Page 6A

50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 WEEKEND

Tax bill would bring in estimated \$1 billion for state over two years

By BRANDI GRISSOM

Associated Press Writer

AUSTIN (AP) — Texans may need only one license plate on their vehicles, shell out more to register most of them and pay more in some areas to drive them. But they won't likely be playing lotto online.

Wednesday, lawmakers gave tentative approval to a bill sponsored by Rep. Jim Pitts, R-Waxahachie, that he said might generate as much as \$1 billion over the next two years for the state's portion of Committee to lawmakers who Texas' \$139 billion budget.

GOING UP:

- cigarettes
- · vehicle registration
- · gasoline

brate Christmas today and for helping me decorate my Christmas tree," said Pitts, chairman of the budget-writing Appropriation added a number of measures that "Thank you for letting me cele- increased the revenue generated by See TAX BILL, Page 5A

the bill from \$300 million to \$1 billion before they gave it tentative approval.

The bill is meant to help lawmakers balance the state's budget needs, including adding \$3 billion to the \$30 billion K-12 public education system.

Pitts said he hoped it would give lawmakers in conference committee more wiggle room as they attempt to mesh the House and Senate budget plans. Senate Finance Committee Chairman Steve Ogden, R-Bryan, is working



From left, Big Spring High School Band drum majors Meredith Fillingim, Julie Cadenhead and Kristin Richard show off the Sweepstakes Award recently won by the band at University Interscholastic League competition.

Joyful sounds

Award-winning BSHS bands prepare for annual Spring Concert

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

The Big Spring High School Band program will cap another successful year when it presents its annual Spring Concert May 17.

The concert, which will feature all three high school bands, begins at 5 p.m. in the high school auditorium, said Band Director Rocky Harris.

The three-hour concert will serve as the coda for a school year that saw the high school varsity band win its second straight Sweepstakes award in University Interscholastic League competition.

A band earns Sweepstakes honors if it earns a

highest possible) in march-

concert ing, and sight-reading competitions during the course of the school Harris year,

said.

Winning the Sweepstakes award was remarkable enough, but winning it for the second year in a row made the achievement even sweeter. Harris said.

"I'm just so proud that we won it in consecutive years," Harris said. "That's the first time it's been done here in a long. long time."

The varsity band

See BANDS, Page 5A

Infonet could be set to go very soon By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

Channel "Infonet" could be up and running as soon as the first part of June, accord-Moore Development Executive Director Kent Sharp, who updated the economic development corporation's board of directors on progress made with

the city's public access channel Wednesday.

The channel will which serve as an outlet for several area agencies to get information out to the pub-

lic, has been operational since Cox Communications turned it over to the city, part of a franchise agreement between the city and the communications giant.

Thanks to new software and hardware recently purchased by Moore Development for the cityrun channel, however, area viewers can expect to see some rather drastic changes for the better.

According to Sharp, local residents will be getting their own Big Spring News Network made up of a collaboration of local entities consisting of the city of Big Spring, Howard County, Howard College, Big Spring Independent School District, the Workforce Network and Moore Development.

Sharp, said the city employees who will be in charge of the new system, which integrates computer and broadcast components into one program,

See INFONET, Page 5A

Big Spring State Park Superintendent Ron Alton holds the temporary Texas State Parks

pass that is issued to buyers until a pass printed with their name is sent from Austin. The \$60 annual pass is available for purchase at the headquarters building at the local

Annual passes assist **Big Spring State Park**

By DEBBIE L. JENSEN

Herald Correspondent

Big Spring State Park is looking for a few good citizens.

If you want to see more of the great Texas landscape while supporting a local landmark, consider buying a Texas State Parks Pass locally.

Ron Alton, superintendent of Big Spring State Park, said the park has a

goal to sell 125 of the passes by the end of 2005. Meeting that goal not only qualifies the park to earn some much-needed equipment for maintenance, but it also shows the powers-that-be that support for the hometown attraction is alive and well.

"We've been issued a target number," explained Alton. "We met it last year,

See PASS, Page 5A

Division I rating (the England's guilty plea tossed by judge

By T.A. BADGER

Associated Press Writer

FORT HOOD - 'Pvt. Charles Graner Jr. was brought here to help Pfc. Lynndie England get a light prison term for her role in the Abu Ghraib abuse scandal. but his appearance on the witness stand seems to have back-

to mistreating Iraqi detainees at Abu Ghraib after sentencing testimony from Graner contradicted her assertion that she knew posing for some of the most notorious photos from the 2003 scandal was wrong when she did it.

The discarded deal marks a surprising turn in the case and Pohl, entered a plea of not guilty A military judge Wednesday sends it back to Fort Hood's com- for England on a charge of con-

tossed out England's guilty plea mander, Lt. Gen. Thomas Metz, who will decide what charges, if any, England should face.

> If she is charged, the case would go back to a military equivalent of a grand jury proceeding, prosecution spokesman Capt. Cullen Sheppard said.

The military judge, Col. James

spiring with Graner, the reputed abuse ringleader, to maltreat detainees at the Baghdad-area prison.

The mistrial came after Graner, testifying for the defense, said pictures he took of England holding a naked, hooded prisoner on a leash at Abu

See PLEA, Page 5A

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Find us online at: Sports 1-2B www.bigspringherald.com

To reach us:

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

Dog SHOW ARRIVES

The Big Spring and San Angelo kennel clubs have combined forces for a four-day dog show marathon beginning today at Garrett Coliseum. More than 2,000 entries representing more than 120 breeds are expected to com-

Dogs will compete for best of group honors in the sporting, non-sporting, toy, herding, working, and hound divisions each day. A best of show champion also will be crowned each night. Admission is free. In addition, vendors selling dog products will be at the coliseum, and a free obedience class will be offered each day.

AFTER HOURS



Members of the community have an opportunity to get

together today in an informal setting to share ideas and get to learn more about a local business.

Business After Hours will be from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the First Big Spring Banking Center, 1500 Gregg. Everyone is invited. Refreshments will be served and door prizes awarded. The event is a function of the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce.

AMERICAN PROFILE



Hemmer. anchor of CNN's flagship morning news program 'American Morning" discusses his journey that has taken

him from his hometown of Cincinnati, Ohio, to Iraq, Kuwait and

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Obituaries

Eula 'Moe' Cauble



Eula "Moe" Cauble, 76, of Big Spring died Tuesday, May 3, 2005, at her residence. Graveside funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, May 6, 2005, at Mount Olive Memorial Park with the Rev. Lynn Robertson, associate pastor of First Church of the Nazarene, offici-

The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. today at the funeral home.

She was born Nov. 15, 1928, in Kaufman and married Richard Cauble, Sept. 2, 1948, in Big Spring.

Mrs. Cauble came to Big Spring in 1941 with her family. She graduated from Big Spring High School. She was a homemaker and managed Mrs. Baird's Bread Store for a number of years at 1700 Scurry St.

She was a member of East Fourth Baptist Church. Survivors include her husband, Richard Cauble of Big Spring; one daughter and son-in-law, Judy and Steve Westbrook of Big Spring; one son and daughterin-law, Ricky and Trisha Cauble of Midland; two sisters, Irene Kizer of Parker, Colo., and Mercille Adams of Lubbock; four grandchildren, Richie Saint of Colorado Springs, Colo.; Misti Hernandez of Midland, Trey Cauble of Big Spring and Jimmy Saint of the U.S. Marine Corps, Iraq.

She was preceded in death by her parents and one

The family suggests memorials be made to the Shriner's Crippled Childrens' Home, 610 Texas Ave., Galveston, 77550 or the Troy Hogue Memorial Scholarship Fund, in care of Jan Foresyth, Howard College, 1001 Birdwell Lane, Big Spring 79720.

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

Paid obituary

J.D. Adams

J.D. Adams, 66, a commercial real estate property manager, died May 1, 2005, at his residence in

He was born Feb. 24, 1939, in Amarillo. He was the son of Leoland Edwards and Juanita Cain. He was a member of the First Baptist Church of Dallas.

Family visitation was today, May 5, 2005, at Denton Funeral Home in Denton. A service followed at 3 p.m.. in the chapel of Denton Funeral Home. The Rev. Rick Lemons officiated. Burial followed in Belew Cemetery in Aubrey.

He is survived by his daughter, Debra Adams of Rockwall.

Arrangements were under the direction of Denton Funeral Home.

Paid obituary

H. Marie Walls

H. Marie Walls, 67, of Snyder, formerly of Forsan, died Wednesday, May 4, 2005, in a Snyder hospital. Graveside funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, May 6, 2005, at the Trinity Memorial Park Peace Chapel with the Rev. Jeff Janca, pastor of Forsan Baptist Church, officiating.

She was born on June 11, 1937, in Monahans and married T.J.. Walls, June 26, 1955, in San Antonio. He preceded her in death April 29, 2001.

Mrs. Walls moved to Forsan in the late 1950s and lived there until moving to Snyder a year ago. She was a housewife and enjoyed fishing and all sports. Marie was a good wife, mother, grandmother and friend. She was a member of Forsan Baptist Church.

Survivors include a son and daughter-in-law, Randy and Mary Walls of Carrollton; a daughter and son-inlaw, Teresa and Shawn Ragland of Snyder; four grandchildren, Annie Martin and husband, Brandon of Edmond, Okla., Terann Ragland of Snyder and Abbi Walls and Alex Walls, both of Carrollton; and one great-grandchild, Tyler Martin of Edmond, Okla.

She was also preceded in death by her parents and one brother.

The family suggests memorials be made to Odyssey Hospice, 1003 E. FM 700, Big Spring 79720.

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

Paid obituary

Take note

- 118th DISTRICT COURT JURY DUTY IN GLASSCOCK COUNTY ON MONDAY IS CAN-CELED.
- · CRISS'S CROSSES FOR SALE from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday at the east door or Wal-Mart as a Home Hospice Halos Relay For Life team fund-raiser. Call 267-2015 for more information.
- CAUBLE SCHOOL REUNION is set for 11:30 a.m. Saturday at the Spanish Inn Restaurant.

Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 7-9-10-27-36 Number matching five of five: 0. Matching four of five: 91. Prize: \$545. Matching three of five: 3,712. Prize: \$9. Matching two of five: 38,493. Prize: \$2. Next Cash 5 drawing: Thursday night.

The winning numbers drawn in the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night: 10-13-28-30-44. Bonus Ball: 9.

(ten, thirteen, twenty-eight, thirty, forty-four. Bonus Ball: nine.)

Estimated jackpot: \$52 million. Next Lotto Texas game: Saturday night.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 7-9-5

P.O. Rios Jr.



P.O. Rios Jr., 62, of Big Spring, died Tuesday, May 3, 2005, at his home. A prayer service is 7 p.m. today at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral services are 10 a.m. Friday, May 6, 2005, at Myers & Smith Chapel with Carlos Payen, minister of 11th & Birdwell Church of Christ, officiating. Burial will be in Trinity Memorial Park.

He was born Nov. 2, 1942, in Brady. He married Natividad DeLaRosa Aug. 24, 1974, in Big Spring. He had lived in Big Spring since 1945 and was a member of the Birdwell Lane Church of Christ. He had farmed in Howard County, until he

retired in 2002.

He is survived by his wife, Natividad Rios of Big Spring; three sons, Porfirio Rios III and Domingo Rios, both of Big Spring and Robert Rios of Austin; two brothers, Luis and Joe Rios, both of Big Spring; four sisters, Manuela Galindo of Big Spring, Olivia Escovedo of Little Rock, Ark., Ophelia Bowen of Oklahoma City and Janie Acosta of Grant, Mich.; 18 grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

Arrangements are under the direction of Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Online condolences can be made at www.mysersandsmith.com.

Carlus Benton Barber

Carlus Benton Barber, 65, of Mountain Grove, Mo., formerly of Big Spring, died April 29, 2005, in the Texas County Memorial Hospital in Houston, Mo. Graveside services were May 2, 2005, in the Vanzant Cemetery with the Rev. Glen Mowery officiating.

He was born Aug. 1, 1939, in Big Spring and grew up in Big Spring. He served as a missionary in several different countries.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one son, Rocky Wayne Barber.

He is survived by his wife, Lori Barber; seven sons, Samuel Barber, Michael Barber, Johnathan Barber, Wesley Barber, Cody Barber, William Barber and Seth Barber; five daughters, Eunice Bates, Laurie Ann, Elizabeth Barber, Latressa Barber and Rebecca Barber; five grandchildren; three-great-grandchildren; and a host of other relatives and friends.

Arrangements were under the direction of Craig-Hurtt-Bradley Funeral home in Mountain Grove.

Valentin Prado Gonzales

Valentin Prado Gonzales, 46, of Big Spring died Wednesday, May 5, 2005. Services are pending with Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Polly Rowan

Polly Rowan, 51, of Big Spring died Wednesday, May 5, 2005, at her home. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. tomer rec

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Milton C. Johnson

Milton C. Johnson, 78, of Big Spring died Wednesday, May 4, 2005, in a local hospital. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Police blotter

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

- MARIA ESTER VIERA, 32, of 1907 S. Main Street, was arrested Wednesday on two local warrants.
- ROBERT RUBEN SANCHEZ, 40, of 1304 Colby. was arrested Wednesday on a charge of public intoxication.
- VENCENT ANTHONY OSSORIO, 17, of 1906 E. 11th Place, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of
- CRYSTAL ROSE BAEZA, 17, of 704 San Jacinto, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of theft.
- THEFT was reported:
- in the 200 block of Marcy. - in the 1700 block of FM 700.
- in the 2000 block of Gregg Street.
- in the 300 block of Owens.
- FORGERY OF A FINANCIAL INSTRUMENT was reported in the 500 block of Lamesa.
- CRIMINAL TRESPASS was reported in the 1700 block of FM 700.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF/FAMILY VIOLENCE was
- reported in the 500 block of Fifth Street. BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported in
- the 1000 block of Birdwell Lane.

Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department reported the following activity:

- MEDICAL was reported in the 600 block of Caylor at 7:28 a.m. Wednesday. One person was transported to
- · MEDICAL was reported in the 100 block of W. 19th Street at 10:45 a.m. Wednesday. Service was refused.
- · MEDICAL was reported in the 700 block of W. FM 700 at 5:19 p.m. Wednesday. One person was transported to SMMC.

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Pool, Private Patios, Covered Parking

& Washer - Dryer Conn. 2-3 Bedroom



"Remember ... you deserve the best!!"

Bulletin board

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

TODAY

· Big Spring/Concho Kennel Club Dog Show. Contact Hazel Baker 432-394-4233 for more informa-

· Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane. Call 267-6479.

• National Day of Prayer is set for 12:15 p.m. until 12:45 p.m. at the Dora Roberts Community Center.

· Business After Hours, sponsored by the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, from 4:30 p.m. until 6 p.m. at First Big Spring Banking Center.

· Genealogy Society of Big Spring meets at 7 p.m. in the Howard County Library, 500 S. Main. · Masonic Lodge No. 598 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 219

Main.

· Big Spring/Concho Kennel Club Dog Show. Contact Hazel Baker 432-394-4233 for more informa-

 Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until about 3 p.m. at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 1001 Goliad. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281 for more information.

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

 Cinco de Mayo Cinco de Mayo Celebration in the Heart of the City Park. Organized by League of United Latin American Citizens and West Texas Producer's and Farmers Market. Call Raul Marquez at 263-6351 for more information.

· Spring City Senior Citizen's 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

Tonigh... Increasing clouds. Isolated showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the mid 50s. Southeast winds 15 to 20 mph.

Friday...Cloudy in the morning becoming partly cloudy in the afternoon. Isolated showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the lower 80s. South winds 15 to 20 mph. Friday night...Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the

Saturday...Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the lower 80s. Saturday night...Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of

showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the upper 50s. Sunday...Decreasing clouds. Isolated showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the mid 80s. Sunday night...Partly cloudy. Lows around 60.

Monday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 80s. Monday night...Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the upper 50s.

Tuesday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 80s.

Sheriff's report

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

• PAUL VIERA JR., 19, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of bondsman off bond for evading arrest or detention and bondsman off bond for failure to identify - intentionally giving false or fictitious information.

· CARLOS VEGA, 43, was arrested Wednesday by DPS on a charge of theft by check.

· JOHNNY OCHOA, 34, was arrested Wednesday by

DPS on a charge of theft by check. · JASON MAURICE THREATS, 27, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of theft by exercising control.

· CODY JAMES NALL, 21, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO for a capias pro fine and a charge of driving while intoxicated.

 AMANDA GAILE ROBERTSON PRICE, 23, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on charges of bondsman off bond for theft, failure to appear for theft by check, a bond forfeiture for theft by check, a bond forfeiture for theft and a charge of theft by check.

· CHAD WARREN, 25, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a motion to revoke probation for possession of marijuana - more than 4 ounces less than 5 pounds.

· FRANK BARTLETT JR., 25, was arrested Wednesday by DPS on a charge of no driver's license. • THEFT was reported: in the 2900 block of Griffith and in the 2400 block of Granada.

BIG SPRING www.bigspringherald.com

Reflecting A Proud Community 432-263-7331

(Main switchboard)

432-263-7335 (Circulation calls only) (Fax) 432-264-7205

Susanne Reed John A. Moseley Angle Worley Tony Hernandez

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yearly (includes 10% discount for yearly). MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$12.50 monthly Howard & Martin Counties. \$13.25 elsewh anytime soon, about a buildi Lawmaker la

against obes AUSTIN (AP rants that Tex

Corbin Van Ar The Houston members are t from suing res sity-related he postponed fror lawmakers spe budget bill.

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On the natio filed the Person Act that would and food seller

Men jailed or of threatenin TYLER (AP

Wednesday on Protective Se remove their c The men, Je Leija, 24, were against casewo death. Gordy w

Thursday. First Assistar the cases were Hernandez Arr Smith County over child supp

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Harrison said

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Senate fee for I

AUSTIN (AP) pany that recei \$7.5 million co store tons of byproduct in Te have to pay a pose of the r waste under the Senate Wednesday.

The move for announcement that the waste to a site ope Dallas-based Control Speci Andrews Cour the Texas-Nev border.

The waste wor equivalent of 1 railroad cars. I a government Ohio.

The Depart Energy still (waste, which w at the Andrew site for two year DOE looks for a storage or arrangement.



TEXAS BRIEFS

Police foil burglary at their own station

GALVESTON (AP) - Police arrested a Corpus Christi man they said they found walking down the hall of a police station carrying a Taser, a baton and an officer's cell phone.

William Ehlers, 25, faces a burglary charge, police

Officers first became suspicious when they walked into a Galveston police substation Wednesday night and found the door open to the community service

Seconds later, they got second surprise.

"They were discussing how to proceed when this man comes walking out of the training office, just down the hall," police Lt. Walter Braun said.

The man surrendered to the officers without incident, according to police reports.

"This is a building that our officers are walking into and out of 24-7, so we're not talking about anyone who's taking the NASA test to be a rocket scientist anytime soon," Braun said. "I mean, you're talking about a building with police cars parked all around

Lawmaker launches strike

against obesity lawsuits

AUSTIN (AP) - It's not the fault of fast-food restaurants that Texans are getting biggie-sized, said Rep. Corbin Van Arsdale.

The Houston Republican is sponsoring a bill House members are to consider that would prevent Texans from suing restaurants or food manufacturers for obesity-related health problems. Debate on the bill was postponed from Wednesday to Thursday after House lawmakers spent more than five hours discussing a budget bill.

"If someone basically overeats or they're just not using self-discipline, that should not be the basis for going after a bunch of people with money," he said.

Only two such lawsuits have been filed in the nation, both in New York against McDonald's. The litigation set off a flurry of legislation. Bills to prevent such lawsuits have been adopted in 18 states and are pending in 16.

On the national level, U.S. Rep. Ric Keller, R-Fla., filed the Personal Responsibility in Food Consumption Act that would prevent people from suing restaurants and food sellers for obesity-related problems.

Men jailed on charges

of threatening CPS workers

TYLER (AP) - Two fathers remained jailed Wednesday on charges of threatening to kill Child Protective Services caseworkers who sought to remove their children from their homes.

The men, Jermaine Ray Gordy, 29, and Narciso Leija, 24, were accused in separate cases of retaliating against caseworkers by threatening to shoot them to death. Gordy was indicted last week, and prosecutors planned to present Leija's case to a grand jury

First Assistant District Attorney Brett Harrison said the cases were "eerily similar" to the case of David Hernandez Arroyo Sr., who opened fire outside of the Smith County Courthouse in February after a dispute over child support and custody, killing his ex-wife and a civilian who confronted him.

"They both involve family law matters, they both involve a disgruntled father who took out his anger at the justice system through violence, or in these cases, threats of violence," Harrison told The Associated Press Wednesday.

Harrison said Leija referenced the courthouse shooting case during a meeting with a caseworker, allegedly saying "This is why people kill people, because of people like you taking their kids."

The prosecutor said the cases are the first he's heard of in which parents threatened CPS caseworkers, and he believes the high-profile Arroyo shooting could have given the fathers the idea to retaliate with vio-

Senate approves disposal fee for radioactive waste

AUSTIN (AP) - A company that recently won a Specialists has a license \$7.5 million contract to store tons of uranium byproduct in Texas would have to pay a fee to dispose of the radioactive waste under legislation the Senate approved

Wednesday. The move follows an announcement last week that the waste will come to a site operated by Dallas-based Waste Control Specialists in Andrews County, near the Texas-New Mexico

border. The waste would fill the equivalent of up to 800 railroad cars. It's now at a government plant in Ohio.

Energy still owns the nated clothing or tools, waste, which will remain at the Andrews County site for two years as the DOE looks for a long-term storage or disposal arrangement.

Waste to store the waste, and the company has a state application pending to dispose of the waste.

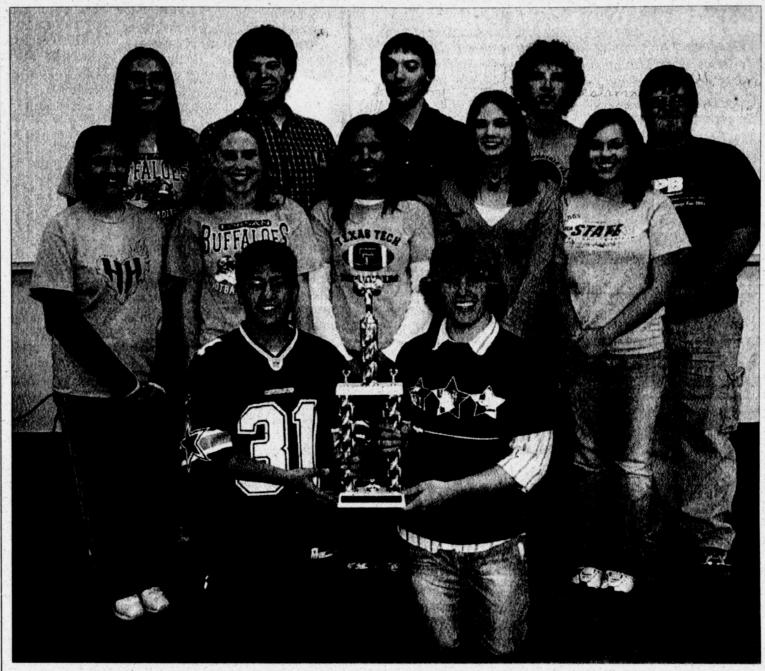
If the application is granted, the bill by Sen. Robert Duncan, R-Lubbock, says that Waste Control Specialists would pay the state 8 percent of its gross receipts from its operations under the disposal license. Andrews County will receive 2 percent of the gross receipts.

Waste Control also is seeking a separate state license from the Texas Commission **Environmental Quality to** dispose of low-level radioactive waste. That The Department of would include contami-

> nuclear plants. Currently, the company can treat and store the waste but must send it elsewhere for disposal.

most from commercial

SPANISH FAIR ATTENDEES



Forsan High School placed third in the high school division at the University of Texas of the Permian Basin Spanish Fair April 29. Participating were, left to right, back row, Casi Graves, Levi Johnson, Kyle Briggs, Burke Atkerson and Eric Ellis; middle row, Samantha Charlton, Rachel Clinton, Melissa Marlow, Micaela Purcell and Grace Walker; and front row, Justin Stilwell and Brandon Tant. Not pictured is Crystal McNew.

Advocates angry about TXU lobbying through customer lists

sive direct-mail lobbying effort to undermine legislation that could cut electric bills.

The North Texas energy giant is under fire again for lobbying activities, just a month after the company facilitated a trip to the Masters golf tournament in Augusta, Ga.,

for key state lawmakers. Company officials say there's nothing improper about the lobbying and that no customers have complained, but consumer advocates are cry-

ing foul. "The reality is that TXU has relationships with most of the political power within the state, and they spend a lot of money to make sure their voice is heard," said Geoffrey Gay, an attorney representing Fort Worth and other municipalities

in utility matters. Thousands of TXU customers received an April 25 letter from Senior Vice President Jim Burke saying that two pending bills would rob them of important customer protec-

tions. The legislation would allow small cities to unilaterally sign up their residents for potentially cheaper electric service, although residents could

opt out of the deal. In the letters, Burke asks residents to call their city leaders and state lawmakers and voice their opposition to

the bills. Although advocates dispute TXU's message, what angers them more is the method of its delivery. They say TXU unfairly used its customer-billing database to lobby against

its customers' interests. Tom Smith, director of

AUSTIN (AP) - TXU the Texas office of Public one-day pass to the tour-lawmakers about some Energy has used its cus- Citizen, said that proba- nament. Schein also said important issues, and this tomer records in a mas- bly would not have been the lawmakers' wives or was an opportunity to permitted under previous regulatory guidelines.

> the stops to make sure that you're paying more for electricity," he said. But TXU spokesman

Chris Schein defended the letters, which he likened to those sent by consumer groups to their members.

TXU has also come under fire for facilitating a trip to the Masters golf tournament for Sens. Troy Fraser, R-Horseshoe Bay, and Kenneth Armbrister, D-Victoria, both chairmen of key legislative committees.

The lawmakers paid their own way, although it's unclear whether they paid fair market value for the trip, which included a

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staff members attended and that the package "TXU is pulling out all included meals, but he was unsure of the total price tag.

As chairmen of key regulatory and environmental committees. Fraser and Armbrister shepherd legislation important to TXU.

"We didn't give them tickets; we sold tickets," Schein said. "This absolutely complied with all the ethics rules and laws. ... We wanted the opportunity to talk with



MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

P. O. Rios, Jr., 62, of Big Spring died Tuesday. Prayer services will be 7:00 PM. Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral Services' will be 10:00 AM Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Burial will be at Trinity Memorial Park.

Alvin Hudgins, 83, of Carbon, Texas died Tuesday. Graveside Services will be 10:00 AM Saturday at Trinity Memorial Park.

Edmondson Polly Rowan, 51, died Wednesday. Services are pending. Valentin

Prado 46, Gonzales, died Services Wednesday. are pending.

Federal Lifeline Notice

Certain low-income Texas residents may be eligible to receive

reduced-rate wireless telecommunications service under the Federal

Lifeline Program if they satisfy specified eligibility criteria. If you think

you qualify, contact Sprint at 1-866-827-3290 for further information.



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-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Susanne Reed

John A. Moseley Managing Editor **Bill McClellan News Editor**

OUR VIEWS

Young Eagles program offers great opportunity

nce again this year, the Hangar 25 Air Museum and the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) Young Eagle program are offering a wonderful opportunity to the youth of Howard County.

On Saturday, youth age 8 to 17 can go out to the airpark, visit with current and former pilots, look at the planes and enjoy a 15- to 20-minute flight — all at no cost to them or their parents.

It's a wonderful opportunity for youngsters to learn about aviation and its history. When the flight is completed, the pilot will sign a form and the participants will receive a certificate naming them a Young Eagle.

It's also an opportunity to tour Hangar 25 and learn something about the history of Webb Air Force Base.

The program begins at 8:30 a.m., and participants will need to be registered before they can take the flight. Registration is going on now at Hangar 25, or parents/guardians can register them Saturday morning. Organizers stress, however, that youth planning to participate must eve a legal guardian with them to fill out the necessary forms. Once the forms are completed by the guardian, any other adult can accompany

the child on Saturday morning. For more information on the Young Eagle program, contact the Hangar 25 Air Museum at 264-

It's an opportunity for your son or daughter to learn about aviation and to soar above the clouds. And it's free.

ADDRESSES

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The White House Washington, D.C.

JOHN CORNYN

U.S. Senator Washington, DC 20510-4305

Phone: 202-224-2934

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by K. Rae Anderson

Our small acts of kindness reward life richly, Lord.

A SMALL PRAYER

Children: learning the hard way

am not a very good mother. When my children were little, I gave them too much. My friends would say things, but I couldn't hear. My father has been gone many years, my own family is far away, and I have felt so much hurt and loss in my life that I wanted my children not to know

those feelings. There was nothing I wouldn't do for them. I couldn't bear to hear them cry. I thought that if I knew everyone in the world, somehow I could protect them from everything in

ESTRICH the world, which of course is not true. So I've had to learn the hard way, for me and for

them, that loving your children means saying no and sticking to it, that enough is enough just because it is and because I say so. I find it excruciating sometimes.

It is the hardest thing I do. If I weren't a mother, I joke, I'd be rich and young. I am neither. I am the grown-up.

NO is my new favorite word. I've leaned on other mothers, learning to say it. My daughter and I are waiting at

the doctor's office. She picks up a magazine with a picture of Demi Moore and Ashton Kutcher on the cover. The mother's boyfriend is playing a part on TV of a boy who is almost the same age as her daughter. My daughter and I both

shake our heads. The daughter can't possibly compete with the mother. How can the mother set limits for the daughter? Maybe they go to the plastic surgeon together.

There is a rumor going around that a number of movie stars are now having plastic surgery done on their knees. Knees? My daughter tells me which girls in her school she thinks are anorexic and which are bulimic. My son tells me which girls in his sixth-grade class wear hundred dollar jeans and push-up bras to school. I don't wear hundred dollar jeans, unless I find them at Loehmann's on a day when I have extra coupons. My daughter wears a uniform to school. I assign chores.

The girls dress just like their mothers. Why wouldn't they? If you don't want your daughter to wear slutwear, don't wear it yourself. The only thing that looks worse than a teenager dressed in slutwear is a middle-aged mother with her middle hanging out trying to look like her daughter's sister. Can't we spare our daughters the lousy role models and our sons the confusion, even if retailers don't think we're ready to grow

It is also a question of values. I remember saying that, some years ago, to two Hollywood mothers I knew, for whom budgets didn't set the same limit they do for everyone else in buying things for their kids. When you spend unlimited money on your daughters' socks — I told them pointedly, because my daughter had come

home now wanting to wear for "everyday" the \$8 socks, or whatever it was, that we kept for "special" - it tells them that you think clothes are what really

I used to use the same argument comparing the cost of their clothes or earrings to the donation I was hitting them up for, or ask them if they'd put all their jewelry in the hands of an illegal worker driving an uninsured 10-year-old van, the way they do their children every day, when they asked me why I paid my babysitter of 15 years so well and leased her a new car.

I was older when I became a mother, so some things were easier for me. I didn't want to be the kid any more, but I didn't quite know how to be a good mother.

Along the way, I've been learning how to mother myself and my own children. There are a lot of myths about how much fun it is that aren't true. When they're little, they love you back. When you're working hardest, though, you're saying no, which doesn't get you a lot of thank you's.

I watch other mothers, the way they brush it off, and try to learn what I didn't growing up. It is never too late. Happy Mother's Day to the other mothers, who teach me.

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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Energy bill is stupid and painful

hen the history of this administration is written, I suspect the largest black mark against it will be wasting time. The energy bill just passed by the

House is a classic example of frittering away precious time and resources by doing exactly

nothing that needs to be done about energy. The bill gives \$8.1 billion in new tax breaks to the oil companies, which are already swimming in cash.

ExxonMobil's profits are up 44 percent, Royal Dutch/Shell up 42 percent, etc.

According to the business pages, the biggest problem oil executives face is what to do with all their cash. So why give more tax breaks to the oil companies? Makes as much sense as anything else in this energy bill. Nothing about conservation, higher fuel efficiency standards or putting money into renewable energy sources. It's so stupid, it's painful.

MOLLY

IVINS

And their genius answer to "energy independence"? Drill in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Look, the total oil under ANWR is 1 billion barrels less than this country uses in a year, according to Robert Bryce, the Texas journalist who specializes in energy reporting. The bill is just riddled with perversity: We continue to subsidize people who buy Hummers, but no longer grant tax rebates to those who buy hybrid cars that are more than six times as fuel efficient. This is not how you get to "energy independence." The United States hit its oil peak back in 1970 - domestic

production has been declining. ever since.

I'm not sure I've ever seen anything quite as odd as the right wing's insistence that global warming does not exist. I'm not a climatologist, but I can read what they're saying. In fact, they're screaming it. Rush Limbaugh is not a climatologist, either, nor are any of the rest of these pinheads who seem to think the whole thing is some figment of liberals' imagi-

There's nothing liberal about global warming, it's science. There seems to be some element of childish spite in the refusal to recognize it - "Boy, we can drive the liberals crazy by pretending it's not happening, ha, ha, ha." If you read right-wing blogs, you find a kind of Beavis and Butthead attitude about the subject, a sort of adolescent-jerk humor. What's astonishing is finding the same attitude among members of Congress. Head-militantly-in-sand is not a solution.

There is a perfect convergence of economic, environmental and energy considerations that all point in the same direction: renewable energy sources. With demand for gasoline soaring worldwide, with the economies of both China and India growing at staggering paces, with the world somewhere near its oil peak now, our dependence on some of the world's most retrograde regimes is only going to get worse and more expensive.

Foreign policy also plays a role here. Let us pass quickly by the administration's pre-war assurances that Iraqi oil would pay for the war — the country is pumping less now than it did under Saddam Hussein. How smart is it to dick around trying to oust the presi-

dent of Venezuela? You put a bunch of ideological nutcases in charge of Latin American policy, and you're going to create a lot of enemies down there.

And their answer is to bring back nukes? Let's review the bidding on that one. Aside from Murphy's Law, the problem with nukes is that they create radioactive waste that remains toxic for tens of thousands of years. And we don't know what to do with it. The First Rule of Holes applies — if you're stuck in one, stop digging. We're already dependent on one form of energy that has a toxic legacy, why in heaven's name walk into another one, this time with foreknowledge of its effects? Especially when there are cheap, reliable, renewable, non-poisonproducing alternatives? We're nuts to even think about it. Wind power already has near competitive prices.

Renewable energy sources are not pie-in-the-sky — they're here right now, and they're going to be a lot cheaper than oil. The single cheapest thing we can do about oil is not use so much of it. Current hybrid technology will not get us to the mythical goal of "energy independence," but at least we can slow down the demand for oil. In theory, it only takes 15 years to replace the entire fleet of American cars now on the road. We don't have another four years to waste.

American energy policy - written by Beavis and Butthead.

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

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TAX BIL

Continued from

BIG SPRING Thursday,

on a similar upper cham

said. But Pitts di

the bobbles he "I was hopi would have options to

Rep. Sylvest D-Houston, at add a measure

said.

Internet lotte

PASS

Continued from

and we want again. That's need the co help."

The \$60 pass holder to free year at the 120 and state his along with di camping, lod store mercha recreational rentals. Pass also 'eligible promotions su programs an tomized "geta ner" to plan th

Pass sales do be only to loca Spring State sell some to th

Continued from

bowled over with its sight-r formance at O 26. In sight-re band has only to prepare to previously un of music.

Sight-readin Vai Randy Houston heape BSHS' perform

"Outstanding Wow!," Vaugh his critique. impressed. Th outstanding i ways. Bravo!"

Also comp Odessa in Apr varsity band. by Sam Hale, out on Sweeps ors, capturing I rating in sig and a Division

INFONE

Continued from I

are expected training in ho the equipmen grams soon.

"We've talk some of the pos of content t come out of the scheduled on th and hardware Development) bought for th this particula said Sharp. "I consensus du meeting was fo the training, w for May 25 and the city is capa ning the syster

Sharp said tant for these t to get a hands for the equipm

PLEA

Continued from F

Ghraib were n used as a legiti ing aid for othe When Englar

guilty Monday Pohl that she the pictures v



the long run. Alton said ciate them. We couldn't

TAX BILL

Continued from Page 1A

on a similar bill in the upper chamber, Pitts said.

But Pitts didn't get all the bobbles he wished for. "I was hoping that we would have a lot of today, like options Internet lottery," Pitts said.

Rep. Sylvester Turner, D-Houston, attempted to add a measure to the bill that would allow lottery play online. It was expected to generate about \$240 million annually. Turner said it would provide money for education and social services such as the Childrens Health Insurance Program.

Opponents, however, said the measure would expand gambling, which they derided as a social ill that takes its biggest toll on poor and minority Texans.

"Let's not allow the children to drown while we be holier than thou and tell them to drown and we'll save you in the afterlife," Turner said, chastising House members who voted 89-52 not to allow online lotto play-

The bill would save the state \$10 million per year by only requiring Texans to have one license plate_ on the rear of their vehicles. Current law requires plates on both the front states only require rear plates.

Many Texans' annual vehicle registration will get more expensive under the legislation. It would cost \$58.50 to register any car newer than six years old. Cars older than six years would cost \$43.

Currently, vehicle models newer than 2003 cost \$58.80 to register. Cars made in 2000, 2001 and 2002 cost \$50.80, and older cars cost \$40.80.

Drivers in the Austin and rear. Neighboring and San Antonio areas. the Valley and Grayson County could pay more

make it without them.

But it never hurts to keep

our name out there with

Later this summer, the

park will host another

stargazing party with the

out-of-town folks."

sure that would allow regional mobility authorities to levy a gas tax. Counties could let voters decide whether to allow the authorities to tax up to 10 cents per gallon, in one-cent increments. Some money from the tax would be used to reduce the number of toll roads

for gasoline under a mea-

or the tolls drivers pay. A portion of the gas tax money would also go to the state, generating about \$137 million in the next two years, according

the date planned for all

the telescopes to be set up on top of the mountain, giving a spectacular view of the heavens. For the entire family, a

two-holder Texas State Park Pass is available for \$75. Alton said the best time to stop by the park

added to cigarettes manufactured by companies that have not already set-

pack tax already approved by the House in March. The tax would be tled a tobacco lawsuit with the state.

to the Legislative Budget

Some cigarettes would

cost Texas smokers an

additional 40 cents per

pack on top of a \$1 per

Board.

The total tax on those cigarettes would increase from the current 41 cents per pack to \$1.81 per pack.

headquarters to buy your pass is any Monday, Wednesday or Friday.

Since the staff might be out in the park tending to other duties, call ahead at 263-4931 to let them know you're coming.

PASS

Continued from Page 1A

and we want to meet it again. That's why we need the community's help."

The \$60 pass entitles the holder to free entry for a year at the 120 state parks and state historic sites. along with discounts on camping, lodging, park store merchandise and recreational equipment chance of closure or rentals. Pass holders are also eligible for special promotions such as free programs and a customized "getaway plan-

ner" to plan their trips. Pass sales don't have to be only to locals, and Big could take over operation Spring State Park does of some state parks, sav-

Continued from Page 1A

bowled over the judges

with its sight-reading per-

formance at Odessa April

26. In sight-reading, the

band has only 10 minutes

to prepare to perform a

previously unseen piece

Sight-reading judge

Houston heaped praise on

Wow!," Vaughn wrote in

outstanding in so many

Odessa in April, the non-

out on Sweepstakes hon-

ors, capturing a Division

I rating in sight-reading

BSHS' performance.

Vaughn

"Outstanding reading! April 15 in Odessa.

Also competing at sight-reading.

impressed. This is just so Division I rating in con-

by Sam Hale, barely lost (Division I) in concert, so

BANDS

of music.

Randy

of-state campers who visit the new RV spaces on top of the mountain.

"In Texas, we spend very little money on our state parks, but visitors love them," explained Alton, who will gladly share his list of favorites among the state parks. "That just shows what a bang for the buck the tax-

payers are getting." While the park is not threatened now, the transfer of ownership is always on the mind of local citizens who like the park just as it is.

some funds so that cities sell some to the many out- ing the state money over

concert competition.

at the contest."

BSHS'

Harris said.

"They did a great job,"

Harris said of the band.

"They were as successful

as any non-varsity band

band, under the baton of

Reuben Chance, netted a

Division II rating in con-

cert and a Division III rat-

ing in sight-reading,

number-three

much of that money is still there, and a few state parks have been transferred to city operation recently.

While selling a few passes may not make all the difference, it does show community support for the facility, he said.

And Alton believes that support is justified. Consider the recent Master the Mountain run/walk race, which always attracts participants from Midland, Odessa, San Angelo, Abilene, New Mexico Five years ago, the state cities and even metropolilegislature earmarked tan areas such as Houston.

"We have our hometown supporters," Alton

said, "and we sure appre-Amarillo schools, served

as a judge in concert com-

petition, and praised the

junior high band for its performance.

"You demonstrated a lot of maturity in many critical areas," Myers wrote. "Thank you for preparing so carefully. You should be very proud of your concert today."

The number-two junior The program also had high band, conducted by success at the junior high Shannon Chance, earned level in UIL competition a Division III rating in concert, to go along with The number-one junior a Division II rating in his critique. "I am so high band earned a sight-reading.

"I was proud of them," cert, while grabbing a Harris said. "They did Division II rating in really well, considering there were only two non-"It's the first time that varsity bands competing varsity band, conducted band has ever got a (at the junior high con-

test)." The junior high bands will hold their Spring Cody Myers, supervisor Concert at 6:30 p.m. May and a Division II rating in of music education for 19 in the junior high gym.

amateur astronomy club from Midland. June 11 is

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INFONET

ways. Bravo!"

Continued from Page 1A

are expected to begin training in how to utilize the equipment and programs soon.

"We've talked about some of the possible types of content that could come out of this and be scheduled on the software and hardware we (Moore Development) have bought for the city for this particular project," said Sharp. "I think the consensus during that meeting was for us to get the training, which is set for May 25 and 26, done so the city is capable of running the system."

Sharp said it's important for these technicians to get a hands on "feel" for the equipment before

launching the Infonet.

that," Harris said.

we're all very proud of

"The technical people

who will be running this result will be able to get a can happen with this program," said Sharp. "They'll also learn how to schedule the programs, as well as upload and download the different components. We hope to see some of the content of the channel coming soon after that."

Sharp said the idea for community to use. the channel, which could include college classes being delivered at regularly scheduled times, workforce training videos on various topics from safety to quality control and live broadcasts of public meetings, came as a result of the franchise agreement between Cox Communications and the

Sharp said it came as a Communications upgradhands-on feel for what ing its local cable system which enabled many more services for area residents, but not before a new franchise agreement was negotiated between Cox and the city. One of these results was that Cox would grant the use of a public access channel now channel 17 - for the

And, just like the television world viewers have become accustomed to over the years, Sharp said the name of the game is going to be evolution.

"We expect to see it evolve over the next few months," said Sharp. "As people begin to watch the channel more, they'll begin to see more events."

Under military law, the judge could formally

the conspiracy charge, Pohl canceled the entire

From Diapers To Diplomas



Bring your photos to our office by Wed., May 11, 2005

These Keepsakes will be published in our

"Salute To Area Graduates" Sunday, May 22, 2005

This special section will include all area schools for Big Spring • Coahoma • Forsan • Stanton • Garden City • Sands Borden County and Grady

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Continued from Page 1A

PLEA

Ghraib were meant to be used as a legitimate training aid for other guards.

When England pleaded guilty Monday, she told Pohl that she knew that the pictures were being taken purely for the amusement of the guards. Pohl said her statement

reconciled. "You can't have a oneperson conspiracy," the judge said before he declared the mistrial and dismissed the sentencing jury.

accept her guilty plea and Graner's could not be only if he was convinced that she knew at the time that what she was doing was illegal. By rejecting the plea to

plea agreement.

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Look for the

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HIGH-TECH

Driver's savy is about all that's not an option on GS

By JIM MATEJA

Chicago Tribune

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

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

Just be prepared to reach into pocket or purse often and deeply.

Lexus obviously feels TiVo aficionados far outnumber VCR slugs based on its ambitious sales expectations for the GS 35,000 annually, if not a tad more, quite a jump from 8,200 last year.

For those who haven't mastered the calculator, the percentage increase is a whopping ... well, it's a

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

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

The V-6 replaces the 3liter, inline 6 from the previous model rated at 220 h.p. and 220 footpounds of torque with a 5speed automatic. The GS430 is powered by a 4.3liter V-8 rated at 300 h.p. and 325 foot-pounds of torque.

The V-6 won't snap your head back, but it has good spirit and is more lively than the inline 6 it more-than-respectable fuel economy at 21 m.p.g. city and 27 m.p.g. high-

GS boasts a new design with more sculpted sheet metal and jewel-like headlamps so it looks far less blah. Though a sedan, it

has the long-hood, shortdeck, rounded-roof coupe

It also sports new dimensions, with wheelbase stretched 2 inches, length and width 1 inch each. A little better road stance, little less cabin snugness.

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

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

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

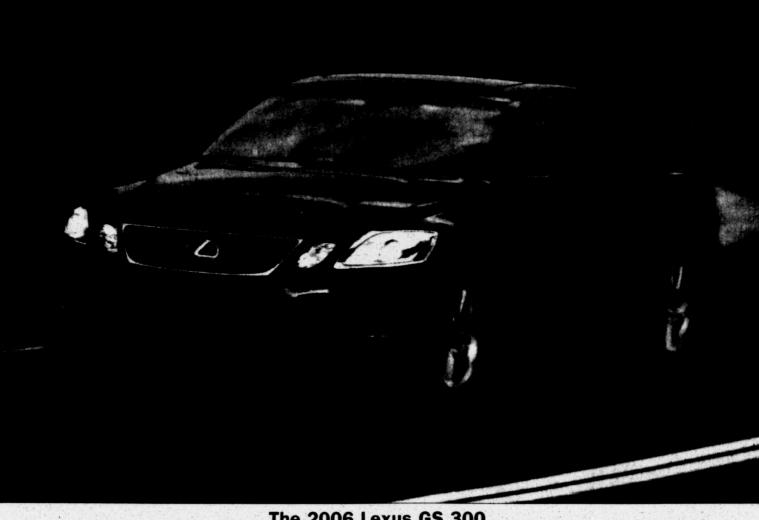
For now, only the GS300 offers AWD, which adds \$1,950. Ussery said Lexus will watch AWD demand in the high-volume 300 (75 percent of GS sales) before deciding to add it to the GS430.

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

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

If you take a corner or make a lateral move a litreplaces. It also delivers the too fast, stability control automatically reduces throttle and applies anti-lock braking to any slipping wheel to keep the vehicle under control.

The GS430, meanwhile, comes with Vehicle Dynamic Integrated



The 2006 Lexus GS 300

Management, or VDIM, which "takes stability control to the next level." Ussery said.

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

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

The Lexus RX400h gas/electric sport-utility vehicle has VDIM as well.

VDIM is offered in only the V-8 GS430 with its higher horsepower and torque creating the likelihood drivers will be more aggressive than in a V-6.

Spirited performance, smooth ride, agile, yet controlled, handling.

those high-tech goodies. One is Smart Access keyless entry. The doors when unlock approach with the fob in pocket or purse. Then slip in, press the "start" button and the engine fires. No key needed.

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Couple gripes, however. **Kara Smith** Is Now At Sally's Hair & Nail Salon 1201-A East 11th Place

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Another nice touch are option, part of the \$4,030 \$4,030 Mark Levinson ventilated seats with Mark embedded fans to cool you off. But while heated seats are standard, ventilated seats are a \$200 option.

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

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

Park Assist, or sonar clearance, beeps when approaching too close to the vehicle ahead or behind when parking to save you on the body repair bills — a \$500 option.

Another nice touch is the camera mounted in back. When you slip the on either the 300 or 430. And then there are shift lever into reverse, ly wide angle look at what's behind to avoid running into objects or people.

Yup, the camera's an



watching of TV or movies

in the front seat while

audio/navi package.

Levinson

audio/navigation system.

Another gripe, the pic-

ture in the navi screen is

fascinating to watch, so

much so that you tend to

look at what's behind and

lose track of what's

approaching from the

sides when leaving the

There's also a precolli-

sion system, which uses

radar to detect obstacles

in front of the car while

you're driving. Based on

vehicle speed, it deter-

mines whether a collision

If so, safety belts are

automatically tightened

and the brakes are

applied if you haven't

done so or applied at

driveway. Careful.

is imminent.

impact.

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

Controls for such features as the rear window sunshade, headlamp washers, foldaway mirrors, fuel-filler door and deck-lid openers are behind a drop-down panel to the left of the steering wheel to keep a host of seldom-used controls from cluttering the dash. The window sticker listed no extra charge for the control panel.

The AWD GS300 starts greater force to lessen the at \$44,850. Standard equipment includes But it's a \$2,850 option power and heated mirrors; power locks and You also can play audio windows; automatic clithe camera turns on and discs or CDs or watch mate control; AM/FM the navigation screen in DVD videos on the navi stereo radio with cassette the dash gives you a fair- screen, but the system and CD player; run-flat 17works only when parked. inch radials; and tool and Federal law prohibits the first-aid kits.

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> > SCENIC MOUNTAIN MEDICAL CENTER Our Community. Our Hospital. 1601 W. 11th Pl. Big Spring, TX



2006 Lexus GS300 AWD

Wheelbase: 112.2 inches Length: 190 inches

Engine: 3-liter, 245-h.p., 24-valve V-6 Transmission: 6-speed automatic

Fuel economy: 21 m.p.g. city/27 m.p.g. high-

way

Base price: \$44,850

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

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Minuses: Hefty price. And still so many options.

Benny Boyd



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Club anno

couples to The Bi Country Ch up a two-da for May 14 The tourn cost \$130 per cart fee. b

carts are we A practice take place begins at May 14 and start begins For more tion, call 267

BSISD has chance to athletic phy

The BSIS department the opportu an athletic p anyone in through 11 year). The phys can

through yo athletic tr online bsisd.esc18.1 under schoo athletics an forms). Physicals v

Auditorium May 21 at 1 seventh gra rent sixth 10:15 a.m. graders (curr graders) and for current h students thr grade. Phys end promptl a.m. for all.

Coahoma a all-sports b

Coahoma announced sports band take place May 17, at school cafete Tickets fo letes and par and they ca chased that For more tion or to tickets, Coahoma Hi Office at 394 Also, the

Athletic Boo would like to a meeting members for The meet take place V at 8 p.m. at school cafete

Lady Steers for sports be The Big Sp Steers sport

will be held 7 6 p.m. in Spring Jun Cafeteria. General tickets can chased for \$1 Kay Cook a

Spring Training Cer Faye's Dakota's Fl the Heritage For more tion, call Jan at 263-0023

Rodriguez at

Local team paintball to A local team will be tournament Saturday.

There will rize for fi

Sports

SPRING HERALD

Do you have an interesting sports item or story idea? Call Troy Hyde at 263-7331. Ext. 237. Email results to: sports@bigspringherald.com

> Page 1B Thursday, May 5, 2005

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.

For more information, call 267-5354.

BSISD has set up chance to get athletic physicals

The BSISD athletic department is offering the opportunity to get an athletic physical for anyone in grades six through 11 (7-12 next year).

The physical form be obtained through your coach, athletic trainer online bsisd.esc18.net (look under schools, BSHS, athletics and athletic forms).

Physicals will be give the Auditorium Saturday, May 21 at 10 a.m. for seventh graders (current sixth graders), 10:15 a.m. for ninth graders (current eighth graders) and 10:30 a.m. for current high school students through 11th grade. Physicals will end promptly at 11:30 a.m. for all.

Coahoma announces all-sports banquet

Coahoma announced that its allsports banquet will take place Tuesday. May 17, at the high school cafeteria.

Tickets for non-athletes and parents are \$7 and they can be purchased that night.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call the Coahoma High School Office at 394-4536.

Also, the Coahoma Athletic Booster Club would like to announce a meeting to elect members for next year.

The meeting will take place Wednesday at 8 p.m. at the high school cafeteria.

Lady Steers set date for sports banquet

The Big Spring Lady Steers sports banquet will be held Tuesday at 6 p.m. in the Big Spring Junior High Cafeteria.

General admission tickets can be pur-chased for \$10 through Kay Cook at the Big Spring Athletic Training Center or at Flowers, Dakota's Flowers or the Heritage Museum.

For more information, call Janet Abner at 263-0023 or Kerry Rodriguez at 263-6100.

Local team to hos paintball tou**mament**

A local paintball team will be hosting a ournament at 12 noon Saturday.

There will be a cash prize for first place. For more information or to enter a team

Big Spring, Coahoma begin state quest tonight

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

Two of the state's topranked softball teams begin their quest for a state tournament berth tonight in the area championship round of the UIL state playoffs.

Third-ranked Spring (25-2) will travel to Alpine to take on El Paso Andress (22-6) at Sul Ross University at 5 p.m., sixth-ranked while Coahoma (18-9) takes on former district rival Crane (16-9) in Midland at the Freddie Ezell Softball Complex beginning at 7 p.m.

> Big Spring vs. **EP Andress**

The Lady Steers' quest for their first-ever state appearance begins against the second place team out of District 1-4A.

El Paso Andress, which is making its return to the playoffs for the first time in five years, is led by sophomore pitcher Annette Rodriguez. Rodriguez is 14-3 this season.

"From what I have heard, they have a little slower pitching than we are used to and what we like and they are not real strong hitters," said Big Spring coach Phillip Pearce.

Who will try to shut down EP Andress was likely still unknown at press Plainview.

time. Pearce said either senior - Alex Watkins or Chelsea Abner - could start and both may also see time on the mound. Watkins enters with a 14-1 record and has won 14 straight decisions, while Abner is 10-1.

Big Spring will also look to win its 20th straight game after starting the season 6-2.

"They're ready to play," said Pearce. "They have been sluggish lately because they are tired of practicing, but they things picked (Wednesday). They just want to play."

Pearce does not anticipate having to make any lineup changes, but does hope he can get some of his bench players into the game, as well.

EP Andress earned the right to play Big Spring after defeating Clint, 7-4, in the bi-district round last week.

The winner of this game will take on the winner of Pampa and El Paso Ysleta.

Pampa defeated District 4-4A's Lake View in the first two games of the best-of-three series last week.

If Big Spring wins tonight, it will most likely play next Friday.

If they take on Pampa, the game will be most played



The third-ranked Big Spring softball team received its District 4-4A trophy Wednesday at the all-district meeting at the BSISD Athletic Training Center. The Lady Steers won the district this season with an unblemished 10-0 record. They begin postseason play tonight in Alpine against El Paso Andress with hopes of winning its 20th straight game.

against El Paso Ysleta could require another trip to Alpine, but locations in New Mexico are also possibilities.

Coahoma vs. Crane

Former district rivals will meet for the second time this year tonight in Midland. Bulldogettes easily defeated Crane in the first meet-

Tournament as Coahoma won 17-0 in five innings. Crane, which finished earned the right to play

12-time District 4-2A

champion Coahoma.

Junior Kali Roberts will her speed on the bases." take the mound for Coahoma. She is 14-3 this year, but two of the three losses came to District 3-Lee in 12 innings and Big Spring in nine Regional Quarterfinal. innings.

Crane is led by its pitcher Destri Schul, who is also the team's most con- the sistent hitter.

ing at the Snyder "She is the strong part of their team," said Coahoma coach Robby second in District 1-2A, Dickenson. "She is a pretdefeated Grape Creek in ty good pitcher and a pretput the ball in play at the plate and then try to use (Wednesday)."

The Bulldogettes, who are a Class 2A softball powerhouse season by season, will try to avoid 5A champion Midland an early upset like last year when they lost to District 4-4A champion Alpine, 2-1, in the

Coahoma wins tonight, they will take on district rival Hawley in Regional Quarterfinals. Bulldogettes have already beaten Hawley twice this

"The layoff shouldn't hurt us because we have the bi-district round and ty good athlete. She will been here before," said slap the ball and try to Dickenson. "They were pretty

Becerra, Paredez big winners at Forsan's all-sports banquet

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor Seniors

Cynthia Becerra and Trey Paredez were the big winners at Forsan's all-sports banquet held Tuesday. Becerra and Paredez

each took home three awards, including most valuable female and male athlete, respectively. Both were also each named as MVPs of the girl's track and cross country and boy's track and cross country programs.

Becerra also participated in basketball and cheerleading this year, ball team, while Casi and Haley Belew.



while Paredez was a part of the football and basketball teams.

Junior Adam Johnson was voted as the football team's most valuable player.

Senior Clay Kuykendall and junior Tye Baker were picked as the co-MVPs of the boy's basket- were Courtney Holdampf

Graves was the girl's basketball MVP.

They also issued MVP awards to the golf, tennis and powerlifting programs. Mark Mckiski and

Shiloh Sanders were given MVP awards in boy's and girl's golf, respectively. Anthony Acosta and Carlee Barraza were picked as MVPs of the boy's and girl's powerlifting teams. The boy's tennis MVP was Bryce Lopez and the girl's tennis Co-MVPs

San Antonio clinches first round victory over testy Nuggets team

Forsan senior Cynthia Becerra, left, poses with Forsan Girl's

Athletic Coordinator Brandye Hughey after being selected

as the school's most valuable female athlete for the 2004-

By JIM VERTUNO

AP Sports Writer SAN ANTONIO (AP) -The San Antonio Spurs have earned a few days off. After a rugged series the Denver Nuggets, they'll need it.

Looking tired and more than a little ragged, the Spurs finally shook off the Nuggets in the first round of the Western Conference playoffs with 99-89 victory

Wednesday night. After losing the first game on their home court, the Spurs won four in a row to advance to the conference semifinals against Seattle.

Tony Parker scored 21 points and Tim Duncan had 18 points and 11 rebounds for the Spurs, who struggled to put away a Nuggets team fighting hard to get the series back to Denver for another game.

"I'm glad that is over," said Spurs coach Gregg Popovich, who looked as tired as his team. "They are a monster. I'm thrilled to beat them."

resembled Game 1, when Spurs. the Nuggets shocked the fourth home loss of the getting away and the Spurs couldn't find the spurt to get some breathing room over the first complained three quarters.

After twice falling behind in the third period, the Spurs finally kick-started a run to take control. Glenn Robinson, cut by New Orleans in March and signed as a free agent just last month, hit a jumper and then followed with a long 3-pointer that made it 80-72 with 7:35 to play.

Denver couldn't quite find the same game that won the opener and rallied it to overtime in a Game 4 loss on the Nuggets' home court. Even when they cut it to 85-78, the Spurs' Bruce Bowen hit a 3-pointer

from the corner. 18 points and Horry scored 17, including a pair of key 3-pointers in

At times the game the third quarter for the

"They play together Spurs with just their with the heart of a champion," said the Nuggets' season. Shots weren't Kenyon Martin, who had falling, rebounds were 14 points and 11 rebounds in his matchup with Duncan.

Carmelo Anthony, who Monday night's loss he didn't get enough touches, finished with 25 points for Denver. Andre Miller added 16 points for the Nuggets.

"We left it all out there tonight," Anthony said. "We have no reason to hang our heads. It's a beginning for us."

With the home crowd behind them again after two road wins, the Spurs seemed ready to take control several times in the first half. But each time, the Nuggets got the turnover or basket they needed to keep it within reach.

"We shook them in Game 1, but then they Manu Ginobili added shook off the rust and got better after that," said Denver coach George Karl.



Forsan senior Trey Paredez, left, poses with Forsan Athletic Director Terry McDonald after being selected as the school's most valuable male athlete for the 2004-05 school year.

State Tennis and Golf

Class 1A - Monday at World of Tennis at Lakeway in Austin Girl's singles: Amanda Cooper, Grady - 10:45 a.m. (first round)

Girl's doubles: Brianna Pribyla and Ericka Medina, Grady - 3 p.m. (first round).

Boy's doubles: Alex Halfmann and Taylor Niehues, Garden City - 11:30 a.m. (first round) Class 4A — Monday at the Penick-Allison Courts in Austin

Girl's singles: Veronica Villarreal, Big Spring - 10:15 a.m. (first round). *Action continues Tuesday for Monday's winners.

Class 2A - Monday and Tuesday at Jimmy Clay Golf Course in

Sini Laurikkala of Coahoma tees off at 7 a.m. both days.

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GARAGE SALE: 2615 Lynn, Saturday 7:00-? Clothes, yard tools, barbecue pit, lots of misc. items.

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LONG JOHN Silvers, Day and evening shifts available. Must be energetic. Apply in person, 2403 S. Gregg. No phone calls, please.

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Help Wanted

now accepting applications for part and full-time retail sales positions in Big Spring, Tx. Candidates should possess the following:

- * Great customer service skills

 * Clean background check
- * Clean background check * Flexible work schedule
- * Computer skills (Excel/ Word)
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is AC qualififyed. Call (432)263-3461 for more information.

MANAGER NEEDED for local office supply. Benefits. Retail experience a plus. Send resume to: wcarson@savonltd.com or

Sav-On, 3440 Bell St. Amarillo, TX 79109.

MASONS NEEDED for large project in Midland. Apply at

Midland High Project on Illinois

Ave. Call Barry (254)644-4102.

NEED DOZER Operated with 5 years experience. For Big Spring Dirt Contractor. Must pass drug screen. Benefits available. Send resume c/o P.O. Box 1431/120, Big Spring, TX 79721-1431.

NEED LICENSED Electricians and experienced electrical sales person. Health insurance and 401K. Send resume to 111 NE 14th St. Lamesa, TX

NEED LIVE in Baby Sitter for 3 year old. Call after 9:00 pm (432)267-1689.

NEED PERSON who can do maintenance and repairs at Hillside Properties. Call (432)263-3461.

NEED SECRETARY with Oil & Gas experience, good computer skills. Benefits available. Send resume c/o P.O. Box 1431/119, Big Spring, TX 79721-1431.

NOW Hiring COOK in long term care setting.

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NURSE AIDE - Previous experience is preferred, current CPR required, must be able to pass a criminal background check and drug screen. Apply

Scenic Mountain Medical Center 1601 W. 11th Place Big Spring, Tx 79720 Equal Opportunity Employer

in person at:

Help Wanted

PRN NURSE, LVN/RN. 12 hour shift. Contact Paula, (325)378-2134, Sterling County Nursing Home.

OFFICE SECRETARY for Parks Fuels Inc., Good pay with benefits Markay-Friday. Apply at all Tuels Inc., 303 East 1st., Big Spring, Tx. or call (432)263-0033.

Start at \$12-\$13/hour plus LOTS OF OVERTIME! Only TRUCKDRIVERS with 2 years Class A CDL experience need apply. Physical Labor required. Good benefits. Home one week a month. Call 1-800-588-2669.

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

Items for Sale

1998 JAYCO Eagle Model #263RKS 5th wheel travel trailer. Very good condition. 29' Rear kitchen & super slide, queen bed. Good storage. \$11,000.00. Call (432)263-8987.

Lost and Found

FOUND POMERANIAN mixed dog at the 4 way stop next to Dakota's. Call cell (432)816-1687 or 816-1689 to identify.

LOST: All white cat with one gold eye and one blue eye. \$300.00 Reward. Please call (432)267-1679.

poodle mix. Apricot color, long shaggy tail, wearing blue collar with two Washington State tags. Last seen April 17 on Morrison. (432)264-6604.

Miscellaneous

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

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

WANTED: RESPONSIBLE
Party to take on small monthly
payments on High Definition
Big Screen TV. Call
1-800-398-3970.

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

CKC SHIH-TZU Registered. Have 2 female's, 5 months old. Pre-spoiled, very loving, \$250.00 each. Parents on premises. Call (432)267-1448.

FOR SALE: Registered Miniature Schnauzers. 2 Females left, 6 weeks old. Good homes preferred. Call (432)213-1300 or (432)264-7466.

LOVING 8 yr. old Chihuahua (female) to give away. Light Brown. Not good with very small children. Call Carolyn at (432)267-5151 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. after 6:00 p.m. call (432)263-6894 or 213-2415.

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1104 Stanford, 2 bedroom, 1 bath. \$335. month, \$150. deposit. 448 Armstrong. 4 bedroom, 1 bath, CH/A. \$385. month, \$150. deposit. Call (432)263-1792, 816-4717.

1202 JOHNSON Two bedroom, two barroom, at 20 deposit. Call (432)263-3375 or 816-6992.

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

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

FOR RENT large 1 bedroom, 1503 Settles. All bills paid. \$400. month, \$150. deposit. Call (432)264-6611.

2001 JOHNSON. Newly remodeled, 2 Bedroom 1 bath. Garage, fenced yard and refrigerated air. \$365.00 month \$295.00 deposit. Call (432)263-8005 or 816-1330.

2008 SCURRY, 2 Bedroom. Refrigerated air, fenced back-yard. Nice neighborhood. References. Perfect for single or couples. \$325/month, \$250/deposit. Call (432)267-5629.

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MOVE IN SPECIAL + APPLICATION & SECURITY DEP.

263-12

Real Estate for Rent

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

418 Ryan. 3 bedroom, 1 bath, CH/A. \$450. month, \$150. deposit. 2002 Johnson. 3 bedroom, 1 bath. \$335. month, \$150. deposit. Call (432)263-1792, 816-4787.

4407 ELDER. 3 Bedroom, 1 bath, major appliances, water, sewer and trash provided. \$390. month, \$250. deposit. (432)263-4335. I mow and water the yard.

605 EAST 15TH. Two bedroom, one bath, CH/A. \$350. month, \$150. deposit. Call (432)263-3375 or 816-6992.

Remodled. Quit neighborhood, fenced yard. \$575. month, \$250. deposit. Call (432)263-5000.

706-B GOLIAD. Clean one bedroom house. Stove & refrigerator furnished, fenced yard. HUD approved. \$210. month, \$100. deposit. Call (432)267-1543

800 1/2 NOLAN. 1 Bedroom, 1 bath. Utilities included. \$400.00 month, \$300.00 deposit. Call (432)264-9907.

One bedroom Apts. Private patios

Large swimming pool 24 hr. laundry facility Move-in \$199.00 plus deposit Coronado Hills Apartments 801 W. Marcy Big Spring, Tx. 79720 (432)267-6500

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

Check This Out!
Two bedroom, \$300. month, 1107 Lloyd.
Three bedroom, \$400. month, 1517 Kentucky Way.
Call Moren, (432)267-7380.

\$200. Move-In Special \$200. deposit. All Bills Paid 403 East 8th Call (432)267-2771

Nice house, good neighborhood. 1304 Tucson, 2 bedrooms, 1 bath. Central heat/air, fireplace, dishwasher, washer/dryer connections, fenced backyard, 2 storage buildings, outdoor grill. Rent \$550.00, deposit \$200.00. Call (432)267-2112 leave message.

SUNSET RIDGE 1 BR \$185.00 2 BR \$275.00 Cable TV Incl. Call Melinda (432)263-2292

TWO BEDROOM, one bath, AC. \$350. month, \$200. deposit. HUD accepted. 1104 Lloyd. Call (432)267-7721.

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Sale Price \$25,495

Stk# 9704

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- · Relief Pump as needed monitoring, recording, and optimizing
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a complete benefits package.

- Operating and maintaining production equipment
 Conducting on-lease activities for assigned area making minor repairs and adjustments as needed
- Assuring that all leases are operating safely within regulatory guidelines
 Assist Automation Technician in collecting injection volumes,

The qualified applicant will have 1 - 2 year's production experience with a broad knowledge of all types of production equipment. Experience working in secondary recovery environments a plus. Computer skills and proficiency with spreadsheets a must. We offer a highly competitive salary and bonus plan with

For immediate consideration, please forward your resume and salary history

Workforce Network of Midland
Attn: Graciela Cheauma
3510 North "A" Street, Building A
Midland, Texas 79705
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Real Estate for Sale

\$1,000 TOTAL Move in Cost. On 1306 Marijo. New 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 car garage home. Reasonably good credit required, lowered interest rates to Qualified Buyer. Call now (432)520-9848 Cameo Invest-



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.

2506 ALBROOK, 3 Bedroom, 1-1/2 bath brick home w/vinyl siding. 1 Car carport, nice yard. Inside needs Carpet and paint. Otherwise in good condition. \$8,400.00 Cash/ OBO. Call (432)264-9355 or 466-3164.

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.



Beautiful Brick home like new. 3 Bedroom, 2 bath, large living, dinning, kitchen area. Large bathrooms, walk-in closets, Vaulted ceilings, custom built cabinets throughout, 2 car garage. Beautiful Landscaping. Joining Golf Course. 4029 Vicky. Call (432)263-2682.

COUNTRY LIVING- 4.89 acre lots with city water, fire hydrants, electricity, phone, cable, good restrictions. Moss Lake Road in Coahoma School District. Owner financing. (432)393-5872.

Real Estate for Sale

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

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.

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.

KENTWOOD 2506 Larry, brick 3 bedroom, 2 bath, extra living area, large kitchen, double carport, CH/A. New paint, roof, carpet. 60's. (432)263-7156.

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

Vehicles

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

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1999 LINCOLN Towncar. 78,000 miles. (432)267-5317 after 5:30 p.m.

1981 HONDA Goldwing 1100, low mileage. \$1,950. Call (432)816-9848.

Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS -Happy Cinco de Mayo! one's contribution.

The Aries moon pumps up the party atmosphere, giving a high-energy boost to this perfect spring day. Don't wait to be invited to . Take

life. initiative make your fun. own prize The goes to the host of the party. It's an eventful time for love.

HOLIDAY MATHIS

Romance hovers in the friendship realm until the passion fires are ignited tonight.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Take a whimsical look at the way you are living your life. There are easy ways to add colorful characters and environments. Walk into that art store, dance club or beatnik coffee house, and strike up a conversation.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You exude charm when you have a friend/assistant/partner to back you up. Knowing you have that support makes you less afraid of how you'll come across, which is when the magic happens.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You have passed along the credit/blame that rightly belongs to you. List the pros and cons of an important relationship to distinguish fact from fiction. The more real you get, the better you appreciate every-

CANCER (June 22-July 22). This morning feels like it lasts all day. The sun is shining, the birds are singing, and you are still cruising on your caffeine high. As long as you have the energy, you may as well keep on task 'til the moon shows itself.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Independence is highlighted. Go into a situation where you would normally take along another person alone. You may be pleasantly surprised as you begin to discover who you are on your own.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You want to help others, but saving a person from himself or herself is a tough call. Research the word "co-dependent," and be sure you don't engage in behavior that falls into that category. Leading by example may be best.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Love isn't putting up with anything and everything. Learn the difference between controlling love and love that allows you to grow and flourish. Reading materials will teach you what you need to know.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're a full and vibrant person. Sure, you're flawed, but in a full and vibrant way. Remind yourself of this and you can handle whatever comes up. Replace the word "problem" with "situation." Stay focused on possibilities.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Ultimately, you are responsible for how others treat you. Take a risk, and your confidence will begin to soar. Your

Annie's Mailbox •

ability to count on yourself is crucial for you to love again. Sparks between you and Libra are featured.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your opinions, beliefs and feelings matter, whether or not anyone asked for them. Speak up. Don't wait for an invite. Standing up for who you are and what you want will send a message that you're a person of worth.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Your responsibility in a relationship is changing with the shifting circumstances. Loved ones need space, but not too much. The best you can do is be there to give unconditional love.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Someone around you shows real talent - it looks like you have a protege in the making. You are not used to being overshadowed by someone less experienced than you, but in the end, you'll love the respect you receive.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "Please explain the compatibility between Pisces and Taurus as marriage partners."

I don't believe that astrology is meant to limit our choices in any way, especially not in love. Therefore, let me first say that any astrological coupling can work, each in a different way, highlighting unique aspects of our personality and focusing our lives on different kinds of issues. Pisces is a water sign and Taurus is an earth sign. These two have many qualities together that can make a marriage successful. However, hard work is implied in this coupling. If both parties are willing to make the marriage a priority, the combined assets that befall this twosome are well worth the effort. Pisces brings out the most profound emotions in stoic Taurus. Romance is very much alive with these two. Music is a shared love and a key tool in setting a romantic mood. The passion of their early relationship is rekindled often and regularly. So where does the work come in? Taurus has difficulty understanding Pisces mood swings. And Pisces needs Taurus to be more flexible. Conflicts can be resolved through tactful truth telling.

CELEBRITY FILES: Activist and U2 frontman Bono has one of the most distinct and powerful voices in rock, which he uses both to wail songs of inspiration and to take decisive political action. Three luminaries in Taurus, which rules the throat, give him an extra astrological edge in the making a big noise department. This year, he'll weave a plea to the planet's top political leaders into his next hit song.

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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SALE! SALE!! SALE!!!

50 "New" Cars Trucks And SUV's **UST** Be Sold In May

Example Of Savings:



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Automatic - Cruise - Aluminum Wheels - Premium 6-CD - Much More.

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23,675 Pkg. Discount -550 MSRP -23,125 **Customer Cash** -2,000 Ford Credit Rebate - 1,000 **BBF Discount -**2,230

Sale Price

Our Objective WILL Be Reached - No Matter What!

Example Of Savings:



XLT Pkg. - 6-CD In Dash - Captain Chairs All Power Equipment - Sport Package Much Much More "3 AT THIS PRICE"

TBD -40,110 Pkg. Discount -750 MSRP -39,360 **Customer Cash** -2,500 Ford Credit Rebate - 1,000 **BBF Discount -**4,865



Ford Lincoln Mercury 500 W. 4th 267-7424



only problem is my 30year-old stepson, "Don." Don is divorced and the father of two young girls. Last summer. Don lost his job. Because he has a very big mouth and a lousy attitude, he had a difficult time finding another. Don just started a new

Dear Annie: This is a

second marriage for both

my husband and me. The

position, and his first day didn't go well. He has been living with his girlfriend and mooching off anyone who will let him, but his girlfriend is likely to throw him out if he loses this job. We have helped out with money for groceries, etc., but we cannot support two households and shouldn't have to. My husband and I are both in our early 50s, and we would like to live a peaceful life.

Don's mother lives in the same town but won't let him stay with her. We live six hours away, and although he could stay with us, he doesn't want to be that far away from his children. I told my husband that Don is a grown man and has put himself into this position. and he needs to do whatever is necessary to get out of it. My husband is so worried he literally makes himself sick, and he's already had one heart attack already. Any advice? - Sick of Giving Up My Future

Dear Sick: Be very careful about putting yourself between your husband and his son. Don needs to accept responsibility for himself, but it would be better if your HUSBAND reached that conclusion. Remind that he cannot support his son forever, and the sooner Don learns to carry his own weight, the better for



Advice for those in need

MARCY SUGAR

children, he could use some low-cost counseling to figure out why he can't get the rest of his life together.

Dear Annie: Is it necessary or proper for someone to say "excuse me" every time she clears her throat or coughs? This coworker does have asthma. Annoved

Dear Annoyed: It is never improper to say "excuse me," but unless the woman is right in front of you when she coughs, she doesn't need to do it every single time, especially if it happens frequently. You can nicely tell her so.

Dear Annie: You printed a letter from "Lots of Love in Ohio," who is concerned racist family members cannot handle her plans to adopt a baby from another country.

When I planned a transracial adoption, some of my relatives refused to meet my son. Instead of becoming angry. I simply kept my son around those who were supportive, and they passed on details about those who kept to a scance. This comfortable

situations and gave people time to overcome their fears.

I am now raising two everyone. While it speaks boys, ages 12 and 13. well of Don that he wants They've become accepted members of the family. to remain close to his

and their skin color is unimportant. - Dad in California

Dear Dad: We're glad that approach worked for you. Here's one more:

Dear Annie: When my husband and I told our families we were adopting a baby girl from China, my father assured us the baby would never fit in, could never learn English and would end up in a gang. He said the adoption would affect my inheritance. I didn't back down and told him to do whatever he felt was right.

Several months after we adopted our wonderful little girl, my father came to visit. She wrapped her tiny hand around one of his fingers, gave him a big smile, and his prejudice died that moment. I hope "Ohio's" relatives can learn and grow as my father did. - Colorado Adoptive Mom

Dear Readers: Here's a Mother's Day gift for the Ann Landers fan in your family. "Ann Landers in Her Own Words: Personal Letters to Her Daughter," daughter Margo Howard, is now out in paperback. Publisher: Warner Books. Price: \$14.95 (in Canada \$19.95).

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

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Thursday, N THUR

BIG SPRING

DENNIS



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THE OT





WHAT ARE YOU



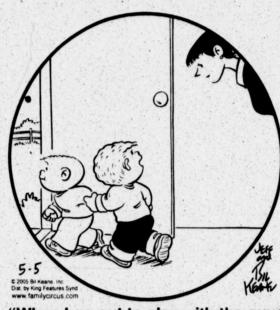
TI	THURSDAY								MAY 5											
. 1		WFAA 2 Dallas	KMID 3 Midland	UNI 4 Spanish	KPEJ 5	KOSA 7	KTLE 8		WTBS 11 Atlanta	KMLM 12 Odessa	KOCV [3] Odessa	DISC 20 Discovery	AMC 21 Classics	SPIKE 22 Spike TV	TNT 23	BET 26 Black Ent.	DISN 27	ESPN2	ESPN 29 Sports	TMC (250
6		Wheel-Fortune	Wheel-Fortune		King of the Hill Raymond		Amarte Asi	News	Raymond MLB Baseball:	Joe McGee	News-Lehrer	American Chopper			Law & Order	Live BET Style	That's-Raven	Stump-Schwab Stump-Schwab		Sign o' the Times (CC)
7	:PM :30	Movie: My Big Fat Greek			The O.C.	Survivor: Palau	La Mujer en el Espejo	Joey (CC) Will & Grace	Houston Astros at	Update/Israel	West Tex Jml TX Mnthly Talk	Power Tool	Movie: Midway		NBA	The Parkers Girtfriends	Movie: Gotta Kick It Up	Teammates Teammates	Thunder	Movie: Valmont
8	:PM :30	Wedding (CC)	Wedding (CC)	La Madrastra	Simple Life Simple Life	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn	Los Plateados	The state of the s	Atlanta Braves			Power Tool	1	MXC	Playoffs Teams TBA	College Hill Access	(CC)	ESPN's Bowling Night		
9	:PM :30	PrimeTime Live	PrimeTime Live	Aqui y Ahora	'70s Show Malcolm-Mid.	Without a Trace (CC)	La Ley del Silencio	ER (CC)	Movie: Bait		Kindness	Jackpot! Lot- tery Winners	:45 Movie:	MXC MXC	(CC) NBA	Club Comic View	Sister, Sister Even Stevens	College	Baseball Tonight (CC)	:15 Movie: The Opposite
10	:PM :30	News (CC) Nightline		Primer Impacto Noticiero Univ.	70s Show	News Late Show-	Noticias	News Tonight Show	(CC)	The Hour of Healing	Charlie Rose	Power Tool Drag Racing	Sands of Iwo Jima (CC)	Lance Krall Comedy Inc.	Basketball: Playoffs	Nightly News BET Style	That's-Raven	NCAA Semifinal		of Sex (CC)
11	:PM :30		Jimmy Kimmel	La Hora	Becker (CC) Becker (CC)	Letterman Late Late	Laura Al Rojo Vivo-	Late Night-	40 Movie:	Sam Peak Jesse Lee Pe.	Sign Off	Power Tool Drag Racing	:45 Movie:		Teams TBA (CC)	Midnight Love	Proud Family	Stump-Schwab Stump-Schwab	Outside-Lines	Movie: The Prophecy II
12	:AM :30		Extra (CC) Paid Program	Alma Rebelde	Spin City Roseanne	Show The Insider	Maria Celeste Programa	Conan O'Brien Frasier (CC)	House Party	Update/Israel Faye Hardin		Jackpot! Lot- tery Winners		Real TV (CC) Blind Date	Inside the NBA	Club Comic View	Lizzie McGuire	Billiards:	SportsCenter	(CC) Better Luck

DENNIS THE MENACE



GRAMPA, TELL ME ONE OF THOSE STORIES YOU'VE TOLD ME HUNDREDS OF TIMES.

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"When I go out to play with the guys
I like to take PJ. Then I'm not the littlest."

HAGAR





BLONDIE







BC



WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



FUTURE GENERATIONS WILL MARVEL AND SWOON WHEN THEY BEHOLD MY FEAT!

OH, WELL ... SWOONING 15 MARVELLING AND SWOONING.

HI AND LOIS





THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH

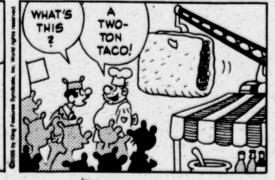




BEETLE BAILEY







This Date In History

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, May 5, the 125th day of 2005. There are 240 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 5, 1961, astronaut Alan B. Shepard Jr. became America's first space traveler as he made a 15-minute sub-orbital flight in a capsule launched from Cape Canaveral, Fla. On this date:

1821, Napoleon Bonaparte died in exile on the island of St. Helena.

In 1862, Mexican forces loyal to Benito Juarez defeated French troops sent by Napoleon III in the Battle of Puebla. In 1925, John T. Scopes

was arrested in Tennessee for teaching Darwin's theory of evolution.

In 1942, during World War

II, Japanese forces landed on the Philippine island of Corregidor.

In 1945, in the only fatal attack of its kind during World War II, a Japanese balloon bomb exploded on Gearhart Mountain in Oregon, killing the pregnant wife of a minister and five children.

In 1955, West Germany became a sovereign state. In 1955, the baseball musi-

cal "Damn Yankees" opened on Broadway. In 1980, a siege at the

Iranian embassy in London by armed men demanding the release of political prisoners in Iran ended as British commandos and police stormed the building. Nineteen hostages were rescued; two others had, already been killed by their captors; four of the five hostage-takers also were killed.

In 1981, Irish Republican Army hunger-striker Bobby Sands died at the Maze Prison in Northern Ireland in his 66th day without food.

In 1985, President Reagan

kept a promise to West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl by leading a wreathlaying ceremony at the military cemetery in Bitburg.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Ann B. Davis is 79. Actress Pat Carroll is 78. AFL-CIO president John J. Sweeney is 71. Saxophonist Ace Cannon is 71. Country singer-musician Roni Stoneman is 67. Actor Michael Murphy is 67. Actor Lance Henriksen is 65. Comedian-actor Michael Palin is 62. Actor Jean-Pierre Leaud is 61. Actor John Rhys-Davies is 61. Actor Roger Rees is 61. Broadcast journalist John Miller is 47

Answer to previous puzzle

www.stanxwords.com

30 Actress

33 County

40 Gawked

43 Animus

47 Unpaid

49 Falco of

51 Painter

52 Nervous

Holbein

42 My, in

Papas

31 Governess

exhibitions

36 Cajun seafood

Versailles

45 Martin or Allen

for Congress?

The Sopranos

46 One running

48 Camera part

50 Part of a chair

55 AMA members

56 Slugger's stat

Newsday Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Ducks and chickens
- 5 Real-estate
- measure
- 9 Ross or Red 12 Pine (for)
- 13 Faint, slangily
- 15 Glitch
- 16 Inexpensive
- fruit? 18 Artist's
- inspiration. _ poodle
- 20 Frying medium
- 21 Pictures
- 23 Pipe up
- intelligence
- 32 Small role
- 33 Grow weary
- 35 Zone
- 37 Middle East
- 38 Take umbrage
- ingredient
- 41 Envelope
- stamp 43 WWII admiral
- 45 Drains of

SHUFFLE ALONG by Norma Steinberg

- 11 Eons
- for the buck 15 Neighborhood
- 60 Journal execs.
- centers? 62 Tiny

DOWN

- 1 Datum 2 Quatro y
- quatro
- 3 Curds partner
- 4 Grazing place 5 Repulses
- 6 Salesperson
- 7 Line on a
- 8 Last entry in
- some lists 9 Cozy
- Sorvino
- 36 City on the Nile

- Hollywood

- 46 Walesa's
- 49 Feminine suffix
- Stoops to Conquer

- 10 Freedom
- 53 Stunned 54 Snake fear?
- 57 Barry or Tunney
- 58 Gearshift stop
- 61 Lawn source

- 24 Elliptical 25 "Street"
- 28 Army padre
- for a star
- 34 Actress

- 39 Paella
- 40 Close in
- 44 Tiffs
- strength
- homeland

- Edited by Stanley Newman
- from care
- 14 Pasternak
- protagonist
- shopping
- 17 Aristotle's
- teacher 22 Orienteering
- aid
- 23 Tire-store
- exchange? 24 Chicago
- airport
- 25 Rascal
- 26 Racer Andretti
- 22 Down 27 Congregation
 - cries

 - 29 Helpers

 - 28 Get along well

 - - 21 22
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Go online and check out www.thatsracin.com for the latest information and news on stock-car racing, updated daily.

Evening start time fuels Darlington ticket sales

By DAVID NEWTON Knight Ridder Newspapers

alladega Superspeedway has more than twice as many seats as Darlington Raceway and twice as many race dates as NASCAR's oldest superspeedway. It also has twice as many cars involved in big wrecks judging by the 25-car pileup during last Sunday's 500-miler won by Jeff

But Darlington has one thing that Talladega president Grant Lynch hopes to have one day

Lights

Darlington will host its first Nextel Cup event under the lights at 7:10 p.m. Saturday. It will do so with a sellout crowd, the second since the track expanded to 60,000 seats in 1997 and the first before race day.

Track president Chris Browning announced Monday that every ticket for the Dodger Charger 500 is sold and that he is starting a waiting list for next year. He said racing under the lights has a lot to do with the renewed interest.

Lynch, who sees the day when his 2.66mile track is illuminated, agreed.

"Lights seem to change the way people view race tracks," he said. "The cars look special at night. They kind of twinkle out there going around the track.

"The color and pageantry of nighttime racing, it's pretty neat."

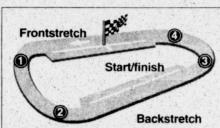
Many in NASCAR say lights could boost attendance and spark expansion at Darlington as they have done for other tracks such as Richmond and Bristol.

In 1990, 50,000 attended the spring race at the 64,000-seat Richmond track. Lights were added in September of 1991 and the following year the track sold out.

It has sold out every race twice a year

107,000 seats to make it one of the hottest tickets in NASCAR. Since lights were installed at Bristol Speedway in 1978, the night race has be-

since, and capacity has expanded to



DARLINGTON RACEWAY

Area of track gree of banking Turns 3 and 4 23 degrees Frontstretch, backstretch 2 degrees Length of each straightaway: 1,229 ft.

come one of the most popular on the circuit. After Bruton Smith purchased the track in 1996, the facility has grown from 71,000 seats to 160,000, with every Cup race during that span a sellout.

"Bristol was just kind of mediocre until they added lights," said Buddy Baker, who won two Darlington races before retiring. "When they put them in they had to start adding more seats because everybody wanted to go to that race.

"It could do the same thing for Darlington. I can't wait."

Former Darlington president Jim Hunter, NASCAR's vice president for corporate communications, said night racing will bring the same atmosphere to Darlington that collegiate football games enjoy under the lights.

He said lights could help the track, which lost one race date this season, keep its remaining date.

"They take everything up a whole other level," he said. "That's how NASCAR started. We used to run on Saturday nights or Friday nights or Thursday night at places like Columbia Speedway and Greenville-Pickens (both in South Carolina).

"It's going to be big for the track." Competitors like night races because the temperature is cooler and the track typically has more grip. They especially like Saturday night races because it gives them Sunday off to be with family and friends.

Dale Earnhardt Jr. said he never had more fun than at Phoenix two weeks ago, when the Subway Fresh 500 finished under the lights: Sterling Marlin wishes all races were on Saturday night. His only concern at Darlington is the sun, recalling how tough Turn 3 was near sunset in November when the Southern 500 finished under the lights.

You couldn't see nothing," he said. "We had a real good car, drove to the top five and hit the wall twice. It was like driving into a tunnel on the interstate. You went in blind.

Kasey Kahne, who won the truck race under the lights at Darlington in November, pointed out that the walls at the 1.366-mile track are going to be a factor day or night. They come up quick-all the time," he

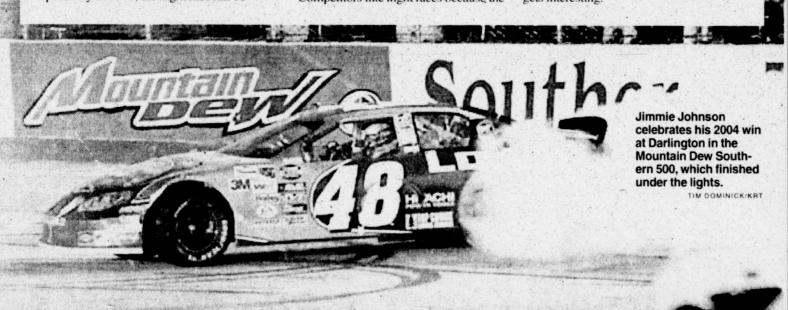
said. "The lights just help the excitement." Lowe's Motor Speedway president Humpy Wheeler foresees a day in the next. 10 years when most Cup races will be at

"There's going to be pressure on Daytona for the 500 to be at night," he said. "That's all driven by TV because the numbers are so much greater.'

The only numbers Browning is concerned with at Darlington are tickets sold. He will take the waiting list he is compiling -600 after one day, which he said doesn't represent all the people the track has turned away - to International Speedway Corp. in the fall as evidence that the facility can handle expansion.

He said the common thread among those calling for tickets are the lights.

"Comments like, 'Man, that place is going to look great under the lights," Browning said. "That's definitely adding a real exciting twist to the place and the racing. Then you add in our (egg-shaped) configuration and the track surface, and it really gets interesting.



RANKINGS

THAT'S RACIN'S TOP PICKS

1. Jimmie Johnson (car No. 48): What? Two whole weeks without a top-10 finish? Heads will roll! Last

2. Jeff Gordon (car No. 24): Nine races, three wins. That rate puts him five up on Dale Earnhardt by season's end. Last week: 4.

3. Kurt Busch (car No. 97): Holds second in the points standings with another solid restrictor-plate finish. Last

4. Greg Biffle (car No. 16): Talladega was an example of this team's improvement, managing a 13th place finish in the face of adversity. Last week: 3

5. Elliott Sadler (car No. 38): The same formula that got him in the Chase last season is working perfectly again this year. Last week: 7.

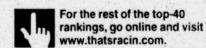
6. Kevin Harvick (car No. 29): Car went from front to back to front to middle to front to crash to 12th-place finish at Talladega. Last week: 6.

7. Carl Edwards (car No. 99): Losing traction after terrific start to the season. He's back to 14th in the points standings. Last week: 5

8. Dale Earnhardt Jr. (car No. 8): Says he enjoys squeezing OK finishes out of so-so cars. Winning would be more fun. Last week: 10.

9. Tony Stewart (car No. 20): Frustration central - he now has four second places at Talladega without a win there. Last week: 11.

10. Dale Jarrett (car No. 88): What's up with the speeding penalties? Is NASCAR's electronic system mad at him? Last week: 12.



Talladega's costly wrecks aren't worth money, risks

t took Matt Kenseth just four words to say what needed to be aid after Sunday's Aaron's 499 at Talladega Superspeedway. "It's just silly racing," Kenseth said.

Amen and amen. Why do NASCAR team owners and drivers put up with what goes on

Wouldn't it just be more efficient, not to mention a whole lot safer, for the owners to each put about \$100,000 in small-denomination bills into a big pile and let somebody burn it? A fire that size would at least give them some warmth.

When NASCAR CEO and founder William H.G. France built Talladega, the drivers were forming a union and managed to stage a boycott of the first race at the 2.66-mile track. France put on a race anyway and broke the union's back.

In the process, as drivers complained that the speeds at Talladega

were too fast for the tires to handle, "Big Bill" France said the drivers had an accelerator pedal and were therefore able to control how fast a car traveled here. That's always seemed like good ad-

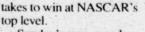
entered in a race here had the courage to do it, they'd be wise to run a 500-mile race here at a speed of about 60 mph. Just ride around in formation all day at highway speeds, then afterward - in unison - say "That's as fast as we

vice, even for today's

drivers. If the 43 men

That will never happen, of course. Richard Brickhouse, who won the first race at Talladega, and the group of drivers who ran with him that day in 1969 proved that you can always find somebody who's willing to do what it

could go and be assured of our safety."



Sunday's race, won by Jeff Gordon, was thrilling to watch. But so is a tornado, as long as you're not in

None of the drivers involved in a 25-car wreck on Lap 133 or a six-car crash on Lap 187 was seriously hurt. But if that's the deciding measure of

whether what goes on in races here is a good idea, then the sporting world's standards have simply fallen too low. The enduring image from Sunday's

race isn't Gordon celebrating his 72nd career victory. The lasting tableau from this Talladega race is the helicopter shot from Fox on Turn 1 following Big One No. 1.

Reporters who cover any kind of beat for a significant period of time have people they can turn to for guidance about what's really going on. These are people you simply talk to far more times than you interview; people whose names don't always show up in a story but who quite often help shape your impressions and judg-

Recently, one such person has tried to convince me that people who don't like the rules or the way they're enforced need to understand that racing is NASCAR's game. If you don't like it, don't show up to play. Nobody's forcing you to be here.

As usual, he's exactly right. And that's precisely what the teams should do when it comes to plate racing, at least at Talladega.

Don't show up.

After every plate race, particularly one at Talladega, it's not at all difficult to find a driver who'll say something like, "This isn't racing."

They're exactly right, too. So why do it?

THIS WEEK'S RACE

DODGE CHARGER 500

Where: Darlington Raceway, a.1.366-mile egg-shaped banked paved oval located in Darlington, S.C

When: Saturday at 7:10 p.m. (all times ET). Qualifying is 5:10 p.m. Friday.

Radio: Motor Racing Network.

Purse: \$5,278,043.

Last year's winner: Jimmie Johnson. Worth mentioning: Jeff Gordon has 20 top-10 starts in 24 races at Darlington. He has poles and a 6.25 starting average, second only to Ryan Newman (5.2),

Johnson has a 7.8 average finish at Darlington, the best average finish among drivers with

two or more starts Bobby Labonte has three consecutive top-10 finishes at Darlington.

POLL POSITION

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION Dale Earnhardt Jr. has made his feelings known about the wreck at Talladega, placing much of the blame on Jimmie Johnson. What do you think about his comments?

Cast your vote at:

www.thatsracin.com

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION

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

Number of votes: 4.631

		A part
Response	No. of votes	Percent
No, it's still Chevy's show.	3,397	73%
Yes, Ford will find a way.	731	16%
Yes, it's Dodge's turn.	503	11%

STOP 'N' GO

WHO'S HOT

■ The hottest drivers in the series are not necessarily those in the top 10 in points. Only two drivers have finished in the top 10 in each of the past three races. One is Kurt Busch, solidly in the top 10. The other? Michael Waltrip, who after a dismal start to 2005 is racing back into contention.

Roush Racing and Hendrick Motorsports together own eight of the nine victories this season. The lone holdout? Richard Childress Racing, with Kevin Harvick's win at Bristol,

WHO'S NOT

■ After a 13-race streak of top-10 finishes dating back to last season, series points leader Jimmie Johnson has finished 15th or lower in his past two

■ Talk about tough. Bobby Labonte has failed to finish five of the nine races this season, more than any other driver. One year ago, Labonte was 10th in points.

- Jim Utter

BY THE NUMBERS

NEXTEL CUP POINTS LEADERS

The top-40 drivers as of May 1: Rank/Driver Rank/Driver Points Jimmie Johnson . 1368 21. Dave Blaney Kurt Busch 1238 22. Kasey Kahne Jeff Gordon 1217 23. Matt Kenseth Greg Biffle. 1181 24. Joe Nemechek Elliott Sadler 1164 25. Brian Vickers 847 Tony Stewart 1088 26. Kyle Busch Dale Jarrett. 1085 27. Kyle Petty 830 Kevin Harvick 1083 28. Mike Bliss 822 9. Dale Earnhardt Jr. 1070 29. Ken Schrader 798 10. Jamie McMurray . 1067 30. Travis Kvapil 777 11. Mark Martin 1066 31. Jeff Green 775 12. Jeremy Mayfield 1064 32. Ricky Rudd 732 13. Rusty Wallace ... 1057 33. Bobby Labonte. 714 14. Carl Edwards . 1046 34. Jason Leffler. 15. Ryan Newman. 1045 35. Mike Wallace 681 16. Michael Waltrip 1036 36. Scott Wimmer 17. Sterling Marlin 1029 37. Bobby Hamilton Jr. 576 18. Jeff Burton . . 1013 38. Kevin Lepage. 439 19. Scott Riggs. 934 39. Robby Gordon 377 20. Casey Mears 40. Hermie Sadler

BUSCH SERIES POINTS LEADERS

The top-2	0 drive	rs as of April 30:	
Rank/Driver F	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. Carl Edwards	. 1482	11. David Green	1069
2. Clint Bowyer	. 1335	12. Greg Biffle	1059
3. Reed Sorenson .	. 1329	13. Jason Keller	1054
4. Martin Truex Jr	. 1260	14. Shane Hmiel	986
5. Ashton Lewis	. 1207	15. Randy LaJoie.	957
6. David Stremme .	. 1154	16. Justin Labonte	949
7. Kevin Harvick	. 1149	17. Stacy Compton	914
8. Denny Hamlin	. 1149	18. Paul Menard	890
9. Jon Wood	. 1147	19. Kasey Kahne .	880
10. Kenny Wallace	. 1146	20. Tim Fedewa	838

NEXT RACE: Friday, Diamond Hill Plywood 200, Darlington, S.C.

TRUCK SERIES POINTS LEADERS

The top-10 drivers as of April 30: Rank/Driver Rank/Driver Points Ron Hornaday Ted Musgrave. Bobby Hamilton . . Dennis Setzer Ricky Craven 748 Johnny Renson 745 Chad Chaffin Jimmy Spencer ...

678 NEXT RACE: May 15, UAW-GM Ohio 250, Mans-

Bob Brock

Ford Lincoln Mercury Nissar Pre-Owned 500 W. 4th 267-7121



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10. Matt Crafton .