

BSISD trustees to examine district's financial report card

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

Big Spring Independent School District trustees will like what they see when they examine the district's "financial report card" at their regular meeting at 5:15 p.m. today in the high school board room.

Trustees will hold a public hearing to discuss

results of the district's Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (School FIRST) report. The good news is that BSISD has earned a "Superior" rating — the best possible — for the third year in a row.

Business Manager Sandra Waggoner said the Texas Education Agency annually reviews a wide array of financial data

from the district to determine whether expenditures meet state guidelines.

"(TEA takes) that data, and they determine whether we're making enough money on our investments, see how much we're spending in the classroom, how we did on our audit, a variety of things," Waggoner said. "It's not very

involved at all. It's something we have to give them anyway."

Also tonight, Paul Pryor will meet with trustees to discuss the possibility of purchasing the old Runnels Junior High School building.

Pryor, director of Crossroads Housing Development Corp., is interested in transforming the old campus into

transitional housing for veterans being serviced by the local VA hospital.

Waggoner said trustees will discuss granting Pryor an "option to purchase" the campus, basically giving him first chance to buy the building.

In other business, trustees will consider:

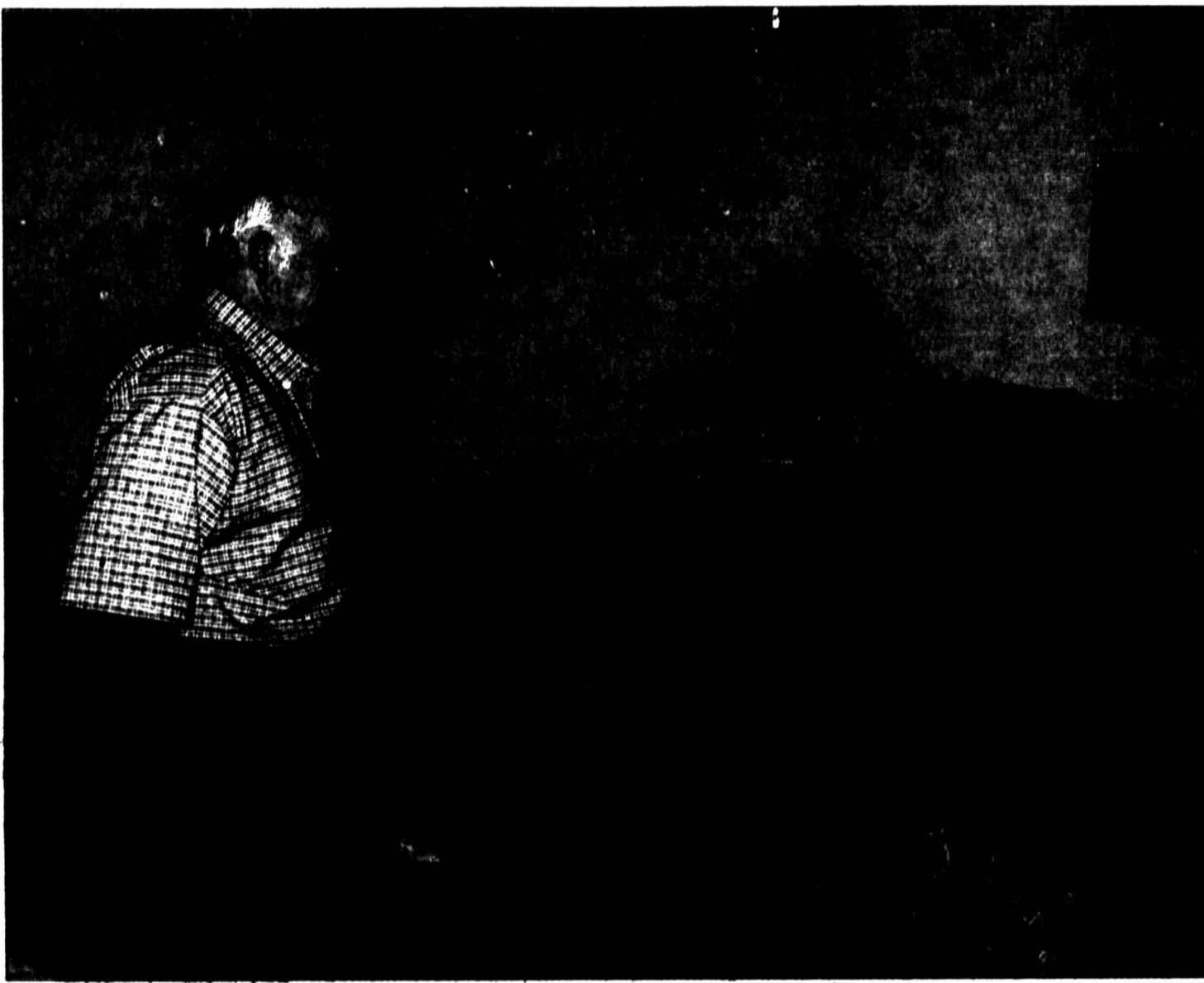
- The annual delinquent tax collection report.

- A lease agreement with Greater Opportunities of the Permian Basin.

- Budget amendments and policy updates.

- Employment and resignations.

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



Limestone Ridge Apartments Manager Ian Nickerson, right, shows an apartment to Paul Pryor, a member of the Operation Big Heart relief effort for victims of Hurricane Katrina. Nickerson and area church members have furnished 15 apartments at the complex for evacuees' use.

Herald photo/Steve Reagan

Churches pitch in to make evacuees feel at home here

By **STEVE REAGAN**

Staff Writer

Ian Nickerson and a group of area church people are doing everything they can to make displaced survivors of Hurricane Katrina feel at home — literally.

Nickerson — manager of Limestone Ridge Apartments and the minister of the West Highway 80 Church of Christ — and representatives of several area churches responded rapidly when they heard Big Spring was going to

be at least the temporary home to 75 Katrina survivors.

That they responded is not so unusual; after all, lots of people have responded to the evacuees' plight.

How they responded, however, is somewhat out of the ordinary — they "adopted" 15 apartments at Limestone Ridge, filling them with almost every conceivable need, from toothbrushes to beds, couches and washers and dryers.

See **RELIEF**, Page 3A

Agency working to secure jobs for Katrina victims

By **THOMAS JENKINS**

Staff Writer

A place to live is only part of the equation for someone who has been displaced by a disaster the magnitude of Hurricane Katrina. What about an income?

That's the question the Big Spring Workforce Network is trying to answer for several of the families recently evacuated from Louisiana who have decided to stay in the Big Spring area.

"We had a meeting Tuesday night with several of the families who are planning to stay," said Mary Gregg, assistant area manager for the Big Spring Workforce Network. "There are about 15 people who are planning to stay and are looking for work."

See **JOBS**, Page 3A

Volunteers needed to help sort items

Herald Staff Report

Response to the call for donations to help Hurricane Katrina evacuees has been so overwhelming that organizers have had to move their base of operations from the Lions Club Event Center to the Alert Hangar at McMahan-Wrinkle Airpark.

The volume of donations has created the need for additional volunteers to help sort and distribute them, however.

"We need all those people that first showed up to help us to volunteer again," said Beverly McMahon, one of the drive's coordinators. "We need help and we need it as soon as we can get it."

More than 300 volunteers stepped

forward when Operation Big Heart began, and from the outset, Big Spring Mayor Russ McEwen said volunteers would be needed for an extended period of time.

Hours of operation at the hangar are from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday.

For more information on volunteering, call 714-7641.

HC's Adult Basic Education provides key opportunities

By **STEVE REAGAN**

Staff Writer

Today is International Literacy Day — but almost every day is literacy day at Howard College's Adult Basic Education Department.

International Literacy Day has been established to call attention to the approximately 862 million illiterate people worldwide, and the efforts to

reduce that number.

Those efforts coincide nicely with HC's Adult Basic Education. Although the program does not directly address literacy issues, it does provide educational opportunities to adults who have not received either a high school diploma or General Equivalency Diploma (GED).

Department Director Debbie Klepper touted several services

offered at Howard.

"We offer classes in GED preparation, pre-GED preparation and English as a Second Language (ESL)," said Klepper, who has been in charge of the ACE program at the college for the past five years.

Although exact figures are not available for this year, more than 1,300 students in six cities were served by the department last year.

The department offers courses in Big Spring, Stanton, Colorado City, Sweetwater, Snyder and Big Lake. In addition, courses are offered at the five prisons in town.

"We're giving people the opportunity to prepare to get their GED, which helps them get a job, a better job, or get them into college," she said. "ESL courses are designed to help people communicate better

in English."

Persons may enroll in the respective classes on the first and third Monday of each month. Students are given a placement test to determine their level of proficiency, Klepper said.

Attendance is not mandatory. "It's up to the individual student," she said. "Obviously, the

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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.

BSHS OPEN HOUSE SET

Big Spring High School will hold an open house from 7 p.m. until 8:15 p.m. Monday.

Students and parents are asked to report to the student's first-period classroom no later than 7 p.m. to meet the instructors and receive information on academic planning and general school policies.

According to Principal Mike Ritchey, parents will also have the opportunity to meet all of their children's teachers during a student walk-through. Anyone needing more information is asked to call 264-3641.

COMING THIS WEEKEND



Rain," is centered around the small town that shaped her so profoundly.

Cover

Story:

Country

singer

Trisha

Yearwood

is

returning

to her

Georgia

roots for

her first

CD in

four

years.

The

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of her

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well as

"Georgia

DINE OUT DAY FOR UW

KC Steakhouse on the I-20

service road is the Dine

Out Day restaurant Friday

for United Way of Big

Spring and Howard County.

A portion of the restaurant's

proceeds that day will be donated to

United Way.

The following Friday, Sept. 16, which is

homecoming for Big Spring High School,

the Dine Out Day restaurant will be

Herman's. Future Dine Out Day restau-

rants are Spanish Inn, Sept. 23;

Domino's, Sept. 30; Christene's, Oct. 7;

Greg's Grill, Oct. 14; Gale's Sweet

Shoppe, Oct. 21; and La Posada, Oct. 28.



Obituaries

Inez Newton Grant



Inez Newton Grant, 102, died Tuesday, Sept. 6, 2005, at a local nursing home after a brief illness. Funeral services are 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 10, 2005, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with the Rev. Dennis Teeters, pastor of First Baptist Church, officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends from 6:30 p.m. until 8 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

Born Aug. 29, 1903, in Levita, she was the second child of Joseph Norwood Newton and Nettie Mae Coleman. She married Haskell Grant Aug. 28, 1935, in Lubbock and he preceded her in death Jan. 19, 1998. She was a teacher for 42 years, having taught at Howard County schools including Knott, Moore, Fairview, South Ward and North Ward in Big Spring. She was a member of the First Baptist Church.

She is survived by a son and daughter-in-law, Gary and Carolejean Grant of Big Spring; a granddaughter; a brother and sister-in-law, Robert and Dora Newton of Granbury; a brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Jack and Laura Grant of Santa Fe, Texas; a sister-in-law, Inez Shivers of Big Spring; and several nieces and nephews.

She was also preceded in death by her parents, two brothers and two sisters.

The family suggests memorials be made to South Plains Scholarship Fund, 1401 S. College Ave., Levelland 79336 or Howard College Scholarship Fund, 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 at www.npwelch.com.

Pete Girby

Pete Girby, 73, died at 7:15 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2005, at his residence. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Weather

Tonight...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 60s. Southeast winds around 10 mph in the evening becoming light and variable.

Friday...Partly cloudy. Highs around 90. South winds around 10 mph.

Friday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 60s. South winds around 10 mph.

Saturday...Partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs in the lower 90s. South winds 10 to 15 mph.

Saturday night...Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the mid 60s.

Sunday...Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the upper 80s.

Sunday night...Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the lower 60s.

Monday...Partly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the upper 80s.

Monday night...Partly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the lower 60s.

Tuesday...Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs around 90.

Tuesday night...Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the lower 60s.

Wednesday...Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs around 90.

Lottery

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 5-6-8-13-24. Bonus Ball: 15. Number matching five of five, plus Bonus Ball: none. Number matching five of five: 2. Prize: \$7,626. Estimated jackpot for Saturday night drawing: \$4 million.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 14-16-17-26-30. Number matching five of five: none. Next Cash 5 drawing: Thursday night.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 6-7-2

Support groups

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

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

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

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

SATURDAY
• Alcoholics Anonymous open discussion meeting, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. Open podium/speakers meeting 615 Settles 8 p.m. until 9 p.m. Open birthday night, no smoking meeting the last Saturday of each month at 8 p.m.

Police blotter

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

• **MICHAEL SARMIENTO**, 42, of 2508 Langley, was arrested Wednesday on a Howard County warrant and two local citations.

• **YVONNE ACUFF**, 46, of 1509 Vines, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of driving while license invalid.

• **JIMMY GENE KIMBERLIN**, 25, of 709 Johnson, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

• **EVADING ARREST OR DETENTION** was reported:

- in the 600 block of 15th Street.
- in the 1500 block of Douglas.

- in the 1500 block of Pennsylvania.
• **CRIMINAL TRESPASS** was reported in the 1000 block of 12th Street.

• **BURGLARY OF A HABITATION** was reported in the 800 block of Baylor.

• **ASSAULT/CLASS C** was reported in the 800 block of Nolan.

• **ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE** was reported in the 1800 block of Monticello.

Sheriff's report

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

• **CHERYL CLAYTON**, 36, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of theft by check.

• **PAUL MORENO JR.**, 23, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of evading arrest or detention.

• **CHRISTOPHER LEE PARTRIDGE**, 21, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of theft, evading arrest or detention and a motion to revoke probation for resisting arrest, search or transportation.

• **JOSE MANUEL JIMENEZ JR.**, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for possession of marijuana - two ounces or less and a charge of bondsman off bond for driving while license suspended.

• **JOSE MIGUEL ROSALES**, 17, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of evading arrest or detention.

Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department reported the following activity:

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1000 block of Bell. One person was transported to the VAMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 300 block of E. Third Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1700 block of Lancaster. One person was transported to the VAMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 500 block of E. 16th Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 300 block of N.E. Second Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 700 block of Lancaster. One person was transported to the VAMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 300 block of Third Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1400 block of W. Second Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 800 block of E. 14th Street. One person was transported to the VAMC.

Take note

• **THE WEST TEXAS GIRL SCOUT COUNCIL SERVICE UNIT 35 RALLY** for girls and families interested in joining Girl Scouts from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Saturday in the Wal-Mart parking lot. Call 263-4502 for more information.

• **DOWNTOWN LIONS CLUB ANNUAL HAMBURGER SUPPER** is set for 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. Friday in the Big Spring High School cafeteria.

• **A WATERMELON FEST SPONSORED BY THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AUXILIARY** is set for 4:30 p.m. Saturday in the Old Settler's Reunion at Comanche Trail Park for all members and those eligible to be members. For more information, contact Shelbie Capps at 268-9445.

• **DONATIONS TO DEFRAY COSTS OF FUNERAL EXPENSES FOR 14-YEAR-OLD ISIDRO GONZALES** are being accepted at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. He died Aug. 12 from leukemia. Make donations directly to Myers & Smith at P.O. Box 2760, Big Spring 79721-2760.

• **THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY** need good condition books for an annual sale. Paperbacks and large print items are especially needed. Donated books can be delivered to the library weekdays during regular operating hours. If unable to bring the books to the library, call 263-4980 and request a pick up. All money from the sale goes to purchase items not included in the library's regular budget.

• **THE MOBILE MEALS PROGRAM** that delivers meals to the elderly and homebound needs volunteers to deliver meals. If you can spare one hour per week to deliver eight or 10 meals, you are needed. About 85 to 90 meals are prepared, packaged and delivered to recipients within the city limits of Big Spring. If you can volunteer, please call 263-4016 before 3 p.m.

• **ROAD TO RECOVERY**, sponsored by the American Cancer Society, seeks volunteers to drive cancer patients to treatment in Midland. This requires just a few hours commitment each month. To volunteer, or to request a ride for treatment, call LaWanda Hamm at 263-7827.

Bulletin board

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

TODAY

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

• Friends of the Library meets at noon in the Howard County Library, 500 S. Main.

• Big Spring Main Street meets at noon in the Railroad Museum located at Second and Main streets.

• American Legion Auxiliary meets at 6 p.m. at 3203 W. Highway 80.

• The Prospector's Club meets at 7:30 p.m. at 606 E. Third St. The public is invited to these meetings. For more information contact Lola Lamb at 263-3340 or Doyle and Virginia McClain at 263-8407.

• Neighbors and Newcomers Club meets. New members are welcome. Call 263-2005 for more information.

• Staked Plains Lodge No. 598 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 221 Main.

FRIDAY

• Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at 1019 Nolan St. Members bring their own lunch. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281.

• AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant.

• Greater Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

• Spring City Senior Citizen's Center country and western dance from 7:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. featuring Monroe Casey and the Prowlers. All area senior citizens are invited.

SATURDAY

• Big Spring Symphony and Chorale season ticket campaign begins.

• Free eye glasses are available from 9 a.m. until 11:45 a.m. in the Event Center, 1607 E. Third.

• A watermelon fest sponsored by the Disabled American Veterans is set for 4:30 p.m. in the Old Settler's Reunion at Comanche Trail Park for all members and those eligible to be members. For more information, contact Shelbie Capps at 268-9445.

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

MONDAY

• Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5 p.m. in the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, 306 W. Third for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 1-800-392-8677 or 263-0391 or 263-1758.

• Big Spring Band Boosters meet at 5:30 p.m. in the Big Spring High School band hall.

• Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. TX 1756 meets at 5:30 p.m. Monday in the 11th and Birdwell Lane Church of Christ. A different program is offered every week, and anyone 7 years old or older is welcome to attend. Please enter through the north-west door. Call 263-2786 for more information.

• Coahoma Lions Club meets at 6 p.m. in the Coahoma Community Center at 306 North Ave.

• Evening Lions Club meets at 6:30 p.m. in the La Posada Restaurant.

• Archeology Society for Howard and Borden counties meets at 7 p.m. in the Howard County Library Community Room in the basement. Call 270-2615 for more information.

• Concerned Citizens Council meets at 7 p.m. at 500 S. Main St., in the Dorothy Lamb Meeting Room of the Howard County Library. The public is welcome.

• Prospector's Club work night begins at 7 p.m. at 606 E. Third.

• Big Spring Society of the Order of Beacieants meets at 6:30 p.m. for a meal with meeting that begins at 7:30 p.m. at 221 Main.

• Big Spring Commandry meets at 7:30 p.m. at 221 Main.

TUESDAY

• Howard-Glasscock Counties American Cancer Society director's meeting in the dining room at Scenic Mountain Medical Center at noon. Call Sherry Hodnett at 264-7599 for more information.

• Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

WEDNESDAY

• Senior Leadership class begins.

• Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

• Senior Circle meets at 11 a.m. at Scenic Mountain Medical Center classroom for Stretch and Tone. Call 268-4721.

• Downtown Lions Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room.

• Line dancing begins at 1 p.m. at the Spring City Senior Citizen's Center in the Industrial Park. Call 267-6966 or 267-1628.

BIG SPRING HERALD

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Officials warn of toxic floodwaters in New Orleans

By SHARON COHEN
AP National Writer

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Soldiers toting M-16s strengthened their grip on this swamped city as concerns grew about the risks posed by the toxic floodwaters and officials braced for what could be

a staggering death toll by readying 25,000 body bags.

Across miles of ravaged neighborhoods of clapboard houses, grand estates and housing projects, workers struggled to find corpses and persuade the city's last stubborn residents to leave.

"Right now, human life is paramount so I'm concentrating all my power on getting out people who want to leave," New Orleans Police Chief Eddie Compass told NBC's "Today" show Thursday.

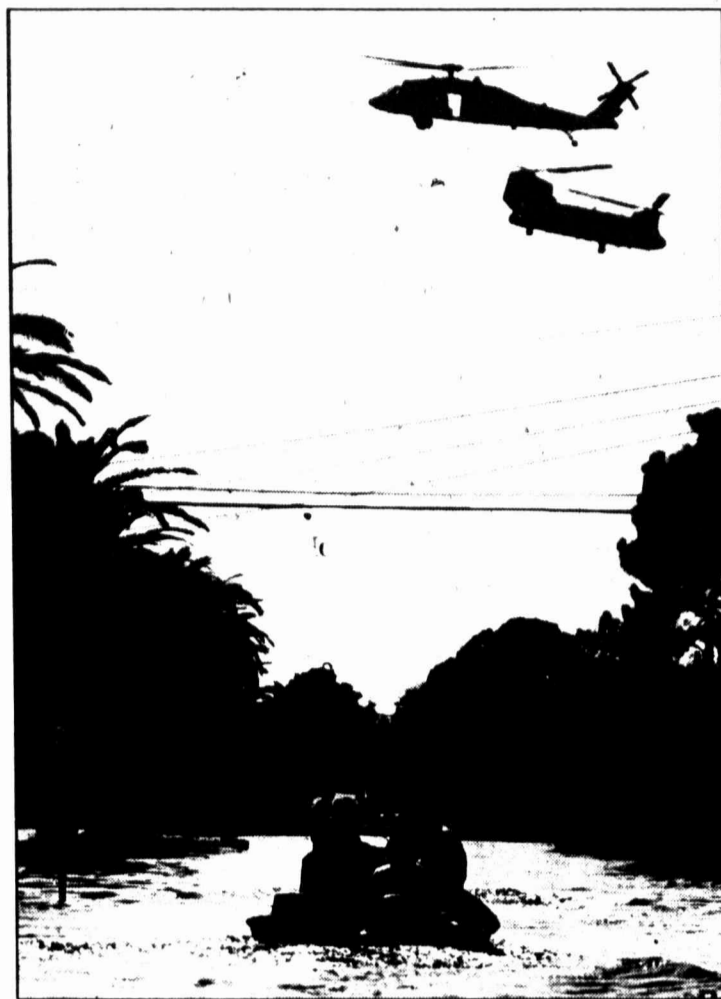
Coast Guard Vice Admiral Thad Allen, just appointed as deputy to FEMA Director Michael Brown, said Thursday it was unsafe to be in New Orleans.

"We're starting an operation today going block by block through the city, requesting people to leave their homes," he said on CBS' "The Early Show." "We need everyone out so we can continue with the work of restoring this city."

Searchers were armed with proof of what many holdouts had long feared: The floodwaters are thick with sewage-related bacteria that are at least 10 times higher than acceptable safety limits. The muck contains E. coli, certain viruses and a type of cholera-like bacteria.

"If you haven't left the city yet, you must do so," said Dr. Julie Gerberding, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. She urged anyone coming into contact with the water to scrub with soap and water.

The danger of infection



KRT photo/Jill Edwards

Search and rescue crews work through New Orleans, looking for Hurricane Katrina survivors willing to evacuate.

wasn't limited to the New Orleans area. The bacteria is feared to have migrated to crowded shelters outside the state, where many evacuees are staying. Four deaths — one in Texas, three in Mississippi — have been attributed to wound infections, said Tom Skinner, spokesman for the CDC.

Officials readied for the potential of a horrendous death toll. Bob Johannessen, spokesman for the state Department of Health and Hospitals, said officials have 25,000 body bags on hand in Louisiana. Asked if authorities expected that many bodies, he said: "We don't know what to

all adopted apartments on Sunday, Nickerson said.

In addition, Nickerson singled out John Kimberly, Anica Rainey, Ken Stallings and Michael and Juanita

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

WEATHER WHYS

Costliest Hurricanes

Q: Is Katrina going to be the costliest storm in U.S. history?

A: There appears to be little doubt that it will, says Brent McRoberts of Texas A&M University. "The cost projections, and these are updated almost daily, are at least \$100 billion," notes McRoberts. "That's about four times higher than the previous record holder, which was Hurricane Andrew in 1992 which cost \$26.5 billion. Both Charley and Ivan did about \$15 billion in damage in 2004, so there's no contest — Katrina is not only the costliest storm, but the costliest disaster in U.S. history."

Q: What about some of the earlier hurricanes?

A: Again, it's not even close, even when figures are adjusted for inflation, McRoberts says. "Hugo hit in 1989 and it did about \$10 billion in damage when adjusted for inflation, and Betsy, which hit New Orleans in 1965, did about \$7.5 billion. Camille, in 1969, is still the only category 5 storm to hit the U.S. in recent history, but even it did only about \$6 billion in damage, mainly because the gulf coast area was not so heavily built up like it is today. Besides the devastation and loss of lives, Katrina is in a class by itself when it comes to dollar damage."

Weather Whys is a service of Texas A&M University's Department of Atmospheric Sciences.

RELIEF

Continued from Page 1A

The apartments also come stocked with food, clothing, detergent and other household items. And every item is for the new residents to keep.

"All the furnishings are donated," Nickerson said. "In fact, we had to stop the donations from coming in."

What makes the group's effort so notable is that it was accomplished on such short notice.

Nickerson said he was first approached about supplying the apartments Friday — and United Affordable Housing,

which owns the complex, soon signed off on the idea, but efforts really began in earnest Sunday.

Churches across Howard County, as well as in Midland, supplied cash donations, while individuals began the task of getting the vacant apartments ready for their new occupants.

The result of their feverish work was in evidence Wednesday afternoon. Nickerson said 13 of the apartments were ready for immediate occupancy, while the other two would be ready within a day or two.

Nickerson showed the apartments Wednesday to representatives of

Operation Big Heart, which is spearheading relief efforts in Big Spring.

Needless to say, the representatives were impressed.

"I'm just blown away," said Kent Sharp, executive director of Moore Development for Big Spring. "Words can't express my feelings right now. This is absolute love."

People from West 80 Church of Christ, along with College Baptist, Ranch Restoration Ministries, 14th and Main Church of Christ, Christ Community Church, Iglesia Bautista Church and East Fourth Baptist,

JOB

Continued from Page 1A

"We talked about what kind of skills they have and what we're doing to help them find work. For those who were employed before the hurricane, we're helping them file the paperwork for unemployment benefits as well. The state of Texas is expediting their paperwork in an effort to get them some immediate relief."

Seventy-five evacuees from Louisiana — the majority coming from the Chalmette area east of New Orleans — were bused to Big Spring late Saturday night, part of Operation Big Heart, a local effort to provide relief for hurricane victims.

Gregg said each person involved in the job-seeking process has been given a host family and a case manager to make the

process as easy as possible.

"The host families are making sure they have a way to get to and from the workforce center," said Gregg. "The case workers are working to match them with employers. One family has already enrolled their children in school here. They said there's nothing for them to go back to, so they're staying. The father had experience in correctional work, so we've already managed to refer him to one of the local prisons."

Gregg said at this point in the effort, it's simply a matter of matching skills to job openings.

"We're working with them to find out what kind of skills they possess," said Gregg. "We also have several employers who have come to us and told us they will make room for these people at their businesses. It's really going very smoothly at this point."

Gregg said the majority of the people utilizing the network's services plan to stay in Big Spring indefinitely.

"Most of them don't have any plans of leaving," said Gregg. "There are a few who are looking for temporary work, however. These are people that are trying to save enough money to move somewhere else, usually closer to friends or family. We're looking for part-time and temporary jobs for those people. For the most part, however, most of them say they don't want to sit still. They want to do something."

For more information on the Big Spring Workforce Network and the services they provide, call 263-8373.

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

EDUCATION

Continued from Page 1A

more classes they attend, the faster they can complete the course."

Day courses are offered from 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Monday through Thursday at Room 109 of the Practical Arts Building on the HC campus.

Night courses are offered from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Mondays at the Howard College site, and

from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesdays at the Northside Community Center.

For more information, contact the department at 264-5014.

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

Notice to ALON FINA Retirees

ALON USA Picnic

scheduled for September 10 at the Big Spring Country Club has been cancelled.

Money that would have been allocated to the picnic will be donated to the Big Spring Katrina Relief Fund.

expect."

Mayor C. Ray Nagin had earlier said New Orleans' death toll could reach 10,000. Already, a temporary warehouse morgue in rural St. Gabriel that had been prepared to take 1,000 bodies was being readied to handle 5,000. The official death toll in Mississippi climbed to 201 Wednesday, but more than 1,000 are feared dead there, too.

In Mississippi, efforts to restore power to residents along the battered coast were moving along. Gov. Haley Barbour said Thursday on "Today" that power would be restored by Sept. 11 to all homes and businesses able to receive it.

Katrina victims could also soon get federal money in their pockets.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency, stung by criticism that it failed to act fast enough when Katrina hit, was prepared to hand out \$2,000 debit cards for each household affected by the storm. At the Houston Astrodom where many New Orleans evacuees are being housed, long lines formed to register.

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

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Louis T. Padron, 56, died Monday. Funeral Service will be at 3:00 PM Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Coahoma Cemetery.

Pete Kirby, 73, died Wednesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Susanne Reed
PublisherJohn A. Moseley
Managing EditorBill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Senior Leadership
an opportunity to
study community

It's again time for one of the really impressive programs the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce provides our community — Senior Leadership.

While a great many of us are familiar with the Leadership Big Spring program, designed to familiarize future community leaders with various assets and institutions in our community, fewer are familiar with the Senior Leadership program.

A new class of the Senior Leadership program will begin on Wednesday, Sept. 14.

This program is free to all senior citizens in the community — those who are 55 and older. Class sessions will be held every other week through Dec. 7.

The Chamber provides this program so senior citizens can stay up to date on activities and changes in our community, as well as to introduce them to the major entities we have in Big Spring.

Some perhaps don't know how Western Container makes plastic bottles for Coca Cola or what classes Howard College has to offer. Others may not know much about the ALON refinery and how it operates.

The program takes participants on tours and provides speakers from the community who discuss a number of different topics.

Obviously, Senior Leadership is another in the number of ways the Chamber helps improve our community.

Applications are available at the Chamber office located 215 W. Third, or at the RSVP office at 501 Rannels. In addition, interested persons can call the Chamber at 263-7641 or RSVP at 264-2397.

We encourage all interested senior citizens to pick up an application and take part in the program.

We believe you'll be glad you did.

HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

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

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

LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

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

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

More information and solutions come our way, Lord, when we trust in You.

Amen

A supreme decision for Bush

Some say it should be a woman that should replace retiring Sandra Day O'Connor. Others say the death of Chief Justice William Rehnquist gives President Bush an opportunity to nominate a second white conservative male to the Supreme Court. And yet others have suggested that a "hurricane candidate" (from the area devastated by Katrina) should be considered.

Many names are being named; many special interests are being guarded. But only one name sounds Hispanic, and Latino interests are being relegated — as usual — to the back burner.

On television, the talking heads are giving little hope to those have been waiting for a president — any president — to finally name a Latino to the Supreme Court.

The conservatives keep saying that Bush would "betray his base" if he appoints a moderate like U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales. And moderates and liberals are now more concerned about replacing a woman with another woman.

Bush has already nominated a white conservative, John Roberts, first to replace O'Connor and later to replace Rehnquist as chief justice.

Now the only way the President can avoid disappointing at least one major segment of the U.S. population is by naming a conservative Hispanic woman.



MIGUEL PEREZ

Unfortunately, among the names being tossed around, none belong to Latinas.

For many years Hispanic community leaders have lobbied both Republican and Democratic administrations for a high court appointment. And on several occasions, there have been Latino names on the lists of top contenders.

But Bush is now getting a second appointment. And if he doesn't use it to name a Latino, he will be disillusioning many people who see this as the last chance for a Latino Supreme Court appointment in many years.

In fact, many see Gonzales, the son of Mexican immigrants, as the last hope.

Gonzales is not only the president's friend, but a man who had been highly touted as the top contender for the nomination to replace O'Connor before Bush named Roberts a few weeks ago. Gonzales has already been nominated by Bush to many important posts: The Texas Supreme Court, White House Counsel and U.S. Attorney General.

If Bush doesn't appoint Gonzales to the high court, it won't because he lacks confidence in the man. It will be a political decision, a need to put another interest group before Latino interests. For Republicans seeking Latino votes in the future, this could be very costly.

When Bush sent Gonzales to head the Justice Department last year, many Washington insiders speculated that the president was positioning his friend for a Supreme Court nomination, especially since

Rehnquist had announced that he had thyroid cancer. They said it was part of a plan to bolster Gonzales' image among conservatives, who saw him as too moderate on issues such as abortion and affirmative action.

But there were others, myself included, who argued that a couple of years as attorney general cannot compare to the influence a person can have as a Supreme Court Justice for a couple of decades. We feared that sending Gonzales to the Justice Department could head off the urgency to name a Latino to the Supreme Court.

"It would give Bush an opportunity to fill the first vacancy that may arise with a more conservative non-Latino who would please his right-wing political base," I predicted in a column last November. "And it would leave Latino aspirations hanging on whether Bush gets to make a second appointment to the high court."

Well, that's precisely what has happened.

And yet the concerns of women, pro-lifers and other interest groups are still being placed ahead of the need to give Latinos adequate representation.

In the U.S. Hispanic community, the president's next high court appointment could determine how millions will vote in future elections.

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

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YOUR VIEWS

TO THE EDITOR:

There are three major problems in U.S. education that need fixing. The influence of political correctness must cease. Instruction efforts must return to teaching students the basic tools of learning. Politicians and bureaucrats must no longer hold students hostage as excuses to raise taxes.

Political correctness creates the need for unending federal and state mandates and for bureaucrats to ensure enforcement. Bureaucrats multiply endlessly as they hire additional bureaucrats to do their jobs. Money goes into administration rather than rewarding excellent teachers.

Most of the world is teaching students reading, writing, mathematics, science and English. Our guilt-filled education system is teaching students the shame of hard work and prosperity, the hazards of freedom and competition, the bigotry of our Founding Fathers, the disgrace of our national heritage and the overall threat of capitalism and Judeo-Christian values to humanity.

Textbook purchases are delayed and teaching staff reduced to encourage working people to endure additional tax increases. As basic economic principles are not applied to controlling educational costs, there is no end to the amount of tax money spent by politicians and bureaucrats.

The sooner Texas returns to responsible economics and basic education, including discipline and respect, the more secure will be our future. Our taxes will decrease when money goes to education rather than bureaucrats. Educated students will be able to obtain better jobs, make more money and pay taxes rather than collect welfare or do time in prison. It's time for Texas to lead the way in education reform.

DR. DONALD R. MAY
LUBBOCK

TO THE EDITOR:

I saw it yesterday. I wasn't even aware at first, but, then, it dawned on me what I was witnessing.

My husband and I had been in Fort Worth for the weekend, and we left there to return to Big Spring Sunday afternoon. I drove and let him rest.

It dawned on me ever so slowly what I was seeing, but it did, finally, dawn on me.

Trucks were pulling four-wheeled vehicles, trailers with tractors, trailers with generators, military convoys with equipment that I couldn't recognize, camper after camper, and I knew then what it was. These wonderful people were volunteers who were going to assist our brothers and sisters who are hurting and needing help in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama.

I was seeing America.
I was seeing America at its finest.

I was seeing people who had taken vacation time to go and assist an area of our country because the South needs their help. Differences? What differences? A part of us hurts, and they are going. They are going to let the people hit by Hurricane Katrina know that their brothers and sisters around this great nation are concerned and do care about them.

When I got home and opened the paper, I saw that Big Spring was opening its arms to some of our southern friends who desperately need help. I'd been wondering how I was going to be able to help, and, now, I found that I can help by donating and being of assistance right here at home.

Never fear ... the South shall rise again, and she will rise with the help of what makes America great ... the caring people who live in the greatest nation of all — the United States of America. Big Spring will be a part of that effort. What an opportunity! What a country! God bless America.

SUZANNE CRANFORD
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

I would like to thank the Big Spring Chamber and all those who gave us the opportunity to assist the families coming in from the hurricane.

It was a rewarding and awe inspiring experience to witness first hand the united effort that this city of such Big Hearts has placed out to these people.

From a worker volunteer's perspective the three-day and night preparation of sorting, tagging and arranging the tremendous assortment of needed items so generously given was the absolute best thing I have ever volunteered to do. In only three days there was so much given that the building area needed expansion in every department.

The anticipated arrival of the first families at the event center was greeted with a rousing applause from the volunteer team and as the people filed in, we could see the exhaustion on their faces but also the grateful smiles. Each volunteer was asked to personally assist at least one person in finding their needed items from the tables and tables of items that were donated.

I assisted about four people and the stories were heartbreaking as well as joyful. When I asked one man if I could help him find something, he replied, "Yes, could you help me find my wife and daughters? I have not seen them since this thing hit."

I could only cry with him and wish there was more I could do for him.

One lady, told me she was just a simple farmer. Her family had lost three vehicles and a small farm but they felt so loved here in Big Spring that they planned to stay and her

husband was looking for a mechanic's position. She was thrilled to have a pair of shoes and a dry bag to place her few personal things into.

These people seem to be in shock and many could not even focus on what it was they needed. I thought, "Where do you start when you need everything?" She said the thing she missed the most were her animals to cuddle and care for. She said that her day there at the event center and selecting various coordinating clothing was the very best since the hurricane struck them. It was my delight to help her find some wonderful fashions and to get to know her as a friend. We were like two gals on a Ladies Day Out shopping trip. She was smiles all over.

One lady that I helped wanted only a pair of shoes, since all she had were a pair of shower thongs to wear. She really wanted to get her hair done and there was also several other people who wanted haircuts as well. She said that they had just retired and remodeled their house with new furniture and a car and a new roof. The house was filling with mud when they left. Then her husband went back later but found the house had collapsed with the new roof setting on top and all their things pancaked inside. They now have nothing except Big Spring as their helpers.

Then there was a 3-year-old boy who was being cared for by his godmother because his parents were missing. I asked him if he would like a toy and he said, "Yes please." I'm not kidding, this child was somber faced but more polite than any 3-year-old child I have ever seen.

He went into the area that looked like Santaland with its tables and tables of toys and children playing on the floor. He looked and looked until he spotted a toy truck and a horse trailer. He then found some miniature horses and carried them one by one back to the trailer to finally fit three into the trailer. That was all he wanted out of that entire room of toys.

I said, "You must really like horses. Do you have horses?" He said with that little somber, sad face, "Yes, I like horses very much but mine all died in the big water." This one gift given of a toy truck, trailer and miniature horses can keep this loved memory alive for him.

Many people seemed confused and not able to think about what they needed and I am sure they will need to come back to the event center once they recover a bit more.

So again, I just wanted to say, "thanks" to everyone who donated and worked the event center, and to the city for taking the heart to help these people. Most of all I want to thank God for bringing these people here for us to help — it is a blessing beyond measure.

BONNIE LAMBERT
BIG SPRING

NEWS IN BRIEF

Gov. Schwarzenegger to veto gay marriage bill

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger said he would veto a bill to legalize same-sex marriage "out of respect for the will of the people," drawing heated criticism from gay rights supporters and cheers from conservative groups.

The bill, narrowly passed by lawmakers in the past week, would make California the first state to legalize same-sex marriage through its legislature. In Massachusetts, recognition of gay marriages came through a court ruling.

But Schwarzenegger said Wednesday the legislation would conflict with the intent of voters when they approved an initiative five years ago that prevents California from recognizing same-sex marriages performed in other states or countries.

"We cannot have a system where the people vote and the Legislature derails that vote," the governor's press secretary, Margita Thompson, said in a statement.

Conservatives hailed the announcement.

"I'm encouraged that the governor is going to stop the runaway Legislature, and he's going to represent the people," said Karen England of the Capitol

Resource Institute, a Sacramento group that lobbied against the bill.

But gay rights advocates said the Republican governor had betrayed the bipartisan ideals that helped get him elected in the 2003 recall election.

Mother who allowed baby to starve sentenced to 20 years

BEAUMONT (AP) — A mother who allowed her 2-month-old daughter to starve to death has been sentenced to 20 years in prison.

Tamecca Henderson was convicted last month of first-degree injury to a child in the death of Monique Pippillion.

Henderson, 22, and her live-in boyfriend, Perry Pippillion, were arrested in December 2003 in connection with the baby's death.

Monique Pippillion weighed 6 pounds and 9 ounces when she was born and 4 pounds and 10 ounces when she died on Oct. 24, 2003.

The baby died from "nutritional deprivation and negligence," according to the autopsy.

Witnesses testified she was so emaciated she looked like a famine victim or cancer patient.

Henderson's mother, Barbara Turner, pleaded for probation for her daughter during the sentencing Tuesday.

"She needs to be released so she can be with her other kids," Turner said.

She has three other children.

Energy Department says gas prices could skyrocket this fall

WASHINGTON (AP) — Natural gas prices could increase as much as 71 percent in part of the United States this fall, raising the prospect of higher home heating costs this winter, the Energy Department reports.

The department's statistical agency, the Energy Information Administration, reported Wednesday that price hikes will depend on how quickly oil rigs and Gulf coast refineries damaged by Hurricane Katrina can be repaired.

In its report, the agency said natural gas prices for the Midwest will increase as much as 71 percent, while heating oil prices in the Northeast could rise 31 percent.

Electricity prices in the South could jump 17 percent.

But barring an unusually slow pace of repairs, the agency said domestic oil production should return to just under 5.4 million barrels a day in November, the level it was in August before Katrina disrupted most Gulf production and knocked out 10 refineries.

The agency said U.S. refining capacity also should rebound, with an anticipated output of gasoline and other fuels of nearly 16.4 million barrels a day in November, the same as August levels.

Second prisoner abuse trial in a week set to start

FORT BLISS (AP) — A day after one Ohio reservist was acquitted in the beating of Afghan detainee who later died, another soldier accused of the same charge was set to go to trial.

Sgt. Darin Broady, a member of the Cincinnati-based 377th Military Police Company, has been accused of hitting and kicking a shackled detainee known as Habibullah and then lying about it.

A fellow reservist, Sgt. Keri Patterson, says she saw Broady use knee strikes, known as common peroneal strikes, on Habibullah and give him "a kind of kung-fu kick" to the abdomen.

Patterson has said she is positive that Broady and Sgt. Christopher W. Greatorex both beat Habibullah, who died at a detention center in Bagram, Afghanistan days after being taken into U.S. custody.

No one has been charged with Habibullah's death.

Greatorex was acquitted Wednesday after his defense lawyers argued that Patterson was mistaken.

Greatorex, so far the only soldier charged in the Afghanistan abuse cases to be acquitted, is scheduled to testify for the defense in Broady's trial. It was unclear Wednesday if Patterson, who is deployed to Iraq but was brought by the Army to Fort Bliss to testify this week, would again testify for the government in Broady's trial.

Iraqis report arrest of 200 insurgents in Tal Afar

U.S. military raids farmhouse, rescues American businessman held hostage for 10 months

By JACOB SILBERBERG
Associated Press Writer

TAL AFAR, Iraq (AP) — U.S. and Iraqi forces have encircled the insurgent stronghold of Tal Afar, and the Iraqi military on Thursday announced the arrest of 200 suspected insurgents.

The Iraqi military said 150 of those arrested Wednesday in this town near the Syrian border were Arabs from Syria, Sudan, Yemen and Jordan.

The joint forces have reported heavy battles on the outskirts of the city and several bombings that have mainly killed civilians. Iraqi authorities reported most of the civilian population had fled the city, which is 260 miles north of Baghdad and about 35 miles from the Syrian border.

"Our forces arrested 150 non-Iraqi Arabs yesterday in addition to 50 Iraqi terrorists with fake documents as they were trying to flee the city with the (civilian) families," Iraqi army Capt. Mohammed Ahmed said.

"We ordered the families to evacuate the Sunni neighborhood of Sarai, which is believed to be the main stronghold of the insurgents," Ahmed said.

Eight civilians were killed in the city Wednesday by a suicide car bomber at an Iraqi checkpoint, he said. On Thursday, the U.S. military said the combined American-Iraqi force had killed seven insurgents in the past two days.

Tal Afar is 90 percent Turkmen, and 70 percent of them are Sunnis. After the ouster of Saddam Hussein, the United

States installed a largely Shiite leadership in the city, including the mayor and much of the police force.

The Sunnis have complained of oppression by the government and have turned to the insurgents for protection.

Early Thursday, a militant Web site carried a videotape showing the destruction of a U.S. Bradley Fighting Vehicle in Tal Afar. The video, emblazoned with the logo of al-Qaida in Iraq, claimed the armored vehicle was struck by a roadside bomb. A U.S. military official said two Bradleys had been hit by roadside bombs in recent days and a soldier was killed.

Also Thursday, police reported finding 17 unidentified bodies.

The 15 bodies found by soldiers and police near Mahmoudiya, 20 miles south of Baghdad, were in civilian clothes, with no identification documents, and had been shot to death, police Lt. Adnan Abdulla said.

The two bodies found near a sewage plant on the outskirts of Baghdad were blindfolded and handcuffed, police said.

In central Baghdad, a suicide car bomber Thursday targeted a passing convoy of private U.S. security agents, wounding three passers-by. The blast near the heavily fortified Sadir Hotel sent a huge plume of smoke into the sky in Baghdad's busy Karradah neighborhood, a main shopping and commercial district.

A Sept. 2 car bombing near the hotel killed an Iraqi security guard and wounded two. The Sadir is used by foreign securi-



Hostage Roy Hallums was rescued at a farmhouse near Baghdad Wednesday by U.S. military, who were acting on a tip.

ty agents and other Westerners involved in rebuilding Iraq.

On Wednesday, the U.S. military, acting on a tip, raided an isolated farmhouse outside Baghdad and rescued an American businessman held hostage for 10 months. The kidnappers had kept their captive bound and gagged.

Roy Hallums, 57, was "in good condition and is receiving medical care," a military statement said after U.S. forces freed him and an unidentified Iraqi from the farmhouse 15 miles south of Baghdad.

Lt. Col. Steven A. Boylan, a U.S. military spokesman, said the tip-

ster whose information led to Hallums' release was captured just a few hours before the operation.

Hallums, formerly of Newport Beach, Calif., was kidnapped at gunpoint from his office in the Mansour district of Baghdad on Nov. 1, 2004. At the time, he was working for the Saudi Arabian Trading and Construction Co., supplying food to the Iraqi army. The kidnappers also seized a Filipino, a Nepalese and three Iraqis, but later freed them.

"Considering what he's been through, I understand he's in good condition," said Hallums' ex-

wife, Susan Hallums, 53, of Corona, Calif.

The family Web site was topped with a headline: "ROY IS FREE!!!!!! 9/7/05."

The rescue coincided with two deadly bombings detonated around the southern city of Basra. A roadside bomb killed four private American security agents working for the State Department Bureau of Diplomatic Security. And an Interior Ministry official said 16 people were killed and 21 were injured in a car bombing at a restaurant in a central market.

In a statement posted on a Web site known as a

clearinghouse of militant claims, al-Qaida in Iraq took responsibility for the attack.

The car bombing later Wednesday at a takeout restaurant in a central Basra market killed 16 and wounded 21, an Interior Ministry official said, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to reporters.

The restaurant is in the Hayaniyah district market, a Shiite section of the city, police Lt. Col. Karim al-Zaidi said.

Two police vehicles and several nearby shops were destroyed.

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X-Type

Not cheap, but for a Jaguar it's certainly a real bargain

By STEVEN COLE SMITH
The Orlando Sentinel

Jaguar launched the X-Type in August 2001, to a genuinely mixed reaction from Jaguar fans. Traditionalists saw it as the latest and most blatant indication that Ford, which owns Jaguar, just didn't get it because the X-Type is based on the same platform as the Ford Mondeo, a version of which used to be sold as the Ford Contour.

Others saw it less as a cheapening of a legendary brand than as a way to bring more people into the Jaguar fold, with an entry-level model that started at less than \$30,000. That base price has gone up a bit since, but it's still the least-expensive Jaguar by about \$14,000.

For 2005, Jaguar introduced a couple of new X-Type models. One is the Sportwagon, which is pretty much what the name says. The other is the VDP Edition, a sedan with a luxury package that includes plenty of Jaguar-type features, such as burl walnut interior trim, upgraded leather upholstery, a premium sound system and 17-inch tires and wheels. The VDP is the test car.

VDP stands for "Vanden Plas," long the name of the most luxurious model of Jaguar vehicles, but the first time the moniker has included the X-Type — which is probably why the X-Type gets only the initials, instead of the

whole name. Vanden Plas was a Belgian coach builder that originated in 1870, and eventually made bodies for Rolls-Royce and Bentley. Jaguar has used the name since 1968.

Mechanically, the VDP is pretty much the same as other X-Types. The base model comes with a 2.5-liter, 192-horsepower V-6 engine and a manual transmission. Most X-Types sold have the 3.0-liter, 227-horsepower V-6, and a five-speed automatic transmission, like the VDP. The engine is Ford-built in the United States, while the transmission comes from Japan. The car is still assembled in Halewood, England.

While the European Mondeo is offered in front-wheel drive, Ford decided that a front-wheel-drive Jaguar might push the purists over the edge, so X-Types have all-wheel drive.

There are plenty of other safety features, including side and side-curtain air bags, a knee-bolster air bag and antilock disc brakes. Electronic stability control is offered for an extra \$525, but wasn't part of the test car.

Inside, there's no question that you're in a Jaguar. Most of that is good — upholstery is excellent, attention to detail is impressive — but there's also that dopey "J-gate" console gear shifter that Jaguar refuses to admit is awkward to use and takes up a lot of room. Front seats are



The 2006 X-Type Jaguar

comfortable and 10-way adjustable, part of the VDP equipment. Rear seats are cramped. Trunk space, at 16 cubic feet, is generous.

On the road, the X-Type VDP rides smoothly for a relatively small car — overall length of 183.9 inches, it's 5.6 inches shorter than a Honda Accord — and handling is well above average.

The car's 3.0-liter V-6 is quiet and composed, but not overly powerful. The X-Type VDP weighs 3,573 pounds, fairly heavy for a car this size, and due in part to the extra hardware needed for the all-wheel-drive system. Jaguar claims the X-Type

VDP will accelerate from 0 to 60 mph in 7.1 seconds, but it doesn't feel that quick. The fastest X-Type is the Sport model, which has the 3.0-liter engine and manual transmission — Jaguar claims a 0-to-60 mph time of 6.6 seconds for that version.

The X-Type isn't about speed, though. It's about a lot of luxury for the money, and a general sensation of sportiness. There's no question, though, that you're paying for the Jaguar name, but that gets you some perks: A four-year, 50,000-mile warranty, free scheduled maintenance and around-the-clock roadside assistance.

Base price of the test car was \$34,330, and with the \$3,750 VDP package, \$595 for "Zircon Blue" metallic paint and \$665 for shipping, the total was \$39,340. That's pretty reasonable for a Jaguar with this much equipment, but it would be more difficult to justify if you're brand

blind and just shopping feature for feature.

But "Jaguar" and "bargain" have seldom been synonymous, and the X-Type is as close to a bargain as Jaguar gets.

Distributed by Knight Ridder/Tribune Information Services.

The Jaguar X-Type for 2006

Base price: \$34,330.

Price as tested: \$39,340.

EPA-rated fuel mileage: 18 mpg city, 25 mpg highway.

Details: Front-engine, all-wheel-drive sedan with a 3.0-liter, 227-horsepower V-6 engine and a five-speed automatic transmission.



Courtesy photo
Moss Elementary held its annual Teddy Bear Parade at the school recently. Moss first-graders, including, from left, Dillon Daniels, Kaci Nichols and Lauren Smith, paraded their decked-out bears during the event.

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Notice of Vote on Tax Rate

The Glasscock County conducted public hearings on a proposal to increase the total tax revenues of the Glasscock County from properties on the tax roll in the preceding year by 7.99 % percent on September 2, 2005 @ 5:30 p.m. and September 6, 2005 @ 5:30 p.m.

The Glasscock County Commissioner's Court is scheduled to vote on the tax rate that will result in that tax increase at a public meeting to be held on September 12, 2005 @ 9:30 a.m. at Glasscock County Courthouse Courtroom.

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Garage Sales

3 FAMILY Garage Sale: 901 N. Gregg, Friday & Saturday 8:30-?. Furniture, home decor., infant to adult clothes, baby items, crafts, and pinatas.

CARPORT SALE, 702 Abrams, Saturday, 8:00-?. Antiques tables, dresser, interior decor, men & women & kids name brand clothes, tools, lots of miscellaneous.

CORNER OF Wasson Rd & Debra Lane, Sat. 7:00am-?. Deer blind, garage door w/opener, kids toys & clothes, fencing material, tools, bed, bedding, household items & lots of misc.

GARAGE SALE, 4005 Vicky, Friday, Saturday, 8:00-5:00. Dining table, recliner, sew machine, serger, mens, ladies clothes, jewelry, household goods, misc. items.

Garage Sales

GARAGE SALE: 1508 E. 17th, Friday & Saturday 8:00-?. Antiques, tools, rod & reels, furniture, clothing, lots of miscellaneous.

HUGE SALE, Friday & Saturday, 2223 Lynn (rear). Refrigerator, gas and electric cookstoves, bar stools, collectibles, fabrics, lots more!

MULT. FAMILY Garage Sale: 5612 Murphy Road (11th Place Ext. too Midway Rd. turn on Cameron follow to Murphy Rd., Friday & Saturday 8:00-?. Furniture, rugs, kitchen ware, electronics, toys and clothes.

NANA FAYE'S Thrift Shop, 1903 Gregg, Tues.-Thurs. 1-6, Fri. 10-6 & Sat. 10-2. Girls blue jeans sizes 5-12, infant car seat, lots of infant boy & girl clothes.

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TRUCK DRIVER needed. Guaranteed 40 hrs., Health insurance. Call (432)263-1747.

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS
Mercury and Uranus in opposition inspire an eruption of communication — or something like it. Moving mouths don't necessarily equal an understanding. Those who listen well will get the benefit of this transit. Heated exchanges might actually be positive, since things are said that have been simmering under the surface for too long. ARIES (March 21-April 19). The stars align to intensify your powers of observation. Tone of voice and posture imply the true meaning of a person's words. Act on your inklings. You might



HOLIDAY MATHIS

just "inkle" your way into a new romance. TAURUS (April 20-May 20). To keep your competitive edge, you must strike a balance. Don't be naive, but at the same time, don't be skeptical. Count your blessings. As Mae West said, "Too much of a good thing is wonderful."

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Memory can be like an Internet scam. The things that you wanted to happen but didn't can be Photoshopped in. It's an interesting challenge to keep your facts straight, but one that Virgo can help with.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Projects are best when they stay within their anticipated time allotment. Otherwise, that initial buzz turns into more of a zzzz. If it's already too late, you can stir up interest again with a snappy campaign.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Your first impressions are indelible now. Specifically, you are looking for confidence in others, and if they can't display it, you take your business elsewhere. In this way, you cut out the riffraff.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). At last your head has agreed to harmonize with your heart. Much of the work you do may seem non-related to the results you'd like to get, but the correlation is stronger than appearances suggest.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). A deal you struck (what were you thinking?) comes back to haunt you. The person you made the bargain with is willing to release you from your obligation, but your sense of duty and responsibility compels you to follow through.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The "how" is more important than the "what." So don't worry about whether you get the right reservation, attend the correct event or conduct your business effectively. Just find a way to do what you do with

grace. SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Take a break from the decision-making process, and go with the flow. You're surprised and delighted with the direction it takes you. Giving up control is liberating. An Aquarius leads the way.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're a little sluggish in the morning and may have to consciously take a hold of yourself in order to get motivated. Go for a walk, jump up and down, call your coach-like friend. Your future relies on it!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You may try to protect yourself by remaining inoffensive. But you're actually safer if you stand confidently for what you believe, as controversial as that belief may be.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). While others see your calendar of social obligations as exhausting, you find it to be exhilarating. You derive power and energy from being with people, and the more diverse the better.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: The multi-talented Beyonce Knowles sets out to diversify her career this year, as many Virgo people will do. This sign is a perfectionist and has difficulty breaking into unfamiliar territory because of very high performance expectations. The key to expanding is to make a point to be gentle and unconditionally supportive of oneself. Knowles could become a dramatic actress with great success.

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

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Annie's Mailbox: Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: I have been with my boyfriend, "Hugo," for 11 years. I recently discovered that for the past year, he has been receiving calls on his cell phone from "Janet," a woman we know from a weekly social function. When I confronted him, he admitted it, but said it was only friendship and nothing more. He said they went to lunch a few times because they work near each other.



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

I am very upset that Hugo hid this from me. According to our phone bill, he and Janet spoke three to four times a week, sometimes more than once a day. Several of the calls were as long as 40 minutes.

Hugo claims he has not spoken with Janet since I found out about the calls, nor did he tell her what I knew. Nonetheless, somehow Janet miraculously stopped calling his cell phone. When we attended our weekly social function, they did not speak at all, and Janet didn't even come over to say hello as she normally would.

Obviously, Hugo told her what I knew. Now, every time he goes to work, I think they are talking on the office phone so I won't see the bills. I love Hugo very much. He has never done anything like this before, and I don't know what to do. I am very upset, but he tells me I need to let it go. I can't seem to do that. Any suggestions? — Dazed and Confused

Dear Dazed: Whether or

not Hugo did anything other than chat and have lunch with another woman, he still lied to you, and that is the real problem, because it undermined your trust in him. Now you aren't sure what he's doing and with whom. For you to "let it go," Hugo needs to make it right.

Ask Hugo to go with you for couples counseling to work on your trust issues. He'll say you are blowing things out of proportion, but tell him this is the price he must pay for lying to you. If he refuses, you might want to reconsider this relationship.

Dear Annie: I was angry at your response to "California Reader," who said a friend was killed by an inmate with whom she had corresponded. My son is an inmate who loves to get mail, and he asks for nothing other than friendship. He would in no way hurt a pen pal.

Yes, there are some inmates who may do this, but when you imply ALL

inmates, it really gets me. What do you know about them? There are some very nice inmates who stay out of trouble and only wish for a card or letter from the outside. How dare you! — Mom of a Good Guy

Dear Mom: We're sure your son is a nice fellow, but our readers cannot know that from the outside. There is risk in corresponding with inmates, and we are not about to tell our readers to go ahead and take the chance because your son happens to be one of the good guys. Read on:

Dear Annie: Please advise women NOT to become pen pals with prisoners. I just retired from working at a maximum security prison where every inmate is in solitary confinement. You would be shocked at the number of these violent felons, especially on Death Row, who have six or eight emotionally needy women writing to them and sending money.

These men are master manipulators, and they have nothing to do except sit and write to all their girlfriends, professing their innocence and the "horrible way" they are treated. They will say anything to get what they want, which is primarily money. These women cannot rehabilitate them. Instead, they become victims.

If these women need to write to somebody, tell them to write a lonely soldier in Iraq. If they want to help someone, they

should volunteer at a homeless shelter. There are plenty of ways to meet people without risking the emotional devastation of being manipulated by one of these felons. — Gainesville, Fla.

Dear Annie: Six months ago, I married "Jodi." We were both previously divorced. I assumed Jodi would take my name, but I was mistaken. So now, even though she is my wife, she goes by Mrs. Ex-Husband.

I admit I did not discuss this with her prior to getting married, but even so, I find it embarrassing and hurtful. If she had wanted to retain her maiden name, I would be fine with that. If she had young children, I could understand keeping the ex's name, but there are no children.

Jodi says she likes the sound of the name and it's a lot of trouble to change it. She insists it's no big deal. But I am starting to question her commitment to this marriage. She has commented more than once that she made a mistake leaving her previous marriage and has deep regrets.

Am I wrong to feel hurt? — Mr. Nameless

Dear Mr. Nameless: We were ready to give your wife the benefit of the doubt until you said she regretted leaving her previous marriage. Hanging on to her ex-husband's name may be her way of keeping a candle burning in the window.

You and Jodi should have a heart-to-heart. Ask

her to honestly examine her feelings about her previous marriage and the real reason she insists on keeping a name that no longer has any connection to her, except, perhaps, emotionally.

Dear Annie: I am writing in response to "Burned-Out Wife," who wanted time with her soldier husband before his parents and siblings visited. I am an Army officer with 13 years of military service and am currently serving my second year in Iraq. I truly understand what she is talking about.

All soldiers, upon redeploying, have to attend mandatory classes to help readjust to everyday life back home. This "reintegration process" lasts around seven days and is usually followed by a two-week leave, then a period of 45 days where the soldier isn't allowed to conduct training. This is so soldiers can continue to readjust.

Due to the increase in domestic violence and divorces, this is a very sensitive period for military families. I think if parents and siblings are given this information, most would back off and give the married couple some breathing room. After the soldier is reacquainted with his/her spouse and children, plans should then be made either to visit family or have them visit the soldier. This takes time.

As the father of a 9-year-old and a newborn, I know it's not going to be an easy road, but I am confident that I can make it a successful reintegration for us all.

Most Major Commands (MACOMS) provide soldiers and their families with reintegration booklets through their Rear-Attachment commands or chaplains, and they are free to military family members. I hope this helps. — Forward Deployed

Dear Forward Deployed: It does indeed. Thank you for explaining the importance of patience and understanding during this time.

Dear Annie: Could you please recommend good informative reading material or videos for girls coming of age? I am a mother of three girls, and puberty is gaining on me. Thank you so much. — Molly

Dear Molly: There are a number of books and videos available at your local library and bookstore, or you can contact the nearest chapter of Planned Parenthood (plannedparenthood.com), the American Academy of Pediatrics (aap.org) or the website kidshealth.org for information and a wealth of recommended reading material and videos, some geared for parents, others for adolescents.

Dear Annie: Five years ago, we moved to a small town. Initially, it was hard to meet people, but then I found "Inez," who was organizing a women's group.

At first, things went swimmingly, but I noticed that Inez gossiped a lot about her friends and their children. I wondered if she was doing the same to me. When I foolishly confided that one of my children had ADHD, she excluded him from all group activities. She also flirted outrageously with my husband, talking about her "high sex drive" and running her fingers through his hair.

Last year, I discovered Inez had told these women some things about me that were untrue. I began avoiding her, but

Inez asked what was wrong, so I told her the truth. I expected an apology, but instead, I got a verbal explosion. Since then, she has initiated a frightening campaign of lies, rumors and backstabbing.

I have tried ignoring her, but she just keeps it up. Worse, some of these women believe her lies, giving me dirty looks and icy glares when I run into them. Another woman from the group who absolutely detests Inez has told me she is too scared to stand up to her.

Would a slander suit shut her down? How can I make her stop? — Perplexed

Dear Perplexed: The problem with a slander suit is that you must be able to prove, in court, that Inez said these things about you and that her comments caused you monetary loss. The threat of a lawsuit may be enough to get her to back off, but if it actually goes to court, and you lose, her vitriol will know no bounds.

Better to show withering pity for Inez. To the women you encounter, say, "I feel so sorry for Inez, poor thing. She is such an unhappy person." You will not be saying anything unkind, but you will be giving the impression that Inez is pathetic. Any vicious retaliation on her part will only reinforce that image.

Dear Annie: Last year, I filed bankruptcy because I went through a divorce, and the loss of a second income was an economic hardship. The bankruptcy already has been discharged, yet employers are reluctant to hire me. I have a college degree, great work experience and a neat appearance, yet I am constantly being passed over.

I have had several terrific interviews in the last few months, but then the employer does a background check into my credit and I get a rejection letter. I had to move back to my hometown after the bankruptcy to live with my parents, but I want to get out and earn my own money. I know I will be an asset to any employer, but what can I do to get them to see past my credit record? — The Unemployed

Dear Unemployed: You may be wrong about the reasons you are being rejected, but if you're convinced the bankruptcy is the problem, don't wait for that background check. Tell prospective employers upfront at the interview that you filed for bankruptcy due to your divorce and that you hope it won't influence the company's decision to hire you. Good luck.

Dear Annie: My daughter is graduating from nursing school in December, and my son is getting married in February. We are having a party for our daughter, and the reception for our son and his new wife will also be at our home.

Is there a tactful way to request that parents not bring young children? Some of our relatives have very unruly kids who have done some real household damage in the past. These same parents do not supervise their kids, so it's up to me to keep them away from the pool. Please help. — Hostess in California

Dear Hostess: Phone these parents and say, "We are so sorry we cannot accommodate little Susie and Jimmy at this party. We wanted to call so you would have plenty of time to find a babysitter."

BIG SPRING HERALD

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Write one word on each line:

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12 noon Fri. for Sunday; 4:15 Fri. for Monday; 12 noon Mon. for Tues.; 12 noon Tues. for Wed.; 12 noon Wed. for Thurs.; 12 noon Thurs. for Fri.

CLASSIFICATIONS:

Announcements; Business Opportunity; Cemetery Lots; Financial; Garage Sales; Help Wanted; Instruction; Items for Sale; Jobs Wanted; Lost and Found; Miscellaneous.; Mobile Homes; National Ads; On the Farm; Pets; Public Notice; Real Estate for Rent; Real Estate for Sale; Services Offered; Vehicles; Legals

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Big Spring Thursday

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THURSDAY

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6	News (CC)	News (CC)	Inocente de Ti	King of the Hill	News	América Así	News	Raymond	Joe McGee	News-Letter	American	Classics	CSE: Crime	Law & Order	Live	That's Raven	College	Sunday NFL	Movie: Tremors
7	NFL Kickoff 2005	NFL Kickoff 2005	Apuesta por un Amor	The O.C. (CC)	Big Brother 6 (CC)	El Cuerpo del Desaso	Joy (CC)	Friends (CC)	Updates/Serial	West Tex. Jini	Journey of Life	Movie: Volcano	CSE: Crime	Law & Order	The Parkers	Movie: Tiger Cruise	Oklahoma State at	(CC)	Movie: Tremors
8	NFL Football: Oakland	NFL Football: Oakland	La Esposa Virgen	Reunion (CC)	CSE: Crime	Los Plateados	Scrubs (CC)	Movie: Blast From the Past	Light of the Southwest	New This Old House Hour	Journey of Life	Movie: MRC	MRC	Movie: A Perfect Murder	Blow Up	Movie: Tiger Cruise	Pittsburgh State at	2005 World Series of Poker	Movie: Tremors
9	Raiders at New England	Raiders at New England	Aquí y Ahora	70s Show	Without a Trace (CC)	El Principito Azul	News	10 Movie: Sugar & Spice (CC)	The Hour of Healing	Antiques Roadshow	The FBI Files (CC)	15 Movie: Alan	MRC	Movie: A Perfect Murder	Soul Food (CC)	Buzz-Maggie	Shoalround WWSA	2005 World Series of Poker	Movie: Tremors
10	Patriots (CC)	Patriots (CC)	Primer Impacto	70s Show	News	Noticias	News	10 Movie: Sugar & Spice (CC)	The Hour of Healing	Charlie Rose (CC)	Journey of Life (CC)	Resurrection (CC)	The Ultimate Fighter	Movie: A Perfect Murder	Highly News	That's Raven	Basketball: Conf. Final	2005 World Series of Poker	Movie: The Fight
11	News (CC)	News (CC)	La Hora	Becker (CC)	Lettman	Tennis	Late Night	11:55 Movie: Seinfeld (CC)	Update/Serial	Sign Off	Journey of Life (CC)	Movie: Enemy	Movie: Enemy	Movie: Enemy	BET's Top 10 Live	Phil of Future	ESPN Holy	ESPN Holy	Movie: The Fight
12	Ent. Tonight	Ent. Tonight	Amigas y Rivales (SB)	Spin City	Late Late Show	Late Late Show	Conan O'Brien	11:55 Movie: Seinfeld (CC)	Update/Serial	The FBI Files (CC)	Mine	Movie: Enemy	Movie: Enemy	Movie: Enemy	BET After Dark	Lizzie McGuire	Season Weekly	NFL Live	Movie: The Fight

DENNIS THE MENACE



"I'M HERE TO BABY-SIT DENNIS. THIS TIME I CAME PREPARED."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

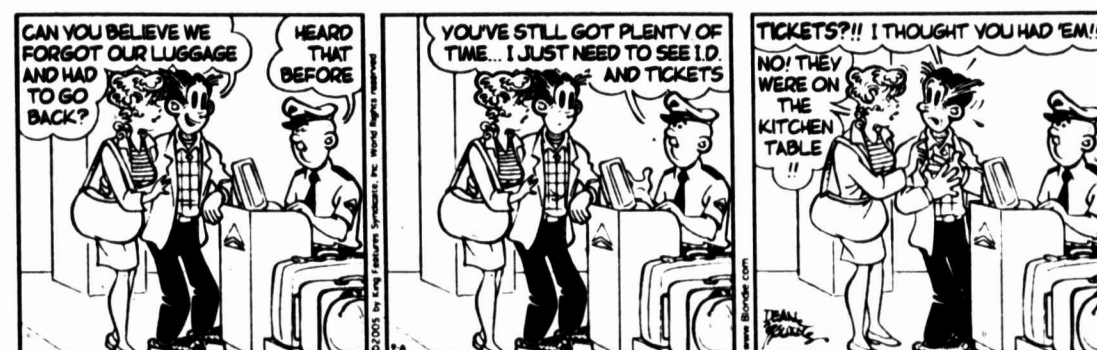


"How many prayers can God listen to at once?"

HAGAR



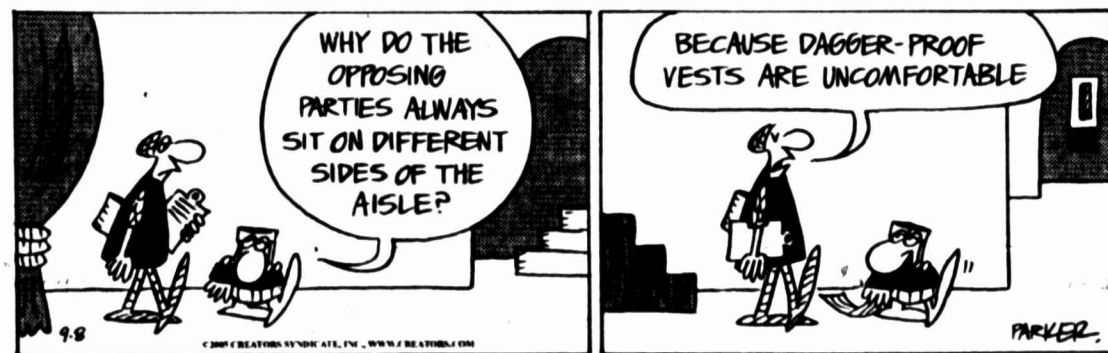
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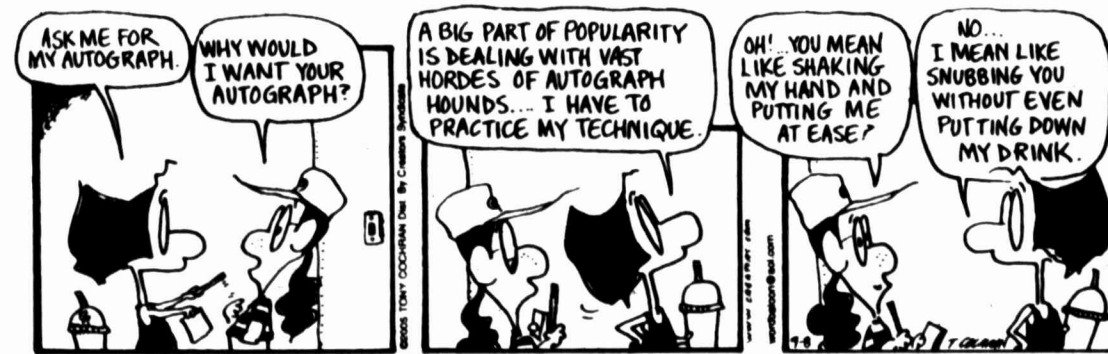
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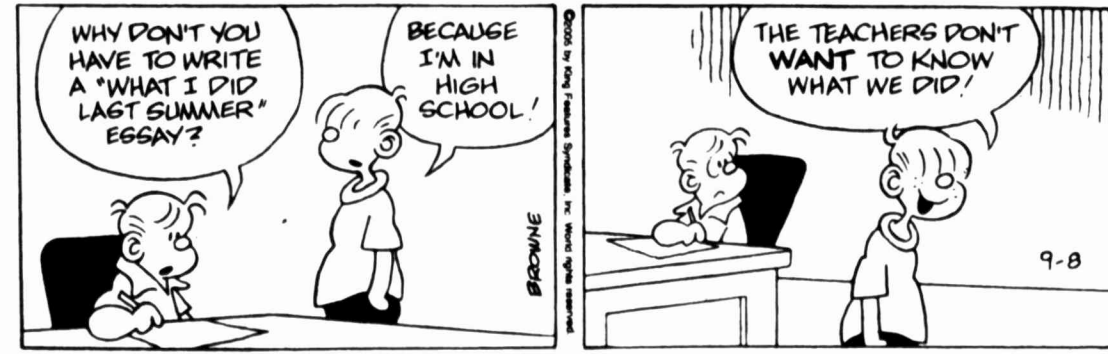
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AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Thursday, Sept. 8, the 251st day of 2005. There are 114 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 8, 1930, the comic strip "Blondie," created by Chic Young, was first published. Also on this day, Scotch cellophane tape made its debut as a sample of the tape, invented by Richard Drew of 3M, was shipped to a Chicago firm which specialized in wrapping bakery goods in cellophane.

On this date:

In 1664, the Dutch surrendered New Amsterdam to the British, who renamed it New York.

In 1900, Galveston, Texas, was struck by a hurricane that killed about 6,000 people.

In 1921, Margaret Gorman of Washington D.C. was crowned the first Miss America in Atlantic City, N.J.

In 1934, 134 people lost their lives in a fire aboard

the liner Morro Castle off the New Jersey coast.

In 1935, Senator Huey P. Long, "The Kingfish" of Louisiana politics, was shot and mortally wounded; he died two days later.

In 1945, Bess Myerson of New York was crowned "Miss America" in Atlantic City, New Jersey, becoming the first Jewish contestant to win the title.

In 1951, a peace treaty with Japan was signed by 48 other nations in San Francisco.

In 1974, President Ford granted an unconditional pardon to former President Nixon.

In 1975, Boston's public schools began their court-ordered citywide busing program amid scattered incidents of violence.

In 1994, a U.S. Air Boeing 737 crashed into a ravine as it was approaching Pittsburgh International Airport, killing all 132 people on board.

One year ago: CBS' "60 Minutes Wednesday" aired a report questioning President Bush's National Guard service; however, CBS News ended up apologizing for a "mistake in judgment" after memos featured in the

Answer to previous puzzle

ETC	SENT	MAYO
DOM	SMORE	HADON
SCAPE	GOAT	UNDUE
CRO	AKITAS	ELD
RAGTAG	LUCKY	DOG
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BEA	ANAB	ENTRY
BERGEN	ERA	RAE
RARE	BIRD	ERRATA
INA	SNEAKS	AMT
DINGE	FRAIDYCAT	
LEDON	SENSE	AID
ESSO	SETS	RLS

Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Grounded fliers
 - 5 *Is Your Life*
 - 9 Party makers
 - 14 State of the Union
 - 15 Courageous one
 - 16 Loosen
 - 17 Symbol of Kansas
 - 19 Sedimentary rock
 - 20 Former
 - 21 Informal wear
 - 23 Elegant and stylish
 - 25 Complain unreasonably
 - 26 Lets sit in boiling water
 - 29 Columbus' backer
 - 33 Makes well
 - 34 Shabby and untidy
 - 35 Make public
 - 36 British peer
 - 37 Soft drinks
 - 38 Strong bases
 - 39 Winter clock setting at MIT
 - 40 Fortune teller
 - 41 Make sure of
 - 42 Get ready to open
 - 44 Regular customer
 - 45 Small and attractive
 - 46 Comes to a halt
 - 48 Dorm noise
 - 51 John Wayne film of '70
 - 55 More white
- DOWN**
- 1 Not outstanding
 - 2 Avoid
 - 3 Pea picker
 - 4 "No pressure" tactic
 - 5 Doubting apostle
 - 6 Paul Bunyan, often
 - 7 Strong emotion
 - 8 Screen out
 - 9 Word to a baby
 - 10 Available for work
 - 11 Sports headliner
 - 12 Arcade-game stopper
 - 13 Bishops' domains
 - 18 Walks unsteadily
 - 22 Oodles
 - 24 Makes some hippie garments
 - 26 See-through
 - 27 Vex
 - 28 Brown, for one
 - 30 Official stamp
 - 31 Be stationary, at sea
 - 32 Burning crime
 - 34 Weeps loudly
 - 37 Alerting sound
 - 38 Don't make a fuss over
 - 40 Juvenal works
 - 41 Flavor
 - 43 "Aha!"
 - 44 Northeast and southwest
 - 47 Scout assemblage
 - 48 Small quarrel
 - 49 California wine valley
 - 50 Fed
 - 52 Track shape
 - 53 Liberty
 - 54 Digger's finds
 - 57 Slangy suffix

ASTRONOMICAL by Robert H. Wolfe

Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanwords.com

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Underrated, but undeterred

Jeremy Mayfield lets his on-track performances answer critics of his driving ability and talent

DONALD MIRALLE FOR NASCAR

By DAVID POOLE
Knight Ridder Newspapers

There's a new item in the inventory on Jeremy Mayfield's souvenir haulers, a simple black T-shirt with a simple message.

"Underrated," the shirt says, "is Underrated."

At the start of the 2005 Nextel Cup season, 28 people who cover or work in NASCAR were asked to predict the 10 drivers who'd make this year's Chase for the Nextel Cup.

How many had Mayfield, who was in the inaugural Chase in 2004, on the list?

Zero — 22 fewer than picked his Evernham Motorsports teammate, Kasey Kahne.

But when the checkered flag falls on Saturday's Chevy 400 at Richmond International Speedway, Mayfield is all but a mathematical certainty to be right there for a second straight year among the 10 drivers vying for a championship.

Last year, he made it with a dramatic "must-have" victory in this race, a triumph that vaulted him from 14th to ninth in the standings while ending a 142-race winless streak.

It was one of the signature moments in the Chase's first year, a clutch effort that did not wind up with a fairy-tale finish. The No. 19 Dodge got caught up in wrecks in three of the first five Chase races, and Mayfield went on to finish 10th in the standings.

Perhaps that's why it was tempting to dismiss Mayfield's chances of making the championship cut again this year. Regardless of the reason, though, it's hardly something Mayfield hasn't become accustomed to in his 12th season of Cup competition.

"I feel that people underestimate me, but the good thing about it is that it's something that doesn't bother me," Mayfield said. "I can go with the flow with a lot of things. But as far as on the racetrack, car-for-car, driver-for-driver, I feel like I'm as good as any driver out there. That's the way I should feel."

Mayfield knows that when a driver with a bigger name struggles, fans and the media tend to write that off to bad luck or unusual circumstances.

"When they have a bad year, you don't hear people say, 'They can't drive.' The problem I've got is when people want to throw off on me or say I'm not focused or I don't drive like I used to drive. That's not right. That's what irritates me more than anything. ... I'm as focused now as I've ever been, and I feel like I'm a better driver than I've ever been. Yet, nobody seems to realize that."

Mayfield turned 36 in late May and just a few days later signed a long-term contract that will keep him with his current team for the foreseeable future.

His relationship with Evernham was, both will admit, rocky at times right after they joined forces in 2002.

But things began to click in the second half of the 2003 season, and after rallying to make the Chase last year Mayfield is solidly inside the top 10 this year going into the final pre-Chase race.

With crew chief Richard "Sluggo" Labbe coming on board to start this season, Mayfield finished 23rd and 28th in the first two races. He hasn't finished that low again all year, though, and with six top-10 finishes and a win at Michigan three weeks ago he moved up to sixth to allow himself and his team to breathe a little easier this weekend than it could a year ago.

Mayfield could have wrapped things up last week at California, but he battled an ill-handling car all night and finished 26th. Still, he's 145 points clear of 11th going into Saturday night's race — only aject disaster could keep him from making the cut.

And if fans are looking for a driver to root for in the Chase, those who like an underdog's story could do far worse than Mayfield.

Born in Owensboro, Ky., he ran late models and worked at his local track as a teenager painting signs on the walls and numbers on race cars. He moved to Nashville, Tenn., at age 19 and went to work as a fabricator at Sadler Racing, eventually driving late models for that

team while still working at the shop.

Cale Yarborough hired Mayfield to drive the final 12 races of the 1994 Cup season.

"I was at the shop at 8 o'clock every morning and couldn't be late," Mayfield said. "I probably made less than just about every crew member there, but I wanted it. I didn't have anything else. I didn't have anything I could fall back on. I didn't have a rich family that I could

just come out here and race and have fun. I had to race to survive in life and that's what I've done."

In late 1996, Mayfield swapped driver's seats with John Andretti and moved to a team co-owned by Michael Kranefuss and Roger Penske. He got his first three Cup wins with that team after Kranefuss

sold his interests to Penske, then moved to Evernham's team at the start of 2002.

"I clawed my way up and then stalled out for a while," Mayfield said. "Now I think I'm going back up again."

"I didn't have anything coming up. I barely was able to run street stocks and then move into late models. I had to fight and go to junkyards and cut motors out of cars and build my own race cars and everything else."

"That's why I'm content with who I am and I've got peace with that. That's why I don't let it bother me that I'm not selling the most souvenirs out there or whether I'm talked about or not talked about."

"As far as on the racetrack, I feel like I'm as good as any driver out there."

— Jeremy Mayfield



Jeremy Mayfield is on track to qualify for the Chase for the Championship for a second season. RUSTY JARRETT FOR NASCAR

THIS WEEK'S RACE

CHEVY ROCK & ROLL 400

Where: Richmond International Raceway, a 0.75-mile banked paved oval located in Richmond, Va.

When: Saturday at 7:40 p.m. (all times ET). Qualifying is 6:10 p.m. Friday.

TV: TNT.

Radio: Motor Racing Network.

Purse: \$5,840,067.

Last year's winner: Jeremy Mayfield.

Worth mentioning: There have been 11 different pole winners in the last 11 races at Richmond; there also have been eight different winners in the past eight races.

Ryan Newman has a 3.86 starting average and a 10.86 finishing average in seven races at Richmond. His starting average is the best among active drivers.

Greg Biffle ranked 22nd in points after 25 races one year ago. This year he is second.

POLL POSITION

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

Will Jeff Gordon qualify for the Chase for the Championship after this week's race at Richmond?

Cast your vote at: www.thatstracin.com

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION

There are six drivers racing for the final three spots in NASCAR's Chase for the Championship. Who will make it?
Number of votes: 6,836

Driver	No. of votes	Percent
Jeff Gordon	3,129	46%
Matt Kenseth	1,583	23%
Carl Edwards	716	10%
Ryan Newman	674	10%
Elliott Sadler	424	6%
Jamie McMurray	310	5%

STOP 'N' GO

WHO'S HOT

- **Tony Stewart** has 12 top-five and 17 top-10 finishes in 2005, both the most of all drivers.
- **Matt Kenseth** has top-10 finishes in four of his last five races and has climbed from 16th to ninth in points over the past three races.
- **Brian Vickers** has top-10 finishes in four of his last five races.
- **Ricky Rudd** has scored five top-10s in his past 10 races.

WHO'S NOT

- **Dale Earnhardt Jr.** ranked third in points after 25 races one year ago. This year he is 18th and will not make the Chase for the Nextel Cup.
- **Kevin Harvick** has finished 14th or worse in 10 of his last 11 races.
- **Elliott Sadler** has finished 12th or worse in his last nine races.

— Jim Utter

BY THE NUMBERS

NEXTEL CUP POINTS LEADERS

The top-40 drivers as of Sept. 4:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. Tony Stewart	3570	21. Jeff Burton	2587
2. Greg Biffle	3361	22. Kyle Busch	2583
3. Jimmie Johnson	3312	23. Ricky Rudd	2467
4. Rusty Wallace	3257	24. Bobby Labonte	2417
5. Mark Martin	3149	25. Casey Mears	2345
6. Kurt Busch	3114	26. Mike Bliss	2295
7. Jeremy Mayfield	3073	27. Sterling Marlin	2258
8. Carl Edwards	3014	28. Ken Schrader	2232
9. Matt Kenseth	2939	29. Jeff Green	2232
10. Jamie McMurray	2929	30. Scott Riggs	2213
11. Ryan Newman	2928	31. Dave Blaney	2195
12. Jeff Gordon	2899	32. Kyle Petty	2172
13. Elliott Sadler	2877	33. Scott Wimmer	2102
14. Dale Jarrett	2812	34. Travis Kvapil	1986
15. Kevin Harvick	2798	35. Mike Wallace	1633
16. Joe Nemechek	2794	36. Bobby Hamilton Jr.	1551
17. Brian Vickers	2755	37. Robby Gordon	1540
18. Dale Earnhardt Jr.	2736	38. Jason Leffler	1538
19. Michael Waltrip	2611	39. Kevin Lepage	1085
20. Kasey Kahne	2592	40. Terry Labonte	794

BUSSON SERIES POINTS LEADERS

The top-20 drivers as of Sept. 3:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. Martin Truex Jr.	3874	11. Ashton Lewis	2868
2. Clint Bowyer	3732	12. Greg Biffle	2831
3. Carl Edwards	3516	13. J.J. Yeley	2800
4. Reed Sorenson	3494	14. Johnny Sauter	2778
5. Denny Hamlin	3285	15. Stacy Compton	2569
6. Kenny Wallace	3278	16. Randy LaJoie	2549
7. David Stremme	3030	17. Jon Wood	2476
8. Paul Menard	3021	18. Justin Labonte	2466
9. David Green	3017	19. Kevin Harvick	2303
10. Jason Keller	2969	20. Stanton Barrett	2215

NEXT RACE: Friday, Emerson Radio 250, Richmond, Va.

THE TOP-10 DRIVERS AS OF AUG. 24:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
11. Dennis Setzer	2515	8. David Reutimann	2190
2. Ted Musgrave	2372	7. Mike Skinner	2186
3. Bobby Hamilton	2286	6. Matt Crafton	2144
4. Ron Hornsby	2284	9. Todd Bodine	2131
5. Jimmy Spencer	2235	10. David Starr	2118

NEXT RACE: Thursday, NCTS 200, Richmond, Va.

RANKINGS

THAT'S RACIN'S TOP PICKS

1. **Tony Stewart** (car No. 20): Has finished eighth or better in past 12 races. Can they keep that up for 11 more weeks? Last week: 1.

2. **Greg Biffle** (car No. 16): Beginning to rumble back to life. Remember how strong this team was late last year. Last week: 2.

3. **Jimmie Johnson** (car No. 48): Can they find the "on" switch again? They did it last year, but just a little too late. Last week: 3.

4. **Rusty Wallace** (car No. 2): He's in. Now if he wins three or four races the rest of the way it'd be a grand finale. Last week: 4.

5. **Mark Martin** (car No. 6): Like Wallace, you wonder if he'll mash the "go" button now that he's in the Chase. Last week: 6.

6. **Kurt Busch** (car No. 97): If he can find his way to the track at Richmond, he'll get a shot to defend his title. Last week: 7.

7. **Jeremy Mayfield** (car No. 19): Almost in the barn. It'd take a horrible set of circumstances for him to miss the Chase. Last week: 5.

8. **Carl Edwards** (car No. 99): He's like a 14-year-old golfer who doesn't know all his putts aren't supposed to go in. Last week: 8.

9. **Matt Kenseth** (car No. 17): Tempting to consider the Chase a done deal for this hot team. But their perch is precarious. Last week: 10.

10. **Ryan Newman** (car No. 12): and **Jamie McMurray** (car No. 42): They both could either make or miss the Chase for the Championship cut. Last week: 9 and 13, respectively.

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

Hendrick determined to hit on successful formula

Rick Hendrick admits it. He's terrible at "Whack-A-Mole."

"My wife beats me every time," Hendrick says of the amusement park arcade game, in which the object is to use a cartoon-sized hammer to quickly whack moles as they pop up out of holes in a random pattern.

Hendrick undoubtedly loses no sleep over the fact that his wife, Linda, gets the upper hand at the game. But he's discovering these days that it can be just as hard to figure out where something's going to pop up when it comes to running his NASCAR team.

"I can't keep all of the gophers in their holes," Hendrick lamented in the bittersweet aftermath of Sunday's Sony HD 500 at California Speedway. "That's what is driving us nuts right now."

On the one hand, it certainly was a rewarding afternoon and evening for

Hendrick. Kyle Busch, a stock-car prodigy who'd knocked hard on victory's door only to be turned away several times before in his rookie season, got that first Nextel Cup victory by leading 95 laps and holding off Greg Biffle in a green-white-checkered finish.

Brian Vickers, whose team shares a shop with Busch's at the Hendrick complex in Harrisburg, N.C., also finished third Sunday, continuing his improved results in his second season of Cup competition in the No. 25 Chevrolets. Busch and Vickers each now has nine top-10 finishes this season, with Busch ahead six to five in top fives.

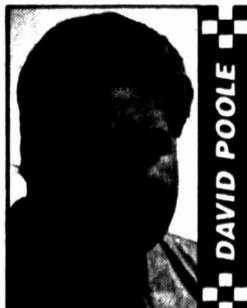
Hendrick has put a lot into the success of the Busch's No. 5 and Vickers' No. 25 teams. Brian

Whitesell, the highly regarded team manager who oversaw the melding of the Jeff Gordon and Jimmie Johnson teams into one unit in one shop, was given the same task with the 5 and 25 and seems to be handling it masterfully.

But as Busch and Vickers have stepped up their performances in recent months, it seems that Johnson and, most especially, Gordon have lost their way.

Johnson's team changed a right-front shock absorber during Sunday's race after the No. 48 skimmed the wall. Johnson got back into the top 10 for a time, but in the final laps he pitted twice for four tires and said the car was still "out of control." He finished 16th.

At least, however, Johnson has secured a spot in the Chase for the



DAVID POOLE

BIG SPRING

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