Powell's chief of staff, told The New York Times: "But do I think John Bolton would make a good ambassador to the United Nations? Absolutely not. He is incapable of listening to people and taking into account their views. He would be an abysmal ambassador."

The right wing has gone nuts on this subject and is flaming all over the Internet about what a traitor Ohio Sen. George Voinovich is for saying he isn't ready to vote. Frankly, keeping the furor over this crank Bolton going is the best thing that's happened to the Democrats politically since Tom DeLay, another interesting example of the character issue.

But the prospect of Bolton at the United Nations is so appalling — that is, assuming the Bush administration has any interest at all in: A) getting anything done there, and B) our reputation around the world — I rather think it's time to forget politics and unite for the good of the country.

So far, the White House is sticking with the story that all of this was invented by nasty Democrats. But hey, even George W. Bush has admitted he can make mistakes. Maybe he'll be able to think of one now.

To find out more about Molly Ivins and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com).  
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## EDITORIAL

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

FIRST AMENDMENT

The addresses on this page are those of the Editorial Board of the Big Spring Herald, unless otherwise indicated.

Susanne Reed  
Publisher

John A. Moseley  
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan  
News Editor

### OUR VIEWS

# Texas needs a shield law that protects

Perhaps the worst thing lawmakers can do is pass a law that does the polar opposite of what it purports to accomplish. Unfortunately, that's the 180-degree turn a measure to protect journalists' sources is taking in Austin.

An independent press needs sources to speak freely, and a measure introduced by state Sen. Rodney Ellis, D-Houston, would allow a journalist, under certain circumstances, to protect the identity of sources during lawsuits. The measure would give Texas a shield law, a protection that 31 other states and the District of Columbia offer.

Those other states and the district enacted shield laws for a simple reason. Journalists ask tough questions to pull back the curtains on corruption and misdeeds. Sometimes those answers come only when news sources feel they won't be punished as whistle-blowers.

But Austin is a sausage factory this time of year, and the so-called "shield" bill that the Senate Jurisprudence Committee recently passed doesn't look anything like the one that Ellis filed. At the urging of business interests and prosecutors, lawmakers removed a line in the original bill that would have protected a whistle-blower's identity. The elimination of this effectively guts the bill's original intent and leaves it a shield bill in name only.

Not good. The public benefits from having the truth on display. Compelling journalists to reveal confidential sources under threat of civil or criminal punishment is contrary to the best interests of citizens in a free society. It could also make sources wary of talking to reporters, which would only impede the spread of valuable information. Too often, public officials are inclined toward secrecy, especially when their conduct is embarrassing or harmful. Moreover, the threat of retribution has an intimidating and chilling effect on efforts to hold government responsible and accountable.

Ellis has been a tireless champion of this cause for several years and deserves praise for recognizing the importance of an effective shield law. We would urge influential lawmakers to urge the full Senate to restore the bill to its original form. Texas needs a shield law that truly protects journalists and sources.

THE MORNING NEWS  
DALLAS

## LETTER POLICIES

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

## A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we not be hurt by earthly problems, Lord, but pray our problems away.

Amen

### YOUR VIEWS

#### TO THE EDITOR:

The Easter weekend edition of the Herald was exceptional.

All the sections about our neighbors were so interesting. You and your staff did an extraordinary job at interviewing various members of our community and photographing each one.

Keep up the good work.

SHERRY NEWTON  
BIG SPRING

#### TO THE EDITOR:

For several years the Goliad Junior Classics, a girls' civic organization sponsored by the Big Spring Women's Club, has participated in the Texas Trash Off.

This year, 56 girls and three sponsors cleaned the Goliad campus and south on Goliad Street.

We were amazed at how little trash there was this year. We feel this is due to a new responsibility by Big Spring citizens to be more conscientious of littering. When we finished Friday, the Sonic on FM 700 graciously fed us at no cost.

Thank you Big Spring for having pride in your community and for being an example to young adults.

GAIL BERRINGER  
SPONSOR  
GOLIAD JUNIOR CLASSICS

#### TO THE EDITOR:

I am writing this to thank Yolanda Mendoza of the Spring City Senior Center for saving the life of an elderly man here in Big Spring.

Out of the sincere concern for a man, she called me at Best Home Care to ask that the man be visited because he seemed very ill and things just did not seem right. She just had a feeling that something was terribly wrong.

I went to his landlord's house, and he and I went to visit the man.

The gentleman was confused, did not correctly remember his birthdate and could not remember when he had ever gone to a doctor. He had no family whatsoever, and he was eating only breakfast — one meal a day — occasionally.

After going to the Social Security Administration to get a printout about him, I went to see Dr. Shroff and Dee. He was brought into their

office right away for a thorough examination and two specialists were subsequently contacted. Dr. McFaul did emergency surgery.

I visited him at Scenic Mountain Medical Center this past weekend. He was hurting, naturally, but he was clean, had plenty to eat and plenty of fruit juice to drink. And, God bless the hospital nurses on the third floor, there was even a picture of a "Smiley Face" on his door.

The care he is getting at SMMC is top drawer.

Thank you Yolanda and Bobby Leonard, director of the senior center, for all you do to help the elderly in our community. There have been so many times over the years that you have given that extra mile of individualized care.

Yolanda, you indeed saved a man's life. It is an honor to know you and may all of Big Spring know that we are indeed fortunate to have someone who has the heart of caring in her soul.

ORAND CARROLL  
SOCIAL WORKER  
BEST HOME CARE

#### TO THE EDITOR:

What a beautiful day the Lord granted us to clean up our community. The temperature was perfect and volunteers were out in record number. About 175 volunteers showed up for hot dogs, chips and drinks served by HEB at the Heart of the City Park, chili was provided by Debbye Valverde and Nancy Newell, and wonderful array of cookies were provided from our great ladies of Keep Big Spring Beautiful. Our special guest sharing this time was Marj Carpenter.

A drawing was held with some nice gardening tools in tote bags, gardening tools, jump ropes and cartoon maps of Big Spring going to Patricia Trevino, Hannah Thompson, Bill Cox, Ivivian Reed, JoAnn Staulcup, Perry Hall, Gloria McDonald, Todd Darden, Sue Ann Damron, Olga Fierro and Lisa Brooks.

A wonderful turnout of more than 500 volunteers collected 5,755 pounds of trash.

This is good, as each year we hope to have a reduction in trash, last year we collected 6,660.

Those participating this year were: Airpark Board and friends, Alon USA, Big Spring Rotary, Friday Rotary, Lisa Brooks, BSHS Student Council, Brownie Troop No. 46, Irene and Phil Bustamante, City of Big Spring, Big Spring Fire Department, Comanche Flat residents, Cornell Companies Inc. employees and families, Shirley Cross, Cub Scouts 176/179, DAR Captain Elisha Mack Chapter, Disc Golf Club, Downtown Revitalization, Lee and Fran Emerson, First Bank of West Texas in Coahoma, First Baptist Chapel Class, First Church of Nazarene Youth, Friends of the Library, Martin and Lenita Fryar, Goliad Cavaliers, Goliad Classics, Howard College, Howard College Diplomats, Lions Club, Charlotte Melton, Jimmy and Georgie Newsom, TXU, Robert and Charlene Ragan, Sacred Heart Church Youth, Scenic Mountain Medical Center, St. Paul Lutheran Church, VA Employees Assn. Kathryn Wiseman and Western Container.

The Adopt A Highway group always works along with us on this day. They are American Legion Post 506, Big Spring Model Airplane Association, Big Spring Boys Club, Concerned Citizens and Workforce Teen Network.

It was a great event because of all the volunteers; A special volunteer, Rafael Gon, a Brazilian foreign exchange student from BSHS, showed area residents you don't have to be from the United States to take pride in your community. Three cheers for you Rafael!

Also, to Chamber of Commerce Staff for stepping in with assistance. Thanks to the county for loan of tables and chairs and city crews for putting up banners, as well as providing and maintaining receptacles.

We also want to thank Bill Brooks for making the letters for the banners.

Thank so very much to all of you. It takes team work to show that we can "Make A Difference" in our community. Speaking of teamwork, cleaning was done in both the city and county.

PAT SIMMONS  
TRASH OFF COORDINATOR



**Arlington National Cemetery bound**

**Family travels to Washington, D.C. to honor World War II aircraft crew**

By **RAYMOND D. PITTMAN**

Special to the Herald  
Arlington National Cemetery Bound

When my mom, Nadine Maxwell Pittman, called me in June 2001, she said she had received a call from the Department of the Army, Mortuary Affairs and Casualty Support Division.

She told me the World War II airplane that her brother, Sgt. Raymond Maxwell was on had been located along with human skeletal remains and some personal items.

According to an article I found on the internet at [www.aerothernic.com](http://www.aerothernic.com):

"Eight hours walk from the small villages of Nigila and Gopal, and it was 24 February 1999. A native hunter stumbled across pieces of metal," and a familiar Pacific story was repeated.

Each year in New Guinea, more missing WW2 aircraft are found, and this time yet another Fifth Air Force Bomber was located.

Miles from New Guinea's small town of Alotau, in the Milne Bay area, a curious Red Cross worker was led back to the site by the same hunter. It was what the native had said it was — the wreckage of an aircraft.

An embossed tag found at the site read: "James W. Carver 0-7259646 T42 A Mrs. P.S. Carter 543 Ford Street, Eagle Pass, Tex"

As they scoured the damp jungle floor they came across a watch, a comb and a dog-tag. They also discovered larger wreckage which had the numbers 12635 stenciled in yellow and painted on a background of what appeared to be a red vertical stripe.

Finally, they found human bones.

This was a major turn of events and the U.S. Embassy in Port Moresby was provided with the information. This in turn was relayed to the Central Identification Laboratory in Hawaii—CILHI — which then e-mailed Aerothetic's President Michael John Claringbould.

Within four hours, Claringbould had provided them with an answer, but by no means the complete one. The serial number was clearly that of a

B-17E Flying Fortress, and Aerothetic's records confirmed that this Fortress had been assigned to the 30th Bombardment Squadron of the 19th Bombardment Group.

The Aircraft was a B-17 serial No. 41-2635 and was lost with its eight-man crew aboard.

The crew included 1st Lt. John S. Hancock, pilot; 1st Lt. James W. Carver, pilot; Sgt. Robert H. Burns; Sgt. Edward R. Cipriani; Sgt. Mac S. Groesbeck; Sgt. Raymond A. Maxwell; Cpl. Curtis F. Longenber; and Cpl. Hiram D. Wilkinson.

U.S. Army records quote the following on the loss:

"The above named personnel, crew members aboard an unknown type airplane failed to return from a night raid against Japanese installations near Faisi Island, Solomon Islands on 1 Nov 1942. Subject-airplane was last seen in the vicinity of Tonolei Harbor, Solomon Islands, held by enemy searchlights and receiving heavy anti-aircraft fire. The aircraft is believed to have been shot down by enemy anti-aircraft fire over Tonolei Harbor, Bouganinville, Solomon Islands."

Many more human bones were found scattered amongst the wreckage March 2, 1999, by an initial CILHI search and rescue team. Human remains and other personal effects were also verified from photographs taken by local international Red Cross workers. However, the main task of fully excavating the site was only completed in April 2001.

Lula Mae Maxwell (Nanny) never really spoke of her two sons lost during WWII. The only conversation we remember is that she couldn't accept the fact that Raymond was dead, as his remains were not returned for burial, as was his brother, Richard Maxwell. We can remember always going to Nannie's and seeing the pictures on the wall of Raymond and Richard.

After Mom got in touch with the Army again, they sent her a DNA kit for her to complete and mail back and that was done in early June 2001. She was told that it would

take quite a while to hear back from them. After nearly 60 years, we figured it would take at least a year.

Then Sept. 11, 2001, happened and then the war in Iraq began and it truly slowed the process down. I continued to keep in close contact with Tracy at the Army's office in Washington.

I called Oct. 25, 2004, and she said all of the identifications had been made and we would be hearing very soon about a meeting to make final arrangements.

I was told that there had been enough of my uncle's remains left to bring home for burial. They explained what took the longest was tracking down family members of all eight crew members.

Nov. 22, 2004, mom and dad, along with my only surviving uncle, Calvin and his wife, Leta Fern were to meet with Renae Thompson from the Department of Army in Stephenville.

Along with her was a DNA expert to explain how the process of the DNA identification was conducted. They were given a notebook approximately one-inch thick with every detail of the recovery mission and identification process explained.

Mom and Dad, Calvin and Leta Fern had to decide whether to bring Sgt. Raymond Maxwell home to Stephenville for burial or to bury him in the National Cemetery in Arlington, Va. They opted without hesitation to bring him home to be buried next to his brother, Richard and his parents.

The memorial service with complete military honors was Dec. 11, 2004. The honor guard from Fort Hood was very professional and caring.

They were informed that there would be a joint memorial service at the National Cemetery in Arlington, Va., for all eight crew members. Out of the eight crew members, positive identification was made on six. Instead of singling out those two, they wanted to do a joint memorial service for all eight at one time.

Our family would be flown there to attend the

service. A special time of gathering for all family members from all eight crew members is April 27 from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. at Murphy Funeral Home in Arlington, Va.

Full military honors will be rendered at the interment service. This will give all family members a chance to meet the other families whose loved ones made the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

Due to health reasons, Mom and Dad, Calvin and Leta Fern will not be able to make the trip. My twin brother, Gale Pittman (owner Gale's Sweet Shoppe) and his wife, Maurine and my wife, Kay and I will attend the services on behalf of the Maxwell family.

This has brought back so many tough memories for Mom and Uncle Calvin. We have read and seen other stories like this but never imagined we would one day be allowed to bring our uncle home for proper burial.

We travel with very mixed emotions and truly a grateful heart to honor not only our Uncle Sgt. Raymond Maxwell, whom I was named after, but to honor the other seven members on that fateful flight.

After the memorial service in Stephenville, Mom was presented with a U.S. flag along with a beautiful wooden flag case that has his medals pinned inside. She also was given his original dog tags found at

the wreckage.

During the trip, the office of Congressman Randy Neugebauer has arranged some special tours for us to attend. We will be going on a Capitol tour, a tour of the Library of Congress and the Kennedy Center.

Neugebauer has also arranged for an American flag to be flown above the Capitol the day of the service that will be returned to Nadine Pittman. Also, Rena Thompson, a mortuary affairs specialist, will be at both services as our contact person with the U.S. Army Department of Mortuary Affairs Division.

*Dale and his brother Gale Pittman are Big Spring residents.*



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**CONGRATULATIONS!**  
**LINDA GWIN**  
*WINNER OF THE BIG SPRING HERALD'S*

**SPRING TREASURE HUNT**

\$250  
H.E.B.

Linda found the miniature bag of groceries Wednesday morning hiding in a window sill at the old Boy Scout Hut in Comanche Trail Park.

Thanks to all who participated in our Treasure Hunt.

We hope you had as much fun as we did.



**Explanation of Clues:**

- From the pole, look toward the rising sun. There is a flag pole on the west side of the old Boy Scout Hut.
- Be prepared to observe the speed limit. Be prepared is a motto of the Boy Scouts. The front window of the building is boarded up with an old speed limit sign.
- A Big Spring thoroughfare runs nearby. Hwy. 87 is on the east side of the park.
- One step, two steps, three steps but not four. There are 3 steps leading into the building.
- There is no need to lock away the prize. There is a padlock on the door to the building.
- The path to the prize may seem rocky. The driveway to the building is unpaved.
- A grocery bill will overflow this bag. It is a miniature bag of groceries.
- Knowledge of Herald history could be the key. Whipkey Drive leads into the park. Robert W. Whipkey was a longtime publisher of the Herald.
- A rose by any other name is still a rose. The park has an exercise path dedicated to Rose Magers.
- 6-70 says 6-10; but not 4. There is a sign stating that City Code 6-70 sets the park's opening from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. The clue also tells people to stay off the golf course by transposing "4" for "fore."
- Santa found no stockings at this hearth. The building has a chimney that appears not to have been used for years.
- You can slide into the neighborhood. There are childrens slides in the park.
- The sound of music is sometimes heard nearby. Refers to the amphitheatre.
- Left at the pickle or you'll be bugged. There is a sign on the front of the building naming Mr. Pickle and Mr. Bugg.
- Heaven's illumination helps lead the way. The building is on Starlight Drive in the park.
- Any flying saucer you see isn't a UFO. Hole #2 of the Disc golf course is near the building.
- Hoss and Little Joe left the neighborhood some time ago. The Ponderosa restaurant moved from the area a little more than a year ago.

**Thank you to our Sponsors:**

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- Gale's Sweet Shoppe 1200 E 4th
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13824

**Stitches From The Heart seeks volunteers to crochet**

Stitches From The Heart needs volunteers to knit, crochet or quilt blankets, little sweaters and hats for babies in need.

These items are donated to hospitals all over the country. Patterns are

available. Donated yarn is also appreciated.

Stitches From The Heart has donated thousands and thousands of hand-made hats, booties, sweaters and blankets to more than 411 hospitals and charities around then

country.

Stitches From The Heart is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization.

Please contact Kathy Silverton toll free at 866-472-6903 or e-mail at [StitchFromHeart@aol.com](mailto:StitchFromHeart@aol.com).

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

On April 15, 2005 TXU Energy Retail Company LP ("TXU Energy"), in accordance with Substantive Rule 25.41 of the Public Utility Commission of Texas ("Commission"), filed an Application to Implement Revised Price to Beat Fuel Factors. If approved, the filing will establish new fuel factors for TXU Energy to include in its Price to Beat charges for residential and small commercial customers. For a residential customer using 1,000 kWh per month, the total electric bill will increase by approximately \$10.85 per month. For a small commercial customer using an average of 2,500 kWh per month, the average monthly increase will be approximately \$26.84. The proposed fuel factors, differentiated by rate class, voltage level, and season are as follows per kilowatt-hour (kWh):

Rate Class	Voltage Level	Summer (Jun-Sept)	Winter (Oct-May)
Residential Service	Secondary	\$0.062985	\$0.062985
General Service	Secondary	\$0.069111	\$0.058984
General Service	Primary	\$0.068042	\$0.057919
General Service	Transmission	\$0.067267	\$0.057140
Municipal Service	Secondary	\$0.062985	\$0.062985
Municipal Service	Primary	\$0.061486	\$0.061486

The Application, if granted, will affect all of TXU Energy's residential and small commercial Price to Beat customers. Persons with questions or who want more information on this application may contact TXU Energy, 1601 Bryan Street, Dallas, Texas 75201 or call 1-800-242-9113 during normal business hours. A complete copy of this application is available for inspection at the above address. Persons who wish to formally participate in this proceeding, or who wish to express their comments concerning this application should contact the Public Utility Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas 78711-3326, or call the Commission's Office of Customer Protection at (512) 936-7120 or toll-free at (888) 782-8477. Hearing- and speech-impaired individuals with text telephones (TTY) may contact the Commission at (512) 936-7136 or use Relay Texas (toll-free) 1-800-735-2989.

TXU Energy

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# REAL NEW

## Honda's first pickup is truly a standout

By MARK PHELAN

Knight Ridder Newspapers

First things first: The 2006 Honda Ridgeline pickup's trunk rocks. The gaping lockable storage space beneath the pickup bed is a unique and useful feature that's sure to enchant the Ridgeline's owners.

The second thing to know about the Ridgeline is that it's big — longer than a Ford Explorer Sport Trac and with more passenger space than a full-size four-door Toyota Tundra Double Cab pickup.

The Ridgeline, Honda's first pickup, is also expensive. The four-door, all-wheel-drive midsize five-passenger pickup's base price is \$27,700, and the loaded RTL model I tested checked in at \$34,640. All prices exclude destination charges.

The Ridgeline is a very good truck, with loads of versatility from the trunk and its foldaway back seats.

Most of its shortcomings are simply rookie mistakes, the sort of small oversights a company makes when it steps into a brand-new business.

The trunk is an absolute home run. At 8.5 cubic feet, it's big enough to hold a 72-quart cooler or

three golf bags. For sliding doors on vans, it's one of the innovations that immediately use, can't figure out, or nobody thought of before, and it's hard to see how other companies could have come up with the idea.

Even the most innovative, hinged to open up, down, like a flap on a pickup, or to provide easy access to the bed. The spare tire nest in the bed just above the trunk's storage space. A spare can also be stored to the inside of the bed, access when the bed is loaded.

A temporary, standard equipment full-size will be a full-size will be a full-size installed, optional. I haven't said how much a spare will cost. I can't imagine it will dump them to a Ford F-150 or Dodge Ram for a Ridgeline, with a completely different set of stanchions — but the new thing enters the game as a completely different player. The bar in the market is set.

Hauling equipment is the priority for most people working on their full-size trucks. The Ridgeline can carry



The 2006 Honda Ridgeline

the same payload capacity but can tow 1,500 pounds.

The Ridgeline's chassis combines some of the load-bearing elements of a conventional pickup's structure with the unibody layout of Honda's cars.

That leads to a ride that is slightly smoother than most pickups. The Ridgeline's ability to absorb bumps doesn't rival a Honda Accord, but it did just fine getting in and out of construction sites.

The Ridgeline is subject to a fair amount of body roll in quick turns and on fast highway ramps. The brakes performed extremely well, slowing the 4,498-pound truck with assurance. Antilock brakes and electronic stability control are standard.

The truck's steering is good, although I thought it could use a bit more assist at low speeds. At 42.6 feet, the Ridgeline's turning circle is smaller than the Avalanche, Sport Trac or Tundra.

The Ridgeline clearly has the speed to be a player among midsize and almost-large pickups.

Honda wasn't taking any chances that its new baby would be dismissed as a toy truck, though. It pulled out all the stops to give the Ridgeline a tough and utilitarian-looking body and interior.

That explains the huge Honda badge set in a chrome grille that looks like the heating element for an industrial-strength toaster, the A-shaped flying buttresses that link the rear of the cab to the bed sides and the big body-colored bumpers.

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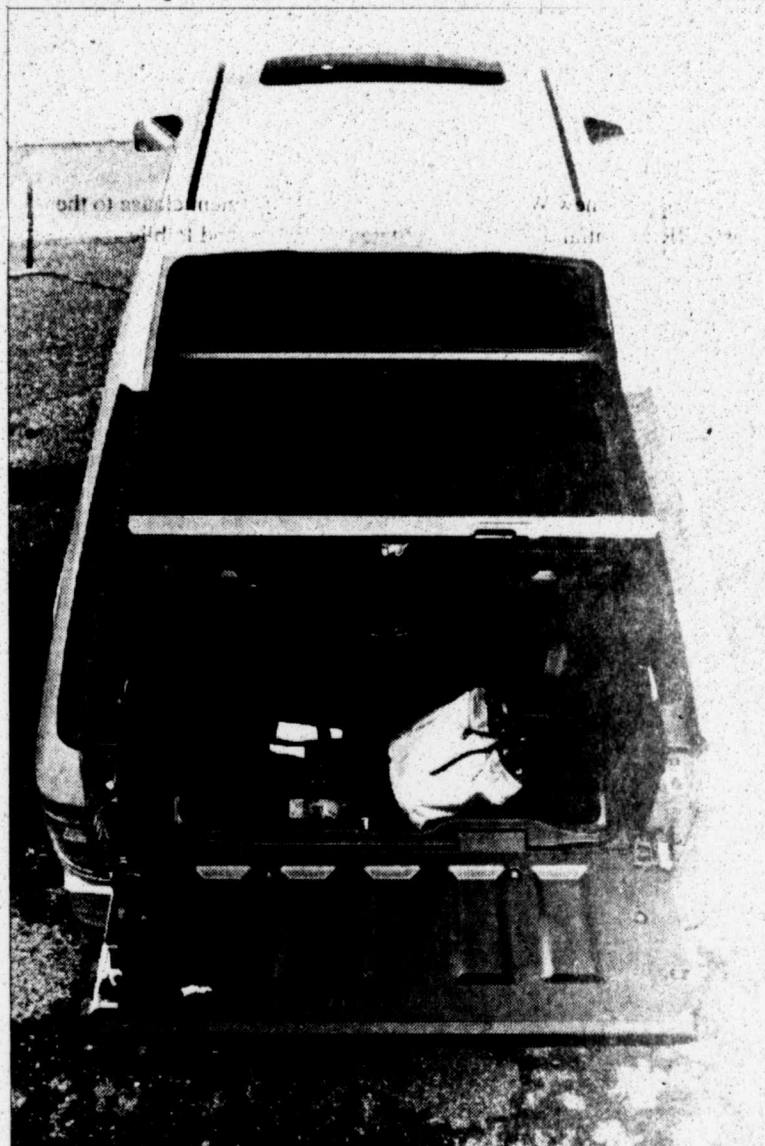
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# SPRING CAR CARE MONTH

## CAR CARE DIRECTORY

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Big Spring State Y. Smith Award Presenting the a Y. Smith award porters. His son, cheon, which is

### BS

**Class of 1965 seeks classmate**  
Big Spring High School Class of 1965 classmates to an upcoming reunion. If you have information on these people, please contact Nancy Thomas at 432-714-4390 or Howard Duncan at 263-4887 or email nancy@teach.edu.

- Max Anderson
- Arriola, Judy
- Robert Baker
- Baulch, Carr
- Edward Brigg
- Brown, Dixie
- Duane Brown
- Bryson, Tom
- June Burr
- Cabiness,
- Cockrall, Lorri
- Cole, Nore
- Humberto Cr
- Cunningham
- Witt Cuthbert
- Also Robert
- Terry Daugh
- Petree, Da
- Dement, Car
- Allan Doelp,
- Drinkard,
- Edwards, Ar
- Suzette Ferre
- Morris Five
- Fleischner,
- Flewellan,
- Flores, Jun
- Fern Foster
- Frazier.
- And Ronald
- James Gre
- Grimes,
- Grisham, C
- Jan Hamil
- Harper, Jack
- Jo Hatfield,
- Cecil Hendri
- Hissem, Jo
- Diane Holl
- Hughes, B
- Sammy Jas
- Jenks, Edg
- Cheryl Gill
- Paul Kenni
- Peeler Kin
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- Also Darre
- Lavender,
- Mitchell Le
- Duncan Lec
- Lopez, Ro
- Linda Lo
- Wilson D
- Maberry, S
- Alan McC
- Little McC
- McDade,
- McDonald,
- McNallen,
- Horace Mc
- Nell Mere
- Metcalfe, Sh
- and Greg O
- And Sta
- Linda Pa
- Patterson,
- Dennis P
- Pope, Mike
- Powell, Ric

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Courtesy photo

Big Spring State Hospital volunteer Dorothy Sheppard, left, received the prestigious Jack Y. Smith Award Wednesday during the hospital's yearly Volunteer Awards Luncheon. Presenting the award is Volunteer Services Council Chairman Doris Huijbregtse. The Jack Y. Smith award is given in memory of Smith, who was one of the hospital's staunchest supporters. His son, Steve, and widow, Edna Faye, present the award every year during the luncheon, which is held in conjunction with National Volunteer Week.

## Chuck Wagon Party offers evening of margaritas and magic for Heritage Museum

By MARSHA STURDIVANT  
Features Editor

A casual evening of Margaritas and Magic begins at 6 p.m. with the annual Chuck Wagon Party, sponsored by Heritage Museum.



TAMMY SCHREENGOST

"This is an annual dinner for our members, and anyone can join the museum for the cost of the ticket plus a \$15 special membership fee tonight only," said Tammy

Schreengost, museum curator.

The event, an annual fund-raiser for the museum, is set from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. at Kokopelli's, 4007 Chaparral Road in Silver Hills. Tickets are \$15 per person. The membership is renewed annually.

"We chose this location because it has a western atmosphere and the space we were looking for. It's been remodeled and it's very nice," said Schreengost.

A special opportunity to obtain works of art from local artists Sue Bagwell, Lenita Fryar and Linda (Rupard) Irvin is part the evening's entertainment.

"We have several works of art donated for this event," she said.

Slight of hand escapades will be performed by magician Bill Mills.

"He was recommended to us," said Schreengost.

The evening meal, featuring a char-broiled steak and chicken breast dinner, is catered by Al's & Son Bar-B-Q.

For more information, contact the museum at 267-8255.

Marsha Sturdivant is the features editor for the Big Spring Herald.

Contact her at 263-7331 or e-mail life@bigspringherald.com.

## BSHS Class Reunions

### 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, Robert Baker, Kathy Baulch, Carrie Blount, Edward Bright, David Brown, Dixie Brown, Duane Brown, Patsy Bryson, Tommy Buford, June Burr, Barbara Cabiness, Marshall Cockrall, Lorreen Daniels Cole, Noreen Cole, Humberto Cruz, Tommy Cunningham and Glynn Witt Cuthbertson.

Also Robert Daniels, Terry Daughtry, Jessie Petree Day, Dana Dement, Carol Dennis, Allan Doelp, Jane Doane Drinkard, Linda Edwards, Arthur Farris, Suzette Ferrell, Jo Ellen Morris Fiveash, Hilary Fleischner, Curtis Flewellan, Nita Massy Flores, June Forsyth, Fern Foster and Barbara Frazier.

And Ronald Gilliland, James Green, Hazel Grimes, Virginia Grisham, Charles Hall, Jan Hamilton, Larry Harper, Jack Hasenbank, Jo Hatfield, Larry Helton, Cecil Hendricks, Georgia Hissem, Jo Ann Hobbs, Diane Holly, Thomas Hughes, Bob Husson, Sammy Jasso, Avaneel Jenks, Edgar Jennins, Cheryl Gillihan Jones, Paul Kenning, Charlotte 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, Donna Stacy, Alan 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, contact Dana (Kohl) Rodriguez, e-mail drodriguez@wfsd.net or call 940-691-9851 or Sheila (Kuykendall) Shanks, e-mail sshanks@brinc.com.

Adrienne Allen, Lucy Alvarado, Jerry 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 Drew, Toby 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, Vera Mathews, Curtis McCain, Melissa McCalister, Verna McVea, Rose Meier, Robert Mendoza, Manuela Montez, Joe Morelion, Greg Nelson, Gloria Olivas,

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

## ATMOS energy

### 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 Service Area.

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 bills of customers in weather-sensitive classes (Residential, Commercial, State Institution, and Public 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 Bill (L)	Proposed Bill (L)	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 its Other Revenues in the Environs by approximately \$30,377 annually. The proposed changes are as follows:

Description	Current Charge	Proposed Charge	Increase
<b>DURING BUSINESS HOURS:</b>			
Turn on new service (with meter set)	\$23.50	\$32.00	\$8.50
Turn on service (shut-in test required)	\$19.00	\$23.50	\$4.50
<b>DURING BUSINESS HOURS (cont'd):</b>			
Turn on service (meter read only required)	\$10.50	\$15.00	\$4.50
Miscellaneous service calls	\$10.50	\$11.25	\$0.75
Reconnect delinquent service or Service temporarily off at customer's request	\$29.50	\$37.50	\$8.00
Dishonored Check Charge	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$0.00
<b>AFTER BUSINESS HOURS:</b>			
Turn on new service (with meter set)	\$35.25	\$48.00	\$12.75
Turn on service (shut-in test required)	\$28.50	\$35.25	\$6.75
Turn on service (meter read only required)	\$15.75	\$22.50	\$6.75
Miscellaneous service calls	\$15.75	\$16.88	\$1.13
Reconnect delinquent service or Service temporarily off at customer's request	\$39.00	\$56.25	\$17.25

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 same county.

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

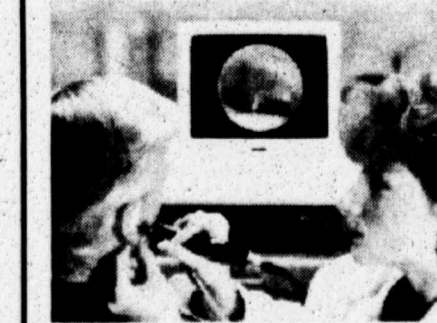
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## Texas briefs

### FDA investigates clinic where patient died

HOUSTON (AP) - The Food and Drug Administration is investigating whether to shut down a research clinic after one of its patients died during a study of an anti-psychotic drug.

The FDA notified the Fabre Research Clinic that it has started proceedings to disqualify it as a clinical investigator following an investigation into the 2002 death of a psychiatric patient.

"The FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research believes you have repeatedly or deliberately violated regulations governing the proper conduct of clinical studies," Dr. Joanne Rhoads, director of the center's division of scientific investigations, wrote Dr. Louis Fabre, the head of the clinic, in a Jan. 19 letter.

The patient, who was receiving the antipsychotic drug Clozaril (clozapine), died of a heart attack brought on by inflammation of the heart, a known risk of the drug. The FDA letter said clinic staff failed to evaluate or recognize the patient's worsening condition.

Fabre, who declined an interview request from the Houston Chronicle, said in a written statement that the clinic is "working with the FDA to achieve an early and mutually acceptable resolution to this matter," the newspaper reported in its Thursday editions. He said the clinic "answered and corrected the issues raised by the FDA" but a subsequent FDA investigation revealed documentation deficiencies.

### House gets second go at tax-relief bill

AUSTIN (AP) - A measure meant to safeguard property tax cuts by limiting the amount of revenue local governments can take in without voter approval is getting a second round on the House floor.

A technical error last week sent the bill, a major part of Republican Gov. Rick Perry's tax reform plan, back to committee. Rep. Carl Isett, R-Lubbock, said the extra time has helped him tweak the proposal he calls "truth in taxation" and recruit the 76 votes he needs to pass the bill. It was to be reconsidered Thursday.

Opponents of the measure say it would hamstring the ability of local officials to generate income for necessary services like police and fire protection.

Lawmakers are working to provide taxpayer relief while revamping the system that pays for Texas schools. Both House and Senate school finance plans reduce school property taxes by a third.

Supporters of the legislation say they want to protect that tax cut by making local officials more accountable for tax increases that could eat away at the cut.

### Former Merrill Lynch execs facing long prison terms

HOUSTON (AP) - Two former Merrill Lynch & Co. executives convicted of participating in Enron's bogus sale of

power barges to the brokerage could serve more time in prison than the former Enron finance chief credited with masterminding schemes that rotted his company.

Federal probation officers have recommended double-digit prison terms for Daniel Bayly, former head of investment banking for Merrill Lynch, and James A. Brown, former head of the brokerage's asset lease group. Bayly was to be sentenced Thursday morning, followed by Brown mid-afternoon.

They and two other former Merrill executives convicted by a jury last year demonstrated a chunk of Wall Street's role in the Enron scandal through the brokerage's choice to participate in a sham deal to make a lucrative client happy. The company avoided prosecution by implementing reforms to prevent suspicious deals.

The recommended prison terms for Bayly

and Brown - about 14 years for Bayly and up to 33 for Brown - exceed the decade awaiting Andrew Fastow as part of a plea deal in which he admitted to engineering varied schemes to make Enron appear financially healthy while pocketing millions of dollars for himself on the side. Fastow could shave a year and a half off his term with good time credit.

Both defense teams dispute the \$43 million figure, which the government says amounts to a loss because investors overpaid for Enron shares. The defense says the figure stems from flawed data.

### On-duty officer arrested in prostitution sting

HOUSTON (AP) - An on-duty Houston police officer was arrested in a prostitution sting, a prosecutor said.

Tyrone Hamilton Cross, an 11-year Houston Police Department veteran, had

been the subject of an HPD Internal Affairs Division investigation, and his arrest was the result of a sting, said Julian Ramirez of the Harris County district attorney's Public Integrity Division, who is prosecuting the case.

Houston police would not discuss what prompted that investigation.

Cross, who court records show is charged with a misdemeanor count of prostitution, was released from jail after posting \$1,000 bail.

A criminal complaint accuses Cross of soliciting someone in a public place to engage in sex for hire. Cross was on duty when he agreed to pay a woman for sexual intercourse Sunday in Houston, Ramirez said. Cross was arrested later that day during his work

shift, Ramirez said.

Cross, 44, of Missouri City, has been relieved from duty with pay, police Lt. Robert Manzo said.

### Federal jury convicts Mexican Mafia members

SAN ANTONIO (AP) - Four men accused of being members of the Mexican Mafia gang were convicted by a federal jury Wednesday on drug, weapons and other charges, according to the U.S. Attorney's office.

The four San Antonio men were identified as Juan Victor Valles, 30; Jimmy Zavala, 35; Johnny Garcia-Esparza and Sammy Garcia. Ages for Garcia-Esparza and Garcia were not immediately available.

They were each found guilty of engaging in conspiracies to sell drugs and to hide their profits

through money laundering.

Zavala, described as a top officer in the gang, was also convicted on three counts of possessing a firearm while trafficking drugs, while Garcia was convicted on two weapons counts and Valles and Garcia one each.

The four face up to life in prison for the convictions.

According to federal prosecutors, the four were part of a Texas Mexican Mafia scheme to distribute large quantities of heroin and cocaine beginning in 1999. They also extorted protection money from other rival drug dealers and dealt violently with those who resisted, officials said.

Two dozen other defendants in the case earlier made plea deals with prosecutors.

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## IN B

### West Texas Golf Champ

#### tourney and

The West Texas Golf Tournament place Saturday Sunday.

The tournament consist of three rounds. Two will be Saturday round will Sunday. Round begins at 7 player's m lows at 8 a.m.

For more tion or to call Greg Br 528-5076.

### Cornell Cor

#### sets up sec

#### dodge ball

Cornell Co has set up dodge ball to benefit Life. The to take place at the YMCA tration mus by April 28.

The tourne 9 a.m. and co person and t have eight male and fe

For more tion, contac Turney 267-2

### Forsan ISD

#### all-sports ba

Forsan announced t sports ban take place May 3 at school.

Tickets fo letes and p \$10 and they purchased b 28.

For more tion or to tickets, call High School 457-2223. Ti also be pur the high sch

### McMahon c

#### big bass at

#### Lunker Bas

Jim McMa Spring caug Budweiser Lunker Bas 2005 year, eighth Share to come ou Alan Henry

The bass 13.03 pou Share A Lu gram is a T and Wildlif which tal weighing m pounds to help resto lakes.

### Big Spring

#### Club sets s

The Big Country Cl up its 200 Scramble g ment.

The tourne place Satu Sunday.

The proc benefit the Cancer So Relay For L

Teams wi up of four p the field wi ed by first r

Prizes wil ed to the fi and third p in each flig

The entry per player cart fee.

For more tion or to the country 5354.



## IN BRIEF

**West Texas Discus  
Golf Championship  
tournament announced**

The West Texas Disc Golf Champions Tournament will take place Saturday and Sunday.

The tournament will consist of three 27-hole rounds. Two rounds will be played Saturday and one round will be played Sunday. Registration begins at 7 a.m. and a player's meeting follows at 8 a.m.

For more information or to pre-register call Greg Brooks at 432-528-5076.

**Cornell Corrections  
sets up second  
dodge ball tournament**

Cornell Corrections has set up a second dodge ball tournament to benefit Relay For Life. The tourney will take place April 30 at the YMCA and registration must be done by April 28.

The tourney starts at 9 a.m. and costs \$10 per person and teams must have eight people — male and female.

For more information, contact Phyllis Turney 267-2004.

**Forsan ISD sets up  
all-sports banquet**

Forsan has announced that its all-sports banquet will take place Tuesday, May 3, at the high school.

Tickets for non-athletes and parents are \$10 and they must be purchased before April 28.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call the Forsan High School Office at 457-2223. Tickets may also be purchased at the high school office.

**McMahon catches  
big bass at Share A  
Lunker Bass 2005**

Jim McMahon of Big Spring caught the 22nd Budweiser Share A Lunker Bass for the 2005 year, and the eighth Share A Lunker to come out of Lake Alan Henry this year.

The bass weighed 13.03 pounds. The Share A Lunker program is a Texas Parks and Wildlife program which takes bass weighing more than 13 pounds to breed and help restock Texas lakes.

**Big Spring Country  
Club sets scramble**

The Big Spring Country Club has set up its 2005 Cancer Scramble golf tournament.

The tourney will take place Saturday and Sunday.

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.

Prizes 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.

For more information or to enter, call the country club at 267-5354.



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde  
Howard sophomore Tanner Mattson attempts to throw a Western Texas baserunner out at first during the Hawks' split against Western Texas Friday. The Hawks swept Western Texas Saturday, defeated LCU twice Monday and crushed Hardin Simmons JV Wednesday.

## UT's Johnson expected to go early at this year's NFL draft

By JIM VERTUNO

AP Sports Writer  
AUSTIN (AP) — The sniffling 9-year-old begged his mother not to make him get out of the car.

"Don't make me go, Mama," Derrick Johnson cried while tugging his mother's skirt. "I don't want to play football."

Beverly Johnson was having none of that: "Stop acting like a little girl!" she said. "You're going."

So he did, trudging across the practice field on a walk that eventually led to stardom as a linebacker at the University of Texas. Now considered one of the best players to ever wear the burnt orange, Johnson is projected to be one of the first defensive players selected Saturday in the NFL draft.

The Nagurski and Butkus awards winner who set an NCAA record with nine forced fumbles last season, he can laugh now about his wimpy beginning.

"I didn't like the coach. He was always yelling. I wasn't used to that," Johnson said. "It turned out pretty good."

Added Beverly Johnson: "It took him about three or four times before he realized the coach wasn't going to chew him up and spit him out."

Once he got over the coaching thing, it was clear her son was faster and more physical than

the other kids.

A skinny kid in middle school and high school — his brothers used to eat food off his plate — Johnson quickly grew up to lay big hits on his opponents.

By his senior year at Waco High School, he was a prep All-American and his speed and knack for making the big play quickly earned him a spot on the field at Texas as a freshman. As a junior, he was projected as a first-round draft pick, but was having too much fun to leave college early.

Instead, he spent his final season learning from Greg Robinson, who spent a year as the Longhorns' defensive coordinator before becoming the head coach at Syracuse.

Robinson, who coached 14 seasons in the NFL, taught Johnson how to corral the speed and natural instincts that sometimes caused him to over-run plays.

At one of their first meetings, Robinson played Johnson a video of 30 plays from the 2003 season, half of which showed him making a mistake.

Johnson welcomed the criticism. "I looked at it as positive," he said. "I didn't need to look at the good plays."

Johnson soaked up everything he could from Robinson. He finished his

career with 458 tackles and is set to be the first UT linebacker drafted in the first round since Tommy Nobis was the No. 1 pick by the Atlanta Falcons in 1966.

Scouts love his speed and ability to create turnovers.

NFL.com's draft analysis calls him a "natural leader with exceptional quickness" and says he is "regarded as one of the finest pass defenders to ever play linebacker in the collegiate ranks."

He had 18 tackles in a win over Oklahoma State. On one play he ran about 60 yards to catch a ball carrier, reminding NFL chief draft consultant Gil Brandt of Lawrence Taylor.

Yet for all the tussles of "Friday Night Fights" and the big hits under the lights at Royal Memorial Stadium, some scouts question whether he's willing to take on blocks of a 300-pound guard or tackle.

Johnson dismisses that. In his college debut, his first big play came when he smashed through a blocker and broke up a screen pass.

"I blew up some lineman to make the tackle," he said. "The old saying is 'The higher you are on the ladder, the more people will say things about you.'"

Most of what they're saying is good. Very good.

## Howard pushes win streak to seven, hits end of season stride

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

It is usually best to put together your best games at the end of the season. For Howard's baseball team, that is exactly what it has been doing lately.

After taking three out of four from Western Junior College Athletic Conference rival Western Texas this past weekend, the Hawks defeated LCU two times Monday and dominated Hardin Simmons in two games on the road Wednesday.

The six game winning streak improves Howard to 35-11 on the season. They are 11-9 in conference play and will play a key conference series this weekend against rival Odessa College, which also comes into the game with an 11-9 conference record.

Howard 7

LCU 5

The Hawks weathered a four-run first inning deficit in game No. 1 against LCU Monday. Howard scored two runs in the third and three in the fourth to grab the lead and never trailed again.

The Hawks and LCU each grabbed one run in the fifth and then Howard added an insurance run in the seventh.

Scottie Moore started for the Hawks and got the win on the mound as he threw 4.2 innings and gave up three earned runs on five hits and struck out two, while walking one. LCU also scored two unearned runs off Moore as Howard committed two errors in the game.

Michael Robbins tossed the final 2.1 innings and earned the save. He walked one and struck out one and gave up no hits.

Albert Ruiz started for Daman Aaron in center field and responded with two hits, two runs and an RBI at the plate. Darby Brown, Jeff Storms and Jeff Ward all had two hits, as well. Ryan Femath went one-for-one with a run, an RBI and three walks.

Femath, Ruiz, Tanner Mattson and Storms all stole three bases.

Howard 5

LCU 1

The Hawks broke open a close game late in game No. 2 Monday.

Howard led 2-1 heading into the final inning and then scored three runs in the seventh and pulled away for the 5-1 win.

Howard tallied 11 hits and no errors in the game. Mattson went three-for-four from the plate with two runs and three stolen bases to lead Howard.

Brown and Ruiz each had two hits, while Will Basom and Jeff Ward each doubled. Basom added two RBIs, while Ward scored a run.

Michael Martin dominated LCU on the mound. He went six innings and gave up one run on five hits and struck out five, while walking two. Darren Lawless pitched the final inning for the Hawks and earned the save as he allowed no runs on one hit.

Howard 16

Hardin Simmons JV 4

The Hawks had no troubles scoring against



Hardin Simmons JV Wednesday as they dominated both games of a doubleheader in Abilene.

Howard got six runs in the third inning of game No. 1 and then added eight runs in the top of the seventh to win 16-4.

Brown was perfect at the plate in the game. He went four-for-four and crushed two home runs. He also walked, scored runs and had four RBIs.

J.J. Sanchez nearly bettered Brown. He went three-for-five with a home run, two runs and five RBIs. He also stole two bases.

Mattson, Storms, Jason Anderson, Basom and Ward each had two hits.

Bobby Bailey pitched five and got the win on the mound for Howard. He allowed three runs on four hits. Lawless pitched the final two innings and gave up one run on two hits, while striking out three.

Howard 11

Hardin Simmons JV 1

Another late inning surge sent Howard to a win in game No. 2 against the Hardin Simmons JV.

The Hawks scored two runs in the second inning and then added two more in the fifth inning, but put the game out of reach in the final frame as six Howard runners crossed the plate.

Mattson led Howard at the plate with three hits — including a double — and three RBIs. Ward went three-for-four and added two RBIs and a run.

Anderson hit the farthest ball in the game as he connected on a home run. He was two-for-three in the game and added two runs and three RBIs.

Basom added three hits, while Storms and Jared Smallwood each had two hits. Storms scored twice and had a stolen base, while Brian Boiles recorded two walks and two runs in a start at second base.

The Hawks used seven pitchers in the game. Each pitcher threw one inning each as the win was awarded to Justin Thompson, who started the game.

Zach Sewell, Alan Deubler, Joseph Heredia, Mike Smith, Matthew Shepherd and Robbins also pitched for Howard.

The four games against Odessa College (28-13) starting Friday at Jack Barber Field in Big Spring should be big as far as the conference race goes.

Both teams enter with identical 11-9 conference records, which is good for third place in the WJCAC.

El Paso Community College is currently in second at 11-8, while Clarendon College is in fifth at 10-9.

El Paso will take on last place Western Texas this weekend, while Clarendon takes on first place New Mexico Junior College.

The doubleheader at Jack Barber Field begins at noon Friday. The Hawks will also play two in Odessa Saturday beginning at noon.



KRT photo/Sam Riche, Indianapolis Star  
Pacers' fans show their support for Reggie Miller during his introduction before his team's game with the Chicago Bulls at Consecro Fieldhouse Wednesday. Miller announced his retirement earlier this year and played in his final home game of his career. He spent 18 seasons with Indiana and always seemed to hit the big shots in big playoff games. Miller finished with 12 points in his home finale Wednesday.

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part-time. Day hours. Apply in person to: Mrs. Jill, 1708 Nolan, Big Spring, Texas. cants, please no phone calls please

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Help Wanted

**AREA SALE'S** Position Open! Requires: Performance based sales role w/excellent time management skills, 3 plus years experience in sales related responsibility w/strong mechanical aptitude, strong problem solver w/closing skills and computer ext. working w/Microsoft office products. Excellent pay and benefits! Send resumes to: PO Box 3414, Big Spring, Texas 79721-3414.

**CHILD CAREGIVER.** Full or part-time. Day & evening hours. Apply in person at Jack & Jill, 1708 Nolan. Prior applicants, please reapply. No phone calls please.

Help Wanted

**DENTAL ASSISTANT** - No experience necessary. Will train. Send resume: c/o P.O. Box 1431/118, Big Spring, TX 79721-1431.

**DIESEL TRUCK** Mechanic. Experience helpful in clutch, gears, brakes & drivelines. No engine work. Vacation, holidays and 401k. Please apply to Drive Train Specialists, 1308 W. 2nd St., Odessa, Tx. 800-456-3241, (432)333-3241.

**EYE ASSOCIATES, Inc.** a local eye health provider, is seeking an individual for the position of insurance clerk. Please come by our office at 2311 Scurry & pick up an application.

**FLAT ROCK** Services. Needing Drivers. Must have Class A CDL. Top Pay. Must pass Drug test. Call (432)270-8612 or 1-866-744-3706.

**IMMEDIATE OPENING** for Full-time and Part-time clerk/cashier/cook. Apply at 3315 E. FM 700, Neighbors Convenience Store.

**INHOME CARE, INC.** We are seeking an individual with strong data input skills, experience in home health a plus. This is a full time position with good pay and benefits. Please come by or send resume to: InHome Care Inc. 1104 Scurry Big Spring, Tx 79720.

**MARTIN COUNTY** Hospital Home Health taking applications for Full-time LVN. Bilingual Preferred, but not required. Fax applications to (432)756-4510 or call 756-3259. Ask for Allison Williams, R.N.

**NEED GANG** Pusher, Roustabout and Truck Driver with CDL License. Must pass drug test. Apply at Cowboy Construction, 9400 South Service Rd., Coahoma.

**NEED SECRETARY** with at least 5 years experience & very good computer skills. Send resume c/o P.O. Box 1431/119, Big Spring, TX 79721-1431.

**NEED WAITER/ WAITRESS.** Day or Evening. Apply in person, 2401 Driver Rd. No Phone Calls Please!

Help Wanted

**NOW HIRING RN's & LVN's** in Big Spring area for Pediatric hourly cases. Benefits and competitive pay. Please call Complete Home Health Care (432)570-8899. Immediate Openings.

**PARKPLACE RETIREMENT** Living is seeking a Front Desk Clerk. Desired applicant must be willing to work evenings and weekends. Must be professional. Please pick up applications at 501 W. 17th. No Phone Calls Please.

**SEEKING RESPONSIBLE** Manager for Old Mill Trade Days, Post, TX. Requires good public relation skills and energetic salesmanship. Job involves overseeing employees, facility/grounds maintenance, creative promotion of monthly events. Send resume to Jacky Harp, Box 917, Post, TX 79356.

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**BIG SPRING HERALD**

**WANTED: OPHTHALMIC** Assistant. No previous experience needed. Will Train. Please call (432)267-3649.

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

Instructional

**PIANO & VOICE LESSONS** Beginners through Advance. Years of teaching experience. 2607 Rebecca. Call (432)263-3367

Items for Sale

**KIDDIE TRAIN** for Sale: New Craftsman 10hp lawn tractor with automatic transmission. Plus five new shop made cars with rubber tires. Great money maker for all types of events. Price reduced from \$3,300 to \$2,500 won't last long. Call (432)264-6162.

**3 Bedroom, 2 bath Trailer** in Coahoma ISD. \$425. month. \$300. deposit. Call (432)264-9907.

**608 EAST 15th.** 1 bedroom, 1 bath. \$235. month. \$50. deposit. 816-998-3222/263-1792.

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

**ELBOW COMMUNITY,** 3 Bedroom house on 1 acre. \$475.00 per month plus deposit. Call (432)816-7040 or (325)436-1220 leave message.

Lost and Found

Found neutered **Dachshund** (male). Call (432)264-8586.

Lost and Found

**FOUND POMERANIAN** (male) on 3rd and Owens. Call (432)264-6550 to identify after 5:00 pm.

Miscellaneous

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

**WANT TO Buy Land.** Between 40 and 350 acres. Reasonably priced, with access to water. Call (432)209-3032.

Mobile Homes

**2001 PALM Harbor** Double Wide 58x28; 4 Bedroom, 2 bath; on 1/2 acre in Coahoma ISD. Midway area; assumable loan. By appointment (432)935-1021.

Pets

**FREE KITTENS** 6 weeks old. Please call (432)264-9371.

Real Estate for Rent

**LOVELY NEIGHBORHOOD COMPLEX**

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**1106 MULBERRY.** 3 Bedroom, 1 bath with garage. \$400. Monthly. \$250. deposit. References required. Call (432)264-6727.

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

**1752 PURDUE.** 3 Bedroom, 2 bath, 2 car garage. CH/A, fenced yard, tile floors & new carpet. Newly remodeled. Good neighborhood. \$725/month, \$375/deposit. Call (432)263-3689.

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**608 EAST 15th.** 1 bedroom, 1 bath. \$235. month. \$50. deposit. 816-998-3222/263-1792.

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

**ELBOW COMMUNITY,** 3 Bedroom house on 1 acre. \$475.00 per month plus deposit. Call (432)816-7040 or (325)436-1220 leave message.

Real Estate for Rent

**FOR RENT** Check This Out! Three bedroom, \$400. Two bedroom, \$300. Call (432)267-7380.

**NICE 2 bedroom.** Clean. New 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 20th. 2 Bedroom, 1 bath. Garage, fenced yard, window units. No HUD. \$325/month, \$195/deposit. Call (432)263-8005 or 816-1330.

**SMALL 2 bedroom** house. Carpet, carport, fenced yard. No Pets! Damage Deposit. Call (432)263-7259.

**SUNSET RIDGE**  
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Real Estate for Sale

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

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

**6107 E. Midway Rd.** 4 Bedroom, 2 bath Brick. 2 Living areas, pantry, fireplace. Storage building on 1.01 acres. Coahoma School District. \$80's. (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. Call 1-432-213-4460.



**BEAUTIFUL HIGHLAND** South Home. 4 Bedroom, 3 baths, lovely master bedroom with fireplace and oversized bath. Enjoy the summer in the great sports pool with deck. Price Reduced !!!!!!!!!!!!!!! \$176,000.. Call Jeannie at (432)263-1284 or 270-1478.

**COMPLETELY REMODELED,** new tile, hardwoods, carpet, 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 car garage. 2501 Ann. Call for appointment, (432)263-0786.

**CUSTOM BUILT** 1 1/2 story energy efficient 3 bedroom 2 1/2 bath on 1/2 acre with spectacular view, in Coahoma school district. Shown by appointment only. Call (432)267-9616.

**OWNER FINANCE** Low Down payment 3 Bedroom, 1 bath 1103 College. Call Pam (432)631-5468.

Real Estate for Sale

**FOR LEASE OR SALE:** Commercial Building, 7000 sq. ft. warehouse. Approx. 600 ft. office space. 4.81 acres located on North Lamesa Highway. Good for any type Oilfield Service, Trucking, Storage or other use. Will be available July 1st Call (432)523-2730.

**HOME FOR** Sale by owner 3-1, new carpet, new paint. Great location. Fenced yard, carport. More information call (432)263-5545. Also new refrigerator for sale.

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

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

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

**STANTON HOME** near City Park, 3 Bedroom, 2 bath, 2 car carport. Metal fence & storage building. New metal roof. Call (432)756-2045.

**TWO HOUSES** must sell together. Need repairs. One is a 2 bedroom the other is a 1 bedroom, fenced yard, CH/A. \$15,000.. Call (432)263-4483.

Vehicles

**'04 Nissan Xterra**  
**\$3000 OFF MSRP**  
**Bob Brock Ford**  
500 W. 4th 267-7424

**1992 HARLEY DAVIDSON** Low Rider Convertible motorcycle, 30,300 miles. Many extras. \$8,000.00. Call (432)264-6792.

**1997 NISSAN** Altima. One Owner. Power windows, mirrors, locks, steering, brakes. New stereo, tires, tag's, inspection. Cold A.C., 16 valve dual overhead cam. Perfect. \$3750.00. Call (432)264-9232, 263-7012.

**1999 BUICK** Regal LS. super clean, loaded, 77k miles. \$5,000. firm. Call (432)213-4206.

**2001 NISSAN** Frontier, 4 cyl., 5 speed, CD. King cab, 64,000 miles. List \$9800 will sale \$8500. Call (432)267-3404.

**1996 DODGE** Avensan (White). Clean, 96,000 miles. \$3,000.00. Call (432)816-1550.

Legals

**REQUEST FOR BID** The Howard County Judge will receive sealed bids for the County Depository until 10:00 AM, May 6, 2005.

Mail bids to:  
Howard County Judge  
Howard County Courthouse  
300 Main, Room 207  
Big Spring, Texas 79720

The County Treasurer will supply bid application forms.

Bids will be presented to Commissioners Court on May 9, 2005, at 10:00 AM for their consideration. The court reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive all technicalities.

Ben Lockhart, County Judge  
#4497 April 21, 28, & May 2, 2005

**CITY OF BIG SPRING PUBLIC NOTICE**  
APRIL 15, 2005

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BIG SPRING WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING AT 5:30 P.M., TUESDAY, MAY 3, 2005 IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 307 EAST 4th, BIG SPRING, TEXAS TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING:

A Zone Change from Specific Use Permit/Single Family (SF-1) to Light Commercial (LC), located at 1901 West 16th, National Guard Armory; described as a five (5) acre tract out of Section 1, Block 33, T&P, RR. 1S, Big Spring, Howard County, Texas.  
#4527 April 19 & 21, 2005

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**100's of All Kinds of Sales**  
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Friday & Saturday, April 29-30, 2005  
Individuals, Businesses and Organizations  
For information, call (254) 435-2331 or (254) 675-3720

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## Tomorrow's Horoscope

## BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

There are always decisions to be made under the Libra moon, and nothing is exempt from review. Even what was decided upon ages ago — what would normally be regarded as a given, a fixture, a fact — might now be uprooted and scrutinized. Out comes the pro-and-con-o-meter and life is assessed from a detached, objective place.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). There are big benefits when you do less and listen more. Let other people help you polish your ideas. People you respect will impart instructions, knowledge and wisdom that penetrate your mind.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Your honesty can be a bit much for people who aren't prepared to hear

the truth. This is no time to pull your punches — your friend truly needs to hear what you have to say, especially if your friend is a Sagittarius.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You are an exceptionally generous person with your family, friends, time, money — the list is endless. Every once in a while, your kindness is rewarded, and today is one of those days.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You recognize what you can gain by employing a little charm about now. Smooth your social style. There's no surer way to get people to like you than to encourage them to talk to you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Friendship is your offering. You're a gift to people who have felt isolated and alone. By providing the opportunity to exchange and discuss new ideas, you brighten the world.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Today's goings-on prove that age is a function of your mind.

Through your many adventures, you'll embody at different times the innocence of a child, the giddiness of a teen and the wisdom of an elder.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You're the realist now, and the only way things get done is if you speak up. Ideas are all well and good, but they must be harnessed and put to work to have value!

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Questions of integrity arise. In order to be immune to negative comments from others, you must have an immaculate record yourself in regard to gossip. Luckily, you're naturally discreet.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The plan is foiled, and that's the opportunity! It's been said a million times, which doesn't make it any less true: If at first you don't succeed, sing like Aaliyah. "You can dust it off and try again..."

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). There's a strong temptation to speak about

the person you love in order to gain the support of others for your point of view. It's a debilitating habit and one that you can now stop in its tracks! You are powerful!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You're a decision-making human machine! The thing is, many of those decisions are automatic and unconscious. Today is all about becoming aware of exactly what you're choosing.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Your self-respect shows through in everything you do. In this way, you are a model and a leader. Take your role seriously. You will be imitated by the most innocent people around you.

ASTROLOGICAL SPECIAL: HOW TO BE SMOKIN' HOT USING THE POWER OF YOUR SUN SIGN. (Part Four of 12) CANCER: Being in touch with your spiritual nature is a must for you to be at your attractive best. A magical, mystical power emanates from you

when you are feeling connected to that which cannot be seen, but can be profoundly experienced nonetheless. Therefore, meditation is as important to your sex appeal as exercise, diet, fashion and anything else in the physical realm. Do: Commune with others who have similar spiritual beliefs. Whether it's at church, school or in nature, when you make an effort to leave the house and get to know new people, you usually wind up with new friends and love. Do: Have music around you. Learning to play an instrument or sing will add many attraction points, especially if you become good enough to showcase your talent on a stage. Don't: Talk too much, especially on topics people may not be able to relate to. Always: Bring 'em back to your place. It's where you shine. Your beautifully arranged abode is even more of a refuge to you when you let it be a place of comfort

to worthy friends and loved ones.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: When new people meet Tony Danza, they often feel they are faced with an old friend. This is how Danza will draw out the truth from a celebrity he is interviewing and therefore "accidentally" break a news story. Besides three stable Taurus planets, Danza was born with Venus in Gemini, a spontaneous and sociable aspect associated with instant rapport and flirtatious energy.

If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com) and click on "Write the Author" on the Holiday Mathis page, or you may send her a postcard in the mail. To find out more about Holiday Mathis and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com).

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Annie's Mailbox<sup>®</sup>: Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: My wife and I have been married for three years, and we have an 18-month-old daughter. The problem is my mother-in-law, "Betty."

Betty moved in with us because she is disabled and cannot get a steady job. It seemed like a good idea at the time, but the entire situation turned into a disaster. My wife and her mother constantly argued, and the stress began affecting our relationship. It drove all of us into counseling and finally boiled over when Betty threatened to slap my wife. I threw her out of the house.

Since then, Betty has been staying with other relatives, and we've been in perpetual bliss. My wife has expressed great relief about it several times. Yet, my wife and her mother have stayed in contact, and have recently begun talking about having Betty move back in. I absolutely refuse.

I reminded my wife how things were the last time and said I will not allow us to be put into that situation again. Betty is meddlesome, has no respect for our household routine or rules, and insists that everything be done her way. And I most certainly do not want my daughter growing up thinking this is the way a normal relationship operates. Even after stating this, my wife is still talking to Betty about it.

Annie, if Betty moves in, I move out. And I take my daughter with me. That's how serious I am. You tend to give sound advice, and I respect your opinion, but please don't say we should seek more therapy. We've been down that road. Is there something else you can offer me? — Preparing to Move Out

Dear Preparing: First, make sure your wife really wants her mother to move back in, and isn't just paying lip service to appease her. If she's serious, you need to sit her down and tell her, firmly, what you told us — that you will take your daughter and leave. If you don't want more counseling, the next best thing is to find an impartial third party — a friend, family member, clergy person, — who will mediate this impasse and help your wife understand what she is risking.

Dear Annie: I am an 11-year-old girl who is an only child. I come home from school every day



KATHY MITCHELL  
MARCY SUGAR

and on weekends so your time is occupied and you meet other kids. Have a classmate over. Ask your parents to sign you up for after-school sports, Girl Scouts or community theater for kids. Instead of being lonely, get involved. You'll feel better. We promise.

Dear Annie: I read the comment from "Martin" about retired husbands. I wanted to share advice from my grandfather, who's been married 55-plus years. Grandpa said the secret to a long-lasting marriage is kissing terms. He told me, "We are always on kissing terms. Either she's telling me to kiss her butt or I'm telling her to kiss mine."

Thought you'd get a good laugh out of that. — Kara in Kenosha, Wis.

Dear Kara: We did, and we thank you. Give our best to Grandpa.

Dear Annie: My husband belongs to a private club, where wives are welcome. People often greet one another by kissing hello, goodbye or both.

For over a year now, a married barmaid who works at the club kisses my husband hello, goodbye and seven to eight additional times during the evening, whether I'm there or not. Recently, however, she has been leaning up against my husband's back, putting her arms around him,

kissing the side of his neck and rubbing up against him.

One evening, she cornered my husband at the bar and wouldn't get out of his face until he said he loved her. To me, all of this is foreplay, but neither one of them sees it this way. She says they are just friends. If that's the case, why doesn't she behave this way when her husband is there? — Perplexed Wife

Dear Perplexed: We're not sure we'd call it foreplay, but it definitely is serious flirting, and the barmaid seems to be taking it a bit further than propriety allows. If your husband has any sense, he'll tell her to back off and restrict the kissing to the usual "hello" and "goodbye" cheek-smooch at the most. If that doesn't work, he should register a complaint with her boss.

Of course, if your husband refuses to put an end to this provocative nonsense, you have a different problem.

Dear Annie: I am concerned about my neighbor, "Tom," and his wife. We have known them for 25 years. Two years ago, Tom had a stroke and lost his short-term memory, although he seems otherwise OK. His wife, "Nancy," is not the most stable person. She had a nervous breakdown several years ago and has been on medication ever

since. Nancy is now running Tom's life, telling him what meds to take and driving him where she wants him to go. He has no life of his own.

Tom's moods go up and down, and Nancy feels free to change his meds at will. She says the doctor gave her permission. I don't believe it. I found out from their daughter that when Nancy wants Tom to sit quietly and do nothing, she gives him stronger doses so she won't have to deal with him.

The daughter has tried talking to her mother, but no one can tell Nancy what to do. Since Nancy is the one who has to live with Tom, the daughter has basically washed her hands of the situation. I don't think Nancy is stable enough to be in charge of someone else's care. I fear that one day, Tom will just give up and wither away. What can I do? — Concerned Neighbor in Pennsylvania

Dear Concerned: Someone needs to talk to Tom's doctor and inform him that Tom is having mood swings and his medication needs monitoring. It would be best if you could convince Tom's daughter to speak to the doctor before giving up. This is her father. She should make more of an effort to get involved in his care.

Dear Annie: We would

like to respond to the letter from "A Grieving Husband of 50-Plus Years," who said people don't write each other letters anymore.

My husband and I were married in 1990. Each and every day, we write each other a note in the morning. We tell each other how our sleep went and what the new day should bring. We tell each other how much we love one another and how much the other person means to us.

Believe it or not, we still have every single note, saved in a special notebook. So, in some cases, the Pony Express still survives. — Darryl & Cammy

Dear Darryl & Cammy: That's quite a remarkable collection. You sound like a loving and deeply committed couple. Congratulations.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to [anniesmailbox@comcast.net](mailto:anniesmailbox@comcast.net), or write to: Annie's Mailbox, P.O. Box 118190, Chicago, IL 60611. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com).

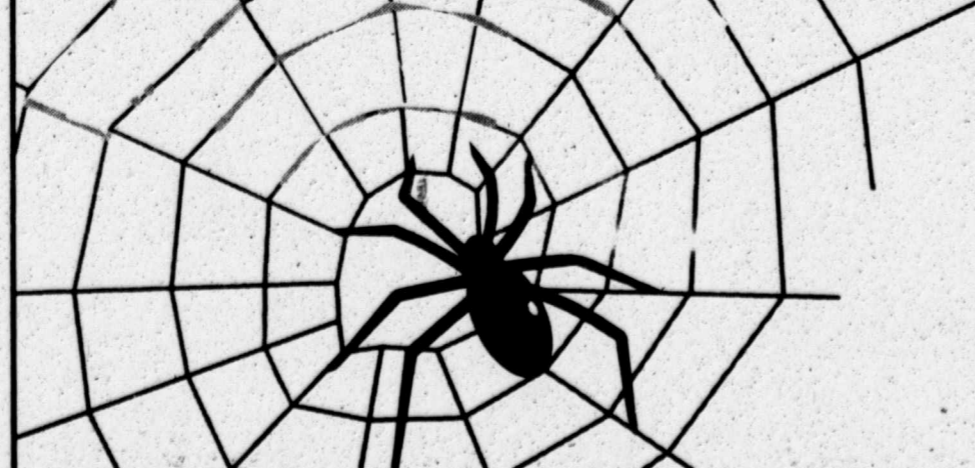
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## The Spider

During Mark Twain's days as a newspaperman, he was the editor of a small Missouri paper.

One day, he received a letter from a subscriber stating that he had found a spider in his paper and asked if this was an omen of good or bad luck.

Twain replied, "Finding a spider in your paper is neither good nor bad luck. The spider was merely looking over our paper to see which merchant was not advertising so that he could go to that store, spin his web across the door and lead a life of undisturbed peace ever after."



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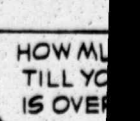
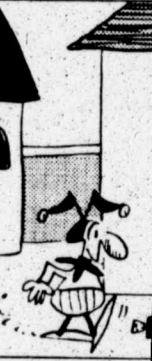
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Time	Program	WF
6:00 PM	News Wheel	D
7:00 PM	Jake & Mike	
8:00 PM	Extreme Makeover	
9:00 PM	PrimeTime Live	
10:00 PM	News Night	
11:00 PM	Ent. Tonight	
12:00 AM	Live! (Country)	



"HOWDY, MA'AM AND WONDERFUL COOKIES."





THURSDAY

APR. 21

	WFAA (2)	KMID (3)	UNI (4)	KPEJ (5)	KOSA (7)	KTLE (8)	KWES (9)	WTBS (11)	KMLM (12)	KOCV (13)	DISC (20)	AMC (21)	SPICE (22)	TNT (23)	BET (26)	DISN (27)	ESPN2 (28)	ESPN (29)	TMC (250)
	Dallas	Midland	Spanish	Odessa	Odessa	Telemundo	Midland	Atlanta	Odessa	Odessa	Discovery	Classics	Spike TV	Atlanta	Black Ent.	Disney	ESPN2	ESPN	Premium
6	PM News (CC)	News Wheel-Fortune	Inocente de Ti	Malcolm-Mid Raymond	News Ent. Tonight	Amarte Asi	News Sentinel (CC)	Raymond Raymond	Joe McGee John Hagee	News-Letter	American Chopper		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Live BET Style	That's-Raven That's-Raven	Slump-Schwab Slump-Schwab	Poker (CC)	10 Days (CC)
7	PM Jake-Progress	Jake-Progress	Apuesta por un Amor	The O'C (CC)	Survivor: Palau	La Mujer en el Espejo	Joey (CC) Will & Grace	Friends (CC) Friends (CC)	Update/Israel Biblical Israel	West Tex Jml TX Mnthly Talk	Extraordinary People (CC)	Movie: G.I. Jane	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn	Movie: Gone with the Wind	The Parkers Griffrinds	Movie: George of the Jungle	Teamates, Teamates		Movie: The Big
8	PM Extreme Makeover	Extreme Makeover	La Madrastra	Tru Calling (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn	Los Plateados	The Apprentice (CC)	Movie: Pleasantville	Light of the Southwest	Antiques Roadshow	Separate Lives		MXC MXC		College Hill Blown' Up	(CC)	ESPN's Bowling Night	2003 World Series of Poker	Lara Croft Tomb Raider: The Cradle of Life
9	PM PrimeTime Live	PrimeTime Live	Aqui y Ahora	Malcolm-Mid 70s Show	Without a Trace (CC)	La Ley del Silencio	ER (CC)	(CC)		The Meaning of Food	Extraordinary People	45 Movie: The Sopranos	MXC MXC	Movie: Rush	Rip the Runway	Sister, Sister Even Stevens	Battle of the Gndron Stars	Baseball: Tonight (CC)	Tomb Raider: The Cradle of Life
10	PM News (CC) Nightline	News Nightline	Primer Impacto Noticias Univ.	70s Show Raymond	News Late Show	Noticias Titulares y Mas	News Tonight Show	40 Movie: The Hour of Healing	The Hour of Healing	Charlie Rose (CC)	Extraordinary People (CC)	Predator (CC)	MXC MXC	Hour	Nightly News BET Style	That's-Raven That's-Raven	Battle of the Gndron Stars	SportsCenter (CC)	35 Movie: Love the Hard Way (CC)
11	PM Ent. Tonight Jimmy Kimmel Live (CC)	Jimmy Kimmel Live (CC)	La Hora Derbez	Becker (CC) Becker (CC)	Letterman Late Late Show	Laura Al Rojo Vivo	Late Night-Conan O'Brien Fraser (CC)	40 Movie: The Sopranos	Sam Peak Jesse Lee Pe	Sign Off	Separate Lives		Wildest Police Videos	Movie: Money	Midnight Love	Proud Family Kim Possible	Slump-Schwab Slump-Schwab	Outside-Lines Baseball	Love the Hard Way (CC)
12	AM Live (CC) News (CC)	Extra (CC) Paid Program	Alma Rebelde	Spin City Dharma-Greg	The Insider	Mana Celeste Programa	Conan O'Brien Fraser (CC)	40 Movie: The Sopranos	Update/Israel Faye Hardin		Extraordinary People	Movie: They Live	Blind Date Shpmates	Talks	Club Comic View	Boy World Lizzie McGuire	Billiards WPBA	SportsCenter (CC)	Movie: Hidden

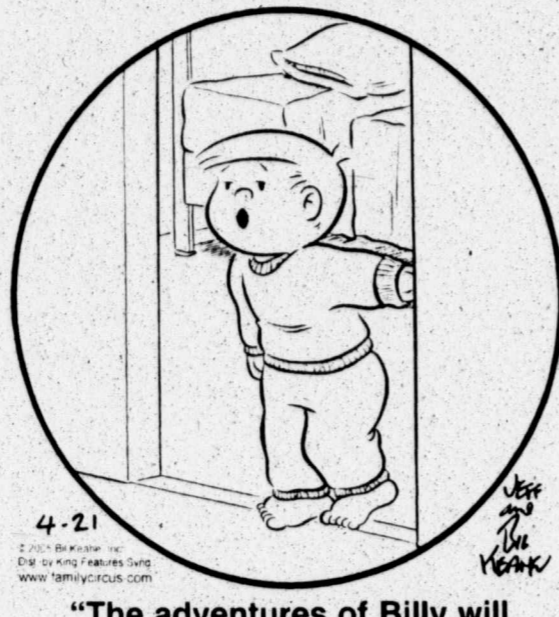
DENNIS THE MENACE



"HOWDY, MA'AM. WE'RE HEADIN' OUT ON THE TRAIL AND WONDERED IF YOU MIGHT SPARE US A FEW COOKIES."

BC

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



4-21

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"The adventures of Billy will be continued tomorrow. Good night, folks."

HAGAR



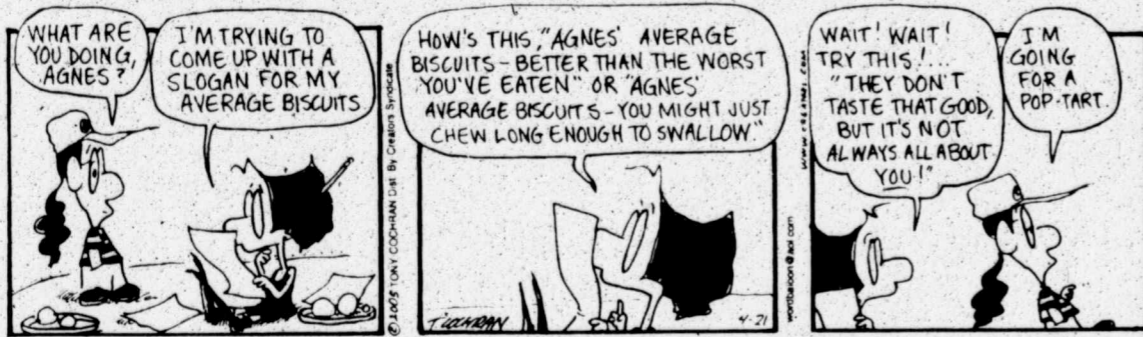
BLONDIE



WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILEY



This Date In History

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, April 21, the 111th day of 2005. There are 254 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 21, 1789, John Adams was sworn in as the first vice president of the United States.

On this date:

In 1649, the Maryland Toleration Act, which provided for freedom of worship for all Christians, was passed by the Maryland assembly.

In 1836, an army of Texans led by Sam Houston defeated the Mexicans at San Jacinto, assuring Texas independence.

In 1910, author Samuel Langhorne Clemens, better known as Mark Twain, died in Redding, Conn.

In 1918, Baron Manfred

von Richthofen, the German ace known as the "Red Baron," was killed in action during World War I.

In 1940, the quiz show that asked the "64-dollar question," "Take It or Leave It," premiered on CBS Radio.

In 1955, 50 years ago, the Jerome Lawrence-Robert Lee play "Inherit the Wind," loosely based on the Scopes trial of 1925, opened at the National Theatre in New York.

In 1960, Brazil inaugurated its new capital, Brasilia, transferring the seat of national government from Rio de Janeiro.

In 1972, Apollo 16 astronauts John Young and Charles Duke explored the surface of the moon.

In 1975, South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu resigned after 10 years in office.

In 1980, at the Boston Marathon, Rosie Rutz was the first woman to cross the finish line; however, she was later exposed as a fraud.

Today's Birthdays: Ice

skater Werner Groebli ("Mr. Frick") is 90. Britain's Queen Elizabeth II is 79. Actress-comedian-writer Elaine May is 73. Actor Charles Grodin is 70. Singer-musician Iggy Pop is 58. Singer-songwriter Paul Davis is 57. Actress Patti LuPone is 56. Actor Tony Danza is 54. Actress Andie MacDowell is 47. Rock singer Robert Smith (The Cure) is 46. Rock musician Michael Timmins (Cowboy Junkies) is 46. Actor John Cameron Mitchell is 42. Rapper Michael Franti (Spearhead) is 37. Comedian Nicole Sullivan is 35.

Answer to previous puzzle

CMDR	EVICT	SOYA
HOOP	SARAH	USER
ANUMBERONE	PAGE	
PARSE	NESTEGGS	
	EST	DEAREST
SLOWBURN	SID	
HOBOD	READ	LUGER
ODOR	EASEL	POLO
PEELS	TACO	ELIS
	DIG	LABORDAY
SPECTRA	LEN	
TALLSALL	LOTSA	
OKLA	PEACHY	KEEN
NOES	ERNIE	RAND
YENS	STATE	ARTY

Newsday Crossword

PUSHING THE ENVELOPE by Doug Peterson  
Edited by Stanley Newman  
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

- 1 With
- 41 Across, Paper Moon star
- 6 Neighbor of Java
- 10 Bill stopper
- 14 Arise from
- 15 Came down to earth
- 16 Novelist Turgenev
- 17 Felis, for one
- 18 Tipplers
- 19 Pinball foul
- 20 Prepare to drive
- 23 Det. Sipowicz's employer
- 24 Jack of westerns
- 25 Alters, as a skirt
- 28 Spherical body
- 30 My Friend
- 34 Marilu, on Evening Shade
- 35 Dark-eyed beauty
- 37 Express disdain
- 38 School athlete's outerwear
- 41 See 1 Across
- 42 Cook clams, perhaps
- 43 "little teapot..."
- 44 Frustrate
- 46 Companion of Frodo
- 47 Tarot reader
- 48 Mountain predator
- 50 Philbin cohort

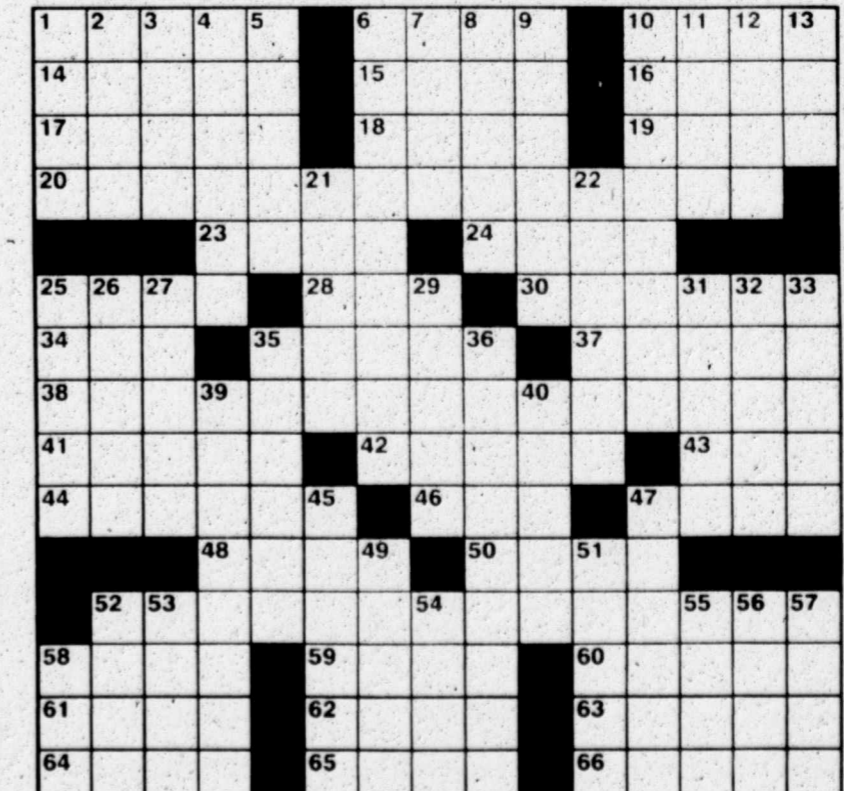
- 52 Expresses disapproval
- 58 Box-office flop
- 59 Speck on a map
- 60 Casino request
- 61 Bright thought
- 62 Rules, for short
- 63 Leader of a golf "army"
- 64 Off-the-wall
- 65 Pierre's state
- 66 Has on

- 6 Marching-band burdens
- 7 Oodles
- 8 Loose-limbed
- 9 "... is fear ..."
- 10 Popular supplement
- 11 Villain's specialty
- 12 Like some tales
- 13 Mich. neighbor
- 21 Animal track
- 22 Shampoo ingredient
- 25 Heavenly headgear
- 26 Happening
- 27 Sailor's chum
- 29 Little terrors
- 31 TV journalist
- 32 Krispy

- 33 Fragrant oil
- 35 Blimp filler
- 36 Seriously
- 39 NFL team
- 40 Farr or Foxx
- 45 Khan's domain
- 47 Let a Simile Be Your Umbrella author
- 49 Something good
- 51 "Fiddlesticks!"
- 52 Bar mixer
- 53 Federal agents
- 54 Gymnast Korbut
- 55 European erupter
- 56 Kuwaiti ruler
- 57 Casual shirts
- 58 Profession, slangily

DOWN

- 1 Roman wrap
- 2 Left dumbstruck
- 3 Keep an eye on
- 4 About-faces
- 5 Saunter along



APR 21 2005



# That's Racin'

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## Inching closer to Victory Lane

Six-time runner-up Kasey Kahne looks forward to first win

By CAMMY CLARK  
Knight Ridder Newspapers

**N**obody remembers who comes in second — unless you are a loyal Kasey Kahne fan.

The NASCAR Nextel Cup driver of the No. 9 Dodge is like the mountain climber who gets within 200 yards of the summit of Mt. Everest, but from out of nowhere a storm begins to brew that forces him to turn around — again.

Six times in his young Cup career, Kahne has taken the white flag with a chance to win. Six times, when the final lap was over and the winner in Victory Lane, Kahne was on pit road talking about another oh-so-close runner-up finish.

### RUNNER-UP AGAIN

On April 10, on his 25th birthday, Kahne posted his latest bridesmaid finish, at the short track in Martinsville, Va. He passed 33 cars, most by "driving his butt off," according to team owner Ray Evernham.

But Kahne couldn't quite pass the 34th car driven by Martinsville master Jeff Gordon. Gordon's triumph brought tears to team owner Rick Hendrick, who is still healing from the deaths of 10 people, including four family members, who died when the team plane crashed en route to the Martinsville race in October.

Kahne mostly was frustrated after his first five runner-up finishes. But that Sunday, Kahne called his second "not a bad gift."

Still, the Martinsville finish has not erased the mounting pressure to win.

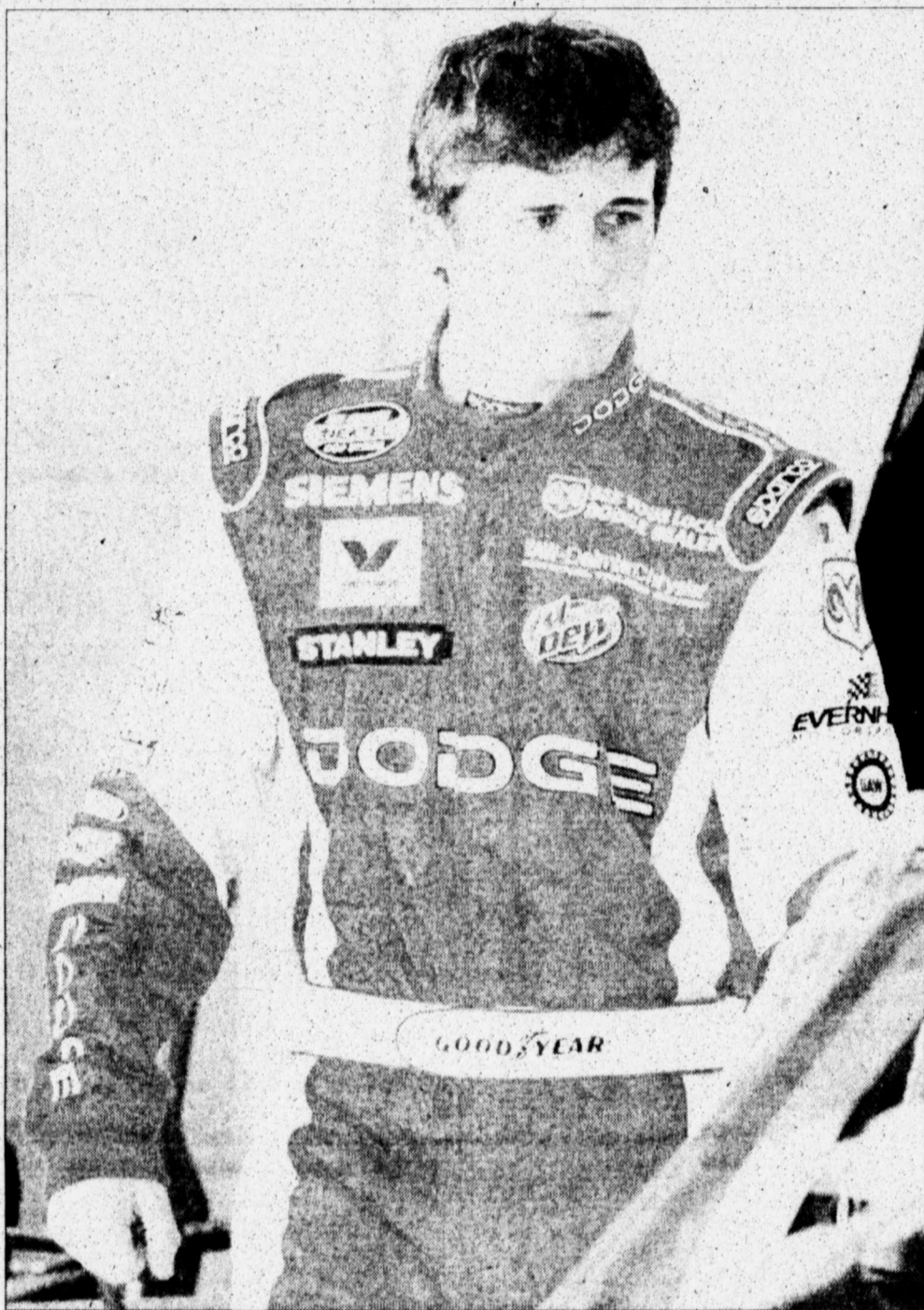
On the contrary, the near-miss has revved up the talk: "Hey, Kasey, when are you going to win?"

There always seems to be more pressure on the driver who is perennially knocking on Victory Lane's door than on those who finish regularly in the middle of the pack.

Had Kahne won at Martinsville, in his 42nd career Cup start, it would have put him in good company. Gordon also won his first Cup race in his 42nd start — at the 1994 Coca-Cola 600 in Concord, N.C.

Gordon has made winning look easy ever since, racking up 71 victories — best among active drivers. He's seventh on the all-time list, closing in on the late Dale Earnhardt Sr.'s 76 mark.

But winning is difficult. Ask Jamie McMurray. He won in only his second Cup start, while filling in for injured Sterling Marlin. He hasn't won since, in 82



Kasey Kahne finished second in the 2005 Advance Auto Parts 500 at Martinsville Speedway.

starts. So many things have to go right that are out of the driver's hands. But in this day and age in NASCAR, teams and sponsors expect drivers to win now.

Carl Edwards is in his first full-time Cup season, yet he was enormously "relieved" to get his first victory out of the way. He edged Jimmie Johnson to win the fourth race of the season at Atlanta, in his 17th Cup start.

"I think it took a lot of pressure off because the big picture is we got a win for [his sponsor] Scott's and for Ford and for the 99 team," Edwards said after the victory.

"That helps us with marketing, helps us to

secure partners for the next two or three years and allows us to build a team that can go out and win championships."

### LOOKING FOR RELIEF

Kahne needs to reach the summit to alleviate the accumulative pressure, the kind Edwards said could "wear you out sometimes."

Maybe Kahne's first Cup win will come this week at Phoenix International Raceway. Maybe when he leaves he will be able to exhale.

"A win," he said, "is bigger for our team. I think, than anybody really knows."

### THIS WEEK'S RACE

#### SUBWAY FRESH 500

**Where:** Phoenix International Raceway, a 1-mile paved slightly banked D-shaped oval located in Avondale, Ariz.

**When:** Saturday at 7:55 p.m. (all times ET). Qualifying is 6:10 p.m. Friday.

**TV:** Fox

**Radio:** Motor Racing Network

**Purse:** \$4,795,076

**Last year's winner:** Inaugural spring race. **Also this week:** Rookies Carl Edwards and Reed Sorenson continue their battle for the NASCAR Busch Series championship in Saturday night's race at Phoenix. Sorenson has finished first, third and third in the past three races and trails Edwards by 76 points.

**Worth mentioning:** Rusty Wallace has 15 top-10 starts in 17 races at Phoenix. Wallace has three poles is tied with Penske Racing South teammate Ryan Newman for the most.

### POLL POSITION

#### THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

Roush and Hendrick teams have won all but one race this season. Which team will be the next to find its way to Victory Lane?

Cast your vote at: [www.thatracin.com](http://www.thatracin.com)

#### LAST WEEK'S QUESTION

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

Number of votes: 4,320

Team	No. of votes	Percent
Evernham Motorsports	2,308	53%
Penske Racing South	1,358	31%
Chip Ganassi Racing	329	8%
Petty Enterprises	213	5%
Someone else	89	2%
Bill Davis Racing	23	1%

### STOP 'N GO

#### WHO'S HOT

■ Dale Earnhardt Jr. has climbed from 27th to 15th in points over the past four races.

■ Perhaps Rusty Wallace's "Last Call" could be for one final championship. He has moved to third in points, closing in on Jimmie Johnson and Greg Biffle.

■ He may not get the "pub," but he does get the points. Johnson remains the only driver to finish in the top 10 in every race this season.

#### WHO'S NOT

■ After running to 14th in points, Scott Riggs has finished 21st or worse in the past two races and has dropped to 18th.

■ Bottoming out? Jeff Green has fallen from 17th to 32nd in points since the season opener at Daytona.

■ Since his 11th-place finish at Las Vegas, Bobby Hamilton Jr. has finished 38th or lower in his past four races.

— Jim Utter

### BY THE NUMBERS

#### NEXTEL CUP POINTS LEADERS

The top-40 drivers as of April 17:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. Jimmie Johnson	1142	21. Matt Kenseth	708
2. Greg Biffle	1007	22. Dave Blaney	707
3. Rusty Wallace	905	23. Kasey Kahne	698
4. Kurt Busch	897	24. Michael Waltrip	691
5. Jeff Gordon	895	25. Mike Bliss	664
6. Sterling Marlin	883	26. Joe Nemecek	659
7. Mark Martin	882	27. Kyle Busch	645
8. Elliott Sadler	879	28. Brian Vickers	635
9. Ryan Newman	873	29. Travis Kvapil	625
10. Dale Jarrett	853	30. Ricky Rudd	598
11. Tony Stewart	849	31. Ken Schrader	597
12. Kevin Harvick	845	32. Jeff Green	587
13. Carl Edwards	833	33. Scott Wimmer	558
14. Jamie McMurray	824	34. Jason Leffler	523
15. Dale Earnhardt Jr.	787	35. Mike Wallace	515
16. Jeremy Mayfield	780	36. Bobby Hamilton Jr.	475
17. Casey Mears	745	37. Bobby Labonte	465
18. Scott Riggs	733	38. Kevin Lepage	360
19. Kyle Petty	726	39. Robby Gordon	325
20. Jeff Burton	714	40. Hermie Sadler	259

#### BUSCH SERIES POINTS LEADERS

The top-20 drivers as of April 16:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. Carl Edwards	1271	11. David Green	824
2. Reed Sorenson	1195	12. David Stremme	819
3. Clint Bowyer	1105	13. Greg Biffle	814
4. Kenny Wallace	973	14. Jason Keller	812
5. Ashton Lewis	935	15. Randy LaJoie	749
6. Denny Hamlin	935	16. Tim Fedewa	746
7. Martin Truex Jr.	927	17. Kasey Kahne	726
8. Shane Hmiel	888	18. Stacy Compton	720
9. Kevin Harvick	875	19. Justin Labonte	695
10. Jon Wood	868	20. Paul Menard	685

**NEXT RACE:** Friday, Basha's Supermarkets 200, Avondale, Ariz.

#### TRUCK SERIES POINTS LEADERS

The top-10 drivers as of April 9:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. Bobby Hamilton	633	6. Todd Bodine	532
2. Ricky Craven	614	7. Matt Crafton	519
3. Ted Musgrave	606	8. Johnny Benson	513
4. Ron Hornaday	587	9. Jack Sprague	503
5. Jimmy Spencer	580	10. Terry Cook	498

**NEXT RACE:** April 30, Dodge Ram Tough 200, Madison, Ill.

### RANKINGS

#### THAT'S RACIN'S TOP PICKS

**1. Jimmie Johnson (car No. 48):** Has 13 straight top-10 finishes going back to last season. That's a remarkable streak. Last week: 1.

**2. Greg Biffle (car No. 16):** With a couple of breaks, this team could already have four victories in hand this year. Last week: 3.

**3. Jeff Gordon (car No. 24):** Still no victories at Texas — and he has no Cup wins at Phoenix either, for that matter. Last week: 2.

**4. Kurt Busch (car No. 97):** Gunned out a top-10 at Texas. Needs a couple of weekends where his car avoids contact with walls. Last week: 7.

**5. Kevin Harvick (car No. 29):** Too high? Hey, he is the only non-Roush/non-Hendrick driver with a win this year. Last week: 8.

**6. Mark Martin (car No. 6):** He and Rusty Wallace are having a heck of a race for best going-away-party season. Last week: 4.

**7. Carl Edwards (car No. 99):** Moves up because he's got a win and nobody else is doing anything to trump that. Last week: 9.

**8. Rusty Wallace (car No. 2):** Third in the points standings as nice, but he's only 81 points ahead of 14th place, too. Last week: 11.

**9. Tony Stewart (car No. 20):** Stuck in quicksand — the team is out of the points top 10 for the first time since late 2003. Last week: 5.

**10. Elliott Sadler (car No. 38):** Team got bit with late problem at Texas just as it was about to salvage a decent finish. Last week: 6.

For the rest of the top-40 rankings, go online and visit [www.thatracin.com](http://www.thatracin.com).

## Sadler credits his team for his rise in the standings

Being Elliott Sadler isn't a bad gig these days.

He's been no worse than 13th in the points standings since the first race of the 2004 season. He's finished in the top 10 in three out of the last four races.

It was along about this time last year when people began to seriously consider the fact that Sadler might not just be visiting in the top 10. He'd had three top-10 finishes in the first six races of 2004, but it took a victory at Texas Motor Speedway to serve notice that something really good might be going on.

The win was just Sadler's second career Nextel Cup victory. It was his first since coming to Robert Yates Racing, and by the time he added

another one at California Speedway in September he'd secured a spot in the inaugural Chase for the Nextel Cup.

Though he sputtered late in the Chase, Sadler's ninth-place points finish could still have been viewed as a breakout year. Or, it could have been seen as an act that Sadler, crew chief Todd Parrott and the rest of the team would have a hard time following.

So far, last year's formula seems to be working again. Sadler has finished worse than 11th only twice and remains in the top 10 in the points

standings.

"Last year nobody really noticed us and we stayed in the top 10 all season," Sadler said. "That's cool. They can write and talk about us or they can not, but either way we're going to go out and do the best we

can."

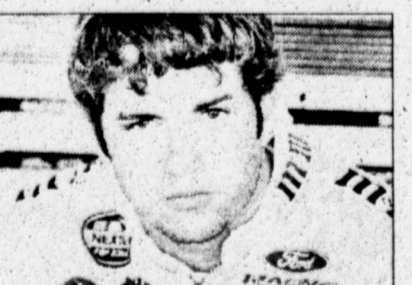
Sadler credits Parrott, who was crew chief for Dale Jarrett's run to the 1999 championship, with solidifying the team and helping him become better.

"He has been in every type of racing situation you can be in," Sadler said. "He keeps so many notes. He knows what the track is going to do during a race. ... He understands how to get it done."

"He's made me a patient driver. ... I used to worry, just worry about how fast we were going to go and didn't really worry about the long run. ... He has so much experience. Working with Dale, he knows so much about it (too). Both of them together, I think, have made me a lot better race car driver than I ever thought I would be."

Sadler also seems to have confidence in his own abilities these days.

He used words like "momentum"



Elliott Sadler has finished in the top 10 in three out of the last four races.

and "confidence" in talking about the 2005 season, and for a driver known to be awfully tough on himself that's quite a change in demeanor.

"How can you argue with the statistics we've put up over the past forty-some races?" he said. "I think we've been a great race team and I think we're a better team, (now) than we were a year ago. ... I think we're going to be in this all year long."

**Bob Brock**  
Ford Lincoln, Mercury Nissan  
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