



A day to remember

Big Spring takes Austin by storm

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

More than 200 Big Spring residents stood on the east steps of the Capitol Building in Austin Wednesday, in what local officials described as a successful show of support for the Texas Legislature rightfully deemed "Big Spring Day in Austin."

"Obviously it's incredible to see all of the people here," said Big Spring Mayor Russ McEwen. "And the really neat thing is there are people throughout the legislature saying they don't see crowds like this from Houston or Fort Worth. Yet, there are all these people from Big Spring, and that shows how much the people from Big Spring care."

"It's so gratifying to see people from all walks of life come down here to support this effort," added McEwen. "There's a synergy in Big Spring that you don't find anywhere else. We have great legislators that really care about us."

While the Capitol Building has become a second home for District 31 Sen. Kel Seliger since his election, the Amarillo native said it was good to see the people of his district showing their support.

"I represent what I think in a lot of respects is the best part of Texas," said Seliger. "It's a part of Texas that really has smaller cities and towns, where it's obvious the work ethic and the dedication drives those towns. I'm very proud to live in our part of Texas and to represent Big Spring."

Dr. Cheryl Sparks, president of Howard College, said the afternoon was productive for everyone

"I think it's a very productive event because we're able to display to people in Austin that we care about our area and we appreciate what they do for us."



Dr. Sparks



Top, more than 200 Big Spring residents packed this tent on the Capitol lawn Wednesday for a quick lunch break during Big Spring Day in Austin; Bottom left, District 31 Senator Kel Seliger, left, discusses the day's events with Michael Downes, superintendent of Big Spring ISD and Seliger's Big Spring office director, Stephanie Wilkerson; Bottom right, Ben Mazarra, administrator for the Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez Texas State Veterans Home, talks with District 19 State Rep. Pete Laney.

involved.

"It was very successful. I believe we have more people here than we've ever had before," said

Sparks. "I think it's a very productive event because we're able to display to people in Austin that we care about our

area and we appreciate what they do for us." While the afternoon held special meaning for public school educators

and administrators concerned with the current effort to reform school finance, Sparks said Howard College's stake in

the legislative session is just as important.

See AUSTIN, Page 3A

Lawmakers: School finance issue still up in air

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

As Big Spring residents, clad in their trademark blue denim shirts, took to the halls and galleries of the capital building Wednesday morning, public school finance may not have been the most prominent thing on their minds.

Behind the closed doors of the

legislature, however, it was a very different story.

Kel Seliger, who recently won the District 31 seat on the Texas Senate, said the ongoing effort to redesign how public schools in the Lone Star State will be financed is ongoing.

And while there appears to be no easy answer to the questions facing the legislature, the future of the state is on the line

— a grave fact he and his colleagues take very seriously.

"The kids that are in public schools today will be running Big Spring and running the state of Texas," said Seliger. "They will do a good job if we do a good job — if we see to it they have the resources and the inspiration they need to meet their responsibilities for Texas and the future."

Seliger said his part in the effort, which has many senators and state representatives split, isn't unguided, however.

He has a very helpful and knowledgeable man helping him bridge the widening gap between the legislators and the educators it will most sharply affect.

"Like everybody in the capital, we're very, very involved

with public schools," said Seliger. "I've been very lucky because Michael Downes, superintendent of the Big Spring Independent School District, has been in constant contact with me."

"Whatever the proposals are concerning public schools, we can talk about what they're

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AMERICAN PROFILE



The terrible twos were multiplied by six in the Hedrick household. Fortunately, Sondra and Eldon got some help babysitting, feeding and potty training Danielle, Ethan, Grant, Jaycie, Melissa and Sean from nurturing neighbors in Rago, Kan. (pop. 18). "At first I called them volunteers," says Sondra, 36, "but now they're our family."



A large column of smoke trails from the scene of a fire at the city landfill Wednesday afternoon. Public works employees battled the fire for about three and one-half hours before it was extinguished. No injuries or damage were reported, officials said. See Page 3A.

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Obituaries

Eva May Shanks



Eva May Shanks, 81, of Big Spring, died Tuesday, April 26, 2005, in a local hospital. Funeral services will be held at 4 p.m. Friday, April 29, 2005, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with the Rev. Don Snipes, pastor of Baptist Temple Church, officiating. Interment will follow in Trinity Memorial Park.

She was born Dec. 16, 1923, in Comanche County.

Ms. Shanks moved to Howard County in 1940 and took care of her parents until their death. Eva May enjoyed being a resident of Comanche Trail Nursing Home for more than nine years, where she truly enjoyed the staff and residents very much. She was a member of Baptist Temple Church.

Survivors include one sister, Jimmie Burks and husband, Leonard of Big Spring; six brothers, Clim Shanks, Howard Shanks and wife, Charlene, Charlie Shanks and wife, LaRue and Wade Shanks and wife, Dorothy all of Big Spring, Grover Shanks Jr. and wife, Doylean of May and Autov Shanks and wife, Mary of Del Rio; one sister-in-law, Florene Shanks of Proctor Lake; 14 nieces; 11 nephews; and a special friend from Comanche Trail Nursing Home, Donna Downey.

She was preceded in death by one sister, Norene Guill, two brothers, Doyle Shanks and John Shanks and one sister-in-law, Ruby Shanks.

The family suggests memorials be made to a favorite charity.

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

Paid obituary

Ed Sternadel



Ed Sternadel, 59, of Big Spring died Monday, April 25, 2005, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 30, 2005, at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial in Mount Olive Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel.

He was born Feb. 21, 1946, in Wichita Falls to Edward John Sternadel Jr. and Taletha McGuffey Sternadel. He was a veteran of the Navy, having served in the Panama Crisis. He had worked for the city of Big Spring for three years as animal control officer. He had been a resident of Big Spring for seven years, coming from Colorado City. He was of the Christian faith.

He is survived by his wife, Therese Sternadel of Big Spring; three daughters, Lynn Creswell and her husband, Ricky and Linda Billington and her husband, Dennis, all of Big Spring, and Lisha Vega and her husband, Abraham of Tahoka; one son, Clint Wills of Big Spring; father, Ed Sternadel Sr., of Scotland, Texas; one sister, Cecilia Hoskins of Paris, Texas; three brothers, Larry Sternadel of Windthorst, Paul Sternadel of Lake Ivie and Tommy Sternadel of Breckenridge; and eight grandchildren, Keira Creswell, Regan Creswell, Shiloh Creswell, and Quade Creswell, Nicholas Billington, Cori Vega, Marcus Vega and Quincy Wills.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Taletha Sternadel; grandmother, Rubye McGuffey, one sister, Kathy Sternadel; and one brother, Nicky Sternadel.

Pallbearers will be Ricky Creswell, Dennis Billington, Abraham Vega, Regan Crewsell, Terry Meister and David Hodges. Honorary pallbearers will be Stan Parker and Donny Allen.

The family suggests memorials to Relay for Life (BSSH Relay for Life Team) attn: Linda Billington, 1901 N. Highway 87, Big Spring 79720.

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

Paid obituary

Callie Roy Bennett



Callie Roy Bennett, 75, of Big Spring went to her heavenly home at 10:12 a.m. Monday, April 25, 2005, at the home of her daughter in The Colony. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Friday, April 29, 2005, at Trinity Baptist Church with the Rev. Randy Cotton, officiating. Burial will be at Trinity Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. today at Myers & Smith Chapel.

Callie was born Dec. 12, 1929, in Big Spring to R.W. McNew and Delia Hamlin McNew, who were long-time residents of Howard County. Callie graduated from Big Spring High School in 1946 and attended Howard County Junior College. She worked in nursing for several years, the Howard County Insurance Agency, Bon El Answering Service, B&M Bail Bond and PAC Tel Paging and Beeper Service. She retired in 2002.

Callie had been a member of Trinity Baptist Church since March 10, 1942. She held a life membership in the Texas Congress of Parents and Teachers. She was an active member of the Mighty Oaks Senior Citizen Organization and the Gamesters at Trinity Baptist Church.

Callie was also a Past Noble Grand of the Big Spring Rebekah Lodge No. 284. She was selected as the Business Woman of the Year in 1992 by the Scenic Cactus Chapter of America.

She is survived by one daughter, Debbie Parker and her husband, Benny of The Colony; one son, Jerry Bennett and his wife, Donna of Big Spring; and five grandchildren, Michelle Parker and C.J. Ashley, both of Lubbock, Stacy Parker of Brownsboro, Scarlet Ashley of San Angelo and Skyler Ashley of Midland.

She was preceded in death by her parents, three sisters, Bonnie Bennett, Gertrude McCann and Ethel McCracken, and one brother, Jack McNew.

Pallbearers will be Kevin Hamlin, Robert Howland, Skipper Howland, Earl Permenter, Oscar Garza, Scotty McNew, Danny Clark and Bryan Scroggins.

The family suggests memorials to Trinity Baptist Church Missionary Fund, in care of Trinity Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1448, Big Spring 79721.

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

Paid obituary

Rebecca 'Becky' Rodriguez



Rebecca "Becky" Rodriguez, 75, of Big Spring died Wednesday, April 27, 2005, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Vigil services are 7:30 p.m. today at Myers & Smith Chapel led by Teresa Rocha. Funeral Mass is 10 a.m. Friday, April 29, 2005, at St. Thomas Catholic Church with the Rev. James Plagens, pastor, officiating. Burial will be in Mount Olive Memorial Park.

She was born Feb. 17, 1930, in Big Spring. She had been employed at Scenic Mountain Medical Center, La Posada Restaurant and the Westside Day Care Center. Becky was a lifetime resident of Big Spring. She was a member of St. Thomas Catholic Church.

She is survived by her husband, Gregorio Rodriguez of Big Spring; three sons, Valtasar Rodriguez of Newberry, S.C., Jesus Rodriguez of Greenbrier, Ark., and Jose A. Rodriguez of Big Spring; three daughters, Virginia Brock of Quitman, Ark., Eloisa Daemi of Plano and Ramona Payne of Beaumont; three brothers, Simon Correa and Pedro Correa Jr., both of Big Spring and Ventura Correa of Irving; three sisters, Eloisa Correa of Big Spring, Mary Flores and Natalia Mata of Beaumont; seven grandchildren; and a number of nieces and nephews.

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

Clem McElreath

Clem McElreath, 65, of Big Spring died Thursday morning, April 28, 2005, at his residence following a long illness. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Lottery

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 6-17-31-32-43. Bonus Ball: 10.

Estimated jackpot for Saturday night drawing: \$50 million.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 3-13-16-30-34

Number matching five of five: 2.
Prize per winner: \$17,351.
Winning tickets sold in: Houston and Rowlett.
Next Cash 5 drawing: Thursday night.

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

Bulletin board

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

- TODAY**
- Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room. Call 267-6479.
 - RSVP annual Volunteer Banquet. Contact Nancy Jones at 264-2397.
 - Masonic Lodge 598 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 219 Main.

- FRIDAY**
- Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at St. Mary's Episcopal Church. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281 for more information.
 - AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant.
 - Greater Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room.
 - Spring City Senior Citizen's Center country and western dance from 7:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. featuring Monroe Casey and the Prowlers. All area seniors are invited.

Weather

Tonight - Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 50s. West winds 15 to 25 mph.

Friday - Partly cloudy. Windy. Not as warm. Highs in the upper 70s. Northwest winds 20 to 30 mph.

Friday night - Partly cloudy. Colder. Lows in the lower 40s. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.

Saturday - Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 70s. East winds 10 to 15 mph.

Saturday night - Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 40s.

Sunday - Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 70s.

Sunday night - Mostly cloudy. Lows in the mid 50s.

Monday - Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Highs in the lower 80s.

Monday night - Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Windy. Lows in the mid 50s.

Tuesday - Partly cloudy. Isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the upper 70s.

Tuesday night - Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Lows in the lower 50s.

Wednesday - Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Highs around 80.

Sheriff's report

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

- **TERESA SALAZAR**, 38, was arrested Wednesday by DPS on a charge of parent contributing to non-attendance and capias pro fines for two other counts of parent contributing to non-attendance.
- **MARIA (MARY) INEZ BRISTO**, 48, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of theft by check.
- **CINDY BETH PAYNE**, 45, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less in a drug free zone and unlawfully carrying a weapon.
- **MARK ALAN LOZANO**, 18, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of evading arrested or detention with a vehicle.
- **KENNETH JOHN GUZMAN JR.**, 19, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for evading arrest or detention with a vehicle and a charge of making alcohol available to a minor.
- **UNAUTHORIZED USE OF A MOTOR VEHICLE** was reported in the 3500 block of Webb Lane.

Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department reported the following activity:

- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 700 block of W. FM 700 at 1:45 p.m. Wednesday. Service was refused.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1300 block of Utah at 2:25 p.m. Wednesday. Service was refused.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 500 block of Westover Road at 6:46 p.m. Wednesday. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2500 block of E. 24th Street at 3 a.m. Wednesday. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2700 block of Clanton at 5:11 a.m. Wednesday. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1900 block of N. Highway 87 at 8:49 a.m. Wednesday. Service information not available.

Police blotter

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

- **CURTIS WILLIAM POTTS**, 24, of 1314 Birdwell, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of evading arrest with a vehicle.
- **REYNALDO BRITO GONZALES**, 17, of 1400 Austin, was arrested Wednesday on local traffic warrants.
- **DOROTHY SUBLET THOMAS**, 47, of 3710 Connally, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of theft.
- **KATRINA MICHELLE DUNN**, 31, of 1200 Scurry, was arrested Wednesday and held for the HCSO.
- **MICHAH LEVI PEARSON**, 19, of Coahoma, was arrested Wednesday on city warrants.
- **THEFT** was reported:
 - in the 300 block of Owens.
 - in the 400 block of Birdwell Lane.
 - in the 1200 block of 11th Place.
- **EVADING ARREST OR DETENTION WITH A VEHICLE** was reported in the 1700 block of Monticello.
- **CRIMINAL TRESPASS** was reported in the 700 block of Interstate Highway 20.

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West

Special to the

West Texas CEO Shelley S... announce the of the year annual Empl Ceremony. The ceremony a.m. at First Church, Garre Twelve em center's 334 counties were top award. TH

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"At this point still focusing lic school Sparks. "But will begin appropriation leges and the Collegiate In the Deaf (SV that will be th receive for th years. So th vital to our well."

For some o trip to the st the afternoon was less spec less personal. "I've been h said Joe Cla more than 2 pants. "But it the way you se lature. You ge way things w the first time Austin for Day, but it seems like the I think every come."

McEwen said afternoon

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"You're goin lot in the nex weeks about done and ho your schools. real joy wo Michael an absolutely a mindedly de your childre been a big someone who educator."

The effects o may have to v er, as the Ho Senate strug duce a bill avoid a specia "We've had session and accomplished District 19 Laney. "We v 140 days to



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West Texas Centers for MHMR to honor employee of the year

Special to the Herald

West Texas Centers for MHMR CEO Shelley Smith, LMSW, will announce the center's employee of the year Friday during its annual Employee Recognition Ceremony.

The ceremony will be at 9:30 a.m. at First United Methodist Church, Garrett Hall, 400 Scurry.

Twelve employees from the center's 334 employees in 23 counties were nominated for the top award. The 12 employees of

the quarter were culled from a list of 40 who were nominated for the quarterly recognition.

"This is always my favorite time of the year," Smith said. "Our employees are the unsung heroes of this organization and our opportunity to shine a light on their abilities."

Those 12 employees of the quarter are Amelia Araiza, Charles Bale, Zena Brown, Karen Edmondson, Jackie Hampton, Rita Harless, Valerie White, Jamie Scott, Norma Leach, Margie Gutierrez, Paula Hunt

and Diane Szabo. The 40 employees nominated for employee of the quarter are Bridgett Amos, Amelia Araiza, Cindy Armendariz, Charles Bale, Trisha Beall, Zena Brown, Kathy Daniels, Karen Edmondson, Naomi Evans, Sylvia Gomez, Carol Gotcher, Judy Guelker, Lise Guelker, Margie Gutierrez, Jackie Hampton, Rita Harless, Bobbie Hill, Paula Hunt, Doris Johnson, Dian Jones, Paula Laffer, Norma Leach, Dianne Looney, Kathy McDaniel, Alice Miranda, Readith Parks,

Courtney Phernetton, Diana Roman, Linda Schwarz, Jamie Scott, Theresa Smith, Diane Szabo, JoAnn Thompson, Pamela Toland, Sharon Treadway, Sue Turpin, Beverly VanZandt, Tammy Waid and Valerie White.

West Texas Centers for MHMR is the mental health and mental retardation authority for 23 rural counties in West Texas. More than 2,000 people with mental retardation and mental illness and their families receive service each month.

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

Donnie Beth Ogle Oringerderff, 63, died Monday. Graveside services were at 1:00 PM Thursday at Old Noxville Cemetery in Kimble County, Texas.

Callie Bennett, 75, died Monday. The family will receive friends from 6:00 until 8:00 PM Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral Services will be at 2:00 PM Friday at Trinity Baptist Church with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.

Peggy Kirby, 66, died Monday. Graveside services were at 10:30 AM Thursday at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

Ed Sternadel, 59, died Monday. Family will receive friends from 6:00 until 8:00 PM Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral Services will be at 10:00 AM Saturday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Rebecca "Becky" Rodriguez, 75, died Wednesday. Vigil Services will be at 7:30 PM Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral Mass will be at 10:00 AM Friday at St. Thomas Catholic Church. Burial will be at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

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AUSTIN

Continued from Page 1A

"At this point they are still focusing on the public school bill," said Sparks. "But soon they will begin discussing appropriations for colleges and the SouthWest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf (SWCID), and that will be the money we receive for the next two years. So this is really vital to our future as well."

For some on the long trip to the state capital, the afternoon's purpose was less specific, but no less personal.

"I've been here before," said Joe Clark, one of more than 200 participants. "But it can change the way you see the legislature. You get to see the way things work. This is the first time I've been to Austin for Big Spring Day, but it certainly seems like the thing to do. I think everyone should come."

McEwen said he felt the afternoon — which

included declarations in both the House and Senate designating April 27 as "Big Spring Day at the Capitol" — went off without a hitch.

"I think it went flawlessly," said McEwen. "There were a lot of people involved — the people that put this together. There's a lot of work that goes into something like this. It doesn't just happen. You have to have the ice cream and the Cokes taken care of, among other things, and I don't think anyone left here hungry. And it's the men and women — the legislative aids — that you see walking around here eating ice cream, that are going to remember Big Spring because of today."

State Rep. Pete Laney, who represents Howard County in Austin, said he and his colleagues were astounded to see how many residents made the trip to show their support.

"We're just glad to have the people who were able to come and support those that couldn't come today," said Laney. "This

morning, on the House floor, it was very noticeable for a town the size of Big Spring and Howard County to have the kind of numbers in the gallery. And I had several comments from my colleagues saying how impressive that was. One comment made was how when we had Fort Worth Day, we didn't have as many people as we did today."

And while the site in the gallery was nothing new — virtually a daily occurrence during the legislature — Seliger said it was important not to lose sight of what it accomplishes on a local level.

"It was a great crowd, and we have them every single day," said Seliger. "And the people of Big Spring's enthusiasm for their community was evident to everyone at the Capitol."

"The most important thing about these days is everyone working together within the community to put it on," he added. "The sense of cooperation and the sense of solidarity"

something, and if you don't get something there, I'm not sure there's going to be any resolution in the legislative process.

"There are some individuals who think we should hand this to the court, and I don't agree with that. And some of those people are in leadership positions."

Laney said the struggle between committees and parties seems to be taking up the Capitol spotlight, and unfortunately, it's not moving the issue any closer to a conclusion.

"The way the process is working, sometimes you spend more time fighting off things than you do working on positive things," said Laney. "There's growth in suburban Texas and the demands of suburban Texas on our transportation systems and health care are important, but we have to make sure all of the money doesn't just go to them."

While Laney, who expressed sincere frustration with the process thus far, said completion of an education finance bill

eludes his sight, Seliger remains more optimistic.

"I'm confident we can get it done. There's been a tremendous amount of work, going into public school reform," said Seliger. "Whether the dynamics or the politics of the situation will allow it to get done in regular session — I don't know. But I'm confident the work is good. Not all of it is absolutely ideal for us in our district, but in terms of being able to get it done in regular session, I say absolutely."

Laney said different views between the two houses has turned the situation into a "wait and see" legislature.

"I think the problem is there's no consensus anywhere in either house in what we're doing," said Laney. "The tax bill passed, but it didn't really help. It just changed the people who are paying for it. It wasn't an asset to education. The senate has a completely different view point, so we're all just waiting to see what happens now."

Cause of landfill fire is unknown

Herald Staff Report

Officials may never learn the cause of a fire at the city landfill Wednesday that produced prodigious amounts of smoke, but thankfully no injuries or damage.

City Public Works Director Todd Darden said the fire began at approximately 3 p.m. at the top of the active landfill cell. Strong winds out of the southeast quickly fanned the flames, creating an enormous plume of smoke that filled much of the eastern horizon.

City work crews quickly built a dike to act as a fire break, containing the blaze. But a lack of water at the landfill meant that crews, backed up by fire

department units, had to use dirt to gradually extinguish the fire, Darden said.

The fire was finally extinguished at about 6:30 p.m., with no injuries or damage reported, Darden said. Unfortunately, the massive amounts of dirt used to quell the fire means that officials may never learn the precise cause of the blaze, he said.

"The public works crews did a great job in putting out the fire," he said.

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

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FINANCE

Continued from Page 1A

going to do in Big Spring, Coahoma, Forsan, Stanton and Glasscock County. I'm here to represent them. A school bill is good or bad based on how it affects those people and those kids back in the district.

"You're going to hear a lot in the next couple of weeks about what we've done and how it helps your schools. It's been a real joy working with Michael on this. He is absolutely and single-mindedly dedicated to your children. And it's been a big help to me, someone who is not an educator."

The effects of such a bill may have to wait, however, as the House and the Senate struggle to produce a bill in time to avoid a special session.

"We've had one special session and nothing was accomplished," said District 19 Rep. Pete Laney. "We will have had 140 days to accomplish

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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Susanne Reed
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Symphony's performance is a must see

Get ready to have a good time. Saturday's "A Spring Gala" concert by the Big Spring Symphony and Chorus promises to nothing short of an extravaganza with more than 200 performers set to take the stage.

Scheduled for an 8 p.m. start in the Municipal Auditorium, the "Gala" will feature numerous young performers, some of whom will be traveling from as far away as El Paso and Amarillo, to display their talents.

Already Symphony Conductor Dr. Keith Graumann has labeled the show as "one of the most enjoyable concerts I've ever conducted."

The show begins with a lively concert by Mozart that features several young, teen-agers. Then the first half will conclude with Dr. Sue Baer and 29 Suzuki violin-method students performing Vivaldi and Bach.

The second half of the concert features the Big Spring Symphony Chorus performing Vivaldi's "Gloria," that will feature soloists Joyce Bradley, Deborah Jones, Margarita Durand-Holls and Jose Luis Gonzales.

In addition, the chorus and soloists will be joined by 100 students from the All-City Choir, directed by Dalene Husky and Linda Lindell.

Following the concert, a reception at 2801 Crestline Road is open to symphony-goers in the home of Rob and Suzanne Haney, longtime supporters and board members of the symphony.

Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8 for senior citizens and \$5 for students. They are available here at the Big Spring Herald, the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce office and at the symphony office, 808 Scurry.

Be sure to include "A Spring Gala" in your weekend plans. It's a bet you'll be glad you did. We'll see you there.

HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

In order that we might better serve your needs, we offer several ways in which you may contact us:

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

LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

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

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

Heavenly thinking opens many doors, thank You Lord.

Amen

Speakers deserve respect, not attacks

Here we go again. Pies are flying, spit is flying, and protests are beginning. And commencement season hasn't even started. It could be a doozie. All I can say is: Watch out where you sit.

My conservative friends have been targets of the pies, presumably from liberal students, while Jane Fonda got her face full of a Vietnam veteran's spit. Best-selling author and flamethrower Ann Coulter and former radical turner arch-conservative David Horowitz delight in provoking people, which is certainly no excuse for pies — but Bill Kristol, the editor of The Weekly Standard, is widely respected in Washington as the "friendly conservative," viewed as both brilliant and agreeable, and hardly a candidate on anybody's list for a pie. Meanwhile, the Cardinal Newman Society, a group that exists to protest speakers and performances at Catholic colleges, has announced that it is protesting the decision by Marymount Manhattan College to invite Sen. Hillary Clinton to be its commencement speaker and receive an honorary degree.

It should go without saying, of course, that college students should not behave like preschoolers. Generally, colleges bring speakers like Ann to campus to expose students to different points of view, and it is extremely rare that a professor would ever require his or her students to attend such a lecture, and only then for a specific purpose. If you don't like Ann, don't go. You can vote with your feet.

Patrick Reilly, the president of

SUSAN
ESTRICH

the Cardinal Newman Society, would no doubt resent being grouped with the badly behaving pranksters. Yet all are in the business of blocking speech they might disagree with, and while the pie-throwers pose only a momentary interruption, if Reilly is successful, none of the students and parents and friends will be able to hear from the woman who may well be the first woman president of the United States.

I spoke at the Wellesley commencement in 1989. The next year, Barbara Bush was invited to speak. Some students protested. I was mortified. The college stood by the choice. Barbara Bush was greeted with an extraordinary showing of warmth, more so, I think, than I received as an alum coming back, or Hillary received when she came back to speak, because it was the right thing to do.

Commencements, which are for everybody, are for that reason no place for politics, a lesson I have learned in the last 15 years of giving commencement speeches. They should be about the students, their world, what you can say that might matter to them.

I always talk to the students who aren't on top of the world, who don't have Ozzie and Harriet as parents, sitting together, who weren't dealt a hand with four aces. At my high school graduation, I was the valedictorian who had been rejected from Harvard, the place I always dreamed I would go. Thirty-six hours before my college graduation, a man put an ice pick to my throat and raped me; they shot me up with antibiotics so I couldn't sit down; my father didn't come, because my parents were divorced and I didn't have a ticket for his wife.

I didn't even go to my law school graduation. By then, my father was dead, and I couldn't face it, or afford the ticket back from D.C.,

where I had already started work. So I talk about rolling with the punches. Adaptation to life. Finding your own definition of success, and being able to handle failure.

The Cardinal Newman Society is protesting the choice of Hillary Clinton because of her support for contraception as basic health care and embryonic stem cell research, as well as her stance on the issue of abortion. Referring to a speech Clinton gave last January where she was widely credited with reaching out to anti-abortion advocates in an effort to find common ground, Reilly pointed out, correctly, that she began that speech by reaffirming her own support for Roe v. Wade.

I would be willing to bet that Hillary Clinton will not mention Roe v. Wade in her speech. But that would, I am certain, not be enough for Reilly, who invokes a policy adopted last year by the U.S. Conference of Bishops titled "Catholics in Political Life".

"The Catholic community and Catholic institutions should not honor those who act in defiance of our fundamental moral principles. They should not be given awards, honors or platforms which would suggest support for their actions."

Far be it from me to interpret Catholic law. But I never considered an invitation to speak at a college as a show of "support." Respect, maybe. That's all you can hope for when you speak at a college these days. If you're lucky, you'll get out without a pie in your face.

To find out more about Susan Estrich, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com.

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Brokaw: A man who has made a difference

Here is yet another difference between Tom Brokaw and me: I am leading him down a hallway at Harvard's Institute of Politics to a holding room where he will grab a quick sandwich before he speaks to students.

The room where he will speak is crowded, overflowing, and I have to make a path through the crowd in the hall to lead Brokaw to the holding room. In my path is a young woman with a tiny baby. I smile at the woman, smile at the baby and then move around them to get into the holding room.

I look behind me, but Brokaw is not there. He is talking to the young woman. "How old is he?" Brokaw asks her about her baby. "What's his name?" This goes on for about a minute before Brokaw finally comes into the holding room.

As you might imagine, wherever Brokaw goes, he causes quite a stir. And he caused quite a stir while talking to the young woman and her baby. But Brokaw operates as if the stir does not exist. He rarely allows it to alter his behavior.

This is something I have always admired about him.

Due to Institute of Politics rules, Brokaw's talk to the students was off the record, so I can't quote from it. But this is from my introduction of him:

The guy next to me is Tom Brokaw. You may recognize the face.

Brokaw was hired by NBC News in 1966, and from 1976 to 1981 he anchored "Today."

After John Chancellor retired, Brokaw and Roger Mudd became co-anchors of the "Nightly News," until Brokaw was chosen as the sole anchor of the top-rated broadcast in 1983.

Brokaw has won two Alfred I. duPont awards, two Peabody awards and nine Emmys.

On March 19, 2003, Brokaw was the first American news anchor to report that the war with Iraq had

begun. And in April 2003, he landed the first television interview with President Bush after the president declared the end of major combat. During the summer of 2003, Brokaw was the first evening news anchor to return to Baghdad to report for five nights for "NBC Nightly News" and "Dateline NBC" on postwar Iraq and the reconstruction efforts.

In 2003, "NBC Nightly News" was honored with the prestigious Edward R. Murrow Award for Best Newscast, representing the program's fourth consecutive win in this category.

Brokaw has covered every presidential election since 1968.

So what else does Brokaw do? He writes books. His four best sellers are "The Greatest Generation," "The Greatest Generation Speaks," "An Album of Memories" and "A Long Way From Home."

On Dec. 1, 2004, Brokaw stepped down after 21 years as the anchor and managing editor of "NBC Nightly News." But he will stay at the network doing documentaries and other reporting.

Most of what I have just told you about Brokaw you can find in various bios, but what you can't find is this: Of all the people in television today, nobody is better liked or more respected by print reporters than Tom Brokaw.

Who cares what print reporters think? Well, hardly anybody. But why print reporters admire Brokaw so much is instructive.

And that is because, first and foremost, Tom is and always has been a reporter. Presidential cycle after presidential cycle, you go to some small event in Iowa or New Hampshire and there is Tom Brokaw, pad and pen in hand, no crew, no entourage, just taking notes and reporting.

Has this become increasingly tougher for a man who now is, after all, a living logo, and who attracts attention wherever he goes? Yeah. But he does it anyway.

I first met Brokaw in 1984, in the basement of what was then Loop Junior College, now Harold Washington College, in Chicago. It was a small rally for Jesse Jackson, covered by a handful of reporters, and Tom Brokaw

walked in. All by himself. Just a notebook and pen. He came up to me, stuck out his hand, introduced himself, asked if I was a local reporter and then asked me a few questions about Jackson.

I am not saying I was impressed, but I have not washed my hand to this day.

Here is a passage from my decidedly non-best-selling book "Road Show" about a day in Iowa just before the presidential caucuses of 1988, when Brokaw let me follow him around for a day:

Brokaw heads back outside and drives to the Prince Masonic Hall, where the Jackson rally is underway. There are no seats left, and Brokaw stands to one side of the hall, taking notes in a spiral notebook with a black felt tip pen as Jesse Jackson speaks. Jackson's speeches often do not have clear-cut endings (you know they are over when he leaves the hall), and now he is going through his ritual of inviting children up on the stage.

While this is going on, a black man in a camel coat and gray hat stands up, moves to the aisle, turns his back on Jackson and heads directly for Brokaw. He reaches out his hand, and Brokaw shakes it. "You are very popular here," the man says. Brokaw mumbles a word or two, but now a crowd is gathering, people are peering over each other's shoulders to get a look at him.

"He's goin' to run for president," the man says of Brokaw. "And he's goin' to win!"

Will Tom Brokaw ever become president of the United States? I do not know. There may be some pay-cuts not worth taking.

But I will always remember what Tom Brokaw once said: "It's easy to make a buck. It's a lot tougher to make a difference."

Here is Tom Brokaw. A man who has made a difference.

To find out more about Roger Simon, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com.

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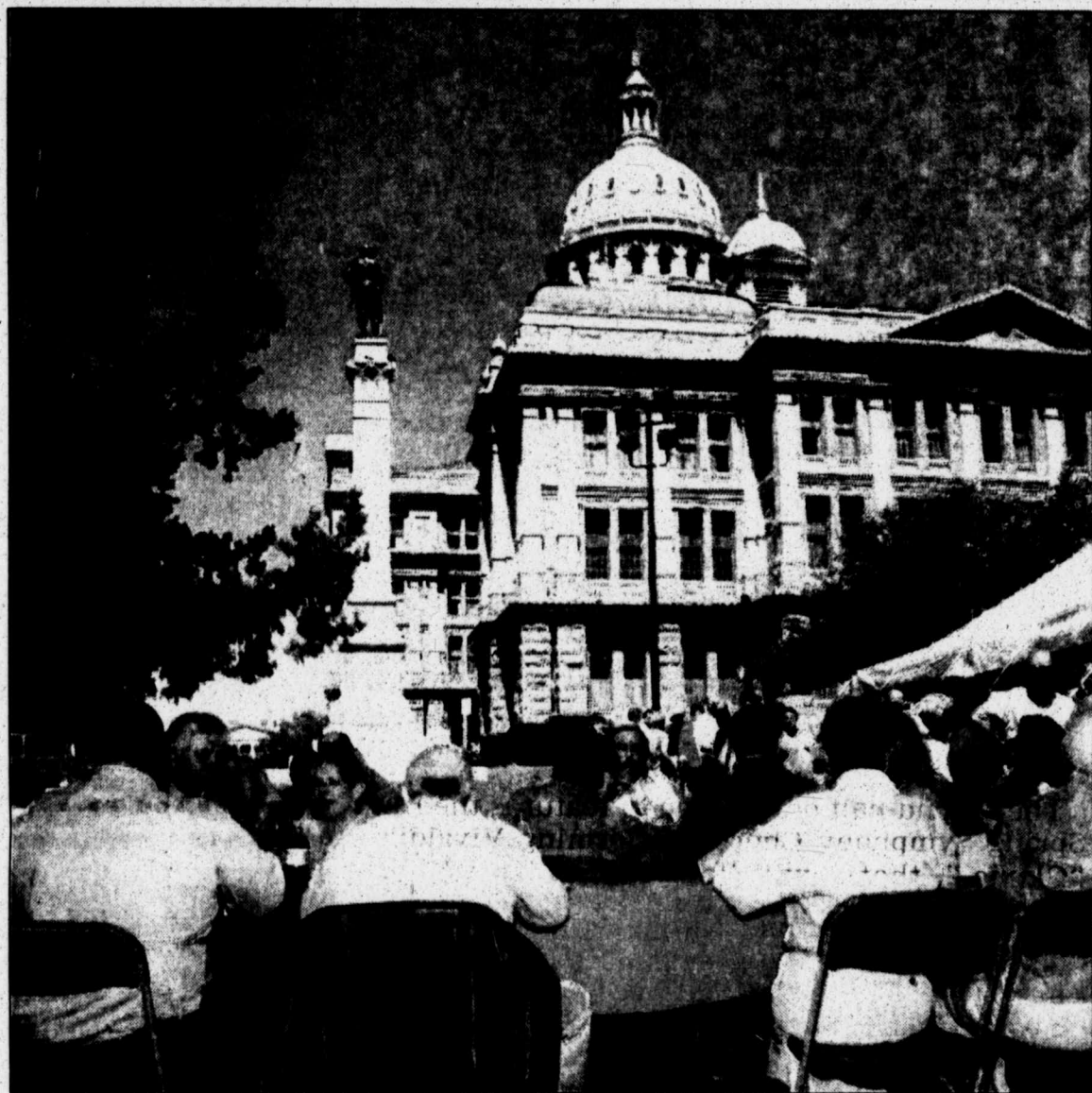
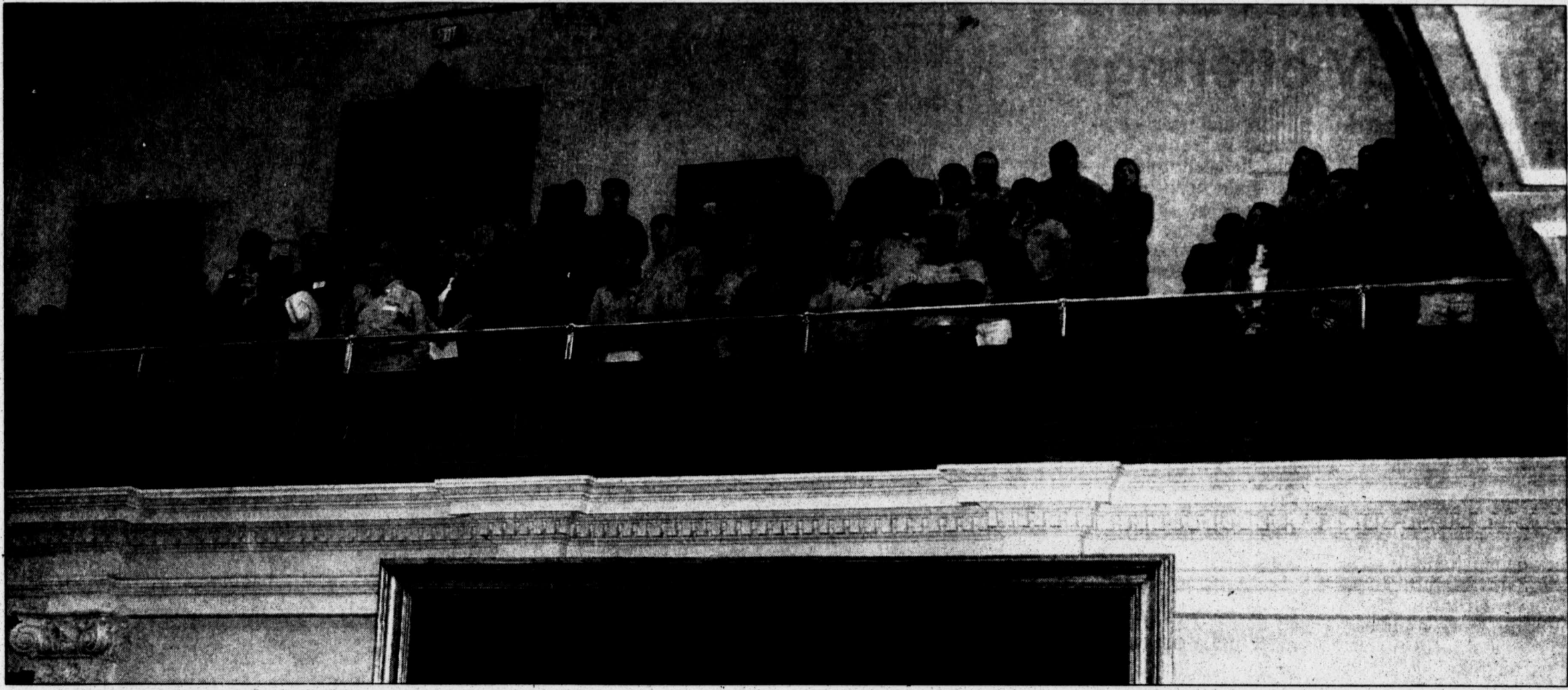
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Big Spring has its day in Austin



Herald photos/Bruce Schooler
At top, Big Spring residents are recognized in the gallery of the Texas House of Representatives. At left, Rep. Pete Laney, center, talks with Tommy Churchwell, left, and Jim Purcell. Above, Big Springers enjoy an ice cream social on the Capitol grounds.

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SPRING CAR CARE DIRECTORY

April Is National Car Care Month

Here are a few tips for taking good care of your vehicle:

Car Care Tips:

- Give your car a thorough hand wash and wax, and touch up any paint chips or scratches.
- Change engine oil and filter, and get a tune-up if needed.
- Inspect cooling system hoses for leaks and drive belts for cracks.
- Have antifreeze tested to avoid overheating in the summer months.
- Check tire treads and pressure.
- Replace worn windshield wiper blades.
- Clean windows, inside and out, for better visibility.

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Competing against itself Nissan hits bumps with SUV offerings

By STEVEN COLE SMITH

The Orlando Sentinel

Compared with the competition, Nissan was way, way behind the curve when it came to capitalizing on the sport-utility vehicle craze. Economic hardship required the company to rely on the Pathfinder and its Infiniti derivative, the QX4, for far too long. By the time Nissan launched its entry-level SUV, the Xterra, for the 2000 model year, Toyota had been selling the RAV4 for four years.

An influx of cash from new owner Renault allowed Nissan the luxury of designing and building more vehicles. Nissan and Infiniti now offer a total of six SUVs, and a new car-based, sub-Xterra model may soon be added.

The problem with having lots of SUVs — and it's a problem Toyota and Lexus have encountered with their eight sport-utes — is that, at some point, you are competing not only against other manufacturers but also against yourself.

Case in point: the all-new 2005 Nissan Pathfinder. The original Pathfinder was a compact, nimble, rugged SUV that remains a very good used-car buy. But as Nissan has sent the Xterra slightly upmarket, it had to make the Pathfinder bigger and more deluxe to create some level of product differentiation.

But as it made the Pathfinder more upscale, it now treads close to the same territory as the Nissan Armada, the company's SUV flagship.

The Pathfinder shares the angular, slightly lumpy styling of the Armada, which is not exactly setting the market on fire. The Pathfinder is, in fact, built on the same basic platform as the Armada, as is the Titan pickup truck.

At first glance, the Pathfinder does not appear to be that much smaller than the Armada, but at 187.6 inches in length, it's 9.3 inches

shorter and nearly 800 pounds lighter.

On the road, the Pathfinder feels bigger than it is too. Besides the dimensions, the biggest difference between the two is the engines: The Armada has a 5.6-liter, 305-horsepower V-8, while the Pathfinder has a 4.0-

NISSAN PATHFINDER

Base price:
\$32,550.

Price as tested:
\$36,710.

EPA rating: 16 mpg
city, 23 mpg high-
way.

Details: Front-
engine, rear-drive
SUV with a 4.0-
liter, 270-horse-
power V-6 engine
and a 5-speed
automatic trans-
mission.

liter, 270-horsepower V-6. The Armada is bigger inside, but both vehicles offer three rows of seats.

Nissan has priced the base models of the Pathfinder very aggressively, with the XE model starting at just more than \$25,000. That's the rear-drive model; if you want four-wheel drive, it's \$2,000 more. At that price, the Pathfinder is a very attractive buy.

When you start adding equipment, though, the difference between the Pathfinder and Armada shrinks. The test Pathfinder was the top-of-the-line LE, with rear-wheel drive. Base price was \$32,550, and with shipping, a \$2,000 navigation system and a \$1,600 rear-seat DVD entertainment package, the total was \$36,710.

Base price of an Armada SE is \$33,600. If you can live without the Pathfinder LE's leather upholstery, power sunroof and the aforementioned options, the Armada SE is the better buy, especially if you



tow. The Pathfinder tows up to 6,000 pounds, but the Armada tows as much as 9,100 pounds.

That said, maybe you don't want a vehicle that big, so the Pathfinder may be preferred. The front and middle seats are plenty roomy, but the third seat is best for children or midgets.

Although the 4.0-liter V-6 may seem smallish for a vehicle that supposedly can tow 3 tons, don't be put off: It's one of the most powerful, gutsiest V-6s ever.

Nicely matched to the five-speed automatic transmission, there's all the power you need. After all, 270 horsepower is 35 more than the 4.7-liter V-8 in the Toyota Land Cruiser has. It also results in fuel mileage that is, well, less terrible than some SUVs: 16 miles per gallon in the city, 23 mpg highway.

I like this Pathfinder LE a lot, but approaching \$37,000 for a rear-drive SUV, I'd be tempted to drop down to a less deluxe model and get a four-wheel drive.

For a rugged, truck-based SUV like this, I'd rather have some off-road capability than heated power mirrors and a power passenger seat.

Feel free to disagree.
*Distributed by Knight
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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 will 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 (1)	Proposed Bill (1)	Difference
Residential Customer using 6 Mcf:	\$13.99	\$15.12	\$1.13
Commercial Customer using 30 Mcf:	\$43.05	\$43.10	\$0.05

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

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

Description	Current Charge	Proposed Charge	Increase
DURING BUSINESS HOURS:			
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
DURING BUSINESS HOURS (cont'd):			
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
AFTER BUSINESS HOURS:			
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 (Docket No. 9573)
Railroad Commission of Texas
P.O. Box 12967
Austin, Texas 78711-2967

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IN B

Big Spring Club announces couples tour

The Big Spring Country Club has set up a two-day couples tour for May 14 and 15.

The tournament cost \$130 per person, but cart fee, but carts are welcome.

A practice round will take place while registration begins at 11 a.m. on May 14 and starts at 8 a.m. on May 15.

There will be prizes for three places in flight and male/female drive and closing pin awards will be given.

Dinner will be served after play on both days. For more information, call 267-5111.

Cornell Corbett sets up second dodge ball tournament

Cornell Corbett has set up a second dodge ball tournament to benefit R Life.

The tournament will take place Saturday at the YMCA and registration must be done by Thursday.

The tournament will start at 9 a.m. and cost \$10 per person and team. There will be eight prizes for male and female.

For more information, contact Turney 267-2000.

Forsan ISD sets all-sports banquet

Forsan ISD announced the sports banquet will take place May 3, at the school.

Tickets for letes and parents are \$10 and they can be purchased Thursday.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call the High School at 457-2223.

Tickets may be purchased at the school office.

C.G.A. announces monthly golf tournament

The Chicagoland Golf Association is holding its annual First Selective Tournament Sunday at the Trail Golf Course.

Registration is done by 9:30 a.m. and the tournament shotgun starts at 10 a.m.

For more information, contact Pineda of the Golf Association at 7116.

Big Spring banquet announced

The Big Spring ball banquet will take place at the Howard Student Building's Cactus Room.

Tickets can be purchased at the Athletic Center. The purchase date is May 5.

For more information, call J at 263-8527.

IN BRIEF

Big Spring Country Club announces couples tournament

The Big Spring Country Club has set up a two-day two-person couples scramble for May 14 and 15.

The tournament will cost \$130 per team plus cart fee, but private carts are welcome.

A practice round will take place May 13, while registration begins at 11:30 a.m. May 14 and a shotgun start begins at 1 p.m.

There will be prizes for three places per flight and a male/female longest drive and closest to the pin awards will also be given.

Dinner will be served after play on both days. For more information, call 267-5354.

Cornell Corrections sets up second dodge ball tourney

Cornell Corrections has set up a second dodge ball tournament to benefit Relay For Life.

The tourney will take place Saturday at the YMCA and registration must be done by Thursday.

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 Thursday.

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.

C.G.A. announces monthly golf toumey

The Chicano Golf Association has set up its annual Four Person Selective Drive Tournament for Sunday at Comanche Trail Golf Course.

Registration must be done by 9:30 and the tournament will use a shotgun start beginnings at 10 a.m.

For more information, contact Billy Pineda of the Chicano Golf Association at 264-7116.

Big Spring baseball banquet announced

The Big Spring baseball banquet will take place at 6:30 p.m. Monday, May 9, at the Howard College Student Union Building's (SUB) Cactus Room.

Tickets cost \$10 each and can be purchased at the Big Spring Athletic Training Center. The deadline to purchase tickets is May 5.

For more information, call John Sparks at 263-8527.

Lady Steers continue to improve as regionals near

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor

FREDERICKSBURG — A four-hour drive to Fredericksburg to face stiff competition at the regional qualifiers track meet resulted in several more personal bests for the Big Spring girl's track team last Friday.

The meet featured several Class 5A schools from the San Antonio and Austin areas, but the Lady Steers were able to capture four top-three finishes, six personal records and one school record.

The best finish of the day came in the 200-meter

dash where senior sprinter Airianne Brown raced her way to the gold medal with a personal best time of 24.80 seconds.

Senior Cycelye Tuitt grabbed one of the team's second place finishes.

Tuitt grabbed the silver in the high jump with a personal best leap of 5-4.

Also taking the silver medal was Amisha Vanderbilt in the discus. Her second place personal

best throw covered 120-6. Vanderbilt also finished fourth in the shot put as she set another personal record for a throw of 37-9.

The Lady Steers' only third place medal came in the 4x400 relay. The team of Katy Abner, Brown, Whitney Lewis and Carmen Lewis raced to the bronze with a school record time of 3:59.1.

The run broke the previous record of 4:00.11.

Abner also set a personal record in the pole vault as she cleared 10-0 and claimed fourth overall.

The 4x100 and 4x200 meter relay teams placed fifth and sixth, respectively.

The 4x100 team of Tuitt, Abner, Britni Rodriguez and Carmen Lewis took fifth after sprinting to a 49.8 seconds, while the 4x200 meter team of Abner, Carmen Lewis, Whitney Lewis and Brown finished in 1:45.5.

The Region I-4A track meet will take place at the Angelo State University Multipurpose Sports Complex in San Angelo Friday and Saturday.

The field events begin at 1 p.m. Friday and running starts at 5 p.m.

On Saturday, the field events start at noon, while the running events begin at 5 p.m.

Region I-4A track meet	
Angelo State University Multipurpose Complex in San Angelo	
Friday: field events	1 p.m. — girls' long jump, discus and pole vault
	3:30 p.m. — same as above (boys)
Friday: running events (preliminaries)	5 p.m. — 400-meter relay
	5:25 p.m. — 200-meter run
	5:45 p.m. — 100/110-meter hurdles
	6:15 p.m. — 100-meter dash
	6:45 p.m. — 800-meter relay
	7:20 p.m. — 400-meter dash
	7:45 p.m. — 300-meter hurdles
	8:10 p.m. — 200-meter dash
	8:35 p.m. — 1,600-meter relay
	9:05 p.m. — 3,200-meter run, girls (finals)
	9:20 p.m. — 3,200-meter run, boys (finals)
Saturday: field events	noon — girls' triple jump
	2 p.m. — girls' high jump
	2:30 p.m. — boys' triple jump, girls' shot put
	4:30 p.m. — boys' high jump
	5 p.m. — boys' shot put
Saturday: running events (finals)	5 p.m. — 400-meter relay
	5:20 p.m. — 800-meter run
	5:40 p.m. — 100/110-meter hurdles
	6 p.m. — 100-meter dash
	6:15 p.m. — 800-meter relay
	6:25 p.m. — 400-meter dash
	6:50 p.m. — 300-meter hurdles
	6:55 p.m. — 200-meter dash
	7:05 p.m. — 1,600-meter run
	7:35 p.m. — 1,600-meter relay

Garden City shoots season-lows, falls short of state berth

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor

ABILENE — Both Garden City golf team's shot season lows Monday and Tuesday at the Region II-1A golf tournament at the Maxwell Municipal Golf Course in Abilene.

But, the efforts of the Bearkats and Lady Kats was not enough to advance to state as the girl's placed fifth and the boy's took 11th.

GIRLS

The Lady Kats' two lowest rounds of the year translated into a score of 842 and a fifth place finish, but Baird (708) and Throckmorton (712) proved to be too much to handle in the end.

Senior Kayla Madrano led the Lady Kats with a two-round score of 195, while senior Amanda Hirt and sophomore Erin Hirt fired a 202 and 208, respectively. Seniors Brandi Halfmann (237) and Rebecca Cmerok (239) also participated.

"We shot our two lowest scores of the year and that is really all you can hope for when you get to regionals," said Garden City coach Ken Hoskins. "They found out quickly that it is not fun and games at this level because you are battling for a trip to state. It was a serious thing and the

girls did well with that."

The Lady Kats played in seven tournaments this year and grabbed three first place finishes and two seconds on top of their fifth place regional standing.

"The girls represented Garden City well at the regional tournament," said Hoskins.

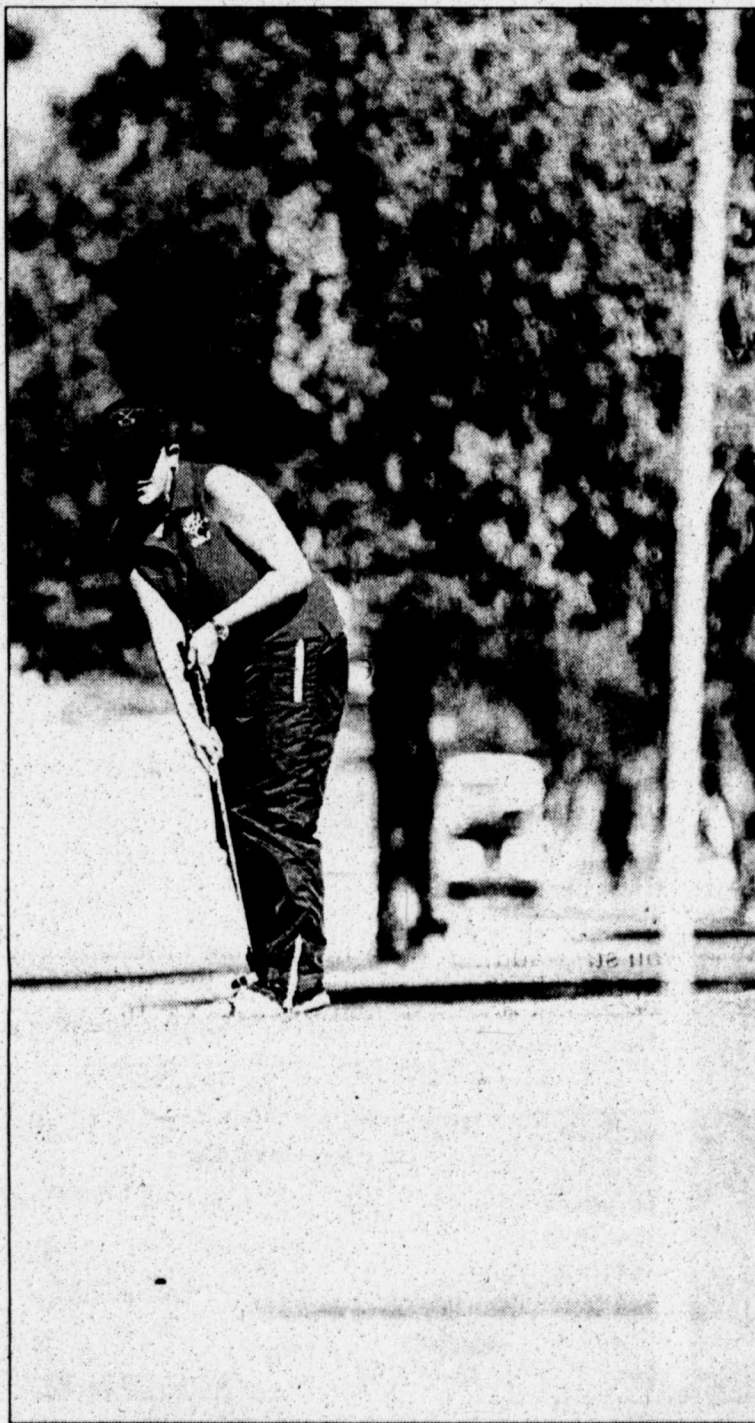
BOYS

Garden City's best score of the year equaled a 711 and 11th place finish in Abilene. Throckmorton and Baird again were the two top teams in the tournament. Throckmorton finished with a 651 and Baird was just three strokes off that mark.

Sophomores Chase O'Brien and Taylor Niehues led the Bearkats with a 170 and 172, respectively. Junior Cory Multer shot a 184, while sophomore Sam Long and freshman Eric Hirt each fired a 188.

"We played solid for two days and were really proud of what we accomplished," said Garden City boy's coach Josh Fee. "Everyone of our top-five returns next year so we should be able to get back to regionals next year and be able to compete better."

"The sophomore really stepped up and played well in their first time at regionals."



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde
Garden City sophomore Erin Hirt attempts a long putt on the No. 18 green at Comanche Trail Golf Course at the district tournament this year. Hirt finished third among Lady Kats this week at the regional tournament after firing a 208. The Lady Kats took fifth as a team.

San Antonio gets even with Denver after rout

By T.A. BADGER

Associated Press Writer
SAN ANTONIO (AP) — The Denver Nuggets expected San Antonio to come out hard and fast in Game 2, and the Spurs didn't disappoint them.

But what did disappoint the Nuggets Wednesday was the way they reacted.

The Spurs made nine of their first 10 shots and then outscored Denver by 20 points in the second quarter en route to a 104-76 win that evened their first-round playoff series at one win each.

Game 3 of the best-of-seven series will be played Saturday night in Denver, with Game 4 scheduled for Monday.

San Antonio, which lost the opener Sunday after missing 17 straight shots down the stretch, went back to basics on offense — that is, they got the ball to Tim Duncan.

On his first touch, Duncan drove on Kenyon Martin and hit a short bank shot. Next trip down, he backed down Marcus Camby in the post and flipped in a jump hook.

Establishing Duncan

early created shots on the perimeter, and the Spurs made them. They hit their first four 3-pointers, two by Brent Barry, and they owned an 11-point lead early.

Camby said the Nuggets couldn't stop the Spurs or get anything going themselves.

Tony Parker scored 12 points in the first period, matching his total for Game 1. He finished with 19 points.

Duncan had 24 points, while Manu Ginobili added 17 points in 18 minutes. Barry, who started in Ginobili's place, made all four of his 3-pointers for 16 points.

DerMarr Johnson led Denver with 12 points. Miller added 11.

The Nuggets, who rely on their transition scoring, had only one fast-break basket in the game.

San Antonio scored more in the second quarter (34) than Denver had in the first half (32).

Anthony made four of his five shots in the third period after going 1-for-9 in the first half, but got into foul trouble and did not play in the fourth quarter.

Young leads Rangers past rival Seattle

By STEPHEN HAWKINS

AP Sports Writer

ARLINGTON (AP) — Kenny Rogers probably wouldn't mind the Texas hitters spreading out a few of those runs.

The left-hander finally got a lot more offensive support than he needed, along with his first win as a 40-year-old pitcher.

Michael Young hit a three-run homer in a five-run first, and then Rogers allowed just two singles over six shutout innings in the Rangers' 8-2 win over the Seattle Mariners on Wednesday night.

"We haven't given him much support, so today, he enjoyed pitching," catcher Rod Barajas said. "He's had hard luck but he continues to be consistent and just does the same thing. ... He kept the ball down in the zone, got them to swing at bad pitches and didn't make any mistakes."

Rogers (1-2) needed five starts to get his first win this year. Texas scored just two runs in his previous two starts, both losses, and he trailed 1-0 when he left after six innings in his first start.

"We jumped out there and gave Kenny something to work with, something he hasn't had," manager Buck Showalter said.

Young's third homer came before the Rangers even made an out. Richard Hidalgo, mired in a 6-for-54 slump and starting for only the second time in five games, added a two-run single in the five-run first.

"Getting on the board early just gave Kenny a chance to relax and do what he does best," said Mench, who had a double before Hidalgo's hit.

Rogers walked five, but three of those came with two outs, and no Seattle runner reached third base. He left after 105 pitches, just 57 for strikes.

"It's like the ball never gets to you, and you never hit it square," Bret Boone said. "But that's how he's made his living."

Rogers left without talking to reporters. That has been common since spring training, when he got upset about reports of a meeting he had with owner Tom Hicks before camp in which he sought a contract extension, and reportedly threatened to retire if he didn't get one.

Seattle avoided the shutout when Ichiro Suzuki hit a two-run double off Francisco Cordero with two outs in the ninth.

APR 28 2005



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde
Garden City junior Cory Multer lines up his shot on the No. 9 green at Comanche Trail Golf Course during the district golf meet this year. Multer and the Bearkats competed at the regional golf meet Monday and Tuesday. Multer shot a 184, while the boy's team took 11th out of 16 teams.

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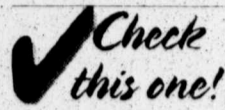
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Garage Sales

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MOVING SALE, 3000 Cactus. Saturday, 8:00-2:00. Furniture, clothes, knick-knacks, paddy-wacks, etc.

MULTI FAMILY Garage Sale, Tubbs Edition, 702 Jeffery Rd. Saturday, 8:00-? (2) dinette sets, TVs, lots of everything!

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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

AKC Chinese Pug puppies (fawn), 3 female, 7 weeks old. Looking for new home. \$400.00. Call Pam (432)267-5952.

AKC YORKIES- 2 Males \$600.00 each also 1 Female \$800.00. First shots and will deliver. Call (806)592-3364.

Real Estate for Rent

1205 LLOYD, 2 Bedroom 1 bath. HUD approved. \$400.00 Month \$300.00 Deposit. Call (432)213-3864.

WANT FORSAN Schools? 3 bedroom, 1 bath, water, sewer, trash, stove, washer, dryer, refrigerator. \$250. deposit. \$410/mo. No inside pets, 4407 Elder. (432)263-4335. References required.

1402 HARDING, 3 Bedroom, 2 bath. CHA, carport, washer, dryer, stove & refrigerator. HUD approved. \$450. Month \$250 deposit. Available May 1st. Call (432)267-2177.

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263-5000

1402 Stadium, 3 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath, \$385. month, \$150. deposit. 448 Armstrong. 4 bedroom, 1 bath, CHA. \$350. month, \$150. deposit. Call (432)263-1792, 816-9984.

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

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616 DALLAS Home for rent. Remodded. Quiet neighborhood, fenced yard. \$575. month, \$250. deposit. Call (432)263-5000.

Real Estate for Rent

606 WEST 15th- Very nice brick home, in nice quiet neighborhood. 3 Bedroom, 2 baths, fenced back yard, central heat/air, sprinkler system. Call (432)263-1281.

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BILLS PAID on furnished three room apartment. \$350. month. 908 West 4th. Call (432)263-3855 or 263-7648.

SANDSPRINGS, THREE bedroom, 1-1/2 bath on 3/4 acre lot. Applications available May 1st. For more information call (432)263-7730.

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Real Estate for Sale



2 STORY House in great condition: 3 Bedroom, 2 bath, 2 living areas, office, fireplace, 2 large storage buildings, large gazebo, 2150 sq. ft., 3.4 acre. Beautiful yard. \$105,000. (432)263-4080.

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

6107 E. Midway Rd. 4 Bedroom, 2 bath Brick, 2 Living areas, pantry, fireplace. Storage building on 1.01 acres. Coahoma School District. \$70's. (432)263-2801, 263-7653.

ASK ABOUT reduced prices on nice homes -- 20's, 40's, 50's, 70's & 100's. Call Doris. (432)263-6525, cell 270-8920 or Home Realtors 263-1284.

COAHOMA REBUILT Home, 3 bedroom, 2 full baths, 412 South 2nd. Steal \$45,000.00. No Owner Finance. Call Kenny Thompson (432)270-0548 or 263-4548.

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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.

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.

Real Estate 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.

LAKE COLORADO City deeded lot with two houses. 2Bdrm/2bath Mobile home with all steel overhead, carport, storage. PLUS 1 bedroom house. Open House this Saturday & Sunday 10-2. 4050 LCR 254. Call (325)669-4810.

NICE THREE bedroom, 2 bath, fireplace, CHA, two car garage, in Ackerly. Call (432)264-9419 or 213-5786, 806-200-0017.

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.

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

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

Vehicles

'04 Nissan Xterra \$3000 OFF MSRP

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1998 Chev. 1 Ton crew cab. Fully loaded w/new tires. \$7,500. Also **1982 Chev.** 1 Ton. Welding Truck, w/new motor. \$2,500. Call (432)213-4169 leave message.

2000 GRAND Caravan. Excellent condition. Service maintained every 3000 miles. 7 passenger seating w/4 captains chairs. New tires. Rear AC, 6 disc changer. One Owner. \$8900.00. Call (432)267-6093, 816-4052.

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

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

The Capricorn moon and Taurus sun lend earthy purposefulness.

Under these stars, whatever the task at hand, we put our heads down and do it. So the key to making the most of the astro-climate is to be sure that the task is worthy. While we're at it, we may as well accomplish something big instead of wasting the vibes on something small.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Spontaneity brings back your zing. When you get stuck, the first thing that comes to mind is the right thing to say. If single, hit the town. Cheesy pick-up lines have been known to work, especially when you're delivering.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). An idea that seems impractical at first is presented. Upon further review, you find it to be merely unconventional. With a little flexibility on your part, you will find that creativity can be profitable.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You're so organized! Give yourself a nice pat on the back and keep it up! There is even time to stop and ponder the mysteries of life — like where do all the missing socks go?

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You are the muse, even for those you might not expect needed one. Your guidance is by example and takes very little effort. Be yourself, and when others imitate you, try to be flattered rather than annoyed.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You're being considered for a promotion of some kind. Remember, people answer the question of what you'd be like on a specific level by assessing what you're like in your current level.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Not only do you have what it takes, you have more than it takes. What to do with the extra? Teach someone else. Tonight, creative vibes help you hone in on a vision of your future.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Give your opinion. You are genuinely respected. Friends and family consider you the "dependable one." The loyalties you

have created are invaluable, as you will come to find out next week.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Sheryl Crow is singing to you ... "A change will do you good." Now take those words to heart. A friend offers you an opportunity to test the unknown. You will be surprised by what you enjoy when you give it a chance.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Put yourself in a position to get maximum exposure to the many varied things that go on in your company. This may require lowering yourself to assistant or mailroom status temporarily, but it's worth it!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're a lover, not a fighter. Alas, your possessive nature can make you seem a bit combative in social settings. Remember, your partner is with you for a reason. No need to be jealous.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It's a crucial day in your personal development. A relationship is ripe to move forward, but you must be in the right frame of mind to take the opportunity and go for it. Give yourself several pep talks today.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). There are clowns to the left of you, jokers to the right. It's fascinating to study people who are unaffected by those around them. It may not work in the real world, but it's a blast for after hours.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Penelope Cruz is known outside her country as "the Spanish enchantress." This year, she receives more than one wedding proposal when colleagues fall under her magic spell and become suitors. Taurus is ruled by Venus and women of this sign can be extremely seductive. However, they're usually completely unaware of the effect they're having, which is the precise reason they're so successful.

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

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Annie's Mailbox: Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: I have two daughters. The oldest, "Linda," has a portrait photography business. Occasionally, Linda needs an assistant to accompany her for out-



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

Vehicles

2001 OLDS Alero. Loaded, V-6, 70K, white/grey interior. Good condition. Below loan value. \$6,200. O.B.O. Call (432)213-4960.

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

ATTENTION

THE BIG SPRING HERALD APPRECIATES YOUR BUSINESS
Here are some helpful tips and information that will help you when placing your ad. After your ad has been published the first day we suggest you check the ad for mistakes and if errors have been made we will gladly correct the ad and run it again for you at no additional charge. If your ad is inadvertently not printed advance payment will cheerfully be refunded and the newspaper's liability will be for only the amount received for publication of the advertisement. We reserve the right to edit or reject any ad for publication that does not meet our standards of acceptance.

door photography sessions. Last summer, she hired her younger sister, "Mallory," to work several shoots with her. She promised to pay her.

A few weeks later, Linda's boyfriend took Mallory to buy an expensive video system. Without consulting Linda, he told Mallory to go in with him on the system, and that his half-payment would cover Linda's debt to Mallory for the photo sessions. Mallory consented, assuming the video system would be hers, and the two of them bought the system and brought it home for everyone to enjoy.

A few months later, Linda broke up with her boyfriend, and he took the video system. He told Mallory to get her money back from Linda, since she owed it to her anyway for the photo sessions. Linda says her boyfriend never had the authority to enter into an agree-

ment with Mallory, who was only 13 at the time.

Now the video system and the boyfriend are long gone, but Linda doesn't think she has to pay Mallory. She says Mallory made an agreement with the boyfriend, and it's just tough luck it didn't pan out. Meanwhile, Mallory wants to get paid something for the work she did for her sister. (Linda could very well need Mallory's assistance in the future, and I doubt she'd get it.) How do we fix this? — The Referee

Dear Referee: No 13-year-old should be held responsible for entering into an agreement with an adult. Linda's boyfriend took advantage of Mallory, and Linda is no better because she refuses to reimburse Mallory for her share of the video system or pay her for the work she did. We say, Linda still owes Mallory for the photo sessions. We hope she will do the right thing and pay up.

Dear Annie: I am 11 years old, and I need help. My dad is the band director in my school district. I am in the band, and I HATE it. Really. Dad won't let me quit, even though I want to. When I ask my parents if I can stop, they say, "No." You have to have a signed letter from your parents saying you officially quit before you can get out of band. Shouldn't I have some say in this? It's my life. — Musical Dropper

Dear Dropper: It must be disappointing to Dad that you don't like band. He wants so much for you to enjoy it as much as he does. Do you have talent? If so, please stick with it. Otherwise, talk to your parents and explain that band just isn't for you. Promise to stay, without complaint, until the end of the semester (it's not so far away), if they will let you find a different extracurricular activity for next year. If they won't budge, talk to your school counselor for back-up.

Dear Annie: Yesterday, I was diagnosed with genital herpes. I contracted it through a cold sore on my boyfriend's lip while he performed oral sex. I had no idea that was possible. This is the worst thing that has ever happened to me, and I have never felt

so gross and ashamed in my life.

I don't think a lot of people are aware that you can get herpes this way. Can you please tell me where I can find some sort of support group to make dealing with this easier? — Embarrassed for Life

Dear Embarrassed: Yes, you can get genital herpes through oral sex, if your partner has a cold sore. Both are forms of the herpes simplex virus. For information and support, contact the American Social Health Association (www.ashastd.org) at P.O. Box 13827, Research Triangle Park, N.C. 27709. Thank you for sharing your story and helping our readers today.

Dear Annie: My sister, "Lianne," and I got into a terrible fight on the phone in December of 2003. We hung up on each other and haven't spoken since. Lianne fights with everyone, including my other siblings and my mother.

Lianne became engaged last April, and I sent her a congratulatory card. I also sent a Christmas card last year. I have tried to make contact, sending notes and apologizing profusely, but I've heard nothing. In the past month, I have left four friendly phone messages on her answering machine, including giving her the best times to reach me. I live 1,000 miles away, so a personal visit is out of the question.

Lianne and her fiance will be married in June. The rest of the family expects me to go to this wedding, but I am uncomfortable attending an event for a sister who won't even speak to me.

Please tell me what to do before I spend money on airplane tickets and hotel rooms. — Confused Older Sister

Dear Sister: One doesn't attend a wedding without an invitation. If Lianne puts you on the guest list, it may be her way of reconciling, so please go. Until you receive the actual invitation, however, we wouldn't make any plans.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net.

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Saturday April 30, 2005 10 am VIEW: 8 am
Preview/Pre-Register Fri., April 29, Noon til 6 pm
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THURSDAY

Time	Program
6:30 PM	News/Wheel
7:30 PM	Movie/Home
8:30 PM	Alabama
9:30 PM	PrimeTime Live
10:30 PM	News/Nightline
11:30 PM	Ent. Tonight/Jimmy
12:30 AM	Live/News

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"I BROKE SO... SO BAD THEY"

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WIZARD



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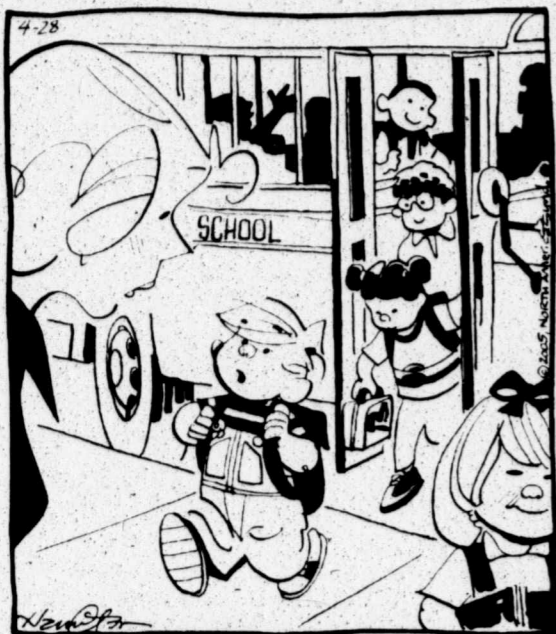


THURSDAY

APR. 28

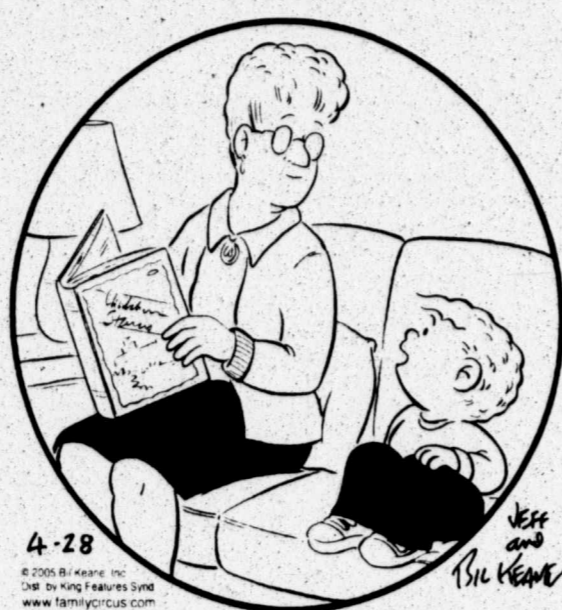
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	Dallas	Midland	Spanish	Odessa	Odessa	Telemundo	Midland	Atlanta	Odessa	Odessa	Discovery	Classics	Spike TV	Atlanta	Black Ent.	Disney	ESPN2	ESPN	TMC
6	PM News (CC)	News Wheel-Fortune	Inocente de Ti	King of the Hill Raymond	News Ent. Tonight	Alfombra Roja de Billboard	News Seinfeld (CC)	Raymond Raymond	Joe McGee John Hagee	News-Lehrer	American Chopper		CSI Crime Scene Invstgn (CC) (DVS)	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Live BET Style	That's-Raven That's-Raven	Slump-Schwab Slump-Schwab	College Baseball	Scoundrels (CC)
7	PM Movie: Sweet Home	Movie: Sweet Home	Apuesta por un Amor	The O.C. (CC)	Survivor: Palau	2005 Billboard Latin Music	Joey (CC) Will & Grace	Friends (CC) Friends (CC)	Update/Israel Biblical Israel	West Tex Jml TX Mnthly Tak	Supernatural	Movie: Missing in Action	CSI Crime Scene Invstgn	NBA Basketball	Spring Bling	Movie: Toy Story (CC)	Teamates Teamates	Nebraska at Oklahoma	Movie: Red Corner (CC)
8	PM Alabama	Alabama	La Madrastra	Tru Calling (CC)	CSI Crime Scene Invstgn	Awards	The Apprentice (CC)	Friends (CC) Friends (CC)	Light of the Southwest	Antiques Roadshow	Supernatural		MXC MXC	First Round - Teams TBA		Zack & Cody	ESPN's Bowling Night		
9	PM PrimeTime Live	PrimeTime Live	Aqui y Ahora	70s Show Malcolm-Mid	Without a Trace (CC)		ER (CC)	Movie: Galaxy Quest (CC)		An Ice Cream Show (CC)	Supernatural	15 Movie: Missing in	MXC MXC	(CC) (CC)	Blown Up TBA	Sister, Sister Even Stevens	Battle of the Gridron Stars	Baseball Tonight (CC)	05 Movie: No Good Deed
10	PM News (CC) Nightline	News Nightline	Primer Impacto Noticiero Univ	70s Show Raymond	News Late Show	Noticias Titulares y Mas	News Tonight Show		The Hour of Healing	Charlie Rose (CC)	Action 2: The Beginning	Lance Krall Comedy Inc.	Basketball First Round - Teams TBA	Nightly News BET Style	That's-Raven That's-Raven	Battle of the Gridron Stars	SportsCenter (CC)	45 Movie: The Prince of Tides	
11	PM Ent. Tonight Jimmy Kimmel	Jimmy Kimmel Live (CC)	La Hora Derbez	Becker (CC) Becker (CC)	Letterman Late Late	Laura Al Rojo Vivo-Maria Celeste Programa	Late Night: Conan O'Brien (CC)	10 Movie: Spaceballs	Sam Peak Jesse Lee Pe	Sign Off (CC)	Supernatural	15 Movie: Death Wish 3	Wildest Police Videos	Teams TBA (CC)	Midnight Love	Proud Family Kim Possible	Slump-Schwab Slump-Schwab	Outside-Lines Baseball	The Prince of Tides
12	AM Live (CC) News (CC)	Extra (CC) Paid Program	Alma Rebelde	Spin City Roseanne	Show The Insider			Update/Israel Faye Hardin			Supernatural (CC)		Blind Date Shipmates	Inside the NBA	Club Comic View	Luzne McGuire Braceface	Billards Champs	SportsCenter (CC)	

DENNIS THE MENACE



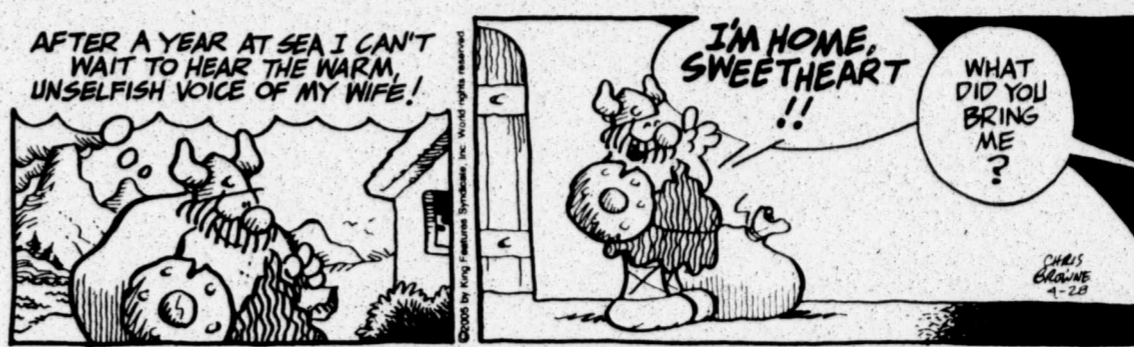
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"You're a better story reader than Daddy. He skips pages."

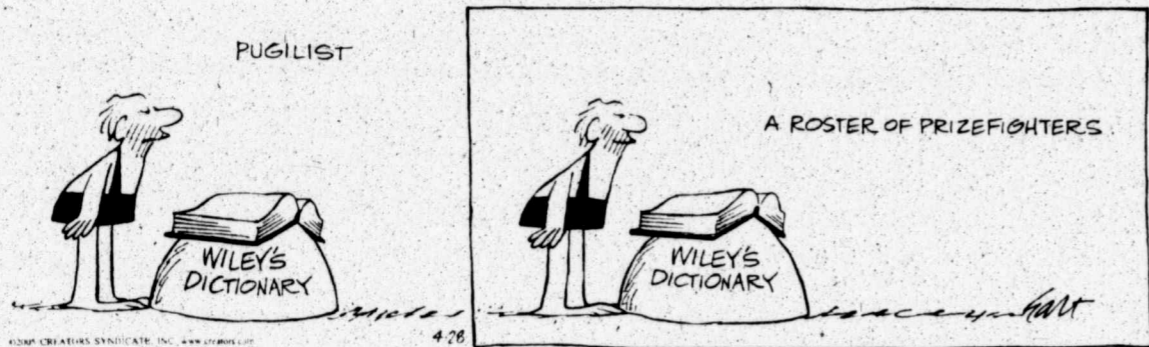
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WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, April 28, the 118th day of 2005. There are 247 days left in the year.
Today's Highlight in History:
On April 28, 1945, Italian dictator Benito Mussolini and his mistress, Clara Petacci, were executed by Italian partisans as they attempted to flee the country.
On this date:
In 1758, the fifth president of the United States, James Monroe, was born in Westmoreland County, Va.
In 1788, Maryland became the seventh state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.
In 1789, there was a mutiny on HMS Bounty as the crew of the British ship set Capt. William Bligh and 18 sailors adrift in a launch in the South Pacific.

In 1947, a six-man expedition sailed from Peru aboard a balsa wood raft named the "Kon-Tiki" on a 101-day journey to Polynesia.
In 1952, war with Japan officially ended as a treaty that had been signed by the United States and 47 other nations took effect.
In 1958, Vice President Nixon and his wife, Pat, began a goodwill tour of Latin America that was marred by hostile mobs in Lima, Peru, and Caracas, Venezuela.
In 1967, heavyweight boxing champion Muhammad Ali refused to be inducted into the Army, the same day Gen. William C. Westmoreland told Congress the U.S. "would prevail in Vietnam."
In 1974, a federal jury in New York acquitted former Attorney General John Mitchell and former Commerce Secretary Maurice H. Stans of charges in connection with a secret \$200,000 contribution to President Nixon's re-election campaign from

financier Robert Vesco.
Today's Birthdays:
Author Harper Lee is 79. Former Secretary of State James A. Baker III is 75. The former president of Iraq, Saddam Hussein, is 68. Actress-singer Ann-Margret is 64. Actress Marcia Strassman is 57. Actor Paul Guilfoyle ("CSI") is 56. Actor Bruno Kirby is 56. "Tonight Show" host Jay Leno is 55. Actress Mary McDonnell is 52. Rock singer-musician Kim Gordon (Sonic Youth) is 52. Rapper Too Short is 39. Actress Simbi Khali is 34. Actor Chris Young is 34. Rapper Big Gipp is 32. Actress Jessica Alba is 24.

Answer to previous puzzle

SLAB	SPLT	RENO
IONE	ARDOR	ELAM
FETA	LEONA	TMP
TWIST	FLEMEN	
FRAIL	BEND	KIDDO
RIME	QUAY	RUG
ALP	SLEUTHS	ABA
NEE	TARA	LLEN
CURVEBALL	MELDS	
SPEAR	ARIA	
SNAKECHARMER		
KISS	BASIE	NOVA
ANKA	BESET	EPIC
TAIL	ALERT	RELY

Newsday Crossword

UP THE VOLUME by Fred Piscop Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS**
1 Wandered about
6 Chorus members
10 Its acad. is in Colo. Spgs.
14 Napoleon, on Elba
15 Novelist Uris
16 NASA cancellation
17 Strikers' protest
19 Mr. Kringle
20 Sticks fast
21 Gussies up
23 Susan of L.A. Law
24 D.C. gofer
27 Junior watcher
29 Midpoint: Abbr.
30 Fortunate
33 Show on TV
35 Bossy's bellow
38 Nearly-gone movie
40 Take the down escalator
43 Houston of Texas
44 Kickoff aid
46 Rendered invalid
47 Cleo's snake
50 Viewpoint
52 Section of a body of laws
55 Dubbed one
58 Prepares dough
59 Crucial element
62 Stressed type: Abbr.
63 Place for keys and lipstick
- DOWN**
1 Add new cushioning to
2 Rust, for one
3 French spa
4 Sommer of film
5 Timid creature
6 Ready to go
7 Luau wear
8 Shipping unit
9 All thumbs
10 Neglected
11 Like some overworked pitchers
12 Improving, as cheese
13 Cabaret director
18 Diagnostic tool
22 VCR button
25 Museum-funding org.
26 Like the Sahara
27 Seven-seater
28 Rink surface
30 Driver's lic., for instance
31 Hunters' org.
32 Succotash morsels
34 Go back
36 Small bill
37 Lacking a match
39 Tide type
41 Part of ASCAP
42 Footnote abbr.
45 Ballpark fig.
48 Climbs up
49 Professor's deg.
51 Get a glimpse of
52 Flat-bottomed boat
53 Set loose
54 Savory jelly
55 Hair net
56 Twice deca-
57 Type in again
60 ERA or TDs
61 River of Aragon
64 Verse of praise
65 Animator's unit

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
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62						63	64	65					
66						67				68			
69						70					71		

APR 28 2005

That's Racin'

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PLATE SUPREMACY

DEI changes to be tested at Talladega, a track where the team has dominated

By DAVID POOLE
Knight Ridder Newspapers

Just in time for Talladega, it appears, the folks at Dale Earnhardt Inc. have apparently figured out how to race again.

Michael Waltrip doggedly chased Kurt Busch to the checkered flag last Saturday at Phoenix International Raceway, finishing second for his second straight solid run in the No. 15 Chevrolet.

Going into the previous race at Texas, Waltrip was 30th in the Nextel Cup standings. Going into Sunday's Aaron's 499 at Talladega, he's now 18th.

Three races into the season, Dale Earnhardt Inc. teammate Dale Earnhardt Jr. was 27th in the points. But in the past four races, the No. 8 Chevrolet has finished fourth, 13th, ninth and fourth and Earnhardt Jr. is now tied for 12th in the standings with Dale Jarrett.

"I'm just really proud of everyone wearing a DEI uniform tonight," Earnhardt Jr. said after the race at Phoenix, speaking of the team that has been the focus of great scrutiny and conjecture since the start of 2005.

Before this season, Waltrip and Earnhardt Jr. basically switched teams. The cars and crew that carried Earnhardt Jr.'s No. 8 colors last year are now with Waltrip, while Earnhardt Jr. is now with the cars and crew that bore Waltrip's colors in 2004.

With a pair of top-five finishes in their pockets from Phoenix, Waltrip and Earnhardt Jr. now head to the 2.66-mile Talladega Superspeedway that has been their collective playground in recent years. But there's no gloating going on from within the DEI camp — at least not yet.

"You all have to write whatever you have to write," Waltrip said to the media after his second-place finish last week. "Your opinions are yours and you share them with thousands of people. I've been criticized enough where you all can't hurt me."

"You can't write anything that's going to make my day any worse. And you can't all of a



Michael Waltrip enters Talladega fresh off of a second-place finish in last week's Cup race.

sudden tell me I am smart and great and make me feel any better. I didn't believe you when I you said I (was bad) and I'm not going to believe you when you say I'm great. I am just going to keep on being me."

Switching teams with Earnhardt Jr., the sport's most popular and most visible figure, was bound to put Waltrip in the spotlight this season, of course.

Frankly, that's a position that Waltrip has grown accustomed to. Two years ago, about a third of the way through the Cup season, team officials let it be known that Waltrip needed to pick up his performance to retain his job. Last year, it was Earnhardt Jr. who basically said the same thing. This year, before the season began, Waltrip himself said that if he didn't contend for a spot in the Chase for the Nextel Cup he figured he'd be out of the DEI picture by 2006.

"If you want to know the funniest thing that happened," Waltrip said, "Whenever they decided they were going to switch teams, Richie (Gilmore, director of motorsports at DEI) said that (crew chief) Tony (Eury) Jr. said, 'We can

win with anybody. We'll take Michael.'"
"I said, 'If you can win with anybody I'm your guy!' And they're right, they're that talented and that smart."

Eury was crew chief for Earnhardt Jr. last year. Pete Rondeau, Waltrip's crew chief when 2004 ended, now is crew chief for Earnhardt Jr.

Waltrip said that, from his perspective, the team changes needed to be done.

"Last year when the race was over and we'd finish 16th or 17th, they'd look at me like, 'What's wrong with you?'" Waltrip said of his former crew. "I'd look at them like, 'What makes you sure it's not y'all who messed up?'"

"Last fall ... those boys who worked on my car I just don't think they thought I was their guy. You can't be successful like that. Jimmy Fenning would set up the car backward if that's what he felt Kurt (Busch) wanted, and that's the kind of relationship you need to have between team and driver."

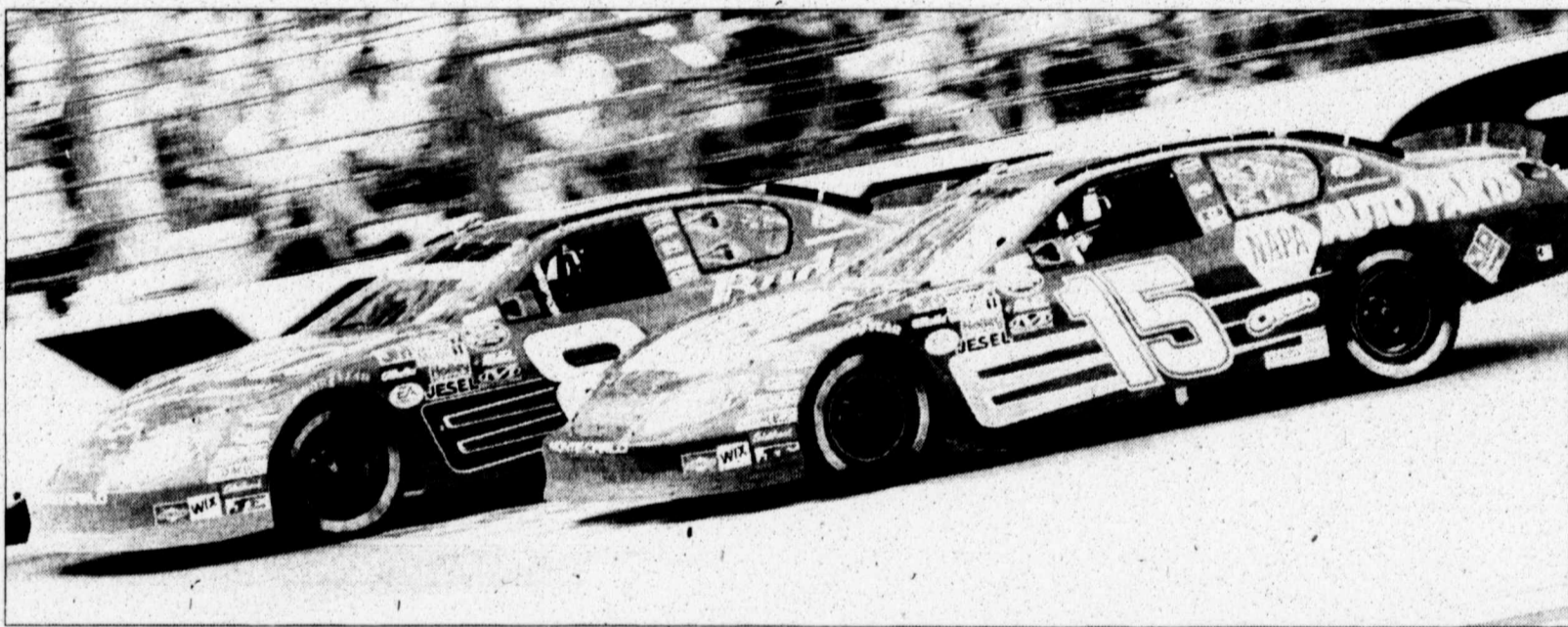
"When I got in my car this year, I looked at my crew and I said, 'I'm yours. Take me, mold me, make me one of you.' I wanted those guys to pour their knowledge on me and let me suck it up and be one of them. And I know Pete (Rondeau) and those boys looked at Dale Jr. and said, 'Take us to the promised land.'"

"DEI put together two groups of people, two cars and two teams that believe in their drivers. When you have that, you almost feel like you can't be beat."

DEI has every reason to feel that way going into this weekend. DEI cars have won six of the past seven races at Talladega, five of those by Earnhardt Jr. with the team Waltrip now drives for.

The lone exception came in the spring race last year, when Earnhardt Jr. and Jeff Gordon were battling for the lead when a caution came out that effectively ended the race, with NASCAR ruling that Gordon was the leader when yellow flag came out and the field was frozen.

Between them, Waltrip and Earnhardt Jr. have won 11 of the 17 races using carburetor restrictor plates at Daytona and Talladega since the start of the 2001 season. And even though Gordon's Daytona 500 victory this year was his third plate-race victory in the past four such races, the DEI duo surely will once again have to be dealt with in Sunday's race.



Teammates Dale Earnhardt Jr. (car No. 8) and Waltrip (car No. 15) have combined to win six of the past seven races at Talladega Superspeedway.

RANKINGS

THAT'S RACIN'S TOP PICKS

1. **Jimmie Johnson (car No. 48):** Hard to imagine there's anything to gain by this team's continuing feud with Tony Stewart. Last week: 1.

2. **Kurt Busch (car No. 97):** Gave up banging off walls for rolling into Victory Lane. Sounds like a good deal. Last week: 4.

3. **Greg Biffle (car No. 16):** Pit road incident at Phoenix turned a shot at another victory into a 41st-place finish. Last week: 2.

4. **Jeff Gordon (car No. 24):** He's won three of the past four restrictor-plate races, including a Talladega win last spring. Last week: 3.

5. **Carl Edwards (car No. 99):** Give him credit for fighting through challenges to get a seventh at Phoenix. Last week: 7.

6. **Kevin Harvick (car No. 29):** As everybody's predicting a DEI vs. Hendrick duel at Talladega, don't forget about this guy. Last week: 5.

7. **Elliott Sadler (car No. 38):** Bumped up because he keeps finding a way to rack up points when his car's just so-so. Last week: 10.

8. **Mark Martin (car No. 6):** Talladega's not his favorite place, but he's hanging in the top 10 in his final full season. Last week: 6.

9. **Rusty Wallace (car No. 2):** Tough Phoenix luck costly in the standings. A Penske-owned car has never won a plate race. Last week: 8.

10. **Dale Earnhardt Jr. (car No. 8):** Battling his way back into the Chase picture. He's won five of the past eight at Talladega. Last week: 12.

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

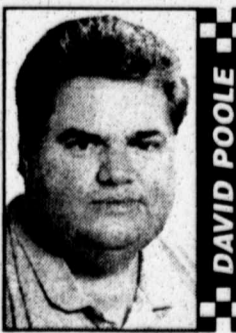
Random thoughts and observations on Cup racing

It appears NASCAR is "punishing" Speed Channel by declining to make its officials accessible after a reporter had the audacity to ask a legitimate question last weekend at Phoenix International Raceway.

NASCAR's nose is out of joint because a reporter asked an on-camera question about the departure of a Busch Series official following inspection issues involving the No. 1 Dodge at Texas Motor Speedway the previous week.

If Speed Channel promised not to ask such a question and then did it anyway, NASCAR has a right to be angry. But Speed Channel never should have made such a deal, and NASCAR shouldn't ask for one.

The sanctioning body's officials have every right to say "no comment" to any question, but it has no business



DAVID POOLE

trying to control what questions are asked. And not only is NASCAR wrong-headed to think it should be able to control what its officials are going to be asked, it's dumb to make an issue out of it when somebody does it anyway.

Better yet, NASCAR needs to understand that it never could control everything that's being said about it, no matter how hard they've tried, and that as the sport grows it's only going to get more and more ridiculous to try to do that.

LOWE'S RESURFACING

Lowe's Motor Speedway president H.A. "Humpty" Wheeler's efforts to improve the racing surface of the Concord, N.C., track have been met

with favorable reviews from the NASCAR Track Series teams that ran tests at the track earlier this week.

Bumps in the track were smoothed out using a diamond-grinding machine and a three-dimensional laser mapping system that identified areas where work was needed.

The grinding was done in the track's turns with the intention of making the second groove as fast — perhaps even faster — than the lane right around the bottom of the track that cars cling to and create single-file racing.

Wheeler predicted last week that some drivers will love what's been done and that others will "absolutely hate it."

Nextel Cup teams will get their first chance to love or hate the surface when they test at LMS next week in preparation for the NASCAR Nextel All-Star Challenge and the Coca-Cola 600.

HOT ROD LESSONS

Rockingham Dragway had a really nice crowd last Saturday for the final day of qualifying for the 35th annual International Hot Rod Association's Spring Nationals.

Things dropped off a little for Sunday's eliminations, at least partly because it was a blustery day, especially for late April.

Still, drag racing is a sport that has a lot going for it.

Not the least among those things is just how diverse its field continues to be. There were competitors — and fans — from all walks of life around the Rockingham track this weekend, and that's a very nice thing to see. NASCAR has taken some big steps toward increasing its diversity in the past few years, but you wonder if there aren't a few things it could learn from drag racing to speed up that process a little.

THIS WEEK'S RACE

AARON'S 499

Where: Talladega Superspeedway, a 2.66-mile highly banked paved tri-oval located in Talladega, Ala.

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

TV: Fox.
Radio: Motor Racing Network.

Purse: \$5,814,065.

Last year's winner: Jeff Gordon.

Worth mentioning: Dale Earnhardt Jr. has finished first or second in seven consecutive races at Talladega. He's led 428 of the 1,316 laps in those events (33 percent).

A Chevrolet has won the last 12 races at Talladega. Ford's last win there was with Dale Jarrett in October 1998. Dodge's most recent win came in 1976 with Dave Marcis.

POLL POSITION

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

Chevrolet has dominated Nextel Cup restrictor plate races of late. Will Ford or Dodge be able to break the trend this weekend at Talladega?

Cast your vote at: www.thatstracin.com

LAST 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?

Number of votes: 6,538

Team	No. of votes	Percent
Dale Earnhardt Inc.	2,661	41%
Everham Motorsports	1,200	18%
MB2 and its affiliates	1,172	18%
Penske South	619	9%
Chip Ganassi Racing	445	7%
Joe Gibbs Racing	206	3%
Robert Yates Racing	120	2%
Another team	115	2%

STOP 'N' GO

WHO'S HOT

■ After stumbling at back-to-back short tracks, **Carl Edwards** appears to have righted his ship, finishing 19th and seventh in the past two races moving back into the top 10 in points.

■ **Brian Vickers** ran up front at Phoenix and came away with a career-best finish. Now this is the potential we all saw in the 2003 Busch Series champion.

WHO'S NOT

■ **Matt Kenseth**, once the model of consistency, has one finish of 11th or better in his past five races.

■ Number of races so far this season: Eight. Number of times **Jason Leffler** has finished on the lead lap: Once.

■ **Scott Riggs** has finished 18th or worse in his past three races and fallen from 14th to 19th in points.

—Jim Utter

BY THE NUMBERS

NEXTEL CUP DRIVERS LEADERS

The top-40 drivers as of April 23:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. Jimmie Johnson	1260	21. Dave Blaney	798
2. Kurt Busch	1087	22. Kyle Petty	796
3. Greg Biffle	1052	23. Brian Vickers	795
4. Jeff Gordon	1027	24. Joe Nemechek	793
5. Elliott Sadler	1009	25. Kyle Busch	792
6. Mark Martin	997	26. Casey Mears	791
7. Ryan Newman	994	27. Mike Bliss	767
8. Carl Edwards	979	28. Matt Kenseth	745
9. Sterling Marlin	968	29. Jeff Green	687
10. Rusty Wallace	960	30. Travis Kvapil	668
11. Kevin Harvick	951	31. Ricky Rudd	659
12. Dale Earnhardt Jr.	947	32. Ken Schrader	651
13. Dale Jarrett	947	33. Scott Wimmer	630
14. Tony Stewart	913	34. Bobby Labonte	615
15. Jamie McMurray	912	35. Jason Leffler	599
16. Jeremy Mayfield	904	36. Mike Wallace	597
17. Jeff Burton	879	37. Bobby Hamilton Jr.	533
18. Michael Waltrip	866	38. Kevin Lepage	439
19. Scott Riggs	847	39. Robby Gordon	377
20. Kasey Kahne	810	40. Hermie Sadler	259

BUSCH SERIES POINTS LEADERS

The top-20 drivers as of April 22:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. Carl Edwards	1418	11. Jon Wood	977
2. Reed Sorenson	1262	12. Shane Hmiel	952
3. Clint Bowyer	1229	13. David Green	945
4. Kenny Wallace	1088	14. Jason Keller	912
5. Martin Truex Jr.	1070	15. Stacy Compton	826
6. Denny Hamlin	1070	16. Kasey Kahne	810
7. Ashton Lewis	1047	17. Randy LaJoie	807
8. Kevin Harvick	1035	18. Paul Menard	803
9. Greg Biffle	1004	19. Justin Labonte	798
10. David Stremme	984	20. Tim Fedewa	786

NEXT RACE: Saturday, Aaron's 312, Talladega, Ala.

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: Saturday, Dodge Ram Tough 200, Madison, Ill.

Bob Brock

Ford Lincoln Mercury Nissan
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